"The role of the university press in the life of book publishing—indeed the life of the mind—has never been more crucial."
—HAROLD HOLZER, Senior Vice President, External Affairs, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Dear Reader,

Last year AAUP launched University Press Week to showcase the influential, innovative and exceptional work that university presses are doing every day. This work has a tremendous impact not only here in the US but around the world—in places as far flung as Nigeria, Pakistan, Venezuela, to name just a few examples. The publishing that university presses do supports some of the most critical research in sciences, the arts, and the humanities. University Press Week aspires to remind all of us just how vital a part of the university press community we are.

As we gear up for this second annual University Press Week, November 10-16, we are asking for your help. There is no denying that university presses are great cultural institutions, some of them hundreds of years old, but they are also the guardians of the informed reader. Every university press is a haven for those of us—each and every one of us a reader—who value their mission. Without scholarly journals and books we lose the foundation for the brilliant reporting done by journalists at outlets like yours. If you haven’t yet had a chance, I invite you to visit www.BooksForUnderstanding.org where the AAUP has gathered many excellent examples of just this type of work that informs and educates our society. University Press Week is a brief moment to shine a light on the publishers that are doing this great work.

I hope you will join us in taking a moment to celebrate university presses and appreciate their major contribution to publishing and scholarship. As Dr. Robert Gates, former Secretary of Defense and former president of Texas A&M University, recently said, “University presses provide American citizens and their leaders a wealth of authoritative knowledge and fresh insights on the nations, economies, cultures, and beliefs of virtually every corner of the world. They also advance in-depth understanding of our own country—the political, social, and cultural heritage of virtually every region, population group, and issue in America, past and present. University presses cover it all, and all of us benefit from their work.” Here is our chance to show them how much we appreciate the amazing work that they do! I hope you will join us in celebrating university press and will devote some space to UPWeek.

Yours most sincerely,

Sarah L. Russo