



THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PRESSES

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MINNESOTA PUBLISHER TO LEAD NATIONAL SCHOLARLY PRESS ASSOCIATION

AAUP Announces Election of University of Minnesota Press Director Douglas Armato to Presidency

New York, NY, July 2004—On June 28, 2004, University of Minnesota Press Director Douglas Armato assumed leadership of the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) at the association's Annual Meeting in Vancouver. He succeeds Seetha Srinivasan, Director, University Press of Mississippi, who remains on the Association's board.

AAUP is the world's largest organization of non-profit scholarly publishers, with 125 members in 42 states, four Canadian provinces, and six other nations. The president of AAUP works with the executive director and the board of directors setting the direction and immediate goals of the organization and serves as a spokesperson for and an advocate of university presses in all matters relating to publishing issues.

Armato is particularly well-placed to serve in this role, having pursued a 25 year career in scholarly publishing at five AAUP member presses around the country. After graduating from Columbia College in 1979, he began working in the marketing department of Columbia University Press in New York and moved on to Louisiana State University Press, the University of Georgia Press where he became an acquiring editor, and the Johns Hopkins University Press where Armato served as Associate Director and manager of the Books Publishing Division. In 1998, Doug was appointed director of the University of Minnesota Press.

Armato has served on the AAUP board of directors since 1999, and served on several association committees in years previous. In 2001, he and fellow board members Steve Cohn (Duke University Press) and Susan Schott (University Press of Kansas) developed a list of 24 talking points about the value of university presses. "This is a list that every one of us, and our university administrators, needs to know by heart," Kate Torrey, Director, University of North Carolina Press, reminded the association when introducing Armato. The list is available online at www.aaupnet.org/news/value.html.

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In his inaugural speech, entitled “Fast Paddling,” Armato set forth the “cardinal goal” for his presidency:

Like an ecology, the system of scholarly publishing is interdependent. ...The best way to preserve individual presses is to promote the value and contribute to the health of the system as a whole—to create a healthier environment for scholarly publishing and to make the case for the importance and value of our collective mission.

“Fast Paddling,” an eloquent statement of the university press’s place in the modern university, as well as a rallying cry against “the erosion of civil society and the rise of the entrepreneurial university,” is also available on the Association’s web site, www.aaupnet.org.

Founded in 1925, the University of Minnesota Press publishes more than 100 books each year. The Press has a prestigious reputation in the fields of literary, cultural, and media studies, political theory, and the cultural and natural heritage of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest Region. The Press is also in the forefront of publishing translations of European and Latin American scholarship. Press Director Doug Armato is, in Torrey’s words, “a dedicated, fearless, smart publisher.”