



PRESS RELEASE

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**UNIVERSITY PRESS PUBLISHERS WILL GATHER
IN PHILADELPHIA FOR AAUP 2005**

*Annual Meeting of the Association of American University Presses Looks
at Changes in Publishing Industry and Scholarly Communications*

NEW YORK (May 16, 2005) – The Annual Meeting of the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) will convene in Philadelphia June 16-19, 2005. The professional sessions will open on June 17 with a plenary discussion on “The Politics of Publishing.” What is the role of noncommercial presses at this time? Panelists Eric Alterman (*The Nation*, Brooklyn College), Peter Osnos (Public Affairs), Naomi Schneider (University of California Press), and Ellen Willis (New York University) will discuss whether university presses have unique responsibilities within the publishing industry.

The three-day conference is packed with more than 50 scheduled sessions and roundtables. The panels will cover topics ranging from the environmental and economic impacts of printing in China, to digital publishing business models, to a series of talks on book design. A second plenary on Saturday, June 18, will feature scholars from the fields of ethics, African-American studies, and media studies discussing the newest ideas and trends in their disciplines.

Program committee chair Janet Francendese (Editor-in-Chief, Temple University Press) articulated the goals of the AAUP 2005 Annual Meeting, “In these days of diminishing resources and eroding markets, we could not imagine an annual meeting that failed to address innovations for more efficiently managing our businesses, but we also know it is essential to address our mission as publishers of important scholarship and consider how that mission shapes our responsibilities and relationships within and beyond our universities.”

Other panelists and speakers at the AAUP meeting will include writer Buzz Bissinger; NEA Chairman Dana Gioia; book review editors Sam Tanenhaus (*New York Times Book Review*), Eric Banks (*Bookforum*), Meghan O'Rourke (*Slate*), Leo Cary (*The New Yorker*), and Fresh Air producer Amy Salit; Barnes & Noble VP Joe Gonnella; and Borders VP Bill Nasshan. Also, many experts from the field of scholarly publishing, representatives of academic libraries and electronic publishing and information organizations will be featured. The Association is also pleased to celebrate the centenary of Princeton University Press at this year's meeting.

While the Annual Meetings are always a time to share expertise on how our industry operates in the present, the opportunity to look into the future is equally valuable. Incoming president Lynne Withey (Director, University of California Press) will launch a strategic planning process for the Association with an ideas session in Philadelphia.

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Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of university presses, provides cooperative marketing opportunities, and helps its 126 member presses fulfill their common commitments to scholarship, the academy, and society. AAUP members are active across many scholarly disciplines, including the humanities, the arts, and sciences; and are innovators in the world of electronic publishing.

For more information about AAUP, the 2005 Annual Meeting, and AAUP members, please visit us on the Web at www.aaupnet.org.