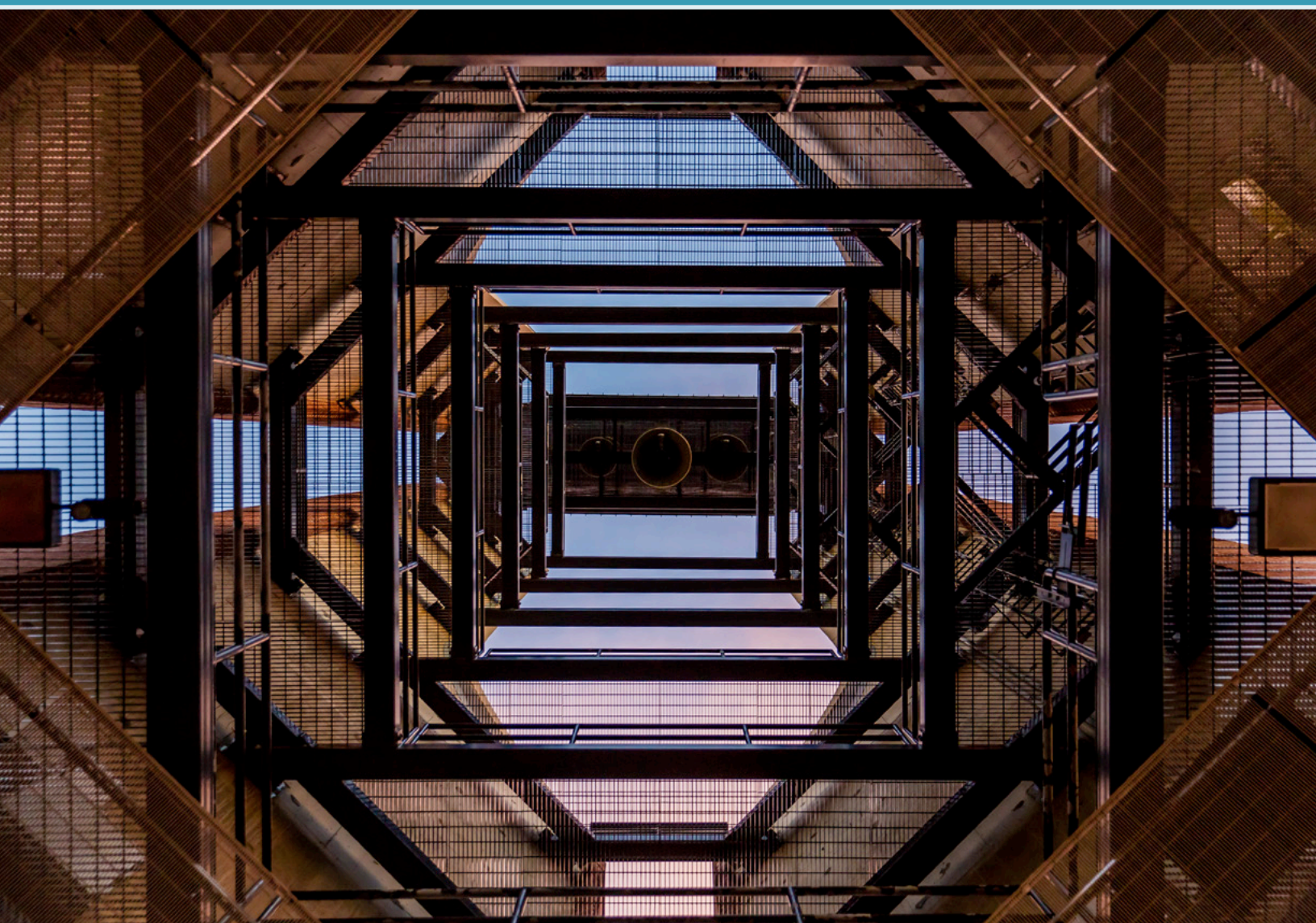




UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS



2021 | ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Photo credit UI News Bureau,
L. Brian Stauffer

The past unprecedented year, despite its many challenges, has also opened windows of opportunity.

Our staff capitalized on virtual platforms with innovations in marketing and publicity. We initiated a successful and ongoing series of virtual book launches presenting authors paired with conversation partners. We continued our twice-a-year Publishing Symposium by offering the event virtually. We took advantage of the non-place-based format to include panelists from afar, exceeding attendance of previous in-person symposia. We created attractive virtual exhibits to register our presence at virtual conferences. We also continued our partnerships with the UIUC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation and the UIUC Library's Savvy Researcher series in offering writing workshops and publishing talks for faculty.

Further expanding our virtual presence, the journals division launched a new podcast series, *The UPSide*. The series features conversations with editors and authors, as well as highlighting connections between book and journal activities around core areas like American music and Mormon studies. In addition, the journal of the Italian American Studies Association joined our program, bringing the number of journals at UIP to forty-three.

Other initiatives also boosted accessibility to our scholarly content. We met the needs of readers locked out of libraries or in other ways isolated from scholarly resources by enabling free and open access to much of our book and journal content on JSTOR and MUSE. We launched a program to invite authors of titles in African American studies to nominate an organization to receive five free copies of their book. Through this program, we donated more than 200 books to more than forty author-nominated organizations, including schools, libraries, prisons, museums, and not-for-profit organizations.

Major national media coverage has also enhanced the visibility and impact of new book titles, including a landmark biography of Black Chicago composer Florence B. Price; rich interpretive studies of Black entrepreneur Madame C. J. Walker and country music star Dolly Parton; and thought-provoking studies of Black citizenship and satire.

The resourcefulness, creativity, and collaborative spirit of our authors and staff undergird all of these initiatives and accomplishments. We look forward to building on these successes as we navigate new challenges in the year to come.

Sincerely,

Laurie Matheson, DMA

ABOUT THE PRESS

Established in 1918, the University of Illinois Press publishes eighty new books annually and forty-three journal titles in the humanities and social sciences. The Press invests in the tools and practices of responsible publishing. We work with scholars to deploy their research in the service of a more nuanced understanding of the past and present; and we market and disseminate this transformative scholarship to local, national, and global audiences. We hold scholarly publishing to be an essential component of the active, applied cultural literacy that a democracy requires. It provides a launching pad for discussion, engagement, and activism. It provides tools for interrogating power structures and tools of oppression. It shines a light on histories of oppression and injustice, resistance and protest, organizing and community building. The Press is proud to serve the University of Illinois and the broader scholarly community in advancing the twin goals of scholarly communication and an informed citizenry.



The University of Illinois Press is
a founding member of the
Association of University Presses.

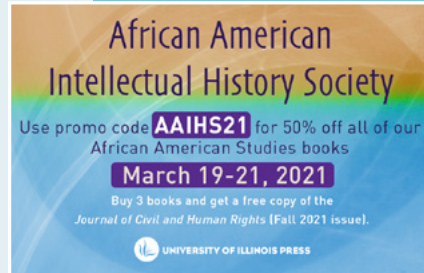
Cover image by Dayne Topkin on
Unsplash.

Connecting with Authors

VIRTUAL EXHIBITS

The Covid-19 pandemic forced university presses to find new alternatives to established ways of promoting authors, books, and journals. In 2020–21, UIP continued its efforts online and in virtual spaces.

Margo Chaney (former Exhibits Manager), **Michael Roux** (Marketing and Sales Manager), and **Alexa Collela** (Journals Marketing Manager), with help from Press student workers and interns **Charrice Jones**, **Ali Shuger**, and **Tiffany Tzeng**, coordinated an inter-departmental effort that tied in virtual exhibits with academic conferences across the country. Exhibits included new books and journals, author spotlight features, promotions and discounts, and external links to features like author podcasts and op-eds, media coverage, and Spotify playlists.



ONLINE AUTHOR EVENTS

Heather Gernenz (Publicity Manager) continued to spearhead UIP's series of successful series of author events. Events included a conversation between Press authors **Jenifer L. Barclay**, author of *The Mark of Slavery* and **Stefanie Hunt-Kennedy**, author of *Between Fitness and Death*, moderated by **Daina Ramey Berry**; **Vanessa M. Holden**, author of *Surviving Southampton*, speaking with **Erica Armstrong Dunbar**; and **Cara A. Finnegan**, author of *Photographic Presidents*, in conversation with **Michael Shaw**.



UIP Expands Its Outreach

SPRING PUBLISHING SYMPOSIUM

The University of Illinois Press conducted its fifth publishing symposium on April 15, 2021. The spring event was the latest in a series of symposia begun in 2018 and taking place on the Urbana and Chicago campuses prior to the pandemic and online in 2020 and 2021. The UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation and the Humanities Research Institute of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, cosponsored the event.

The spring season's symposium offered publishing professionals, authors, and faculty a pair of fifty-minute panels.

For the journals panel, Press staffer **Elizabeth Hess** (Journals Marketing Assistant) moderated "The Life of a Journal Article: Where Does It Go and How Do We Know?" The panel was made up of **Laura Hetrick**, associate professor of art education at UIUC and coeditor of the journal *Visual Arts Research*; **Esra Celtek Coskun**, a collections analyst and planning specialist at the UIUC University Library; and **Ahu Yolaç**, a Ph.D. candidate in art education at the UIUC School of Art and Design. The participants discussed the often-overlooked marketing and uses of a journals article and an article's potential to make an outsized impact on the author's reach, research, and career.

The Press's **Michael Roux** (Marketing and Sales Manager) moderated the book session, "Book Marketing in a Virtual World." The panel included two Press authors. **Tyrone McKinley Freeman** is an assistant professor of philanthropic studies at the University of Indiana Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and **Cara A. Finnegan** is a professor in the Department of Communications at UIUC. They were joined by **Karen Flynn**, an associate professor in the Department of Gender and Women's Studies and the Department of African American Studies at UIUC; and **Adrian Burgos Jr.**, a professor of history at UIUC. The sessions provided attendees with tips on holding virtual events, partnering with the publisher to raise your book's profile, planning publicity campaigns, and successfully pitching op-eds to media.

We are grateful to our UIC partners and for the support of former VPAA **Barb Wilson** of the UI System. Thanks to our panelists for sharing their time and expertise, and thanks to all who joined us for the symposium.

FIRST BOOK WRITING GROUP WORKSHOPS

The Press continued its relationship with the First Book Writing Group, a resource offered to pre-tenured faculty by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation at UIUC. Since 2013, UIP editors have met with participants toward the end of each academic year in small, informal groups in order to provide guidance and answer questions about the book publishing process.

Cynthia Oliver, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, and **Maria Gillombardo**, the Research Development Manager, worked closely with UIP acquisitions editors **Dominique Moore**, **Alison Syring**, and **Danny Nasset**. The three editors led separate sessions that covered dissertation-to-book basics, proposal preparations, and how to build a relationship with an editor and press. They also provided specific feedback on individual book projects.

"Your clarity and enthusiasm meant so much to the FBWG participants," Gillombardo said. "These conversations helped

This year's writing group involved participants from a wide range of university departments, including Spanish and Portuguese, kinesiology and community health, Latina/Latino studies, political science, the iSchool, urban and regional planning, American Indian studies, history, English, landscape architecture, and women's and gender studies.

them see the possibilities within their projects and consider their next steps."

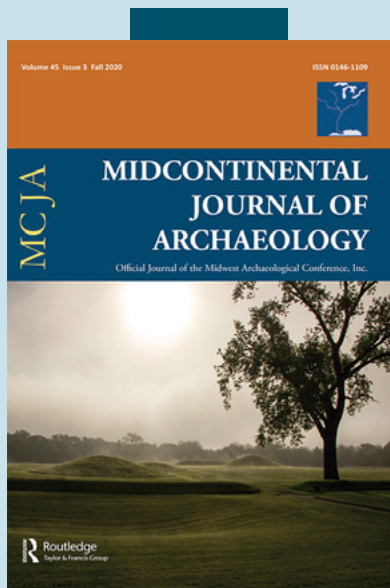
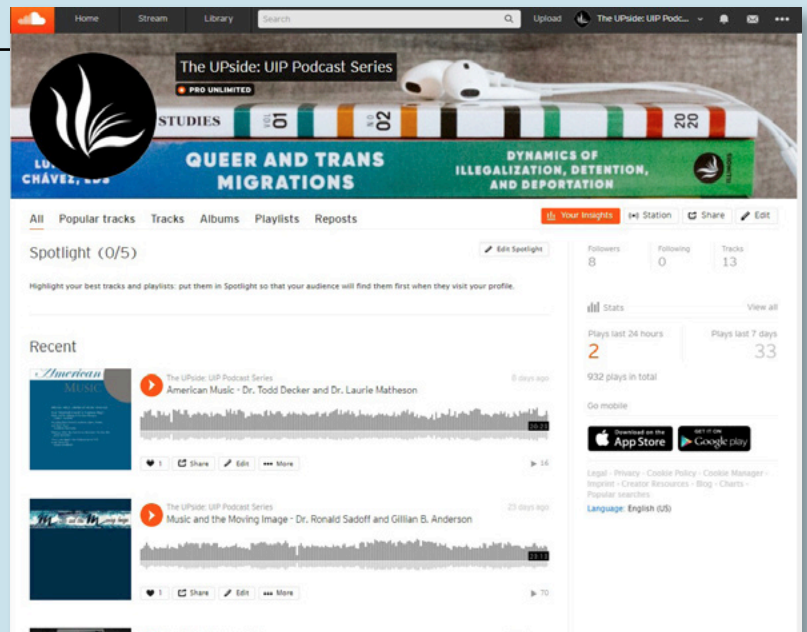
"Please accept our deepest gratitude for hosting our First Book Writing Groups Session with the Press," Oliver said. "It never disappoints and this year was no different. Each of you has a distinct style, were perfectly suited for the group with which you spoke and offered such a clear and approachable view of working with a press. We are so grateful for this ongoing partnership."

Journals Highlights

OUR NEW JOURNALS PODCAST

In December 2020, the University of Illinois Press (UIP) created *The UPSide*, a podcast series to showcase our journal and acquisition editors, as well as our journal contributors. The content is recorded via Zoom or Skype into GarageBand, then uploaded onto SoundCloud, iTunes, and Spotify. A link to each episode is also available through the UIP website. **Elizabeth Hess** (Journals Marketing Assistant) hosts the podcast.

The UPSide is a communications tool that affords us a multimedia option to amplify the content created by the Press and its partners.



NEW IN OUR JOURNALS PROGRAM

Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology

The *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* (MCJA) is the premier peer-reviewed, academic archaeology journal of the Midwest Archaeological Conference. The organization serves to promote and stimulate interest in the archaeology of the midwestern United States and neighboring areas; to serve as a bond among those interested in this and related subjects; to advocate for the conservation of archaeological data; and to encourage an appreciation and support of regional archaeological research. Our contributions range in chronology and context from the kill sites of the continents' first inhabitants to the privies of early twentieth-century city dwellers.

Diasporic Italy: Journal of the Italian American Studies Association

Diasporic Italy (DI) is a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal devoted to the Italian American/Italian Diaspora, focusing on timely and varied approaches to criticism and analysis of the field by presenting new perspectives and research on transnational issues. *DI* is the official publication of the Italian American Studies Association, replacing the annual Conference Proceedings.

Interdisciplinary in nature, *DI* publishes in all aspects of the arts, humanities, social sciences, and cultural studies, and is particularly interested in comparative studies, pedagogy, and translation. Additionally, the journal encourages submissions on movement to, from, and within Italy conceptualizing all aspects of the diaspora, including inter-coloniality and post-colonialism.



UIP Books Make an Impact

This year, several UIP titles appeared in national news outlets in lists that demonstrate the impact the scholarship we publish has on shaping the understanding of our world and history. Additionally, our authors provided critical expertise that contributed to our understanding of current events and cultural conversations.

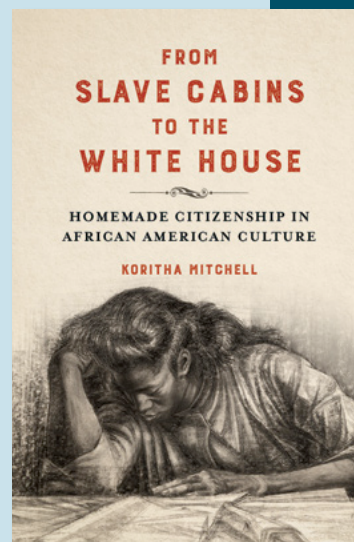
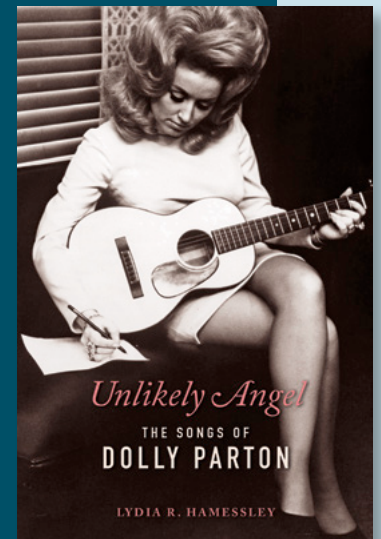
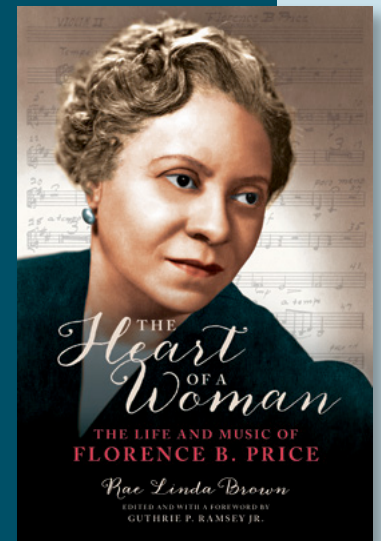
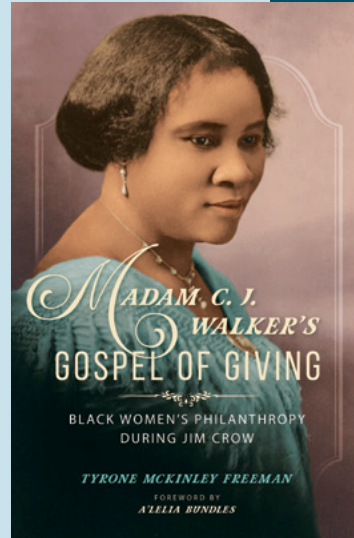
The work of prolific Black woman composer Florence B. Price has been undergoing a revival lately. **Rae Linda Brown**'s biography *The Heart of a Woman: The Life and Music of Florence B. Price* led the way this year with coverage in *BBC Music*, *NBC5*, *Chicago Tribune*, *New Yorker*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Reader*, *Ms Magazine*, *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, and *Chicago Magazine*.

As the Netflix series *Self Made* returned Madam C.J. Walker to the zeitgeist, **Tyrone McKinley Freeman**'s new book *Madam C.J. Walker's Gospel of Giving: Black Women's Philanthropy during Jim Crow* provided key context on her philanthropy. Freeman's biography of Walker received mentions in the *New York Times*, an interview on KUT's *In Black America*, inclusion in roundups from *ColorLines* and *Bitch* magazine, and a review in *Booklist*.

Lydia Hamessley's book *Unlikely Angel: The Songs of Dolly Parton* brought keen insight to the conversation about the nationally beloved singer by highlighting her prolific career as a composer. *Bookforum*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Literary Hub*, *No Depression*, *Library Journal*, and *Booklist* gave coverage to the book.

Koritha Mitchell's book, *From Slave Cabins to the White House: Homemade Citizenship in African American Culture*, provided key context on the treatment of African Americans in the US with op-eds by the author in *TIME*, *Electric Lit*, *Avidly*, and *Bitch* magazine, and inclusion in both *Ms. Magazine's* and *Black Perspectives* Best Books of 2020.

Danielle Fuentes Morgan's book *Laughing to Keep From Dying: African American Satire in the Twenty-First Century* provided crucial context on how Black satire promotes social justice, with a virtual book launch event with comedian and host of CNN's series *United Shades of America*, **W. Kamau Bell**, and coverage in *The New York Times Book Review*, *Atlantic*, *KALW*, and *Library Journal*.



SELECTED AWARD WINNERS

Chicago Católico, by Deborah E. Kanter

**Hamlin Garland Prize. Midwestern History Association
Award of Superior Achievement, Illinois State
Historical Society**

Hungry Translations, by Richa Nagar

**Global Development Studies Book Award,
International Studies Association**

A History of the Ozarks, Vol. 2: The Conflicted Ozarks,
by Brooks Blevins

**J. G. Ragsdale Book Award in Arkansas History,
Arkansas Historical Association**

Roots of the Black Chicago Renaissance, edited by
Richard A. Courage and Christopher Robert Reed

**Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical
Society**

Ebony Magazine and Lerone Bennett Jr.,
by E. James West

**Honorable Mention, Research Society for American
Periodicals**

Graphic News, by Amanda Frisken

Choice Outstanding Academic Title

Degrees of Difference, edited by Kimberly D. McKee
and Denise A. Delgado

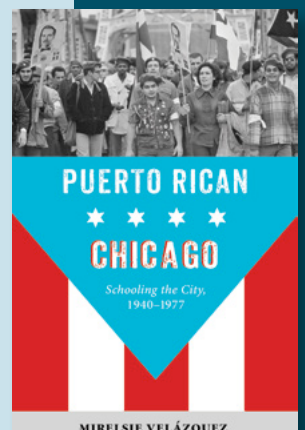
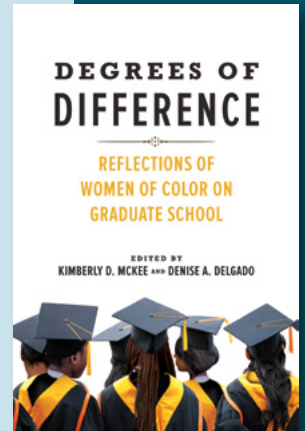
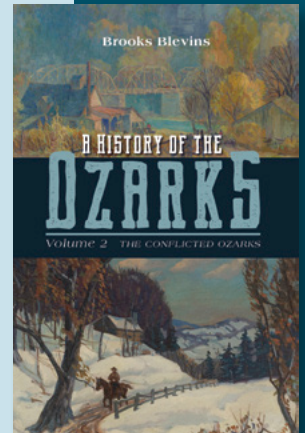
Choice Outstanding Academic Title

Black Cultural Production after Civil Rights, edited by
Robert J. Patterson

Choice Outstanding Academic Title

On Trend, by Devon Powers

Choice Outstanding Academic Title



SELECTED GRANT WINNERS

Industrial Strength Bluegrass, edited by
Fred Bartenstein and Curtis W. Ellison

**Supported by a grant from the Judith McCulloh
Endowment for American Music.**

A History of the Ozarks, Vol. 3: The Ozarkers,
by Brooks Blevins

**Supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas
Humanities Council and the National Endowment for
the Humanities.**

Interviews with American Composers,
by Barney Childs, edited by Virginia Anderson

**Supported by a grant from the Henry and Edna Binkle
Classical Music Fund.**

Dangerous Ideas on Campus, by Matthew C. Ehrlich

**Supported by a grant from the
Winton U. Solberg US History Subvention Fund.**

Visualizing Black Lives, by Reighan Gillam

**Supported by a grant from the University
of Illinois Press Fund for Anthropology.**

Queer Country, by Shana Goldin-Perschbacher

**Supported by a grant from the AMS 75 PAYS Fund of
the American Musicological Society, supported in part
by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.**

Lying in the Middle, by Jake Johnson

**Supported by a grant from the General Fund of the
American Musicological Society, supported in part by
the National Endowment for the Humanities and the
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.**

Tania León's Stride, by Alejandro L. Madrid

**Supported by a grant from the General Fund of the
American Musicological Society, supported in part by
the National Endowment for the Humanities and the
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.**

Music as Mao's Weapon, by Lei X. Ouyang

**Supported in part by the Swarthmore College
Constance Hungerford Fund and the Society for
Ethnomusicology Deborah Wong Research and
Publication Award.**

Dressed for Freedom, Einav Rabinovitch-Fox

**Supported, in part, under the auspices of the Baker-
Nord Center for the Humanities, Case Western Reserve
University.**

Dhol, by Gibb Schreffler

Supported by a grant from Pomona College.

Puerto Rican Chicago, by Mirelsie Velázquez

**Supported by the Office of the Vice President for
Research and Partnerships and the Office of the
Provost, University of Oklahoma.**

A House for the Struggle, by E. James West

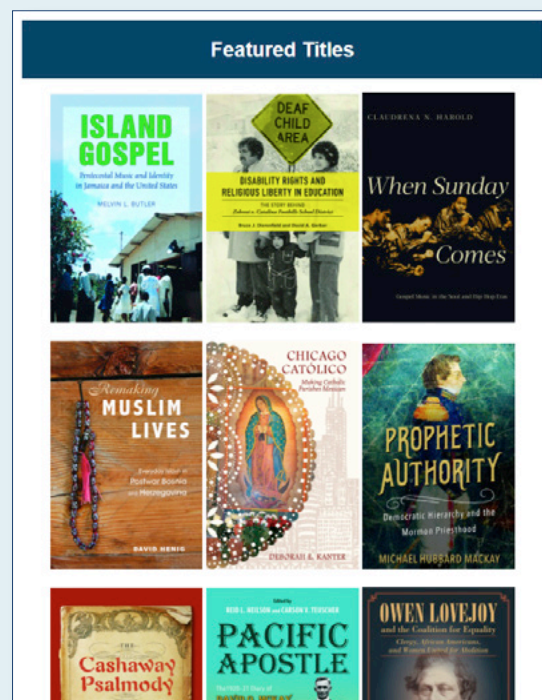
**Supported by Furthermore grants in publishing, a
program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund.**

Our Internship Program

Supported by funding from the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Provost's Graduate Internship Award program, the Press once again hosted a virtual eight-week internship for a pair of UIC graduate students. **Joanna Dobrowolska** and **Hannah Gadbois** took part in projects across several press departments in June and July of 2021. Their marketing duties included helping **Angela Burton** (Intellectual Property Manager) research rights and permissions for the Press's e-book program. In the Production Department, Joanna and Hanna received copyediting training from **Jennifer Comeau** (former Editorial, Design, and Production Manager). **Michael Roux** (Marketing and Sales Manager) coordinated Joanna and Hannah's participation in the online AUPresses annual conference and organized daily debriefings that allowed them to discuss specific sessions with staff. The pair also conducted informational interviews with staffers **Lisa Connery** (Desktop Publisher/Coordinator), **Ami Reitmeier** (Retail and Course Adoption Manager), and **Tad Ringo** (Senior Editor).

CHARRICE JONES, marketing staff intern, on virtual exhibits

"My job is to organize the virtual exhibit web page such as adding the featured book and journal images. I even add the promotional graphics, journal submission requirements, and other visuals that the other members of the University of Illinois marketing staff created. I also search for other articles and books that our featured authors have contributed to, and link them at the bottom of the exhibit. I usually pick the colors of the exhibit based off of the webpage of the organization that the virtual exhibit is for."



SPOTLIGHT: Free Access to Content

UIP BOOKS AND JOURNALS THROUGH JSTOR

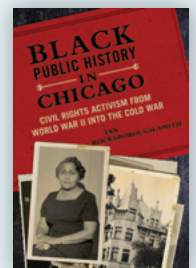
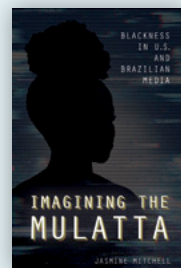
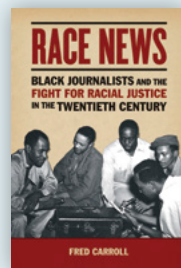
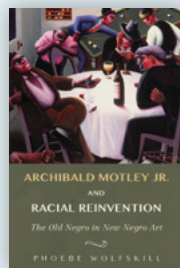
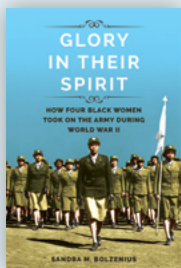
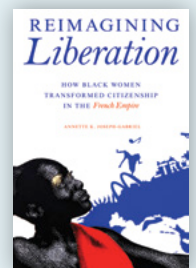
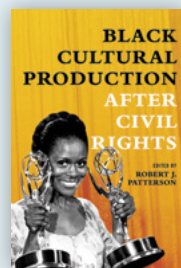
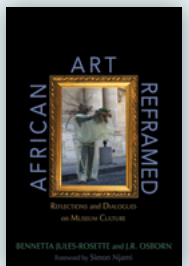
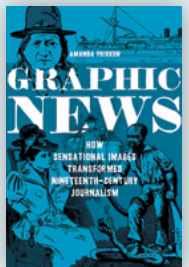
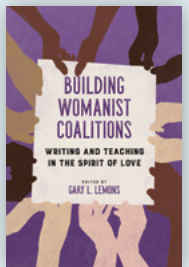
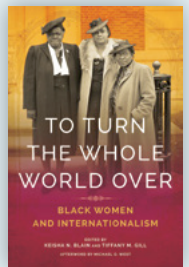
From March to June 2020, the University of Illinois Press joined eighty other academic publishers in offering free books and journals content through JSTOR, Project MUSE, and University Press Scholarship Online. The initiative, undertaken in response to disruptions brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, allowed online visitors free access to over 300 journals and nearly 25,000 books. In addition, JSTOR expanded the amount of journals content available to users, with scholars and others able to access up to 100 articles per month.

FIVE FREE BOOKS GIVEAWAY

On July 15, 2020, we reached out to eighty University of Illinois Press authors who had published books since January 2017 in the fields of African American history, Black studies, and African diaspora. To exhibit our commitment to the Black Lives Matter movement, we offered the authors the opportunity to direct five free copies of their book to a United States-based organization of their choice. Thirty-four authors responded. Recipient organizations so far include:

Association of African American Museums
Atlanta University Center/Robert W. Woodruff Library
Bisemi Foundation
Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum
Center for Black Music Research
Center for Political Education
Coalition for Prisoners' Rights
East St. Louis Senior High School
The Free Black Woman's Library
Greenmount West Community Center
Harold Washington College
Historians Against Slavery
Howard University Libraries

Institute for Justice and Opportunity
The Kansas African American Museum
National Association of Black Journalists
Ohio Reformatory for Women
Paul Robeson House and Museum
Pittsburgh Festival Opera
Prince George's County Public Library
Prison-to-College Program
Project NIA
Revolution Books
Source Booksellers
The Southside Community Art Center
SUNY College at Old Westbury



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Mauricio Jimenez, Journals Staff
Charrice Jones, Marketing Staff
Julia Marsaglia, Marketing Staff
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Claire Wang, Marketing Staff
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