The American Philological Association (APA) seeks $4 million to continue to transform the field of classics; to serve students, teachers, and scholars in the 21st century. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has endorsed The Campaign for Classics with an extraordinary challenge grant of $650,000. This grant requires a four-to-one match by December 2010 to secure the entire amount.

The ability of classicists to respond and adapt to changing circumstances has kept Classics alive and relevant for more than two millennia. The Age of Technology now brings its own opportunities and challenges. This campaign will enable APA to take full advantage of the newest technology to ensure the continued advancement of sophisticated and accessible research tools for classics teachers and scholars; develop the next generation of inspired, diverse teachers of classics and classical languages; and spread knowledge and excitement about classical civilization beyond the academy. The campaign will develop an endowment to support a new AMERICAN CENTER FOR CLASSICS RESEARCH AND TEACHING—a collaboration of leading classicists and educational institutions, manifest in a virtual “place” on the Internet. The Center will open doors to make the study and enjoyment of the classics available to the widest possible audience.

For centuries, classical study was the gatekeeper not only of academic but of professional and social advancement in Europe and North America. The intellectual and moral benefits of reading classical texts were taken for granted but often limited to a few. That is no longer true. At the dawn of the 21st century, Classics is demonstrating its relevance and utility to modern times. APA’s goal for transforming the field of classical study in America is to make Classics ever more open, accessible, and valuable to students from kindergarten through graduate school, as well as to multi-disciplinary scholars and the lay public across the broad range of fields. We will accelerate the transformation of Classics from the “gatekeeper” of knowledge to the “gateway” to insight. The APA invites everyone to join our campaign who has ever studied ancient languages, texts, and civilizations; who has felt drawn to the stories of those civilizations; who may be struggling with the challenges of inspiring students; or who is concerned that the next generation have the intellectual and analytical skills to serve American society well in this complex century.

Your support will enable the AMERICAN CENTER FOR CLASSICS RESEARCH AND TEACHING to:
• Create sophisticated and accessible research tools for classics teachers and scholars
• Develop the next generation of inspired, diverse teachers of classics and classical languages
• Support wider public understanding and appreciation of classical civilization

Our specific Campaign Goals are:
• $2 million for the Digital Portal to (1) incorporate and sustain the American Office of l’Année philologique, the essential international bibliographic resource in Classics, and (2) develop l’Année as the core of an accessible digital resource
• $1.5 million for the Next Generation to ensure that an inspiring, well trained teacher is available for every school and college classics classroom
• $500,000 for Public Programs in order to make classics knowledge, study, and discussion an active tool for consideration of the lessons of the ancients in light of contemporary challenges.

Please support the Campaign for Classics. Call or write to the APA office for more information.

Classics starts the conversation of the Western world. . . . It is the basis of law, literature, language, engineering, and much more. -- Michael Putnam, Campaign Co-Chair, Professor of Classics, Brown University