

# COALITION OF ANCIENT STUDIES ORGANIZATIONS

## Outreach & Advocacy Projects

### Lives in Ancient Studies

#### An Advocacy Project of Alumni Video Testimonials of Closed or Threatened Departments

Numerous departments in Ancient Studies fields are feeling the crunch as colleges and universities seek to cut smaller programs for several reasons. In part, this is because many people underestimate the personal, communal, educational, and professional value attained through the experience of achieving an Ancient Studies degree. The Coalition of Ancient Studies Organizations (CASO), convened by Save Ancient Studies Alliance (SASA) in partnership with Society for Classical Studies (SCS) and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), is working to counter this trend of contraction and to support threatened departments.

This project, *Lives in Ancient Studies*, collects the video-recorded stories of alumni of closed and threatened Ancient Studies departments, in order to present them as living proof of the deep value of these departments and fields to their former students, schools, and communities. In particular, CASO is reaching out to department chairs of closed and threatened Ancient Studies departments to contact their alumni asking them to record themselves in brief video testimonials. The method for producing these recordings is secure and simple, via an app that can be used on phones, tablets, and computers. Each alum is asked to answer the following questions in less than two minutes:

1. Please describe your experience studying Ancient Studies at your school.
2. How did your experience studying Ancient Studies at your school impact your life after you graduated, personally and professionally?

The gathered testimonials will be edited together in video montages, of each school's alumni, as well as of all the participants. The resulting video materials will be supplied to Ancient Studies departments, especially to threatened departments, to use for advocacy and marketing within their own institutions, along with fundraising. In addition, a public advocacy campaign using these materials will be initiated, targeted at national Humanities advocacy organizations and school administrator organizations. With these powerful, personal statements of how Ancient Studies has helped transform and propel the lives of successful people, CASO will begin to change the erroneous conceptions of what Ancient Studies means to students, alumni, and our society. This will enable us to help prevent the future contraction of Ancient Studies departments.

We do not guarantee to use all video testimonials we collect. Selections will be made at our discretion.

To learn more about CASO, see the [webpage](#) on the SASA website.

