



# Διάλογοι

Hellenic-Canadian Academic Association of Ontario (HCAAO)

Ελληνοκαναδική Ένωση Πανεπιστημιακών του Οντάριο (ΕΚΕΠΟ)

Issue 7, October 1998

Τεύχος 7, Οκτώβριος 1998

## Μήνυμα του συμβουλίου

Αγαπητά μέλη,

Στις 7 Δεκεμβρίου 1997, πραγματοποιήθηκε η ετήσια τακτική γενική συνέλευση της ΕΚΕΠΟ και εξελέγη το νέο διοικητικό συμβούλιο για τα επόμενα δύο χρόνια. Τα μέλη του συμβουλίου παρουσιάζονται στον παρακάτω πίνακα.

<i>Executive Council Member</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Christina Christara President	Depart. of Computer Science University of Toronto
Dimitrios Oreopoulos Vice-President	Faculty of Medicine University of Toronto
Takis Yannopoulos Secretary	Faculty of Business Brock University
Stavros Argyropoulos Vice-secretary	Department of Metallurgy and Materials Science University of Toronto
Kostas Plataniotis Treasurer	School of Computer Science Ryerson University

Το νέο διοικητικό συμβούλιο, συνεχίζοντας το έργο του προηγούμενου, ασχολήθηκε με δραστηριότητες που προωθούν τους σκοπούς της ΕΚΕΠΟ. Αυτές τις δραστηριότητες καθώς και αυτές που σχεδιάζονται για την καινούργια χρονιά συνοψίζουμε σ' αυτό το ενημερωτικό φυλλάδιο.

## Summary of upcoming events (details inside)

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>
General Meeting	15-11-98 4:30 p.m.
Lecture on Byzantium	17-11-98 7:00 p.m.
Get-together-dinner	Dec 98 or Jan 99
Dinner-dance	27-02-99

## Hellenic studies program proposal

The need for a university-level Hellenic studies program in one of the Toronto universities was discussed in length in the past among members of our community. Several unsuccessful efforts have been made by individuals and organisations. HCAAO offered the advice and expertise of its members to some of the organisations involved, but these were not used, until recently.

Last spring, the Hellenic Heritage Foundation, an association of Greek-Canadian businesspeople, approached HCAAO's council and asked for advice as to how a university-level Hellenic studies program can be designed and organised. HCAAO's executive, with the cooperation of some past executive members, drafted a report, in which (a) the necessary background information is given as to what constitutes a program in some area of study and (b) a proposal is made for a Hellenic studies program and the related courses and teaching positions.

The Hellenic Heritage Foundation showed much interest in our proposal and recently initiated a consultation process with representatives of several community organisations in order to finalise the proposal. They simultaneously initiated a campaign in order to endow the proposed program. We are in close contact with them, and we hope that this time our efforts will succeed.

We believe that the views on this matter of all Greek-Canadian academics should be taken into account, in order to achieve the best possible design and organisation of the program. Therefore, we send you a summary of the report drafted by HCAAO last spring, and kindly request you to send us your comments and participate in the General Assembly meeting, during which this issue will be discussed. Should you need more details on the report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

General Assembly Meeting 1998

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

*Sunday, November 15, 1998, at 4:30 p.m.,*

Room LP266, D. L. Pratt Building,

6 King's College Rd, University of Toronto.

King's College Rd is vertical to College Street and to the east of St. George Street. During the meeting, the proposed Hellenic studies program will be discussed. It is very important that you participate in the meeting and let us know of your thoughts and ideas on this issue. We would appreciate receiving your comments in advance, by mail, fax or e-mail to

Prof. Christina Christara

Computer Science Dept., Univ. of Toronto

10 King's College Rd., Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G4

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Comments on the Hellenic Studies program proposal are very welcome from all Greek-Canadian academics, members and non-members. However, when it comes to a procedure that requires voting, membership is required. You can send your membership dues by mail, or submit them at the meeting.

Membership

All members are kindly requested to submit their membership dues for 1999. A membership application/renewal form is enclosed. We would appreciate if all past members who forgot to pay their membership dues for 1998 send their dues for both 1998 and 1999. Please make checks payable to the Hellenic-Canadian Academic Association of Ontario and mail them to

Prof. Christina Christara

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Dinner-dance 1998

This year, HCAAO organised the annual dinner event in collaboration with the Hellenic-Canadian associations of Doctors, Lawyers and Dentists. This event was a dinner-dance and took place on Saturday, Febru-

ary 28, 1998, at the Westin Prince Hotel, Toronto, Prince Ballroom. The event was a great success with respect to participation (about 500 participants) and funds raised (about \$10,500). These proceeds were divided equally among the following three charities: **(a)** Hellenic Studies, University of Toronto and York University, **(b)** Hellenic Home for the Aged, **(c)** Thesalonikeans Educational Resource Centre.

Upcoming events: Dinner-dance 1999

After the success of last year's dinner-dance, HCAAO is planning to hold a similar event in 1999, again in collaboration with the Hellenic-Canadian associations of Doctors, Lawyers and Dentists. The dinner-dance is scheduled for

*Saturday, February 27, 1999, at the  
Spirale Banquet and Convention Centre  
888 Don Mills Road, Toronto.*

Stay tuned for more detailed information.

Upcoming events: Get-together-dinner 98-99

HCAAO is also planning to hold a get-together-dinner in an effort to bring members and friends together and foster links among them. This will be a great opportunity for colleagues from various universities to meet with each other in a very warm and friendly atmosphere. The event is planned for some time in *December 1998* or *January 1999*. More details will be announced soon.

Upcoming events: Lecture on Byzantium

On the 1st anniversary from the opening of the permanent Byzantine Exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum's Joey and Toby Tannenbaum Gallery of Byzantine Art, HCAAO co-hosts a lecture on "Perceptions of Byzantium", by Dr. Ihor Sevcenko, Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Byzantine History and Literature, Emeritus, Harvard University.

The speaker is the President of the "Association Internationale des Etudes Byzantines" and renowned authority on Byzantine cultural history, hagiography and Byzantino-Slavic cultural relations.

The lecture is organised by HCAAO, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies and the Canadian Institute of Balkan Studies and sponsored by the Consulate General of Greece in Toronto.

The event will take place on

*Tuesday, November 17, 1998, 7:00 p.m., at the  
Royal Ontario Museum.*

Questionnaire
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Last year, HCAAO conducted a survey in an effort to obtain more information from its members about how they view our association. A summary of the replies received is presented below. These replies come from members who are neither currently serving nor have served in the executive council in the past 3 years.

*Question A:* In the past, HCAAO organized a variety of events including educational or cultural ones, events on national or historical issues, and others. Please tell us what kinds of events you would like to see organized by HCAAO.

*Answers:*

- all those organised in the past and
- a fundraising event (scholarships, Hellenic chair)
- lectures more open to the Greek community at large
- events more oriented to family attendance (i.e. children)
- encourage our youth to pursue university education, careers day
- host more (3-4) events per year

*Question B:* So far HCAAO offered some services to its members. What types of services would you like to see offered by the association?

*Answers:* current services are fine or excellent

*Question C:* What is the best way to communicate with our members?

*Answers:* E-mail (10), Fax (1)

(Number in parentheses shows the number of replies.)

*Question D:* Will you be attending the General Assembly and elections on December 7, 1997?

*Answers:* No (6), Yes (5).

Reasons for “No”: out of town (3), long trip (1), family obligations (2)

*Question E:* If you will be attending the General Assembly, will you be a candidate for the executive council?

*Answers:* No (11)

*Question F:* Do you prefer to hold elections by e-mail?

*Answers:* Yes (7), No (3)

*Question G:* Please comment on the future of the association, its importance to Greek and Greek-Canadian academics in our province and what we can do to improve it.

*Answers:*

- HCAAO is of great importance
  - HCAAO is very important as a cohesive bond of academics of Hellenic origin
  - HCAAO of vital importance to the academic community of the diaspora
  - role and activities of HCAAO are unique
  - keep HCAAO alive and well
- develop greater links with Greek universities, exchanges, sabbaticals
  - link with the Greek Ministry of Education
  - raise Greek student interest in Canadian universities
- need to find a cause
  - endowed chairs
  - contribution to teaching in Greek schools
  - role models for high school kids
  - career counselling for university level kids
  - interact with our Greek-Canadian Youth and be both role models and mentors
- improve visibility through 1-2 events accessible to a larger sector of the Greek community
  - promote cultural relations and business between Greece and Canada
  - bring closer Greek-origin academics in Canada
  - academic collaboration between our members
  - strengthen the links among members