



# Διάλογοι

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

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## Message from the President

Dear HCAAO Members and friends,

Happy New Year 2020. Hope everyone has a very successful year, both professionally and personally!

This past year has been a great year for our Association. 2019 started with our General Assembly on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and the cutting of Vasilopita, a newly introduced Greek tradition that we look forward to celebrating every year. The meeting was attended by 15 members and we had the opportunity of a comprehensive discussion on a variety of issues pertaining to current and future Association activities and functions. Details on the Meeting can be found in the Minutes (please request a copy from [info@hcaao.org](mailto:info@hcaao.org)).

On Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 our 3<sup>rd</sup> HCAAO Annual Symposium took place at the Robert Gill theatre in University of Toronto. The spotlight for this year's Symposium was on Arts and Culture and it featured a number of prominent artists and Academics, including our Keynote Speaker, University of Toronto Professor Dr Christos Chatzis, as well as the film "1968" by Tasos Boulmetis. The Symposium was very successful and very exciting. We would like to thank our sponsors that significantly contributed to the success of this event.

One very important and successful activity of our Association was our participation in the Scotiabank Toronto Marathon, in collaboration with the Greek Consulate in Toronto and the Hellenic Heritage Foundation. A special thanks goes out to our

Treasurer Dr Nota Klentrou for leading this initiative on behalf of our Association. Our Association organized an essay competition for students from grades 9-12 on the meaning of the Marathon and awarded 4 prizes (of \$1,000 each) to the best essay from each grade. Additionally, we decorated the first Canadian male and female athlete to complete this year's marathon race, and thereby qualifying to represent Canada at the 2020 Olympics, with a gold-plated olive tree wreath, especially brought from Greece for this event. Both the awards and the wreaths were presented during the ROM Annual Greek Lecture (Prof. Kostas Buraselis gave the keynote address) on October 15th, 2019.

On Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 our Association was invited to the Annual Mentorship Night organized by the Greek Student Association of University of Toronto. Professors Christina Christara and Vladimiros Papangelakis and HCAAO President Ioannis Dimitriou attended this very well-organized event and had the opportunity to discuss with many UofT students. A closer interaction between HCAAO and the Greek Student Associations should be encouraged and pursued in the future.

The Annual HCAAO Dinner took place this year at 'Anestis Taverna' on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This year's Dinner featured live music by the band "Chi jazz", a group of very talented, young musicians. It was a wonderful event, attended by over 80 members and friends and a fun night for everyone, infused with exceptional traditional Greek music. A special thanks goes out to our Executive member and member of "Chi-Jazz" Petros



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Pechlivanoglou for organizing the musical performance.

On Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 HCAAO was invited to a lunch with the former Greek Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Diaspora-Greeks, Mr. Antonis Diamataris. This meeting included the MPPs Mrs Effie J Triantafilopoulos and Mrs Christina Maria Mitas, the president of SAE Canada Mr John Dagonas, the president of The Hellenic Home Mr John Fanaras, the vice president of Cinespace Film Studios Mr Steve Mirkopoulos and the president of HHF Mr Tony Lourakis. The Association was represented by the president Ioannis Dimitriou that described the Association's mandate and initiatives.

## The Third HCAAO Symposium

The Second HCAAO Symposium was held on Saturday April 6, 2019.

The keynote presentation was given by Professor Christos Chatzis (University of Toronto), entitled: "From Roots to Branches: The roles of Tradition, Spirituality and the Other in my music". A film screening of '1968' by Tassos Boulmetis was followed by a panel discussion on "Re-awakening the screen-based industries in Greece".

The HCAAO Symposium was held under the auspices of the Greek Consulate in Toronto. We thank our generous sponsors: the Hellenic Heritage Foundation, the Polydor Foundation, the Cretan Association, the Greek Community of Toronto – Program Paideia, the Cypriot Federation of Canada, the Panarcadian Federation of Canada, and Axios Consulting.

## Upcoming Events

### 2020 Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Sunday, January 19, 2020

**Time:** 4pm

**Location:** 686 Bay Street, Event Room 3b

### Fourth Annual HCAAO Academic Symposium

**Date:** Saturday, April 25, 2020

**Time:** 10am – 4pm

**Location:** York University

**Website:** [www.hcaaosymposium.com](http://www.hcaaosymposium.com)

## Renew your membership!

All members are kindly asked to submit their membership dues for 2020. The cost of membership renewal is \$30.

We now have the option of renewing membership via e-transfer. Please send your dues to [payments@hcaao.org](mailto:payments@hcaao.org) using the password: [hcaao2019](https://hcaao2019).

## Get in touch!

We welcome members to get in touch with us with any questions or suggestions. Be sure to visit our website and follow us on Twitter to keep up with all our news.

**Website:** [www.hcaao.org](http://www.hcaao.org)

**E-mail:** [info@hcaao.org](mailto:info@hcaao.org)

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