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Many thanks to past employees and board members: Heather Gray, Community Engagement; Hannah Greene, Office Specialist; Irene Jagla, Graduate Research Assistant, Gladys Garcia, Graduate Student; Thomas Sheridan and Kelland Thomas, Faculty Advisory Board members.



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The University of Arizona is committed to equal opportunity in education and employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation, and is committed to maintaining an environment free from sexual harassment and retaliation.

Confluencenter is a proud member of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes.



DIRECTOR'S

LETTER



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past six years, I am heartened by the diversity and high quality of research that the Confluencenter for Creative Inquiry has funded in the Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Scholars in these crucial fields are dedicated and hard working – blending imagination and academic rigor – yet their work is sorely underfunded. Despite the challenging funding landscape, since 2010, the Confluencenter faculty grantees secured \$5 million in external investments as individuals or in collaboration with cross-institutional research teams. Compared with the \$815,263 disbursed by our center as seed funding, this is an incredible six-to-one return on investment.

Beyond the grant money our researchers are bringing to the UA, their projects are resonating in both academic and community circles locally and nationally. Lydia Otero's collaboration with Elaine Romero and Borderlands Theater to produce The Barrio Stories Project (a 2015-2016 Faculty Collaboration Grant) deeply resounded with the Tucson community by honoring the diaspora of residents whose homes were torn down to build the Tucson Convention Center in the late 1960s. The intellectual and artistic collaboration spoke truth to power and garnered the project local and national media coverage.

Confluencenter's faculty researchers are also producing projects focused on humanity's grand challenges and are seeking to better people's lives. In spring 2016, **Global Human Rights Direct** – one of Confluencenter's Innovation Farm working groups – launched a website that serves as a virtual forum and communications hub for human rights activists. It includes a database of resources, stakeholders, NGOs, events and videos and is a platform for video conferences and webinars. It includes a global database of human-rights stake-holders and a hub for video conferences and webinars. The Contemplative Traditions (CT) group, another Innovation Farm collective, launched a Buddhist Studies minor in fall 2015. CT also initiated a Buddhist Studies lecture series and held its inaugural Southwest Symposium on Contemplative Pedagogies in spring 2016 – an event designed to bring mindfulness to the classroom.

Several of our 2015-2016 <u>Graduate Fellowship projects</u> explored social justice issues from the U.S. to South America and South Africa, with three of our fellows

—William White, Angela Storey, and Maki Kitagawa—
presenting at our March Show & Tell. Their presentations
attracted a large audience and their projects have
resulted in great individual accomplishments, such as
Angela Storey's acceptance of a tenure track position
beginning fall 2016 at the University of Louisville.

My own work with UA's **Diversity Task Force** committee aligns with the kind of scholarship that Confluencenter has supported for years. The Diversity Task Force committee is dedicated to collaborating with students and cultural centers to make the UA a safer, more accessible and inclusive place to work and study. For more information about this important initiative, please visit <u>diversity.arizona.edu</u>.

In January 2016, I was elected to represent the UA and Confluencenter on the advisory board of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, an international forum for sharing and discussing information pertaining to interdisciplinary activity in the humanities. It is a great honor for the Confluencenter to be recognized as a global leader in interdisciplinary humanities alongside a very distinguished group of peer institutions.

All of this great work would not be possible without the support of our generous donors, especially JoAnna and Bill Westcott, and our dedicated staff. I want to express our sincere thanks to UA President Dr. Ann Weaver Hart, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. Andrew C. Comrie and Senior Vice President for Research Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy for their support, and to the members of campus and city media for their coverage of our events and projects.

We will continue to make the UA a better place. As we welcome the 2016-2017 academic year, I anticipate the growth of transformative research on campus, and I encourage you to explore ways to join our efforts as a donor, researcher or friend of the Confluencenter.

Sincerely,

Javier Duran, PhDDirector, Confluencenter for Creative Inquiry

ALL OF THIS
GREAT WORK
WOULD NOT
BE POSSIBLE
WITHOUT OUR
GENEROUS
DONORS AND
COMMUNITY
FRIENDS.

Javier Duran | DIRECTOR



RESEARCH

ADDRESSES GRAND CHALLENGES

Our 2016-2017 <u>Faculty Collaboration Grant</u> projects focus on innovative, interdisciplinary research. We have awarded over \$41,000 to support the work of 10 scholars from 10 different departments and 6 colleges.

ARABIC LANGUAGE PLANNING IN EGYPT: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

In order to address growing "English-ization" and globalization in Egypt, Mahmoud Azaz, Assistant Professor of Arabic Language and Linguistics (SBS), and Olga Bever, Director of the Environmental Media Research Initiative (COE), with Mary Carol Combs, Associate Professor of Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies (COE), will investigate language acquisition planning models that promote Arabic learning in Egypt. Through analyzing how Arabic language perception in Egypt has changed, this project aims to propose best practices for Arabic language teacher training and curriculum development.

LANGUAGE MEDIATION AND TRANSLATION FOR GLOBAL RESEARCH: A RESOURCE CENTER

Sonia Colina, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese (COH), and Anna O'Leary, Associate Professor and Head of Mexican American Studies (SBS), seek to improve how cross-cultural research projects use multilingual research instruments and materials. By assessing the need for culturally and linguistically adequate instruments in global research and the most recent information about developments in translation studies and related fields, this project builds institutional capacity to assist

researchers with project-specific, cross-cultural linguistic needs. They are working with collaborators Nicole Marrone, Assistant Professor of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences (COS), and Maia Ingram, Deputy Director of the Arizona Prevention Research Center in the College of Public Health's Department of Community, Environment and Policy.

DISMANTLING FEAR: VOICES FROM TUCSON'S REFUGEE COMMUNITY

Orhon Myadar, Assistant Professor of Geography and Development (SBS), and Lisa Hochtritt, Assistant Professor of Art (CFA), are working to collect oral histories of Tucson's refugee communities in order to provide a platform for their voices and raise awareness of their plights. The refugees' stories will be illustrated through art-making workshops, which will create a space where community members can share their stories publicly. This project will also examine how refugee narratives vary by region, along with spatially illustrating their stories by mapping geographic points of reference. The research serves as important outreach to marginalized communities and will bring academic attention to refugee issues. The team also includes Stephanie Troutman from the Department of English (SBS).



EMERGING SCHOLARS

LAUNCH NEW KNOWLEDGE

The 2016-2017 <u>Graduate Fellows</u> research projects focus on critical issues in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. We have awarded \$5,000 each to 9 scholars from 6 departments.

ACTIVIST QUILTERS AND THE MIGRANT QUILT PROJECT

Sonia Arellano, English doctoral student, is investigating how migrant quilt projects raise awareness about migrant deaths, and she is working with other activists to address social justice issues related to migration.

REMIXING YOUTH VISIONS, REIMAGINING COALITIONAL FUTURES: ARTS-BASED INQUIRY AS PARTICIPATORY PRACTICE FOR JUST PEACE IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Elizabeth Bentley, English doctoral student, is working with an Israeli-Palestinian nonrofit group to train young women to use photography for this social-justice oriented project.

FROM BRUSH-TIPS TO MACHINE ARMS: MAPPING CHINESE WRITING'S FIGURAL APPEARANCE IN MEDIA

Dongchen Hou, East Asian Studies doctoral student, is studying Chinese writing, its gestural significance and how the human body can be a site where writing systems and cultural knowledge intersect.

UNRULY ARCHIVES: HISTORICIZING THE EXPERIENCES OF QUEER COMMUNITIES DURING URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN TURKEY

Emrah Karakus, Gender and Women's Studies doctoral student, is conducting an oral history project examining the impact of Turkey's repressive policies and urban transformations on its queer communities.

IDENTITY FORMATION AND HIP-HOP MUSIC IN MODERN PALESTINE

Alex Karaman, Gender and Women's Studies doctoral student, is utilizing an interdisciplinary lens to investigate the connections between hip-hop music production, listenership and Palestinian identity formation.

MEDITECHION: MINDFULNESS AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Elizabeth Kinnamon, Gender and Women's Studies doctoral student, is investigating how tech workers and Buddhist community members see the discord between mindfulness techniques and the tech industry.

LIKE A GLACIER

Jonathan Marquis, MFA student, is creating a multi-media art exhibition – incorporating paintings, photography, sculpture and video – that incorporates scientific, data-driven climate discussions into the felt-experience of being in glaciated wilderness areas.

THE PETRO-NARCOSPHERE: CULTURAL NARRATIVES OF OIL AND DRUGS IN THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

Maria Montenegro, doctoral student in Spanish and Portuguese, is exploring how oil and drugs support consumer lifestyles in Mexico and the U.S. and how consumers interpret the cultural space created by the relationship between those two goods.

THE LANGUAGE CAPITAL PROJECT

Christian Ruvalcaba, Second Language Acquisition and Teaching doctoral student, is mapping locations where native speakers of foreign and Native American languages work and gather locally. He is also creating a website to locate these spaces in order to encourage the unity and growth of minority language communities.



ADVANCING

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Through diverse and inventive explorations, our Graduate Fellows uniquely impact the world; see more examples at **Confluencenter.arizona.edu**.

Gabriel Higuera, 2015-2016 Fellow and doctoral student in Mexican American Studies, founded Collaborative Research in Action (CRiAProject.org), an intergenerational and multi-institutional social justice project. It engages with historically underrepresented populations in academia to examine the lived experiences of our communities and propose and enact solutions to today's critical issues.

Cecelia Ann Lewis, 2014-2015 Fellow and doctoral student in Mexican American Studies, organized a seven-month traveling museum exhibit titled "Leaving a Legacy: Celebrating the Lives and Contributions of Women of Mexican Heritage in Douglas, Arizona - 1920s-1940s." The project received local media coverage and forms the basis for Lewis' dissertation research.

Gina Stuart-Richard, 2014-2015 Fellow and doctoral student in American Indian Studies, researched effective mapping methods for meeting the needs of Native American tribes for her "Radial Cartographies" project. She is now a tenure-track assistant professor in Native American Studies at Montana State University.



Graduate Fellow Bill White sifts dirt for his project "Archaeology at the Confluence of Race: The River Street Public Archaeology Program."



Graduate Fellow Angela Storey (right) takes a tour with a local activist from the Social Justice Coalition (left) for her Confluencenter-supported project "Everyday Infrastructure: Documenting Struggles for Water, Sanitation, and Electricity in Cape Town's Informal Settlements." Photo by Shachaf Polakow.



PROMOTING

CREATIVE INQUIRY

Confluencenter has awarded 38 Faculty Collaboration Grants for innovative research since 2010; see more examples at Confluencenter.arizona.edu.

Jennifer Jenkins, a 2012-2013 grantee and Associate Professor of English, launched "The American Indian Interactive Film Gallery: An Interdisciplinary Visual Archive" website. Subsequently, AIFG.arizona.edu was a part of a \$498,736 grant awarded in fall 2014 to the School of Information's Knowledge River program from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Elaine Romero, Theatre, Film & Television Assistant Professor, gives a presentation on "Barrio Stories" during Confluencenter's 2016 Research Showcase. Photo by Nicci Radhe.

Celeste González de Bustamante and Jeannine Relly, Associate Journalism Professors; Lawrence Gipe, Art Professor and Verónica Reyes-Escudero, UA Libraries' Special Collections borderlands curator, were awarded a 2013-2014 grant to create the digital archive, "The Documented Border." It includes oral histories of journalists and human rights activists who are working to improve freedom of expression in Mexico and also features

illustrations of U.S. federal immigration court proceedings and deportee conditions. The archive is accessible through UA's Special Collections website, Speccoll.library.arizona.edu.



Performer during the 2013 "Poetics and Politics of Hip-Hop cultures" symposium.

Alain-Philippe Durand, newly named Dean of the College of Humanities and former Director of the School of International Languages, Literatures and Cultures and the Africana Studies program, received a 2012-2013 grant for "The Poetics and Politics of Hip-Hop Cultures" symposium. Hundreds of campus and community members attended the February 2013 event, which followed the 2012 establishment of a hip-hop-cultures minor. It was the first program of its kind in the U.S. and received national and international press coverage.



CULTIVATING

INNOVATION

<u>The Innovation Farm</u> working groups are interdisciplinary collaborations between scholars campus-wide, funded by seed money provided by Confluencenter in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Research & Discovery.

OUR MAIN
GOALS ARE TO
REVOLUTIONIZE
HOW HUMAN
RIGHTS IS
TAUGHT, HOW IT
IS CONCEIVED.

Bill Simmons | GHRD LEAD

GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECT (GHRD)

GHRD's lead organizer Bill Simmons and his team launched a website with an eye on teaching human rights, creating a space for human rights advocacy and finding achievable solutions to ending abuses.

The website is a virtual forum and human rights social media platform offering a searchable, global database of human-rights stakeholders. It is also a hub for videoconferences and webinars for classroom instruction. GlobalHumanRightsDirect.com went live on Jan. 13, 2016, in conjunction with the group's presentation during Show & Tell @ Playground.

The GHRD team is also developing a BA in human rights and an online MA curriculum delivery platform that will be critical to two new graduate programs in human rights currently being proposed by the College of Social and Behavioral Studies.

CONTEMPLATIVE TRADITIONS (CT)

Convened in December 2013 thanks to a private donor, this working group has grown into a multi-pronged collective with over 100 faculty, students and staff from diverse fields participating in its various initiatives.

In fall 2015, the group's Buddhist Studies minor was launched and more than 100 students enrolled in the courses. In April 2016, the Contemplative Pedagogies Faculty Learning Community (CPFLC) hosted the Southwest Symposium on Contemplative Pedagogies. The symposium was attended by faculty and students from Arizona schools.

The CT group is also working to establish a Center for Buddhist Studies at the UA, and was recently awarded \$8,800 from the Khyentse Foundation for East Asian Studies to continue to facilitate the Buddhist Studies Lecture series into 2016-2017.



EXPANDING

PARTNERSHIPS

At the Confluencenter, we believe <u>public scholarship</u> stimulates dialogue, promotes lifelong learning and results in an engaged, enriched campus and community.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2015-2016 INCLUDE:

- Lalo Alcaraz, award-winning satirist, artist, political cartoonist and trailblazer, with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, YWCA Tucson and Raul E. Aguirre's REA Media (September 24, 2015)
- "Men with Guns: Cultures of Paramilitarism and the Modern Americas" symposium, with Department of Spanish and Portuguese (November 12-13, 2015)
- "So Far from Allah, So Close to Mexico: Arab Immigrants in Mexico," lecture by Alfaro-Velcamp, with Center for Middle Eastern Studies (January 22, 2016)
- "Spectacular Poetics" series, with UA Poetry Center (February 4, 18, 25, 2016)
- "Critical Librarianship and Pedagogy" symposium, with University Libraries (February 25-26, 2016)

- 23rd Annual M.E.Ch.A. National Conference, with M.E.C.h.A. de University of Arizona (March 18-20, 2016)
- "A Narrative From the Middle, For The First Time: Black Nations?/Queer Nations? in the Long 1980s," lecture by Jafari S. Allen, with Institute for LGBT Studies (March 24, 2016)
- Southwest Symposium for Contemplative Pedagogies, with Contemplative Pedagogies Faculty Learning Community (April 1-2, 2016)
- Filmmaker Jean-Pierre Bekolo, with Honors College and Department of French and Italian (April 3-4, 2016)
- Buddhist Studies Lecture Series, with Department of East Asian Studies (Spring 2016)



In partnership with the UA Office of Student Affairs, the Confluencenter annually publishes this crossdisciplinary research journal written and edited by undergraduate students since 2012.

The 2016 journal editors include: Undergraduate editors: Joanna Daya, journalism; Taylor Damitio, psychology; Kiah Farr, physiology; Rachel Kippur, psychology and English, Stavros Popoff, creative writing. Graduate editors: Charles Hoyack, Latin American studies; William Robertson, anthropology; Kestrel Smith, American Indian studies; Jennifer Stern, American Indian studies.





CONNECTING

COMMUNITIES

Confluencenter presents <u>educational programs</u> in non-traditional settings to revolutionize how we interact with the Tucson community.

SHOW & TELL @ PLAYGROUND, Confluencenter's multimedia learning experience, is a place where UA faculty and Tucsonans convene in a relaxed downtown setting. University faculty and graduate students share their cutting-edge research, and locals learn about the scholarly investigations being conducted at the UA – studies that are addressing humanity's grand challenges on local, national and international levels.

During the 2015–16 academic year, Show & Tell events included the "Occupying Our Space" book release, The Arizona Ear Worm Project, a presentation on the Sharing Tribes app to reduce consumerism, an unveiling of the Global Human Rights Direct website, a preview and overview of Barrio Stories Project, and three of our Graduate Fellows shared their projects. These events cut a wide swath during the 2015–2016 academic year, garnering consistent media coverage and crowds throughout the event season!

CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS, a series that includes Confluencenter Senior Fellow, Professor Emerita, pianist and host Paula Fan and presents unique musical dialogues about diverse topics over the fall and spring semesters. In the fall, Dr. Fan worked with the University of Arizona Museum of Art and Welsh baritone Jeremy Huw Williams to produce "Le Travail de Peintre," transporting the audience to Paris in the Golden Twenties for UAMA's Month of Light event series.

In the spring, Dr. Fan joined forces with Confluencenter—Graduate Fellow Christina Greene for an intimate concert at the Skyline Country Club as part of the Women's Salon Series. The performance and discussion, "Drought in Words and Music," introduced Greene's research on the physical and social dimensions of California's drought. Dr. Fan's musical selections were from the "The Plough that Broke the Plains," a 1936 documentary detailing the agricultural mismanagement that led to the Dust Bowl.



SPECIAL

EVENTS

In addition to our monthly events, we hosted the second annual Playground Games, a unique, lively and fast-paced academic game show that takes place downtown.



This year's Playground Games – think speed-dating meets Shark Tank, with a scholarly spin – took place on the roof of downtown's Playground Bar & Lounge on Dec 2, 2015. UA faculty, in teams of four, met for the first time to plan and pitch a project on the theme "Sense of Place: Creatively Shaping Our Community" to a panel of judges and a live audience. The silver team won the \$3,000 prize to implement "Beyond Fear: Tucson Refugees Tell Their Stories."

"The project's aim to counter the current negative public discourses about refugees by showcasing stories of shared humanity amongst refugee communities and the wider Tucson populace is a perfect example of the type of collaborative, creative inquiry Confluencenter is proud to invest in," said Director Javier Durán.

See the complete photo gallery at: Confluencenter.arizona.edu/playground-games. The silver teams poses with the judges and emcees. Back row, from left to right: English Professor Ken McAllister, Art and Visual Culture Education Assistant Professor Lisa Hochtritt, Confluencenter Director Javier Duran, Office of Digital Innovation & Stewardship Associate Librarian Maliaca Oxnam, community guest emcee Raul Aguirre, Vice Provost for Digital Learning and Student Engagement Vin Del Casino, Southern Arizona Limb Salvage Alliance Director David Armstrong. Front row: Community guest emcee Marisol Flores-Aguirre, Geography and Development Assistant Professor Orhon Myadar, Assistant Professor of English Stephanie Troutman, Southwest Folklife Alliance Director Maribel Alvarez. Photo by Kathleen Dreier



Edward Polanco, 2014-2015 Graduate Fellow

LEARN, EXPLORE

SUPPORT

BE A PART OF OUR PROGRESS BY SUPPORTING THE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM. Your support allows us to develop cutting-edge research in underfunded fields and drive scholars to reach their fullest potential. Together, we can create a thriving community of collaborators working to make the world a better place.

Our fellowship program empowers emerging scholars by providing real-world research experience and mentorship. The grantees join a collegial research cohort, participate in workshops and learn to share research findings with diverse audiences at our public events. Since 2010, we have funded 127 projects that creatively examined language, culture, art, history, border issues, environmentalism, race relations, LGBTQA concerns and much more.

Here are two unique examples of projects we funded.

Edward Polanco merged technology and language learning in a mobile app to preserve Nahuatl, an indigenous language of Mexico. He received a prestigious Fulbright-García Robles Research Grant in 2015-2016 to conduct dissertation research in Mexico.

Erin Durban-Albrecht explored conceptions of race, gender, sexuality, class and nationality in contemporary Haiti. She won the 2015 Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize from the American Studies Association and is now an Assistant Professor at Illinois State University.

Be a champion for students like Edward and Erin as they seek to make a meaningful impact on society. Support the Confluencenter with a tax-deductible contribution today.



ONE-TIME OR ANNUAL

GIVING

FUND INNOVATION

Give a one-time gift or contribute on an annual basis. Funds are distributed at the discretion of leadership or to a specific program based on donor preference.

JOIN THE CONFLUENCE CIRCLE

Members are dedicated supporters who make annual contributions of \$1,000 or more. Donors receive prefered seating at events, invataions to special events, acknowledgement during public programs and a special thanks on our website.



Or mail a check made payable to: Confluencenter/UA Foundation PO Box 210302 Tucson, AZ 85721-0302

Give us a call at (520) 621-5137 for more information or to offer your ideas on ways to support creative inquiry at the University of Arizona.

Thank you!



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