First book published: 1918

Best-selling book of all time: THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD (372,568 copies)

Oldest title still in print: The Mathematical Theory of Communication 1949

Countries in which UIP authors reside: 68

Founding member of AAUP/1937

Number of Journals published currently: 41

Number of Languages our books have been translated: 27

Number of Directors: 6

200+ books have won awards in the last 10 years

115 separate journal issues per year

130 years

4,500+ number of published books

2018 Annual Report

Longest running journal: American Journal of Psychology
Letter from the Director

As the scholarly press of a public, land grant university, our mission is to disseminate knowledge that will equip citizens—regionally, nationally, and globally—to understand and engage with the societies they inhabit. As we embark on our second century, we reaffirm our commitment to investing in reliable, carefully vetted scholarship. We believe it provides a sure foundation for the pursuit of truth amid every wave of uncertainty, belligerence, and injustice.

Here are some components of our vision for the next one hundred years:

- We will continue to publish scholarship that leads the urgent conversations of our time, provides historical perspective and critical insight, and sustains our core commitment to social justice.
- We will be proactive and responsive to technological change and opportunity.
- We will establish the University of Illinois as the site of an annual publishing institute.
- We will advance partnerships with all three universities within the University of Illinois System.
- We will provide a model of mentorship and collegiality to staff, faculty, and publishing colleagues.
- We will cultivate a diversity of staff to reflect the diversity of our communities.
- We will model and share literacy in our community.
- We will develop opportunities in our publishing program to reflect the university’s strengths.
- We will help the humanities and sciences speak to each other.
- We will increase our financial independence.
- We will invite our community of friends to join us in advancing our mission.

With our talented staff, authors, and generous friends, we will be carrying these imperatives and commitments forward into our second century. Come on along!

Sincerely,

Laurie Matheson, DMA

The University of Illinois Press is a founding member of the Association of University Presses.
EMBARKING ON OUR SECOND CENTURY

The Press’s centennial in 2018 gave rise to a year full of celebrations, reflections, and new directions. Keystone initiatives included:

**Events**

Gala receptions at the University of Illinois President’s House in Urbana, at Jane Addams Hull-House on the U of I Chicago campus, and at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield

Public presentations on the history of the Press:

- A U of I Press Directors Panel, featuring current and past Press directors Laurie Matheson, Willis Regier, and Richard Wentworth, that was filmed by C-SPAN Book TV
- A panel on 100 Years of Publishing Lincoln featuring historians and commentators on Lincoln’s legacy for understanding histories of race, gender, inequity, and civil rights; also filmed by C-SPAN Book TV
- A panel on journals publishing and faculty partnerships with the Press, hosted by U of I Archives
- A presentation about the early history of the Press, hosted by the Spurlock Museum in Urbana
- Public exhibit on the history of the Press at the Main Library in Urbana
- Posters featuring U of I Press books by UIC authors mounted in the Richard J. Daley Library at U of I Chicago

**Outreach**

- Delivered more than 30 presentations and workshops on publishing practices and publishing as a career path
- Launched a new newsletter, *The Callout*
- Hosted interns from U of I Urbana-Champaign, U of I Chicago, and Eastern Illinois University
- Founded the Contemporary Film Directors film series at the Art Theater, Champaign, IL, featuring Q&A sessions by U of I Press authors
- Acquired Platinum level sponsorship at the April 2018 Ebertfest film festival, staffed book exhibit throughout festival
- Partnership with the School of Art + Design at Urbana-Champaign for exhibit of Association of University Presses Book, Journal, and Jacket Show
- Radio spots on WILL, the public broadcasting station for Champaign-Urbana
- Staff participation in local book mentor programs with pre-K students
The Press’s centennial keystone initiatives, continued:

Materials

- A centennial logo and calendar, created by U of I Press staff
- A Little Free Library, designed by staff members and installed in the Urbana student union
- Creation of centennial tote bags and T-shirts featuring the inspiring words of Chicago poet Gwendolyn Brooks, the first black author to win the Pulitzer Prize:

> Books are meat and medicine  
> and flame and flight and flower,  
> steel, stitch, and cloud and clout,  
> and drumbeats on the air.

(U of I Press’s Little Free Library.

Students, visitors, and staff at the AUPresses Book, Journal, and Jacket Show.

U of I Press tote bag and T-shirt.

(Left to Right) Richard Wentworth, Laurie Matheson, and Bill Regier at U of I Urbana-Champaign Reception. Photo credit: Della Perone.

About the Press

Established in 1918, the University of Illinois Press currently publishes 100 books and 42 journal titles annually with a staff of 40. The Press invests in the tools and practices of responsible publishing and works with scholars to hone and deploy their research in the service of a more complete and nuanced understanding of the past and present. The Press then invests in marketing and disseminating this transformative scholarship to local, national, and global audiences, pursuing the most effective and innovative practices and technologies to meet the needs of its readers.

The Press is anchored by the conviction that scholarly publishing is an essential component of the kind of active, applied cultural literacy that a democracy requires. Aided by rigorous scholarly research, historical perspectives are ever evolving. How we understand and interpret history informs how we understand and act on the present. And it is that historically informed understanding that makes change possible. From the Bill of Rights to the Emancipation Proclamation, from universal suffrage to the civil rights movement, all of the past steps toward true democracy, however halting or incomplete, move us closer to this shining future:

- A diverse but united democracy
- An empowered and engaged citizenry
- A culture of literacy and knowledge sharing

As our books and journals make their way out into the world, they serve as a launching pad for discussion, debate, engagement, and activism. They shine a light on histories of oppression and injustice, resistance and protest, as well as organizing and community building. They interrogate the power structures of our local and global societies and reveal the hidden tools of oppression. And, they provide the materials for students, scholars, and other readers to question, interrogate, and challenge those structures, too.

The Press is proud to serve the University of Illinois and the broader scholarly community in advancing the development and circulation of knowledge and pursuing the twin goals of scholarly communication and an informed citizenry.
Publicity Highlights

Black Opera: History, Power, Engagement by Naomi André
“A necessary exploration of how race has shaped the opera landscape in the United States and South Africa.”—New York Times

Bill Monroe: The Life and Music of the Blue Grass Man by Tom Ewing
“Insightful . . . presents bluegrass history as it happened, as well as a fresh look at ‘this extraordinary individual.’”—Wall Street Journal

Noodle Soup: Recipes, Techniques, Obsession by Ken Albala
“Noodle Soup offers recipes (often engagingly free-form) and techniques, as promised, but also a fascinating history lesson.”—Boston Globe

Bluegrass Generation by Neil Rosenberg
“An ode to a time and a place when college kids and country folks bonded over a love of bluegrass.”—Wall Street Journal

Becoming the Story: War Correspondents since 9/11 by Lindsay Palmer
“[Palmer] is on to something as she examines how Western audiences and readers are encouraged to empathize with war correspondents as heroes, victims, or martyrs.”—New York Review of Books

Glory in Their Spirit: How Four Black Women Took On the Army during World War II by Sandra M. Bolzenius
“This well-written account of little-known yet essential stories of valor and protest will fascinate readers interested in WWII, women’s history, and heretofore untold stories of civil-rights trailblazers. Recommend Glory in Their Spirit to fans of Hidden Figures.”—Booklist

Select Award Winners

Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women by Brittney C. Cooper
• Merle Curti Intellectual History Award, Organization of American Historians (OAH)

Chinatown Opera Theater in North America by Nancy Yunhwa Rao
• Music in American Culture Award, American Musicological Society (AMS)
• Certificate of Merit for Best Historical Research in Recorded Country, Folk, Roots, or World Music, Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC)

Iain M. Banks by Paul Kincaid
• BSFA Award for Best Non-Fiction, British Science Fiction Association

Making an Antislavery Nation: Lincoln, Douglas, and the Battle over Freedom by Graham A. Peck
• Finalist, Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize, Gettysburg College and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
• Russell P. Strange Memorial Book Award, Illinois State Historical Society

Welcoming Two Journals and a Book Series

The University of Illinois Press welcomes to our journals program the Mormon Studies Review, featuring review essays in cultural studies, archaeology, and theology, and the Journal of Book of Mormon Studies, which is the leading venue for scholarly work on the Book of Mormon. These titles enhance our commitment to the field, with fifty book titles in Mormon Studies stretching back over forty years.

We also announced a new book series, Introductions to Mormon Thought, which will publish short books of general interest on leading figures in the development of Latter-day Saint thought and culture. The first books under contract for the series include a scholar, an author, a religious fundamentalist, and a feminist activist.
THANK YOU!

Funding our Future

Thanks to the support of numerous donors and friends, the University of Illinois Press has been able to establish several new funds to support publications and activities:

- **The Bruno Nettl Fund for Ethnomusicology** supports publications at the Press in the vibrant field of ethnomusicology. The fund honors University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign professor emeritus Bruno Nettl, internationally renowned musicologist, co-founder of the Society for Ethnomusicology, and longtime editor of the journal *Ethnomusicology*.

- **The Judith McCulloh Fund for American Music** honors the legacy of Judith McCulloh, long-time University of Illinois Press editor by supporting the ongoing vibrancy of U of I Press publications in American music and vernacular culture. Judy’s academic passions and keen eye as an editor put us on the map as the leading publisher in the field with the cornerstone series *Music in American Life*.

- **Darlene Clark Hine African American History Fund** honors Darlene Clark Hine, a founding editor of University of Illinois Press’s prestigious New Black Studies Series and recipient of a National Humanities Medal for her groundbreaking scholarship in African American women's history. The fund helps continue the legacy of Dr. Hine’s commitment to mentorship and scholarship by supporting Black studies publications that build a greater understanding of the African American experience.

- **The Howard D. and Marjorie I. Brooks Fund for Progressive Thought** was established in 2018 by William Brooks, professor emeritus of music at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of York, in honor of his parents’ lifelong commitment to progressive causes.

- **The University of Illinois Press Fund for Anthropology** supports publications and activities that advance publications in anthropology at the Press. The fund builds upon the generosity of Norm Whitten, a pioneer of ethnographic approaches to anthropological research in South America.

Friends of the Press

We launched our **Friends of the Press** program in our centennial year as a platform for building a strong community of support. This is an annual giving program that offers supporters an opportunity for sustained giving and participation in the life and future of the Press. In our books and journals, we strive to be a force for positive social change by guiding the scholarly conversation and amplifying its reach to a broader audience. The Friends of the Press program will help us continue to provide a platform for exceptional, reliable scholarship that shapes the urgent conversations of our time. With support from friends, we will continue to publish scholarship that provides historical perspective and critical insight, and sustains our core commitment to social justice.

Connect with us!

For more details about any of the programs covered in our Annual Report, visit our website, www.press.uillinois.edu; read our newsletter, *The Callout*; or connect with us on one of these platforms:

- **Subscribe to our emails**
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- **Read the University of Illinois Press blog**
  www.press.uillinois.edu/wordpress/

- **Follow us on Instagram**
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- **Support the Association of University Presses**
  @upresses  #ReadUP  #LookItUP