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Island Press Enters Next Chapter After Three Decades, Resilient Organization Breaks New Ground

Washington, DC (May 31, 2016) — This month, Island Press’ founding president—Charles Savitt—stepped down as the organization’s visionary president of over 30 years. With the full support of Savitt and the Board of Directors, Senior Vice President and Publisher David Miller will become Island Press’ new president. With 35 years of publishing experience—including a track-record of innovation in digital publishing—as well as internal organizational knowledge and a commitment to Island Press’ mission, Miller is well poised to continue the legacy of Island Press as a seminal leader in both the publishing and environmental communities.

“As we enter our next chapter,” said Savitt, “David’s vision, strategy and wealth of knowledge in both traditional and digital publishing combined with the organization’s strong ties to thought leaders are exactly what Island Press needs.”

Since 1984, Island Press has published over 1,000 titles, sold more than 3.6 million books, and been described by the *New York Times* as “the publisher of record in all aspects of the environment.” Founded in part as a response to the major assault being directed towards the environmental community, the founders of Island Press recognized the need for resources that captured the intellectual research and creative ideas needed to counter that policy opposition.

Thus, a publisher focused solely on environmental ideas was born. Island Press created a place in the publishing community for books like E.O. Wilson’s award-winning science memoir, *Naturalist*, a publishing sensation that garnered national media attention that profoundly impacted the way people think about science and the natural world. This book and others since its publication have helped frame ideas to spark national conversations about environmental issues.

From ecosystems services and marine protected areas, to sustainable food systems and conservation finance, to urban climate resilience and many other topics, “Island Press has made a lasting contribution to the environmental field,” said Frances Beinecke, former president of NRDC. Providing solutions that inspire change will continue to be Island Press’ goal, even as people consume information in increasingly different ways.

“As the world changed, Island Press changed with it and recognized key trends in how information was being consumed both through books and media. We were able to recognize early on that books were a platform for ideas but they were not the end of the story – that’s what distinguishes us from other publishers,” said Savitt.

Outside of traditional publishing, Island Press takes ideas and shares them in a variety of formats including short form articles as part of the Urban Resilience Project and unique course content for educational outreach. Using technologies including in-house webinars, a knowledge commons, and an upcoming Island Press App, the organization is able to take ideas beyond the printed page to deliver on-the-ground research and results.

“There is so much excitement here at Island Press,” said Miller. “With the groundbreaking science in Daniel Pauly’s *Global Atlas of Marine Fisheries*, we continue to experiment with new innovative digital book ideas. And with *People Cities*, the biography of Jan Gehl, we continue our longstanding relationship with a renowned architect of human scale cities.” Today’s Island Press looks very different from where it began, but it remains a thriving, resilient organization.

“I want Island Press to be here for another thirty years, experimenting, taking risks and finding new ways to communicate ideas that can make a difference,” said Savitt.

Founded in 1984, Island Press works to stimulate, shape, and communicate the information that is essential for solving environmental problems. Today, with more than 1,000 titles and some 40 new releases each year, it is the nation’s leading publisher of books on environmental issues. Island Press is driving change by moving ideas from the printed page to public discourse and practice. Island Press’s emphasis is, and will continue to be, on transforming objective information into understanding and action.

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