Letter from the Director

Welcome to the University of Illinois Press’s annual report, offering highlights of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

The Press again closed the year on a solid financial footing. We owe this happy state of affairs to a combination of steady print sales, increases in ebook sales, a dedication to cost control, new journals publications, and increased subvention and grant income.

In particular, our attractive and successful regional trade titles—including the Larry Kanfer photo book Chicagoscapes; a new edition of the AIA Guide to Chicago; and a charming collection of stories about farm life from veteran columnist Alan Guebert—strengthened our financial position and our links with the state and the region.

The significant awards and publicity garnered by Illinois’ books testify to the Press’s strengths. In fact, Illinois authors won book prizes across a range of fields, including American music, African American studies, women’s history, Mormon history, and sports history.

Fiscal 2015 also marked significant passages at the Press: the retirement of Willis Regier after seventeen years as director; the passing of music editor Judith McCulloh, whose retirement in 2005 capped some 35 years of distinguished service to the Press; and the deaths of staff compositor Celia Shapland and former marketing director Allen Steinberg. New staff members, meanwhile, brought their energy and skills to production, design, journals, acquisitions, and the business office.

Conversations about publishing these days often center on platforms, portals, content, and access. But for all the buzzwords, our business remains at heart about people. From the classroom to the field to the spadework of the imagination, people fuel what we do with their ideas, their expertise, and their dedication and commitment to the quality that defines the AAUP and its member presses. To our authors, editors, supporters, and staff, I raise my glass, and welcome your questions, suggestions, and thoughts as we boldly embrace the challenges of a new year.

Sincerely,

Laurie Matheson, Ph.D.

Mission Statement

The University of Illinois Press supports the mission of the university through the worldwide dissemination of significant scholarship, striving to enhance and extend the reputation of the university. Through its publishing programs, the Press promotes research and education, enriches cultural and intellectual life, and fosters regional pride and accomplishments. The Press serves the university as a source for scholarly publishing knowledge and standards. As an innovator in the scholarly publishing community, the University of Illinois Press diligently pursues the best and most innovative technology to meet the needs of our readers.

History of the Press

Established in 1918, the University of Illinois Press debuted with a history of the school and a small volume on Abraham Lincoln. Serving initially as an outlet for University of Illinois faculty monographs, the Press published acclaimed books over the years out of the university’s outstanding departments of communications, psychology, and anthropology, including the seminal The Mathematical Theory of Communication.

By the 1980s, the Press had become a leading publisher in American history and culture, with pioneering series in African American history, women’s history, American music, sports history, history of communications, and working-class history. Illinois helped revive interest in Zora Neale Hurston with the publication of Robert Hemenway’s biography of the author and her novel Their Eyes Were Watching God. The landmark series Music in American Life helped to establish American vernacular music as a legitimate subject of scholarly study. In 1992, Admiral Eugene B. Fluckey brought Illinois his World War II memoir Thunder Below!, a perennial seller and the top moneymaker in Press history — recently released as an ebook.

In the early 2000s, the Press launched early digital experiments including the History Cooperative (active 2000-2010), an online open access journals source. Multivolume documentary series on Margaret Sanger and Jane Addams built on the Press’s commitment to women’s history. New series such as the Geopolitics of Information, Dissident Feminisms, Heartland Foodways, and The New Black Studies series extend the Press’s historic strengths while retooling for a new century.

The Press’s journals program, which predates its formal founding, provides a robust counterpart to the books program. Of the more than thirty journals currently published, fourteen are associated with learned societies, including the Journal of American Folklore, Ethnomusicology, the Journal of Appalachian Studies, and the Journal of Sport History. The Journals division has also helped pioneer the development of online journal archives, electronic companions to society-sponsored publications, ancillary services such as conference registration and membership services, and Open Access journals.
The Land of Milk and Uncle Honey: Memories from the Farm of My Youth
by Alan Guebert with Mary Grace Foxwell

"Guebert is a master storyteller, bringing to life the cast of characters—family members and hired men—whose hard work made Indian Farm run."—Edible Chicago

One of Bon Appetit’s 20 Food Books to Read This Summer.
On Los Angeles Magazine’s list of TOP 10 Summer Reads for Foodies.
Alan Guebert is a U. of I. alumnus

St. Louis Rising: The French Regime of Louis St. Ange de Bellerive
by Carl J. Ekberg and Sharon K. Person

Reexamines the complexities of politics, Indian affairs, marriage customs, slavery, and the role of women to present an alternative version of the tale of St. Louis’s founding.
Featured in St. Louis Magazine and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Year’s Highlights

Chicagoscapes
by Larry Kanfer with Alaina Kanfer

One of the all-time best-selling University of Illinois Press authors, photographic artist and U. of I. alumnus Larry Kanfer and native Chicagoan Alaina Kanfer produced the most beautiful Press book of the year.

Thither Below! The USS Barb Revolutionizes Submarine Warfare in World War II
by Admiral Eugene B. Fluckey

Published in 1992 and released as an e-book this year, Thunder Below! was the top seller across all formats in 2015, including 5,000 e-books. Its first-rate, true-life story of the courage and heroism of ordinary men under fire is still an inspiration.

“The real story of a real hero.”—Tom Clancy

AIA Guide to Chicago
edited by Alice Sinkевич and Laurie McGovern Petersen

The top paperback seller of 2015, this third edition of the AIA Guide to Chicago brings readers up to date on ten years of dynamic changes.

Published in collaboration with the American Institute of Architects Chicago, this is the premier guidebook to the best of Chicago architecture.

Ray Bradbury Unbound
by Jonathan R. Eller

The second volume of Eller’s authoritative biography follows the beloved writer’s evolution from a short story master to a multi-media creative force.

“Engaging... Eller’s second volume of Bradbury’s biography is ultimately a melancholy and cautionary tale.”—Washington Post

“Captures the joy of creations that new forms allowed Bradbury, such as the intensely visual interpretation of Moby Dick that he wrote for director John Huston.”—Publishers Weekly

A City Called Heaven: Chicago and the Birth of Gospel Music
by Robert M. Marovich


“[An] exhaustively researched history of this important Chicago musical export... Here, in Marovich’s important work, are the lesser-known stories of the originators who created a wholly original sound of holiness in Chicago that reverberates today.”—Chicago Tribune
Corrupt Illinois: Patronage, Cronyism, and Criminality by Thomas J. Gradel and Dick Simpson
“The most comprehensive account of corruption in our state ever published. It proposes cures, which will take decades to implement fully, but which deserve our attention now.” —Governor Jim Edgar, from the foreword

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir: A Biography by Michael Hicks
This first-of-its-kind history tells the epic story of how an all-volunteer group founded by persecuted religious outcasts grew into a multimedia powerhouse synonymous with the mainstream and with Mormonism itself.
“Mormon history written by Mormons can be pretty dry, but Mr. Hicks, a professor of music at Brigham Young University, is funkier than your average saint. . . . The anecdotes alone are worth the price of the book.” —The Wall Street Journal

New Journals

The Journal of Civil and Human Rights edited by Michael Ezra
A peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, academic journal dedicated to studying modern U.S.-based social justice movements and freedom struggles, including transnational ones, and their antecedents, influence, and legacies. The Journal of Civil and Human Rights is published with the support of Sonoma State University.

The Journal of Appalachian Studies edited by Shauna Scott
Refereed and published on behalf of the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) with support from Marshall University. It is the official journal of the ASA, a multi-disciplinary organization for scholars, teachers, activists, and others whose work focuses on the Appalachian region.

The Journal of Sport History edited by Murray Phillips
Seeks to promote the study of all aspects of the history of sport and is published on behalf of the The North American Society for Sport History.

These journals are a wonderful complement to the Press’s existing and growing book lists in human rights, civil rights history, Appalachian studies, and sport history, and we are thrilled to welcome them!
Selected Award Winners

Appalachian Dance: Creativity and Continuity in Six Communities by Susan Eike Spalding
Weatherford Award for Nonfiction from the Appalachian Studies Association

Autism and Gender: From Refrigerator Mothers to Computer Geeks by Jordynn Jack
RSA Book Award from the Rhetoric Society of America

Baseball on Trial: The Origin of Baseball’s Antitrust Exemption by Nathaniel Grow
Larry Ritter Book Award from the Society of American Baseball Research

The Creolization of American Culture: William Sidney Mount and the Roots of Blackface Minstrelsy by Christopher J. Smith
Irving Lowens Book Award from the Society for American Music

Echoes of Chongqing: Women in Wartime China by Danke Li
Chinese translation — Hong Kong Book Prize

Fannie Barrier Williams: Crossing the Borders of Region and Race by Wanda A. Hendricks
Letitia Woods Brown Book Award, sponsored by the Association of Black Women Historians

Grant Winners

Brazil and the Dialectic of Colonization by Alfredo Bosi; translated by Robert Patrick Newcomb
Funds for the publication of this translation were provided by the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and by the Ministerio da Cultura do Brasil / Fundação Biblioteca Nacional.

A City Called Heaven: Chicago and the Birth of Gospel Music by Robert M. Marovich
Supported by the AMS 75 PAYS Endowment of the American Musicological Society, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Disability Histories edited by Susan Burch and Michael Rembis
Publication supported by a grant from Middlebury College.

Hawaiian Music in Motion: Mariners, Missionaries, and Minstrels by James Revell Carr
Publication supported by a grant from the L. J. and Mary C. Skaggs Folklore Fund and by the AMS 75 PAYS Endowment of the American Musicological Society, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Hoedowns, Reels, and Frolics: Roots and Branches of Southern Appalachian Dance by Phil Jamison
Publication supported by grants from the L. J. and Mary C. Skaggs Folklore Fund and from Warren Wilson College.

Kirtland Temple: The Biography of a Shared Mormon Sacred Space by David J. Howlett
Best First Book Award from the Mormon History Association

Queer Migration Politics: Activist Rhetoric and Coalitional Possibilities by Karma R. Chávez
Book of the Year from the LGBTQ Communication Studies Division of the National Communication Association

Regina Anderson Andrews, Harlem Renaissance Librarian by Ethelene Whitmire
Outstanding Contribution to Publishing Citation from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association

Southern Soul-Blues by David Whiteis
Blues Book of the Year in the 2014 Critics’ Poll of Living Blues
Best History from the Association for Recorded Sound Collections for Best Research in Recorded Blues, Hip-Hop, Rhythm & Blues

Squeeze This! A Cultural History of the Accordion in America by Marion Jacobson
Klaus Wachsmann Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology

Tornado Books of the Year from The International Labor History Association

Metropolitan Resilience in a Time of Economic Turmoil edited by Michael A. Pagano
The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs of the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Illinois Press gratefully acknowledge publication assistance by a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The Social Worlds of Nineteenth-Century Chamber Music: Composers, Consumers, Communities by Marie Sumner Lott
Publication supported by the AMS 75 PAYS Endowment of the American Musicological Society, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Struggle for the Soul of the Postwar South: White Evangelical Protestants and Operation Dixie by Elizabeth Fones-Wolf and Ken Fones-Wolf
Supported by grants from the West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and from West Virginia University.

The Voice in the Drum: Music, Language, and Emotion in Islamicate South Asia by Richard K. Wolf
Supported by the Harvard University Department of Music Publication Fund

Yankee Twang: Country and Western Music in New England by Clifford R. Murphy
Publication supported by a grant from the L. J. and Mary C. Skaggs Folklore Fund.
An Illinois Sampler: Teaching and Research on the Prairie
edited by Mary-Ann Winkelman and Antoinette Burton with Kyle Mays

Presents personal accounts from faculty members at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and other contributors about their research and how it enriches and energizes their teaching.

Aimed at alumni and prospective students interested in the university’s ongoing mission, An Illinois Sampler offers a rare glimpse into the impact of cutting-edge research on undergraduate education.

Lorado Taft: The Chicago Years
by Allen Stuart Weller; edited by Robert G. La France and Henry Adams with Stephen P. Thomas

Sculptor Lorado Taft helped build Chicago’s worldwide reputation as the epicenter of the City Beautiful Movement and is renowned on the UIUC campus for his 1929 Alma Mater statue.

Lavishly illustrated with color images of Taft’s most celebrated works, including several on the UIUC campus, Lorado Taft: The Chicago Years completes the first major study of a great American artist.

Common Threads
A journal article anthology series developed by the Press’ Journals department, Common Threads features selections of articles that are thematically linked. The first, Higher Mental Processes, contains ten articles from The American Journal of Psychology and was compiled by the journal’s editor Robert W. Proctor.

Included in Higher Mental Processes is an article from the 125th anniversary issue of the Journal, along with supplementary articles that discuss the three processes described within, and an introduction by the editor.

A new volume will appear in Common Threads every quarter in e-book and print formats.

Women in Print
This collaborative effort of the UIUC Rare Book & Manuscript Library and the University of Illinois Press, is a new peer-reviewed e-book series which explores rare books, written by women, in their original form.

Readers experience each book as it first appeared through digital facsimiles. The editions include new introductions and commentary by distinguished teachers of the text, and embedded media which takes readers on virtual visits to the vault.

The first book in the series is Some Reflections Upon Marriage by Mary Astell, originally published in 1700.

E-books and Digital Editions
Many of our titles are available as e-books on Kindle, NOOK, Google Play, Kobo, and other formats and devices.

Digital editions are available to libraries from ebrary, MyiLibrary, Follett Shelf, UPCC/Project MUSE, JSTOR, EBSCO, and Overdrive, with more vendors being added.