



confluentcenter
for creative inquiry

ANNUAL REPORT 2012–2013

*Enhancing the Collaborative Atmosphere
at the University of Arizona and Beyond*



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ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Javier Duran

Dear Confluentcenter Supporters,

I'm very pleased to present Confluentcenter's first annual report, a companion piece to the inaugural report we created in 2012. I hope you will find our collaborative, creative and innovative activities interesting and inspirational. I'm very proud of all that we have accomplished in the short time we've been around.

This year the University of Arizona welcomed Ann Weaver Hart as its 21st president. We are tremendously pleased that Dr. Hart specifically named Confluentcenter in her inaugural address when she said, "We must further redesign the University to avoid isolation and continuous pressure to specialize in ever-narrowing disciplines. We must embrace the ways of knowing embodied in our BIO5 Institute and our Confluentcenter."

Indeed, we are building bridges between arts, social sciences, humanities and science. Our first book, *Ground|Water: The Art, Design and Science of a Dry River*, is a perfect example of what can be made possible through our Faculty Collaboration and Innovation Grants. This book, the first in our Beyond Boundaries Series published by UA Press, brought together a diverse community of artists, architects, writers and scientists and has increased the nationwide visibility of Confluentcenter.

Other faculty grants have blossomed and many have borne fruit. Jane Zavisca, in collaboration with the Drachman Institute, held a two-day symposium, **Rethinking Mortgage Based Homeownership**, and Jane's project, **Homeownership and Societal Stability: Testing Causal Effects in Central Eurasia** has been awarded a federal grant. One of our goals with these grants is to help faculty leverage more funding and this is a great example.

In this report you will learn about **Show & Tell at Playground: Confluentcenter's Multimedia Learning Experience, Creative Collaborations** and our other lectures and events. Show & Tell has allowed us to reach out to the community with programs on topics as diverse as videogames, transgendered people and lowriders, while Creative Collaborations unites humanities and social sciences professors with music faculty to explore literature, history and politics.

We aren't afraid to tackle big subjects: our first fundraiser **Culture, Symbolism, and What it Means to be Human** was a salon and dinner with two Regents' Professors, Paula Fan and John Olsen. Another Regents' Professor and star astronomy scholar, Roger Angel, joined Paula and her Solar Storytellers to talk about alternative energies at our **Solar Soirée**.

I would like to thank our Confluentcenter team—Maria Telles, Yvonne Ervin, Willie Costley and Susan Penfield, along with student workers Tawni Otterman, Rennier Ballesteros, Joseph Garcia and Rob Wilson—for pulling together to make Confluentcenter such a success. We were sorry to say "goodbye" to Maria, Susan and Rob this summer but are pleased to welcome graphic designer and student worker Sebastian Campos and research coordinator Alice Ritscherle.

We also are very grateful to our Confluentcenter donors, especially the **Confluence Circle** members whose contributions of \$1,000 or more help support our **Graduate Fellows** program. I invite you to partner with us in our local, regional and national initiatives by becoming a member of the Confluence Circle or by making a specific investment in one of our projects such as **Beyond Boundaries** or **Creative Collaborations**. The support of the community is essential to securing our future as a unique organization with a mission to enhance the collaborative atmosphere at the University of Arizona and beyond.

Sincerely yours,



Javier Duran, Ph.D.

Director, Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry



Dr. Javier Duran and Dr. Ann Weaver Hart

SHOW & TELL AT PLAYGROUND:

Confluencer's Multimedia Learning Experience

At **Show & Tell**, community members and students of all ages pour into Playground Bar & Lounge, a downtown club with a massive high-definition video display covering one wall of the historic building. On the second Wednesday of each month, professors and special guests “show their work” on the video screen during happy hour. The topics for 2012-13 included video games, lowrider culture, hip hop, documentaries on El Casino Ballroom and Christine



“Connecting the UA to downtown is really important...and to get part of the curriculum to come into Playground is very cool.”

— Kade Mislinski, Playground Proprietor

Jorgensen, and global tango. Joaquin Ruiz and others joined us on the roof for a collaboration with TedxTucson. A front-page feature on the series in the *Arizona Daily Star* quoted Dr. Duran: “We’re offering opportunities for scholarship to be discussed in different places in a relaxed way, to promote a culture of access to knowledge and ideas.”



BEYOND BOUNDARIES

And Confluencer in the Media

Each year we bring in guest speakers for our **Beyond Boundaries** series. In 2012-13 we presented Otto Santa Anna, who spoke about his book *Juan in a Hundred: The Representation of Latinos on Network News*; Jonathan Inda addressed “IRCA, ‘Criminal Aliens’ and the Policing of Immigration,” and Joseph Pugliese reflected on the complex relations between two examples of state violence: the United States’ war on terror and the ongoing colonial expropriation and militarization of the remaining Native American lands.

We also presented author Tom Zoellner, who read from his book *A Safeway in Arizona: What the Gabrielle Giffords Shooting Tells Us About the Grand Canyon State and Life in America*. And Geert Lovink, author of *Networks Without a Cause*, lectured on “Social Media: From Monopolies to Alternatives.” On Dia de los Muertos, prize-winning author Luis Urrea spoke to an audience of about 600 and we held a celebration with an altar exhibit, music, dance and a processional.

During the 2012-2013 academic year, Confluencer received a great deal of media coverage. *Arizona Connection* on Arizona Public Media recorded and produced lectures by Jackson Boelts and Joseph Pugliese and a panel discussion on **A World Separated by Borders**. UA+ produced features on acclaimed writer Luis Urrea’s visit, our **Dia de Los Muertos** celebration, and the **Creative Collaboration** with Ghanaian-American pianist William Chapman Nyaho. UA News covered the **Show & Tell** event on video games and the recipients of our Graduate Fellowships and our Faculty Collaboration and Innovation grants. *Arizona Illustrated* aired a story on Confluencer and on a couple of our lectures. Plus, the *Arizona Daily Star* printed a front-page feature in February on our **Show & Tell** series; and, *El Imparcial* in Hermosillo printed a profile of Dr. Duran and his work in conceptualizing a cultural, artistic, educational and intellectual exchange between Tucson and Sonora which he calls “Tucsonoridad.” Links to all of this coverage—and to our video public service announcement featuring President Hart and Regent Myers—can be found on our website.



GROUND | WATER

The Art, Design and Science of a Dry River

Ground | Water is a perfect example of what can transpire as the result of a Confluencer grant. It began as “Parallel Play: An Ode to a Dry River,” funded in 2009 through an Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Grant (the precursor to our Collaboration and Innovation Grants). Professors Ellen McMahon (School of Art), Ander Monson (Creative Writing) and Beth Weinstein (College of Architecture) worked with faculty and students across the three colleges along with UA science professors to create a collection of photographs, graphic design, architectural drawings, artist books, essays and poems all designed to raise public awareness of environmental issues. These works were put on display at UA Downtown in fall 2011. The following autumn, we published *Ground | Water*, a 112-page volume of art and writing on University of Arizona Press.

This book has extended Confluencer’s reach across the country, as the book can be purchased at the Metropolitan Museum of Art store, as well as on-line from UA Press (www.uapress.arizona.edu) or at the UA Student Union BookStore.

CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS

Musical Discussions with Paula Fan

Regents’ Professor Dr. Paula Fan and special guests from the UA and beyond explore the world through music and discourse in Creative Collaborations on Saturday mornings at the UA Memorial Student Union BookStore’s lower level. The presentations for 2012-13 included:



William Nyaho

Beyond Kung-Fu: Sounds of the Shaolin Temple Ethnomusicologist Dr. Janet Sturman discussed the celestial sounds of traditional instruments played by the Purple Bamboo Asian Music Ensemble and guest artist Huiqing Cheng on the yangqin, a Chinese hammered dulcimer.

The Trouble with Scheherazade: Romance and Reality We partnered with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra to bring in Iranian-American composer Richard Danielpour to discuss his musical tributes to Iran’s long-suffering people. Dr. Fan’s trio performed Ravel’s “Scheherazade.”

‘Still Falls the Rain’: Songs of Love, Loss and War English Professor Dr. Peter E. Medine spoke about the poetry from the World Wars, including this title piece written by Edith Sitwell and set to music by Benjamin Britten. Dr. Fan performed with horn professor Daniel Katzen and singers Seth Kershnik and Dennis Tambllyn.

The Changing Face of Immigration In this two-part series, Dr. Fan and several vocalists performed Alan Louis Smith’s “Vignettes: Ellis Island,” about early 20th century American immigration, while faculty, former faculty and staff told their immigration stories. In Part II,



Paula Fan

pianist Héctor Acosta and singer-actress Verania Luzero from the Universidad de Sonora performed their own versions of Mexican popular songs in a cabaret style.

Everyday Poems, Everyday Songs: The Path to Populism in American Poetry Dr. Susan Hardy Aiken explored the evolution of the American poetic voice and the role of poetry in our lives. Seth Kershnik sang Tom Cipullo’s all-American song cycle “Another Reason Why I Don’t Keep a Gun in the House.”

Cabaret! Singing it Like it Is – Starting with a rousing rendition of “Mack the Knife” in German, Dr. David Chisholm explored the sociological commentary that was cabaret. Dr. Fan and guest singers performed 20th century German cabaret songs and William Bolcom’s “Cabaret Songs.”

Classical African: Spirituals and Beyond We partnered with St. Philip’s Friends of Music to present Ghanaian-American pianist William Chapman Nyaho, who gave the audience a hands-on demonstration of African rhythms in contemporary classical music. The Trinity Missionary Gospel Choir performed as well.

A WORLD SEPARATED BY BORDERS

Photographic Exhibition by Alejandra Platt Torres

Confluentcenter partnered with the Arizona State Museum on **A World Separated by Borders**, an exhibit featuring powerful images of the people, the border and the landscape between Arizona and Sonora. In 21 compelling photographs, Alejandra Platt-Torres explores the humanity, the economies and the circumstances that both unite and divide the people along the U.S./Mexico border. Focusing on five themes, the exhibit represents more than four years of the photographer's documentation of the Arizona/Sonora border. The themes are the diversity of immigrants, the perilous journey through the desert, human repatriation, the history of the border, and the ecological impact of immigration. The exhibit is on display through Oct. 19, 2013.



(L to R) Javier Duran, Mexican Consul Juan Manuel Calderón, Alejandra Platt-Torres and U.S. Consul Chad Cummins

We plan to take this thought-provoking collection of photos to other institutions on both sides of the border as we expand our outreach in the coming year. This year we sponsored an international colloquium and presented a concert at the Museo de Arte, both in Nogales, Sonora.



Many thanks to the sponsors of *A World Separated by Borders*: Agri Packing Supply, Consulate of Mexico in Tucson, Gobierno del Estado de Sonora, Jumex, Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson, The Offshore Group and Tucson Mexico Sister Cities.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Twenty Grad Students Join First Cadre of Fellows

More than 75 graduate students from across the colleges of Fine Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) and Humanities applied for Confluentcenter Graduate Fellowships of up to \$5,000. Fellowships were awarded for the most innovative or collaborative research projects which run the gamut from creating new ways to enhance the classical music experience using computer-generated visualizations, to border studies in Mexico, Chile and on native lands. James Howell and Diane Richardson received funding to create a symposium in 2014 titled "Oceans and Deserts: Charting Transdisciplinary Currents in Environment and Culture within the Arts and Sciences."

Morgan Apicella

SBS; School of Geography and Development

Dylan Baun

SBS; School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies

Mark Blair

SBS; American Indian Studies (GIDP)

Geoffrey Boyce

SBS; School of Geography and Development

Kevin Chau

Fine Arts; School of Music

Diane Daly

SBS; School of Information Resources and Library Science

Courtney Dorroll

SBS; School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies

PennElys Droz

SBS; American Indian Studies (GIDP)

Erin Durban-Albrecht

SBS; Gender and Women's Studies

Miriam Gay-Antaki

SBS; School of Geography and Development

Kristin Helland

Humanities; Second Language Acquisition and Teaching (GIDP)

Megan Henley

SBS; Sociology

Maya Kapoor

Humanities; English

Sarah Kelly

SBS; School of Geography and Development

Adam Kullberg

Humanities; English

Diana Montano

SBS; History

Lucero Radonic

SBS; School of Anthropology

David Tecklin

SBS; School of Geography and Development



Diane Daly

FACULTY GRANTS

Collaboration and Innovation Grant Recipients 2013

In May 2013, five projects including television documentaries, a digital archive, a virtual venue and two innovative studies received Confluentcenter Collaboration and Innovation Faculty Grants. The competition for these grants is open to faculty from the colleges of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences. The funded projects for 2013 are:



Crossing Boundaries Seminar Series

Linda Green, director of Latin American Studies, and **Matias Bianchi**, School of Government and Public Policy, will use innovative technologies to create a virtual seminar series linking UA faculty and students with scholars and other leaders in Latin America. Seminar participants will converse about human trafficking, the drug trade, natural resource extraction, and U.S./Latin American diplomacy.



Satire News, Civil Discourse and the Political-Media Complex

Currently, very little is known about viewers' perceptions of satire news. Professor of sociology and research director at the National Institute for Civil Discourse, **Robin Stryker**, will study how programs such as *The Daily Show* and *The Colbert Report* shape students' understandings of and engagement with American democracy.



The Documented Border: An Open Access Digital Archive

Journalism faculty **Celeste González de Bustamante** and **Jeannine Relly, Lawrence Gipe** from the School of Art, and the borderlands curator at UA Special Collections in the library, **Verónica Reyes**, will join forces to collect images and oral histories about the U.S./Mexico border to advance understanding of the border and its peoples.

Disciplinary Trading Zones: A Focus on Methodological Imports

Associate professor of sociology **Erin Leahey** will study interdisciplinary research itself, examining three different methodological techniques to determine how research approaches are transferred across disciplines. This study will further Confluentcenter's mission of collaboration by providing practical suggestions for supporting interdisciplinary work.



New Blueprint for Success: Micro-entrepreneurs and Cooperatives in Brazil

Dan Duncan, a filmmaker at the Southwest Center, and **Marcela Vasquez**, associate professor in the School of Anthropology, will produce a series of television documentaries presenting innovative entrepreneurial grassroots ventures in one of Brazil's most marginal urban contexts—the favelas of Rio de Janeiro—revealing a blueprint for entrepreneurial success.



Support the Confluentcenter's fellowships and activities with a tax-deductible donation today!

While any amount is greatly appreciated, \$1,000 makes you a member of our Confluence Circle and supports our Graduate Fellows. Visit our website at Confluentcenter.org and click on [Give Today](#) or call 520-621-4587. Or, mail a check made payable to Confluentcenter/UA Foundation, P.O. Box 21032, Tucson, AZ 85721-0302.



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Office of the Senior Vice President for

RESEARCH

Twenty-five UA professors participated in our Creative Collaborations, Show & Tell, or other Confluentcenter presentations in 2012-2013

Susan Hardy Aiken
Maribel Alvarez
Roger Angel
Jeffrey Bannister
Anne Betteridge
Jackson Boelts
Bryan Carter
David Chisholm
Alison Hawthorne Deming
Javier Duran
Alain-Philippe Durand
Allison Dushane
Paula Fan
Gregg Garfin
Daniel Katzen
Ken McAllister
Ellen McMahon
Peter Medine
John Olsen
Joaquin Ruiz
Karen Seat
Janet Sturman
Chuck Tatum
Beth Weinstein
Stacie Widdifield

