

## Message from the President

Dear colleagues:

I'm happy to report that 2013 has been one of the most productive years in the history of the HCAAO, as we managed to put together four well organized, well attended, timely and diverse events ranging from Andrew Horton's talk/tribute to the work of Theo Angelopoulos to showcasing the "new wave" of Greek cinema and from our Get-together Dinner/fundraiser for the Greek chapter of the Doctors of the World to Costas Douzinas' compelling DGSS talk on the Greek/European crisis. The link to the video of Douzinas' talk can be found on the website of the Munk School of Global Affairs. During his visit to Toronto, Costas Douzinas was interviewed by Steve Paikin on TVO. The link to the interview can be found on TVO's website.

Building on our strengths and reaching out to a wider audience with quality events and media interviews on topics that matter to us has been our way of making a positive contribution to the community. I certainly hope that we will continue on the same path in the future.

I want to thank Spyros Alexakis, Sakis Gekas, George Georgopoulos and Tina Martimianakis, members of the HCAAO Executive, for making 2013 such a successful year for the association. I also want to thank Christina Christara, Dimitris Hatzinakos, Nota Klentrou and Vladimiro Papangelakis, long standing HCAAO members and past leaders of the association, for their valuable and ongoing help. Special thanks to Tina Martimianakis for her great job in editing the 2012 and 2013 issues of this Newsletter and to Eirini Moschaki for her valuable help in managing the HCAAO website over the last 6 years and our association's media presence in several occasions. Special thanks also to the Hellenic Heritage Foundation (HHF), our partners and sponsors, for their generous and ongoing financial support. Without their help much of what we did would not have been possible.

On a personal note, I would like to announce that effective December 1<sup>st</sup> and after serving for three consecutive 2-year terms as HCAAO President, I will be stepping down from the position. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve. It has been a lot of fun too!

Moving forward, the HCAAO needs the engagement of more and new members. The upcoming annual General meeting on December the 1<sup>st</sup> will be electing the new Executive. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Warm regards,

Theodore Tolia

## 2013 Annual General Meeting

Our annual meeting will take place on **Sunday, December 1, 4:00-7:00pm** at the UofT, Dept. of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, Wallberg Building, Room 215, 200 College St., Toronto. ***If you encounter problems entering the building please call: (905) 510-8591.***

### Agenda

- Approval of the 2012 AGM minutes
- President's report
- Treasurer's report
- Planning of activities for 2014
- Election of the new executive council
- Other items

## A tribute to Theo Angelopoulos and his "Cinema of Contemplation"

Theo Angelopoulos's passing on January 24, 2012 inspired a number of tributes around the world honoring the prolific contributions he made to European film-making. To mark the one-year

anniversary of Angelopoulos's death, the HCAAO and the HHF Chair in Modern Greek history at York University organized a special lecture.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Andrew Horton, the Jeanne H. Smith Professor of Film and Media Studies, University of Oklahoma on March 8, 2013 at 6:30pm at the University of Toronto.

Prof. Theodore Toliás opened the event with a brief greeting and Dr. Sakis Gekas introduced the speaker.

Dr. Horton's presentation built on his own research, which includes two published books and numerous essays on Angelopoulos' films as well as over thirty years of interviews with the director. Dr. Horton shared his thoughts on the nature and importance of Angelopoulos' films with clips from films including *Eternity and a Day* (1998), *Ulysses' Gaze* (1995), and *The Weeping Meadow* (2004). He explored how Angelopoulos often brought the present, history and myth together in a single sequence or shot, thus offering us who live in a frenzied paced world, a "cinema of contemplation", in which we as viewers are free to enter scenes and characters on a variety of levels that are not possible in the non-stop swift editing pace of most of contemporary Hollywood cinema.

The event was well attended by members and friends of the HCAAO and students and faculty from Departments of Film Studies in Toronto.

## Distinguished Guest Speaker Series 2013

Our invited keynote for the 2013 Distinguished Guest Speaker Series was Dr. Costas Douzinas, Professor of Law and Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at Birkbeck, University of London.

Dr. Douzina's was educated in Athens during the Colonels dictatorship where he joined the student resistance. He left Greece in 1974 and continued his studies in London, where he received the Masters in Law and PhD degrees from the LSE and, in Strasbourg, where he received the degree for teachers of Human Rights. He taught at Middlesex, Lancaster and Birkbeck where he was appointed in 1992 as a member of the team which

established the Birkbeck School of Law. Professor Douzinas is also a visiting Professor at the University of Athens and has held visiting posts at the Universities of Paris, Thessaloniki and Prague. In 1997 he was awarded a Jean Monnet fellowship by the European University Institute, Florence. In 1998 he was a visiting fellow at Princeton University and at the Cardozo School of Law. In 2002, he was a Fellow at Griffith University, Brisbane and at the Universities of Beijing and Nanjing.

Dr. Sakis Gekas introduced the speaker and moderated the Q&A.

Dr. Costas Douzinas's lecture was entitled: "Between catastrophe and resistance: Greece and the future of Europe". In his talk Dr. Douzinas examined the causes that have led to the current socio-economic, political and humanitarian crisis in Greece and the types, strategies and forms of resistance that have emerged in the last three years. He argued that the Greek people face a stark choice between accepting the catastrophic austerity imposed by the troika or continuing on the path of resistance which will lead the power system that brought the country to its knees to its end. Europe, according to Dr. Douzina, faces the same choice leading him to note that the future of democracy and of the idea of Europe are currently being played out in their 'place of birth.'

A central organizing point of Dr. Douzina's lecture was the role of resistance and uprisings in political and social transformations. While the timing of new resistances and uprisings is unpredictable, Dr. Douzinas argued that their occurrence is certain. Both mainstream political science and radical philosophy have failed to predict this rebirth of history and have remained skeptical about the recent uprisings including Arab Spring, Puerta del Sol, Syntagma Square and Occupy. In his presentation Dr. Douzina's argued that the resistance movements are well ahead and offer an invaluable corrective to political theory. All major themes of political philosophy, including the theory and practice of resistance, he argued, need to be re-visited in the light of recent experience.

The lecture, followed by wine & cheese reception, was given to a capacity audience in the main lecture hall at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto on Thursday April 4, 2013.

This event was organized by the Hellenic Canadian Academic Association of Ontario (HCAAO) in association with the HHF Chair of Modern Greek History at York University, with the generous support of the Hellenic Heritage Foundation (HHF).

## HCAAO Get-together Dinner & Fundraiser for humanitarian assistance to Greece

Given the worsening socio-political and economic circumstances in Greece and Cyprus, this year's Get-together Dinner took the form of a fundraiser for humanitarian assistance. The proceeds from the event were allocated to the work of Doctors without Borders, Greek Chapter.

The event took place on Friday April 5th, 2013 at the Grand Luxe Event Boutique in Toronto, the day after our distinguished guest speaker series.

With the generous support of a number of sponsoring institutions and the help of many of our members and friends a fantastic dinner and program with academic speakers and live piano performances by four artists was put together at a cost to us of approximately \$40 per person. The ticket price had been set at \$100, so close to \$60 from each ticket sold was donated to the Doctors of the World – Greece (DoW). A total of \$7,500.00 was raised that evening.

In appreciation of this HCAAO initiative, the President of the DoW, Dr. Nikitas Kanakis sent us a thank you video message (in English and Greek) and a separate video about the work the DoW do 'on the ground'. Both were shown at the event and further information of their activities was circulated to participants.

Dr. Tina Martimianakis, was the MC for the evening. She described her personal motivation for contributing to this event speaking about her desire as an educator to combat the dangers of thinking that "there is no alternative" to neo-liberal politics and economic austerity.

Prof. Theodore Toliadis, President of the HCAAO, offered his personal thanks to all those involved in making the event possible and about the HCAAO's motivation for organizing this event. He noted that this year's dinner was mainly about giving people

an opportunity to engage in dialogue about the situation in Greece and help increase awareness about the humanitarian crisis facing the country. It is also about us saying 'we care'. This was not intended to be a charity event. This was a call to show solidarity to the people of Greece.

Dr. Costas Douzina's reiterated the strong message from his lecture the night before of the importance of grass roots resistance and civic engagement. He titled his talk 'We are all Greeks: Shelly's Hellas' as a way to reference the many ways the Greek economic crisis is a European Crisis. He gave examples of how the austerity measures imposed on Greece hold implications for people around the world particularly with regard to safeguarding democratic ideals.

Dr. Vicky Stergiopoulos followed Dr. Douzina. She is the Psychiatrist-In-Chief at St. Michael's Hospital and the Director of the Division of Adult Psychiatry and Health Systems in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Stergiopoulos talked about health disparities in the Canadian context and gave examples of local advocacy initiatives involving clinical faculty working together with community organizations focused on alleviating the effects of health disparities. Her work and advocacy efforts focus on health disparities and the development and evaluation of interventions to address the needs of people who are homeless, poor and underserved.

The evening continued with performances by Dimitra Marangozis, Pianist, Faculty, Royal Conservatory of Music, who performed music by Manos Hatzidakis and others, and Christina Petrowska-Quilico, Pianist, Professor, Faculty of Music, York University, who performed music by Constantine Caravassilis, Pianist, Composer, University of Toronto. The musical program closed by young, talented musicians Felix Wong, Lefteris Spetsakis and Yiannis Spetsakis. Elli Papangelakis, current student at the University of Toronto and former student of Dimitra Marangozis, introduced the musical program and the performers.

A special thank you to Drs. Nota Kentrou and Vladimiro Papangelakis for their contribution to the planning and organization of the event. The event was made possible by the support of the management and associates of the Grand Luxe

for their generous support and the Pan Macedonian Association of Ontario.

## Addendum

The DOW sent an official letter thanking HCCAO for their contributions and posted on their website the following news announcement which references the support of HCCAAO. Both follow below:



*Prof. Theodore Toliás  
President  
Hellenic Canadian Academic Association of  
Ontario (HCCAO)  
Athens 13/6/2013  
Ref. No 1013*

*Dear Mr Toliás,*

*With this letter we would like to thank the members of the Hellenic Canadian Academic Association of Ontario, the people that supported your campaign aimed for the financial support of MdM Greece and you personally, for your donation (7.500 canadian dollars) for the support of domestic programmes and your trust to Doctors of the World - Greece action, such acts of solidarity and social sensitivity allow us to continue our work and provide humanitarian action for over 22 years.*

*Greek economy faced its most – severe crisis, of the last decades.*

*The austerity measures are having a serious impact on Greek society. Industries and companies have effectively collapsed over the past two years and many families now live below the poverty line. The homeless have multiplied*

*and an increasing number of people is left without jobs or having to get by on very low salaries.*

*As a result of this situation, the number of people we support has increased dramatically and so our needs and the work that has to be done. In addition, new programmes have started or will start soon, due to the new conditions. **Nowadays Doctors of the World – Greece, apart their missions abroad, they have domestic programmes supporting vulnerable people through five open polyclinics, four medical mobile units, a shelter for asylum seekers, a social service dept and various community projects.***

*Therefore it is essential to us any kind of support, especially at this moment.*

*We hope that you will continue to support our action and stand by the side of Doctors of the World – Greece, in their effort to maintain their financial independence and reach more people in need.*

*Thank you for being a Supporter of Doctors of the World!*

*We wish you all the best.*

*Evgenia Thanou  
General Manager  
Doctors of World-Greek Delegation*

**DOW – Latest News**

<http://mdmgreece.gr/Δελτία-Τύπου/Η-Κινητή-Ιατρική-Μονάδα-των-ΓΤΚ-στη-Τροιζηνία>

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**24-09-2013**

*Στις 21 & 22 Σεπτεμβρίου οι Γιατροί του Κόσμου πραγματοποίησαν επίσκεψη στο Δήμο Τροιζηνίας (Δημοτικό Κατάστημα Τροιζήνας) με σκοπό παροχή πρωτοβάθμιας ιατροφαρμακευτικής περίθαλψης. Σκοπός του προγράμματος ήταν η αντιμετώπιση των γενικών ιατρικών προβλημάτων καθώς και η υποστήριξη των ευάλωτων ομάδων του πληθυσμού της περιοχής που αντιμετωπίζουν δυσκολία πρόσβασης σε υπηρεσίες υγείας για οικονομικούς ή κοινωνικούς λόγους.*

Οι ειδικότητες που παρευρέθηκαν στην περιοχή ήταν: Γενικός Ιατρός Γυναικολόγος, Παιδίατρος, Ορθοπεδικός.

Εξετάσθηκαν συνολικά 221 άτομα εκ των οποίων 98 μετανάστες. Συνολικά εξετάστηκαν 99 γυναίκες / 44 παιδιά και 64 άνδρες για ορθοπεδικό και παθολογικό έλεγχο.

Στη συγκεκριμένη περιοχή οι ΓΤΚ βρέθηκαν, μετά από σύσταση για τα προβλήματα και ανάγκες της, του Καθηγητή κ. Τόλια, Προέδρου της Ελληνοκαναδικής Ακαδημαϊκής Ένωσης του Οντάριο-Καναδά (Hellenic Canadian Academic Association of Ontario, Canada-HCAAO). Ο Καθηγητής κ. Τόλια επισκέφθηκε τους ΓΤΚ στην Αθήνα με σκοπό να παραδώσει επιταγή οικονομικής ενίσχυσης, μελών και φίλων της Ένωσης. Οι ΓΤΚ διαπίστωσαν –κατά την επίσκεψή τους στην Τροιζηνία– ότι πραγματικά στην περιοχή ζουν αρκετοί ευάλωτοι πληθυσμοί και για αυτό το λόγο θα επανέλθει σύντομα.

Οι Γιατροί του Κόσμου ευχαριστούν θερμά για την συνεργασία τον Δήμο Τροιζηνίας καθώς και τους συλλόγους και φορείς της ευρύτερης περιοχής. Επίσης, ευχαριστούμε τον Καθηγητή κ. Τόλια για τις πολύ χρήσιμες υποδείξεις του και για τη γενικότερη στήριξή του.

## Reception in honour of Greek Filmmakers participating in TIFF City to City 2013

This year ten Greek movies were featured as part of TIFF's City-to-City line-up. The City-to-City series, has previously showcased movies from Tel Aviv, Istanbul, Buenos Aires and Mumbai. This year the spotlight was on Athens.

The Hellenic Canadian Academic Association of Ontario organized a reception and open discussion with participating filmmakers of the ten Invited Greek films (September, Sitting Aside, Watching, Wild Duck, The Daughter, JACE, To the Wolf, The Eternal Return of Antonis Paraskevas, Miss Violence, Unfair World and Wasted Youth). The event was held on September 7 at the Munk Center for Global Affairs at the University of Toronto.

In attendance were Directors, Producers, Actors and Cinematographers from seven of the ten films (Thanos Anastopoulos and Elias Adamis of *The Daughter*; The Eternal Return of Antonis Paraskevas (Elina Psikou, Giorgos Karnavas of *Antonis Paraskevas*; Menelaos Karamaghiolis of *Jace*; Penny Panagiotopoulou of *Septmeber*; Yorgos Servetas, Fenia Cossovitsa, Konstantinos Kontovrakis, Marina Symeou of *Standing Aside Watching*; Yannis Sakaridis, Venia Vergou, Alexandros Logothetis of *Wild Duck* and Christina Koutsospyrou and Aran Hughes of *To the Wolf*).

The hall was packed with over 150 people with an interest in Contemporary Greek Cinema including students and faculty from Toronto universities, members of various Greek community organizations and individuals working in the Toronto film industry.

The film trailers were shown during the wine and cheese as the audience congregated and mingled with panelists. A more structured discussion followed with short panel presentations from the participating Directors who first spoke about their films and then responded to questions from the audience. The directors spoke about their motivation to connect with audiences around the world through their films. They described what they thought characterized contemporary Greek cinema and distinguished it from previous cinematic periods in Greece. They spoke about the ways in which they maintain an open dialogue with each other, supporting and reinforcing each other's work. Finally, they articulated how their filmmaking has been impacted by current socio-economic and political conditions in Greece. The audience was impressed with this dynamic generation of filmmakers who have shown great fortitude and creativity in developing their films during a period of time when financing for the film industry is scarce.

Dr. Spyros Alexakis introduced the participating Directors and moderated the discussion. The event was made possible by the generous sponsorship from the Pan Macedonian Association of Ontario, the Hellenic Canadian Board of Trade and Mr. S. Mirkopoulos, of Cinespace Film Studios.

## University Studies Orientation Day

This year, the HCAAO visited two Greek Community of Toronto schools on October 26, 2013. Members of HCAAO from various Universities spoke with Grade 12 students considering pursuing higher education. They described their own career paths; the decision-making involved in their choices in majors and the role that planning, finances as well as serendipity played in these choices.

The goal of these visits has always been to help high school students applying for university studies make better and informed choices. During these visits HCAAO members stress to students that education is not only preparation for a vocation but an opportunity for personal growth and development and important preparation for civic engagement. We then answer questions and link up students with members of HCAAO that would have discipline specific information to share.

This year students had a lot of questions about ways to combine different interests such as Fine Arts and Chemistry, Languages and Sports psychology. They asked how to interpret cut rates in program admission requirements, whether they should apply for scholarships even if their averages were not in the 90s. They asked about the importance of work experience in their applications. Several students wanted to pursue teaching careers and had questions about what majors to pursue to ensure they had “teachable” subjects when preparing for teachers college.

As we do every year, we discussed with students the opportunities they have to continue their studies, in Greek language, history and culture, with particular emphasis on specialization available to them through the Modern Greek History and Hellenic Studies Program at York University.

## Other Activities

Members of HCAAO are increasingly being asked by other organizations or the Canadian media to comment on current issues related to Greece.

Below we document some of these appearances:

HCAAO’s Treasurer George Georgopoulos was invited to speak at the 2012 AHEPA Symposium on Hellenism. His talk was entitled: “The Costs and Consequences of Asymmetric Information in Financial Markets”.

HCAAO’s President Theodore Toliias was interviewed by Steve Paikin on the Economic Crisis in Cyprus (TVO, The Agenda with Steve Paikin, March 22, 2013)

<http://ww3.tvo.org/video/189615/theodore-toliias-economic-crisis-cyprus>

**We also would like to take this opportunity to encourage all our members to keep the HCAAO informed of any public activities they are part of that bring awareness to Greek issues so that we can keep our archive up to date.**

### **Renew your membership today!**

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