



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Adelphi University's Judith Baumel Elected AWP 2013 Conference Committee Chair and Board Vice President

Fairfax, VA, April 15, 2012 — The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) is pleased to announce the election of Judith Baumel as chair of the 2013 Boston conference committee and vice president of the AWP Board of Directors. Baumel, an associate 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, Bronx Recognizes Its Own, and fellowships for residencies at Yaddo, Saltonstall, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and others.

"I am pleased to have this chance to serve AWP because the organization is like family to me," Baumel notes. "I look forward to our annual conference, where I reconnect with friends, encounter and present new creative work, and support AWP's efforts to. I'm honored to be working for AWP with such talented people—the organization's staff, as well as my fellow board members. And I'm excited to be chair of the next conference that will take place in Boston, where I lived in the seventies and eighties. That our two keynote speakers – Nobel Prize winners Seamus Heaney and Derek Walcott – were in my circle then speaks to their particular generosity and to the way the American literary community makes possible diverse artistic lives. To paraphrase my teacher and friend Robert Fitzgerald, the work of AWP is a process of 'enlarging the change.'"

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 over 400 readings, lectures, panel discussions, and forums, as well as hundreds of book signings, receptions, dances, and informal gatherings. The 2012 conference in Chicago attracted more than 10,000 writers, teachers, students, editors, publishers, and arts professionals, and featured 550 bookfair exhibitors representing writing programs, small presses, literary magazines, and literary conferences, centers, and retreats from throughout North America and the United Kingdom. AWP's gathering is now the largest literary conference in the U.S.

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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.