



Association of Writers  
& Writing Programs

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Adelphi University's Judith Baumel Elected President of AWP's National Board of Trustees

*Baumel is "honored to represent our diverse literary family."*

**Fairfax, VA, March 18, 2013** — AWP is pleased to announce the election of Judith Baumel as president of the organization's board of trustees. Baumel, a professor of English at Adelphi University, is a former director of the Poetry Society of America and founding director of the creative writing program at Adelphi. She is the author of the poetry collections *Now*, *The Kangaroo Girl*, and the Walt Whitman Award-winning *The Weight of Numbers*. She has published in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, the *Hudson Review*, *AGNI*, the *Paris Review*, and elsewhere. Baumel has received awards from The New York Foundation for the Arts and Bronx Recognizes Its Own, as well as fellowships for residencies at Yaddo, Saltonstall, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and others.

"I am honored to represent the diverse literary family that is AWP because my own literary career was nurtured by the organization," Baumel said. "I look forward to our annual conference, where I reconnect with friends and encounter and present new creative work. And I look forward to leading AWP's many other literary advocacy projects, including our prestigious Award Series, our vibrant print and online publications, and our support of teachers of creative writing at all levels and in all places. I am also honored to be working for AWP with such talented people— the organization's staff, as well as my fellow trustees. To paraphrase my teacher and friend Robert Fitzgerald, the work of AWP is a process of 'enlarging the change.'"

David Fenza, executive director of AWP, noted that "Judith helped to build a great creative writing program at Adelphi, and she has worked as a writer and teacher for three decades. So she keenly understands our members, their needs, and aspirations. She is one of them, after all. We look forward to building new resources to support AWP's membership."

AWP hosts its Annual Conference & Bookfair in a different city of North America each year to celebrate the authors, teachers, writing programs, literary centers, and independent publishers of that region. The conference features readings, lectures, panel discussions, and forums, as well as book signings, receptions, dances, and informal gatherings. The 2013 conference in Boston attracted more than 12,000 attendees and featured 650 bookfair exhibitors from throughout the U.S., Canada, Asia, and the U.K. AWP's gathering is now the largest literary conference in North America.

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*The mission of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs is to foster literary achievement, to advance the art of writing as essential to a good education, and to serve the makers, teachers, students, and readers of contemporary writing. Founded in 1967, AWP supports nearly 50,000 writers, over 500 college and university creative writing programs, and 100 writers' conferences and centers.*