Dear reader,

This year’s catalog holds a rich store of new books. Our trade science list in particular boasts a collection of riveting works by superb authors. Don’t miss Peter Ward’s groundbreaking *Medea Hypothesis: Is Life on Earth Ultimately Self-Destructive?*, one of the most recent additions to our prestigious, popular-level *Science Essentials* series. In this book, Ward poses an electrifying new hypothesis and effectively redefines our understanding of the fundamental nature of life and its relationship to the planet Earth. Not since his famous *Rare Earth* has Ward published such an ambitious work—one that will tear down existing paradigms, startle experts into debate, and inspire readers from every background to reevaluate their concept of life and our place in the universe. Similarly provocative, and also part of the *Science Essentials* series, is David Archer’s *The Long Thaw: How Humans Are Changing the Next 100,000 Years of Earth’s Climate*. Archer shows how, for the first time, humans have become major players in shaping the long-term climate, causing a climate storm that will last several hundred years, and dramatic climate changes that will last thousands.

Another stimulating addition to the trade science list is Sébastien Balibar’s charming *The Atom and the Apple: Twelve Tales from Contemporary Physics*, which explains how one of the best ways of coming to understand some of the most mind-bending puzzles of physics is to simply look a little more deeply at the seemingly mundane. And, sure to entertain and provoke, Robert Park’s *Superstition: Belief in the Age of Science* skewers the forces of unreason with sharp-edged science. Finally, Lawrence Weinstein and John Adam teach you how to unlock the power of approximation in *Guesstimation: Solving the World’s Problems on the Back of a Cocktail Napkin*.

We also have a number of exciting additions to our list of texts and professional level works. The latest title in our burgeoning *Nutshell* series has just arrived—Gerald Mahan’s outstanding graduate-level text, *Quantum Mechanics in a Nutshell*—and the newest additions to the *Princeton Series in Astrophysics* are also here—Fulvio Melia’s landmark text, *High-Energy Astrophysics*, and Richard Gray and Christopher Corbally’s valuable survey of the field, *Stellar Spectral Classification*.

Princeton University Press and I would like to thank you—our readers, authors, and editors—for your enduring support. We sincerely hope that you enjoy the new books in this catalog and that you will continue to let us know what you would like to see in the future.

With very best wishes,

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Nuclear Physics in a Nutshell
Carlos A. Bertulani
See page 9 for details.

String Theory in a Nutshell
Elias Kiritsis
See page 9 for details.

Astrophysics in a Nutshell
Dan Maoz
See page 5 for details.

Forthcoming
Quantum Mechanics in a Nutshell
Gerald D. Mahan
See page 14 for details.

Quantum Field Theory in a Nutshell
A. Zee
See page 14 for details.

Mathematics for Physics and Physicists
Walter Appel
Translated by Emmanuel Kowalski
See page 21 for details.

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Ralph Lorenz is a planetary scientist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Jacqueline Mitton is a writer, editor, and media consultant in astronomy.

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Jeffrey Bennett is an astrophysicist, author, and educator.

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Robert Zimmerman is an award-winning science writer and historian whose work has appeared in *Natural History*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Astronomy*, among other leading publications.

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W. Patrick McCray is professor of history at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

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_Sébastien Balibar_ is professor of physics at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris.

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Peter Ward is professor of biology and Earth and space sciences at the University of Washington, and an astrobiologist with NASA.

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Gerald D. Mahan is Distinguished Professor of Physics at Pennsylvania State University.

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