



# TAC

FALL 2012 ISSUE

# Chidromos



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΤΟΡΟΝΤΟ  
GREEK STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION





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FALL 2012

GSA.SA.UTORONTO.CA

<b>President's Note</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Editor's Note</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>GSA News</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sports</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Halloween</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Culture</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Opinions</b>	<b>14</b>





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## President's Note

Dear Reader,

I am thrilled to have the opportunity of working with the Greek Students' Association Executive Committee and Board of Directors to re-launch the TACHidromos Magazine. This magazine is an excellent depiction of who the Greek Students at U of T are: active, professional, organized, cultured, involved and proud; the list can go on. This issue will present a recap of the Fall Semester and give you a better understanding of how far along our Association has come over the past few years.

With an incredible membership of over three hundred University of Toronto students, our Association is ready to have its most successful year ever. I encourage readers to discover the GSA through this issue and to realize how important it is to be involved in extracurricular programs and associations. The skills and opportunities established through the involvement of our association are endless and invaluable.

I would like to conclude by thanking you for taking the time to read this publication and hope, with your support, we can continue setting the bar higher for the Greek Students' Association.

Regards,

Dimitri Kyriakakis, President



## Editor's Note

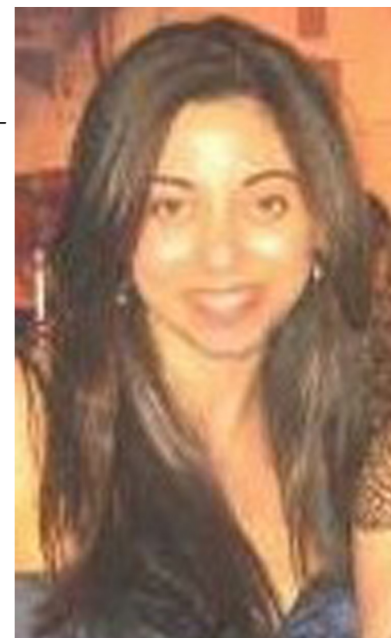
Dear Reader,

They say change is a good thing. After a year in transition TACHidromos is available once again. Due to lack of funding and commitment, TAC was almost lost to us. This year, the interest and involvement we have received is truly wonderful and we thank everyone who has assisted in bringing our magazine back to life. We have taken a fresh perspective this year while expanding our opinion section encouraging a response from our readers.

I, Nicole Gretes, am the new editor of TACHidromos this year. It is with enormous gratitude and pride that I introduce the 2012 edition of TAC.

Happy Holidays,

Nicole Gretes, Editor-In-Chief





## GSA EVENTS

### CLUBS FAIR 2012

*Dimitri Kyriakakis*

On Wednesday September 5th, the Greek Students' Association set up one of the most welcoming tables at the U.T.S.U. Orientation Clubs Fair. Our promotion this year was a free Messini Gyro for new members. We also introduced our brand new, redesigned 2012/2013 GSA T-Shirts, which were given to each member, featuring our brand new GSA Logo. This year we took the GSA to another technological level, we signed up all our members on the official GSA iPad. With the help of our delicious Free Messini Gyro, stylish new T-Shirts, and our new iPad sign-up process, the GSA signed up a record-breaking 109 members during Clubs Fair! This number surpassed last year's amount by 30 members. We would like to thank everyone that signed up during clubs fair, the executives and members that volunteered throughout the day, and Messini Authentic Gyros for graciously donating 130 chicken gyro for our event! The success of clubs fair day is only the beginning to what appears to be the most successful GSA year we've ever had.



### U.T.S.U. STREET FESTIVAL

*Dimitri Kyriakakis*

On Tuesday September 11th, the University of Toronto Students' Union closed down St. George Street from College to Harbord to host the first ever students' street festival. What better opportunity for the GSA to host a traditional lamb roast! Arriving at 7:15AM and only given one folding table, we set up our charcoal spit, four of our own folding tables, a power generator, a frappe station, a dessert station, a hand-washing station, and began roasting our 41 pound baby lamb. As the day progressed and the lamb began to cook, thousands of students poured through the street welcomed by multiple food vendors and a sample of all the student clubs our University has to offer. The biggest spectacle, however, was the GSA and our lamb roast. At about 1PM, the lamb was cooked, carved, and disappeared within minutes. Students also enjoyed barbequed souvlaki, fresh Greek pastries, and ice-cold frappe. Throughout the day, we signed up 70 new members and welcomed any questions directed to our group, the idea of a lamb roast, and what our mission is on campus. A special thanks goes out to all of the executives who devoted their entire day to help, the UTSU for allowing us to roast our lamb, Uncle Jimmy Panagiotoulas who helped prepare, cook, and carve the lamb, to all our members who came out, and to Kosta's Meat Market for generously subsidizing the lamb for us!





## GSA EVENTS

### GENERAL MEETING & PUB NIGHT

*Dimitri Kyriakakis*

On Thursday September 20th the Greek Students' Association held its annual General Meeting and Pub Night. It took place in the Music Room at Hart House and the Duke of York Pub. The event was extremely successful, with over fifty GSA members in attendance. The first part of the General Meeting involved amending the Constitution, something that last happened in 2005. The GSA General Assembly, along with the Executive Committee, successfully ratified over 50 new amendments that were brought forth by members and executives. This has helped the group grow and sustain its policies while moving towards the future. We thank everyone for taking part in this amendment process and hope that the group will continue to flourish for years to come under our new constitution. The constitution can be viewed on our website.

At the GSA General Meeting we also hosted our elections for our new 2012/2013 Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is composed of five individuals that will volunteer their time to help the GSA in weekly preparations, recreation and events cultural as well as the attraction of new members. These Directors are the future of the GSA and will take a massive role in helping the association expand this year. We would like to thank everyone who came out to the General Meeting and participated in these elections. We would like to congratulate our newly elected Board of Directors. We would also like to thank the President and Treasurer from the Hellenic Students' Association at York University for acting as Returning Officers and conducting a fair election. The 2012/2013 Greek Students' Association Board of Directors are listed below:

Director of Cultural Affairs: Elias Baramilis  
 Director of Social Affairs: Michael Kanopoulos  
 Director of Athletics & Recreation: Vikki Bekiaris  
 Director of Communications: Jad Kawwa  
 First Year Representative: Danielle Tavernese

### HELLAS NEWS CONCERT

*Dora Konomi*

Σ.Ε.Φ. Toronto supported Hellas News on their successful dance, on October 12th, featuring Pitsa Papadopoulou and Eleni Dimou; two Greek singers that have marked the music scene in Greece. Michalia Catsiliras, an active member of the HSA-Ryerson, opened the show and charmed everyone with her voice and performance. We look forward to seeing her in upcoming shows and representing Greek-Canadian youth proudly. It was a great night, full of 'kefi' and dancing until the morning hours, definitely a taste of Greece.

Hellas News has supported the GSA, both economically and socially, since it's opening last year. Additionally, they helped us raise monetary funding and awareness for our successful NHSA Convention that was held at UofT and Ryerson last April. The GSA is seeking to maintain good relationships with Hellenic Associations and inform others of our work and events via the newspaper.





## GSA EVENTS

### DANCE AND MOVIE NIGHT

*Danielle Tavernese*

The Greek Students' Association holds several events each month. One of our most popular events is held at the beginning of October annually. The first Dance and Film night of the 2012 year was held on Tuesday, October 16th in Cats Eye, Victoria College. The dance section lasted from six to seven thirty, where Kalamatiano was taught and our members indulged in pizza and refreshments. From seven thirty on, a film based on the true story of the popular singer Marika Ninou's life was shown. Entirely in Greek and set in the 1920's, the film was also a musical drama that swept through forty years of Ninou's life. "Rembetiko" was filmed in 1983 by Costas Ferris, and due to the English subtitles, was understandable with great facility. The Greek Students' Association's popcorn machine was also put to good use during this productive night.



**THE GSA PRESENTS:  
NOVEMBER MOVIE NIGHT**

**ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE  
BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM**

★★★★★ **A STUNNER!**  
"Perfectly perverse"  
- Joshua Rothkopf, TIME OUT NEW YORK

**"HILARIOUS"**  
- Nicolas Rapold, NEW YORK TIMES

**DOGTTOOTH** A FILM BY YORGOS LANTHIMOS

**TUESDAY NOV. 27**  
**CAT'S EYE, VICTORIA COLLEGE**  
**7:15 "DOGTTOOTH" (WITH SUBTITLES)**  
**POP CORN, PIZZA, REFRESHMENTS**  
**WILL BE SERVED**  
**NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**



### GIORGOS MAZONAKIS CONCERT

*Nicole Gretes*

On Friday October 19th, the GSA was delighted to party and dance alongside Giorgos Mazonakis as he performed live at Hazleton Manor. The concert, hosted by Signature Productions, was sold out and filled Hazelton Manor to maximum capacity. Signature Productions, a new sponsor to the GSA, not only donates a portion of the concert's corporate sponsorships to the GSA, but also offers our members discounted prices. All GSA members were offered a discounted concert ticket for \$75 (normally \$150) and the executives were treated to a table on stage right beside the singer! The night was a memorable one as Stelios Maximos, Paulina, and Giorgos Mazonakis stole the show. Dinner was delicious, the production was of the highest quality, and all three singers were able to make the crowd go wild. Furthermore, the night before the concert, Signature Productions held an exclusive meet and greet with Giorgos Mazonakis at The Local Company on the Danforth. Here, the GSA executive was invited to meet the sponsors of the concert and Giorgos Mazonakis in person. We've had an excellent experience working with Signature Productions and are excited for future events!



## GSA EVENTS

### NHSA FALL 2012 CONVENTION

On the weekend of November 9th, the National Hellenic Students' Association of North America held their bi-annual fall convention. The Convention was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and was hosted by the Hellenic Students' Associations of Pennsylvania (HSAP), which is comprised of Hellenic students from Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, St. Joseph's University, Temple University, and Villanova University. The convention was very successful as it welcomed approximately 100 students from across Canada and the United States into the heart of University City in Philadelphia. The convention's theme was 'Re-think, Re-invent, Re-ignite' and the purpose was to bring together Hellenic student representatives from universities across North America along with esteemed members of the Hellenic community. Their goal was to empower students to make a positive impact on their lives and their communities.

The University of Toronto Greek Students' Association sent four executives and three members down to participate. We also joined executives from York and Ryerson. Highlights of the trip included interactive round-table discussions with established professionals, politicians, educators, and entrepreneurs. Students were also granted the opportunity to network with professionals and peers for internships, summer jobs, and even career opportunities. The GSA at U of T is also proud to be a sponsor of the event, along with the Hellenic Students' Association at Ryerson. Both of our associations donated \$250 each to the weekend. The weekend was very successful and we send our congratulations to the HSAP on doing an excellent job.





## GSA AT TORONTO FC VS MONTREAL IMPACT

*Dimitri Kyriakakis*

On Saturday October 20th, the GSA watched the final home game of Toronto FC's season. The Greek Students' Association offered its members subsidized tickets on the GSA's behalf along with a complimentary Toronto FC full-size scarf with the purchase of their ticket. Overall the event was a success. Ryerson's Hellenic Students' Association and various other University of Toronto student organizations joined the GSA at the game. The cheering and enthusiastic chants voiced by the students made us forget about Toronto's record breaking 12 game losing streak. At the end of the day, the event was a great way to meet new members with a passion for football (soccer) and was a great opportunity for the GSA to give back to its members.



## FIFA TOURNAMENT & PUB NIGHT

On Thursday November 22nd, the GSA hosted its first FIFA Video Game Tournament and topped off the night with a free pub night for GSA members and tournament participants. The tournament was held in A&C Games and was played on Xbox 360. The prizes were \$100, \$50, and \$20 gift cards for Best Buy. Everyone that attended had a great and competitive time. The night finished with a free pub night at the neighboring Shoeless Joes. GSA members joined the executive council, board of directors, and FIFA tournament participants as the pitchers of beer and platters of wings kept coming.

## GSA INTRAMURAL TEAMS – WE NEED PLAYERS!

Beginning in January, the GSA Athletics Department is proud to have four intramural sports teams!

- Men's Indoor Soccer
- Co-ed Basketball
- Co-ed Volleyball
- Co-ed Water Polo

If you are interested in playing on any of these teams, it's absolutely free! To register for one or more team(s), please email us at [gsa.stgeorge@utoronto.ca](mailto:gsa.stgeorge@utoronto.ca).



# GSA SPORTS

## UTICA CLUBS CUP

*Chris Vassos*

The UTICA Clubs Cup is a Co-Ed soccer tournament at the University of Toronto that we, the GSA, participate in each year. The teams who play in the Clubs Cup are members of different University groups, which makes for good competition. As the defending champions of this tournament, we wanted to make sure that this trophy was brought back to our office for a second consecutive year. Unfortunately we were not victorious and instead, our trophy was passed on to UTICA, the tournament coordinators. Although the tournament went smoothly once it got started, there was an issue on the morning of the Clubs Cup between UTICA and UofT, regarding the chained up nets. This created confusion amongst the clubs who were there bright & early at 7am and it also made the event hosts look very unprepared. Eventually, everything was figured out between UofT & UTICA, and the tournament location was switched from Front Campus to Trinity. Even though Trinity's field was much better kept, it still posed an inconvenience because every game had to be played on Trinity's one field rather than Front Campus' two fields.

At the end of the day, even with the field location being switched and the games being delayed, the tournament went smoothly from there on in and it was a great time. On behalf of the GSA Soccer Team, I would all like to thank UTICA for hosting yet another successful Clubs Cup. It was a full day of fun, there was a great turn out, and we will definitely be back next year.





# HALLOWEEN HAVOC

*Michael Kanopoulos*

On Friday October 26th the Greek Students' Association along with Era Events and the York and Ryerson Hellenic Students' Associations hosted their annual Halloween Havoc at Crown Nightclub and Lounge on King Street West. In the heart of Toronto's urban club district, over 325 people gathered in costume to celebrate the best Halloween party known around all three campuses. Another record-breaking year, we broke the 300 person mark for Havoc attendance. The GSA made it possible for cheap booth and bottle service hookups, for only \$350 they included five tickets, two bottles of Grey Goose, and some fruit, or supposed "hors d'oeuvres". Spinning on the set were East York natives Demetre DeeKay Kakagiannis and DJ Samaras George Constantine, pumping the hottest from Modern Greek, Top 40, House and Mash-ups.



The party kicked off around 11pm as people began to make their way into the club dressed up in costumes ranging from extremely creative and random as ever, to the usual slutty costumes everyone loves to see around that time of year. As the night went on everybody seemed to get progressively drunker and eventually broke out dancing. Although the club was somewhat spacious for this type of crowd, the patio remained packed with smokers completely suitable for the Greek crowd. A great deal of effort was put in by many of the executives from the Greek Associations at Uoft, York and Ryerson and all the hard work paid off. Overall everybody who showed up had a great time as guaranteed each year by the GSA and Era Events. We can't wait to see you next year!









## OXI DAY PARADE

*Victoria Bekiaris*

On Sunday October 28th, the Greek Students' Association took part in the annual OXI Parade, which takes place in Toronto's very own Greek Town. It is a day to commemorate the rejection of the Italian dictator Mussolini from occupying Greek territory in October of 1940. Through cold winds and rain, the GSA along side both York University's and Ryerson University's Hellenic Students' Associations, paraded to symbolize one of the greatest moments in modern Greek history. After the parade, the Greek/Hellenic Students' Associations gathered at Christina's Restaurant for lunch. Thank you to all the members of the Greek Students' Association who came and supported their culture and their university.



## SUSSEX CLUB CRAWL

*Nicole Gretes*

On Tuesday October 30th, the Greek Students' Association was excited to take part in the Sussex Houses' annual open house. This year, the open house had a Halloween Theme and was run as a club-crawl (where students can come visit and engage with the different groups taking space in the building). Some 50+ clubs opened their doors for students and other clubs alike. It was a day of cultural education and fun. Ulife reported that over 100 students passed through the building to meet new clubs. The GSA was one of the few clubs to set up a cultural table outside of our office shared with our office partners, the Afghan Students' Association. The GSA met many interesting people from all over the world. Thanks to everyone who came by!



## CONVERSATION CLUB

*Elias Baramilis*

As director of cultural affairs I have been hosting a conversation club for students to come and learn how to speak Greek, or practice and improve their Greek in a relaxed environment. The event takes place biweekly in Cat's Eye at Victoria College. Beginners, novices, and advanced speakers of Modern Greek are all welcome either to learn or to share their knowledge. Conversation club is usually held every other Tuesday between 6 and 7PM in the Cat's Eye.



# GSA CULTURE

## U.T.S.U. CULTURE SHOW

*Danielle Tavernese*

On Friday November 23, UTSU hosted its first International Night at the Isabel Bader Theatre. The event took place at 7pm, and although many ethnicities partook in the event, the Greek Students' Association was by far one of the best performances. Several GSA members joined forces to create a fantastic dance, combining Kalamatiano and Tsamiko. If the dancing was not incredible enough, the outfits most certainly took the cake. Dressed in traditional assortments, provided by the Greek Community of Toronto, the GSA represented our heritage spectacularly. The cultural show was a complete success and UTSU aspires to turn this into an annual event.



## BOOK OF THE MONTH

TA KIMATA TOU PARELTH-  
ONTOS

Author: Meaghan Delahunt

“To the Island” is a book about the impact of larger political events on the lives of ordinary people, and how political and personal betrayals reverberate across generations, beautifully evoking the currents and cross-currents between individuals, within families and in broader society.





## OPINION ARTICLES

### DRACHMA VS. EURO

*Konstantinos Katsanevas*

The Greeks have always felt a need to be wedded to a supposed European identity. In order for full integration, adoption of a colorful new currency would give them 'worldly' status. You see it was always about image. This new sense of self allowed the Greek to one-up Turkey and on top of that create a definite distinction from his Balkan brothers. What a deal! Add to that with image came a false sense of security, and a surge of capital - not just for Greece but for all the peripheral economies of the Eurozone. On their high horse they rode right to the grave.



It seems the only whispered 'Grexit' was now gaining some ground. So what happened? The truth is not Mitt Romney's campaign theme, Europe's welfare state is not to blame. It can't be fiscal recklessness, nations outside the euro have huge deficits with burdensome debts and still seem to borrow at staggeringly low interest rates of 2% or lower. In fact, Paul Krugman has the right idea - the introduction of the euro without proper institutional foundation effectively reinvented the defects of the gold standard. Great Depression anybody?

For Greece what's left are two viable options: continue the Europeanization illusion or get out. The benefits of a soft currency outweigh the costs of default. Furthermore, an orderly exit will be painful and will bring collateral damage, but as professor Nouriel Roubini puts it, "it can be contained".

The argument is sound, give control of monetary policy and depreciate currency effectively restoring international competitiveness and growth. But let's retract; give Angela and her austerity hungry contemporaries a chance. October 2009 - serious doubt on Greece's ability to meet its debt obligations led to crisis of confidence. May 2010 - queue 110bn euro aid to avert meltdown of economy with the condition of austerity measures; troika sweeps in to save the day. Unemployment past the 15% threshold, debt to GDP ratio hit 127% while public sector cuts in wages and pensions stir social upheaval. By the end of 2011 troika leaders agree to a second bailout package of 130bn euros and, since things are looking bleak private creditors holding Greek government bonds are forced to accept a 53% face value loss. Debt to GDP ratio reduced from a speculated 198% to a round 160% (2012 forecast). To date, troika has extended reform schedule deadlines from 2013 to 2015 and finally 2017 before it takes off Greece's training wheels and lets its government tackle the burden alone. Yet slow and orderly disintegration of economy and society looms. Look upon your work Angela.

Let's take a look at the Greek perspective. Here's some context. Greece's main industries include tourism, merchant shipping and agriculture with 85% of its output coming from the service sector. Under the Drachma during post-WWII, Greece experienced growth rates ranking first in all of Europe and second in the world, reaching a high of 11.15% annual GDP growth in 1961 (world bank source). Today it stands at a meager -6.9% and since joining the Euro, Landon Thomas Jr reported a 30% decrease in international competitiveness. So who is at fault here? Is it the lazy Greeks? Negative - Paul Krugman himself admits that Greeks work longer hours than anyone else in Europe and definitely more than the Germans, putting in roughly 42.2 hours per week compared to their so-called Northern brothers at 35.6. Now you'll scream 'yes,



## OPINION ARTICLES

but what about labour productivity? That's a better measure!' It's low, in fact its yields weigh in at 25% below the European Union average – but similar are Mississippi's yields by American standards. Yet its not the poster child for the 2008 subprime crisis.

It becomes clear then, that the major contributing factor for Greece - after corruption, tax evasion and insolvency – is the euro. The origin of the crisis is not its Hellenization, but its Northern counterpart. Certain European leaders had the idea that a monetary system could work without a strong central government. Look no further then this; it is the weakness of an all-around progressive idea that has brought forth the tsunami.

Instead of continuously agreeing on short term plans that put off the inevitable Greece must act now to prevent further economic implosion. Or wait it out, the alternative put forth by Adam Davidson in the New York Times, is that eventually the bond market will have to do the dirty work. Investors will soon enough lose trust in everyone, unload European bonds and send the euro to its demise. Put in perspective, Simon Kennedy, a Bloomberg analyst, stated that Citigroup Inc. economists forecast Greece departing on January 1, 2013.

Nevertheless I digress. Blame the euro.

Greece's economic structure is by nature labour intensive. This means it needs many working hands, the cost of which can be compressed only to a certain degree, so that the cost of its yields can be lower than its competitor. But what sort of yields are we talking here? Labour economist Theodore Katsanevas puts it simply – “The Greek hotel room costs the tourist twice as much as that of the Turk, Egyptian, Bulgarian, Romanian and Hungarian. Even the Greek will not choose to vacation in his own home.” A country with little production and a hard currency cannot expect to be competitive in the global market. Without competitiveness there is no growth.

The Drachma will drop by 50% - 520 Drachma for 1 euro - and capital will leave the country that much faster. The Greek will lose two things in this scenario, part of his 'worldly' identity and his Mercedes. But what will eventually come from his cheap work, is foreign direct investment and more importantly an export boom. The soft Drachma at dirt-cheap prices will produce a foreign exchange surplus by the end of that same fiscal year. This will cause a domino effect within the nation, keeping capital inflow by buying its own oranges rather than shipping them from Argentina. This is what is best for this nation as a whole. Don't take my word for it, take a look at a similar economic paradigm that of Argentina, when it divorced its peso-dollar peg in 2001.

As for Europe, contagion can be contained if there is swift and proper recapitalization of weak banks and further preventative actions are taken – something that Angela has been preparing for. Letting Greece go is the best decision for the long-term - for everyone. Yes, it will be painful but something must be done this moment, and since Euro-bonds are out of the question a Grexit is the only way out.

An essay submitted in POL 359, Prof. Robert Austin (PhD University of Toronto)

*If you would like to insert an opinions article for the next edition of the Tachidromos, in response to this essay or your own opinion piece, please email it to the GSA at [gsa.stgeorge@utoronto.ca](mailto:gsa.stgeorge@utoronto.ca)*



ΣΕΦ

MTL

ΣΕΦ TORONTO

4 DAYS, 3 NIGHTS

MEMBERS \$220 NON-MEMBERS \$240

FEB 15-18, READING WEEK

MONTREAL,  
QUEBEC

\$100 DEPOSIT DUE DEC 7

DOWNTOWN HOTEL & TRANSPORTATION  
LINE-BY PASS & FREE COVER TO NIGHTCLUBS  
CASINO VISIT & OLD MONTREAL TOUR  
**BOUZOUKIA NIGHTS**  
FREE MONTREAL TRIP 2013 T-SHIRT



MUST BE 18+ TO ATTEND