



Διάλογοι

Hellenic-Canadian Academic Association of Ontario (HCAAO)
Ελληνοκαναδική Ένωση Πανεπιστημιακών του Οντάριο (ΕΚΕΠΙΟ)

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Message from the President

Dear colleagues,

This board of directors two-year term comes to an end after a year with several activities and contributions. We have continued our Distinguished Guest Speaker Series with a well-attended lecture by Professor Yan-nis Hamilakis, on “Amphipolis, National Imagination, and the Greek Crisis”. We had a huge success in our get-together dinner, with invited speaker Honorable Supreme Justice Andromache Karakatsanis. During the University Studies Orientation Day, we again had a fruitful exchange with high-school students of the Hellenic-Canadian community. And the Modern Greek Studies Programs at the Universities of Toronto and York continue to expand their activities. See further details in the newsletter.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the executive Sakis Gekas, Nota Klentrou, Alexandros Gezerlis, and Christina Christara, for all their hard work during the year. I extend my thanks to Maria-Athina Martimianakis, Nota Klentrou, Sakis Gekas and Christina Christara for their participation in the University Studies Orientation Day, and to Christina Christara for editing this newsletter, and updating our website. Last but not least, I am grateful to all members who contributed to and participated in our activities in one way or another.

We would love to have more participation and engagement by our members, especially those in more remote areas. In the coming meeting, we will hold elections for a board of directors (two-year term). Please come to the meeting, volunteer to serve, or give/send us your ideas and suggestions about possible activities.

Warm regards

George J. Georgopoulos

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HCAAO 2015 Annual General Meeting

The Executive Council of HCAAO calls all members and potential members to a General Meeting on

Sunday, January 17, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.,

Room WB 215, Wallberg Building, 200 College Street (west of University Avenue, just east of College Street) at the University of Toronto. If you encounter problems entering the building, please call 905 510 8591.

Please note that, due to scheduling problems, the meeting takes place a little later than usual.

Agenda

Approval of the 2014 AGM minutes

President's report

Treasurer's report

Elections

Activities for 2016

Other items

You look forward to seeing you there.

Hellenic Studies Program at UT

The Hellenic Studies curriculum at the University of Toronto is now in its second year, and HCAAO is proud to have contributed to its establishment, in close cooperation with the donor, the Hellenic Heritage Foundation.

The first year, the curriculum offered a course in Modern Greek Language (Intermediate); a course in Topics in Comparative Politics: Issues in Contemporary Greece; a course on Modern Greece in the Balkans and the European Union; a joint graduate/undergraduate seminar with a field trip in Greece. Professors Themistoklis Aravossitas, Robert Austin and Spyros Kotsovilis are the main instructors.

The curriculum is part of a larger program of European Studies offered by the Centre for European, Rus-

sian and Eurasian Studies (CERES), under the auspices of the Munk Center of Global Affairs at UT, in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts and Science at UT.

Furthermore, the curriculum was the base for several activities, including (1) a mini-conference on the 2015 Greek elections and the future of Europe with speakers Randall Hansen, Professor of Political Science, Director of the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies; Phil Triadafilopoulos, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto; Carolina de Miguel Moyer, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto; Robert Austin, Senior Lecturer at the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, University of Toronto; Dr. Spyridon Kotsovilis, Sessional Lecturer at the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto; [2015-02-13] (2) A lecture by Professor Mark Mazower, Columbia University, on “*The Greek War of Independence in Global Perspective*”; [2015-02-26] (3) A lecture by Professor Stathis Kalyvas, Yale University, on “*What is Greece*”; [2015-03-26] (4) A book launch event, for the book by Professor Trifonas (OISE, UT) and Dr. Aravossitas on “*Rethinking Heritage Language Education*”; [2014-11-20] (5) A screening of the film “*Palikari - Louis Tikas and the Ludlow massacre*”, a documentary about labor relations in early 20th century America, told through the story of Greek immigrant and trade union activist Louis Tikas [2015-03-06].

Next year, the curriculum will also offer its first summer course in Greece in 2016, based at the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT). Students will earn a full-year Political Science credit in five weeks while living and learning in Thessaloniki, Greece’s second largest city. This course will benefit students interested in immersing themselves in Greek history and culture.

Furthermore, Dr. Spyridon Kotsovilis gave a lecture on “*The relations between Greece and the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia*”, while the event was organized by the Panmacedonian Association of Ontario [2015-10-16].

Hellenic Studies Program at York U

The Hellenic Studies Program at York University continued its success during 2015. Besides the three cour-

ses on Modern Greek Language and two courses on Modern Greek History, it offered a wealth of activities including (1) A lecture by Dr. Neni Panourgia, Columbia University, on “*There is no end of mourning here: Giving an Account of the Precarious Self in Greece of the Crises*”; [2014-04-30] (2) A photo exhibition, “*Memory and Migration: A history of Greeks in Toronto*”, at the Toronto City Hall, depicting moments of the history of Greek-Canadians; this is part of the on-going Greek-Canadian History Project at York U; [May 12-17, 2014] (3) A lecture by Ph.D. candidate Chris Grafos, York University, on “*The 1918 anti-Greek riots in Toronto*”; [2014-11-19] (4) A lecture by Professor Panagiotis Tsakonias, University of the Aegean, on “*Forced migration in the Mediterranean: EU and South European states’ perspectives and strategies*”; [2015-09-29] (5) A lecture by Professor Michalis Spourdalakis, University of Athens, on “*Greece’s Momentous Year: The Radical Left in and out of Government*”; [2015-11-02] (6) Screening of the film “*Kisses to the children*” by director Vassilis Loules; [2015-10-29] (7) Screening of the film “*Lela Karayannis: the Fragrance of a Heroine*” by director Vassilis Loules; [2015-10-31] (8) A field trip in Greece for students of York University to spent a month in Athens to study Greek history and witness an historical moment in the making [summer 2015].

Furthermore, the Hellenic Studies Programmes in the University of Toronto and York University in cooperation offered a lecture by Professors Gekas and Kotsovilis with topic “*Tension in the Eastern Mediterranean: Historical review and extensions of an everlasting problem*” [2015-12-09].

University Studies Orientation Day 2015

On Saturday, November 28, 2015, members of HCAAO, more specifically Professors Athanasios Gekas, George Georgopoulos, Maria-Athina Martimianakis and Christina Christara, visited two high-schools in Toronto and talked to grade 12 students, who are also part of the Hellenic Language classes. The discussion went around the procedure to apply for university studies, choices of programs and disciplines, appropriate preparation, etc. The two schools that were visited were G. S. Henry high-school (200 Graydon Hall Dr), and Eastern Commerce high-school

(16 Phin Ave). In both schools, the students attending the Hellenic Language classes indicated great interest in university studies, raised several questions and discussed their concerns with the professors.

Distinguished Guest Speaker Series 2015:
Archaeology and Politics

On Monday, April 13, 2015, HCAAO presented “*Amphipolis, National Imagination, and the Greek Crisis*”, a lecture by Professor Yannis Hamilakis, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities, University of Southampton, United Kingdom. Light food and beverages were served after the talk. The lecture and reception were made possible with the generous support of the Hellenic Heritage Foundation and Rose Hill Niagara Wines.

HCAAO Get-together Dinner 2015

In 2015, we decided to hold our Get-Together Dinner during the Fall, rather than the Spring. So, on Friday, November 27, 2015, members of HCAAO and guests, gathered at the Faculty Club at the University of Toronto, for the annual Get-Together Dinner.

We were joined by the Honorable Supreme Justice Andromache Karakatsanis, who gave a presentation during dinner, on interesting cases of application of justice connecting to many issues of everyday life, even going back to antiquity. A fruitful Q&A session and discussion followed.

We thank our distinguished guest and all members and guests for their participation.

Membership

All members are kindly asked to submit their membership dues for 2016. The amount is \$25. A membership application/renewal form can be downloaded from http://www.hcaao.org/?page_id=29 We would appreciate if all past members who forgot to pay their membership dues for 2015 send their dues for both 2015 and 2016 (i.e. a total of \$50). New members pay dues for 2016 only (i.e. \$25). Please make checks payable to the **Hellenic-Canadian Aca-**

demie Association of Ontario and mail them to
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Once we receive your dues, you will be sent a receipt. Those who come to the General Meeting and have not paid their dues will be requested to pay at that time.

Our website includes a list of our members at http://www.hcaao.org/?page_id=11 If you wish to make any changes to the information shown for you, please e-mail ccc@cs.toronto.edu.

Distinguished Guest Speaker Series 2016:
Politics and people’s power in Byzantium

We have already fixed the date, speaker and topic for the next Distinguished Guest Speaker Series. So **mark the date!**

On **Friday, April 8, 2016, 7 PM**, HCAAO presents a lecture by Professor Anthony Kaldellis, Department of Classics, Ohio State University, on “*Street Power in Byzantium: Why were the emperors so scared?*”, at the Campbell Conference Room, Munk School of Global Affairs, 1 Devonshire Place, University of Toronto.

Abstract: Byzantium is commonly regarded as an absolute monarchy, even a theocracy, where power was concentrated into the hands of the court and Church. There were no legal ways for most people to participate in government. And yet emperors sat very uneasily on the throne. Throughout Byzantine history, there were hundreds of rebellions in the provinces, plots at the court, and popular uprisings in Constantinople that aimed to depose the sitting emperor, and many of them succeeded. Byzantine politics was a series of civil wars, or attempts to prevent civil war by appeasing constituencies, and the common people regularly and actively took sides in this process. How then can we understand this tension between theory and reality? Have we misunderstood the basis of Byzantine politics all along? The lecture will discuss the ability of people to topple or influence regimes, a dynamic that has been made vivid by recent events in Madrid, Athens, and Cairo. All governments are vulnerable when they are seen as having gone too far.

More information at

<http://www.hcaao.org/?m=2016>.

Renew your membership today!!!