



confluentcenter
for creative inquiry



Inaugural Report

Inaugural Report

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Confluentcenter grapples with fundamental questions of human concern through research and dialogue among outstanding social scientists, artists and humanists across the UA colleges of **Fine Arts, Humanities** and **Social and Behavioral Sciences** and beyond.

Dear Reader,

In 2009 the University of Arizona administration recruited 13 faculty members to brainstorm about a new interdisciplinary initiative. I had the good fortune to be a part of that cluster. The group, the Provost's Strategic Advisory Council on Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, held a series of intense meetings and conversations, hosted a day-long workshop attended by more than 100 faculty members, and drafted a thorough report recommending the creation of an institute of the arts, humanities and social sciences to address the grand challenges of human existence.

As a result, with funding from the offices of the president and the provost, Confluentcenter was created in the fall of 2010 under the office of the vice president for research. Most members of the advisory council joined the Confluentcenter Faculty Advisory Board, which selected me as director in December 2010. Since then we have worked in close cooperation with the vice president for research and the deans of the three colleges to fulfill our mission to bring people and ideas together to cultivate innovation, collaboration and public engagement.

Confluentcenter endeavors to nurture greater synergies across campus by fostering networks and promoting the development of a dynamic intellectual environment. We carry on a long, rich history and tradition of interdisciplinary collaborative research in many areas critical to the future of our state and our nation. Those include Southwest, Native American, Borderlands and Latin American studies, creative and performing arts, and social and cultural studies.

Since its inception, Confluentcenter has awarded more than a million dollars in grants and fellowships. We also have co-sponsored speakers and academic conferences to enhance and enliven the intellectual life of our community. Our programs impact a significant number of faculty, students and community members. We had large audiences for public lectures by Noam Chomsky and Gayatri Spivak and the "Arizona at 100" celebration. We supported the development of the Arizona Centennial Mobile Application and co-sponsored the successful "Virtual Divides" international symposium as well as presentations by Gustavo Arellano, Marie Darrieussecq, Jose Esteban Muñoz and others.

Our commitment to undergraduate scholarship is reflected in the student-published Arizona Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies, a ground-breaking publication. We are seeking federal and private funding to sustain these kinds of projects.

Our faculty grant recipients and graduate fellows are developing some of the most innovative interdisciplinary work on campus: from examining the cultural effects of food to looking at how



domestic environments react to mortgage refinancing; from looking at the role of religion in American politics to analyzing the effects of three-dimensional images in student learning; and from studying multilingualism in a global society to exploring how animal behavior can help us understand human interactions. We are fostering a true confluence of people and ideas.

I invite you to partner with us in local, regional and national initiatives by becoming a member of the Confluence Circle of supporters or by making an investment in one of our projects such as the Creative Collaborations or our presentations in the communities along Route I-19. This is an exciting endeavor as we are poised to become the nation's premier center for interdisciplinary and creative research in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Please join us.

Sincerely yours,

Javier Duran, Ph.D.
Director, Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry

Meet our Confluencenter Team...



Javier Duran

Director

Javier D. Duran, professor of Spanish and border studies, is a specialist in cultural and literary studies along the U.S.-Mexico border. A native of the Arizona-Sonora desert region, he is a three-time UA alumnus with a Ph.D. in Hispanic literatures from UA, an M.A. in Latin American studies and a B.S. in plant sciences. His areas of teaching and research include Latin American women writers, Mexican literature and culture, and Chicana/Chicano-Latina/Latino narrative. He has received several research grants to conduct investigations and implement institutional programs.

He is the author of the book *José Revueltas: Una poética de la Disidencia*, published by the Universidad Veracruzana in Mexico; he co-edited five books on cultural studies and has written numerous articles on literary and cultural themes. He has been editorial collaborator and reviewer for journals such as *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, *Chasqui*, *Studies in Twentieth Century Literature*, *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies*, *Studies in Latin American Popular Culture*, *South Eastern Latin Americanist*, and *La Palabra y el Hombre*.

Javier taught at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor, and was visiting research fellow at the Colegio de Sonora in Hermosillo, Mexico, as well as visiting teaching fellow at the Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. He is a founding member of the Modern Language Association Discussion Group on Mexican Cultural and Literary Studies and he is past president of the Association for Borderlands Studies, the leading international organization in the study of border issues. He is currently working on two book-length manuscripts dealing with border literature and culture and is investigating and teaching the connections among globalization, transnational identities and the Mexican and Latin American diasporas.

In addition to his administrative and scholarly endeavors, Javier is a faculty leader. He was in the inaugural class of the UA Academic Leadership Institute. He chairs the Committee of Eleven, serves in the Faculty Senate and sits on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.



Maria Telles

Program Coordinator

Maria Aguayo Telles, Ph.D. has three degrees from the UA, including her doctorate in Language, Reading, and Culture with an emphasis in immigration. Her areas of research include Middle Eastern Studies, U.S.-Mexico relations, immigration, transnationalism and history. Maria has more than 25 years of high level administrative experience at the UA and has served on many internal and external committees, boards and institutes including the boards of the Pima County Library Foundation, Catalina Community Services as well as The Association of Women Faculty, Junior Achievement, Hispanic Professional Action Committee and the Arizona Association of Chicanos in Higher Education. She has facilitated policy workshops for students, administrators and faculty and has staffed many national level UA searches. She completed many leadership institutes including *Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social*, Institute for Transformative Education, *Chicanos Por La Causa* Career Development/Leadership Institute, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Southern Arizona Campaign Institute and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Leadership Institute.



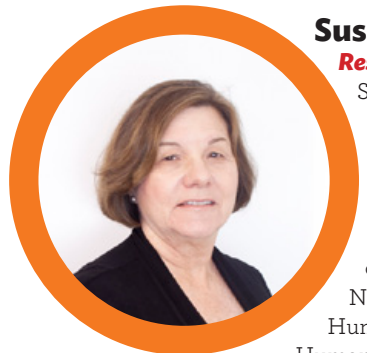
Yvonne Ervin

Director of Development

Yvonne C. Ervin, CFRE worked in development for a dozen years in New York City, where she held the top development positions in health, education and social services agencies and was executive director of the Candies Foundation. Before moving to NYC, she spent a decade as executive director of the Tucson Jazz Society, which she grew into the largest jazz society in the country and where she produced “Jazz on the Border: The Mingus Project.” After graduating with a degree in journalism from the UA she spent five years as marketing director for the Tucson Symphony Orchestra.

She served as secretary of the board of the International Association for Jazz Education for four years and she currently sits on the board of the Santa Cruz Advocates for the Arts and serves as Vice President of the Jazz Journalists Association. Since 1989 she has been the executive director of the Western Jazz Presenters Network.

“A place of creative conversation, where people of like minds and different backgrounds can come together.”



Susan Penfield
Research Coordinator

Susan Penfield received her Ph.D. in Linguistic Anthropology from the UA. She is research coordinator for both Confluentcenter and the Center for Educational Resources in Culture, Language and Literacy (CERCLL), and she is a faculty affiliate for the Second Language Acquisition and Teaching Ph.D. Program. From 2008 to 2011, she was a program officer for the inter-agency program on Documenting Endangered Languages sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She served on grant review panels for the Arizona Humanities Council, National Science Foundation and the Endangered Language Documentation Program. In 2012 Susan was appointed as a research associate for the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution and was named to the advisory committee of the endangered language project, a global initiative seeded by google. Her work with language and technology was supported by the Gates Foundation and resulted in a book, *Technology-enhanced Language Revitalization* (2005), with Philip Cash and a listserv titled “Indigenous Languages and Technology” (ILAT).



Willie Costley
Research Associate

As Confluentcenter’s research associate, Willie’s primary responsibilities include maintaining the Center’s website and managing its information systems. He received a bachelor’s degree in Spanish from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky in 2000 and a master’s degree in Spanish from Bowling Green State University (Ohio) in 2003. He spent three months in Ecuador, nine months in Spain and has made several trips to Mexico. He has taught various levels of Spanish for Foreign Language Learners, Spanish for Heritage Learners, and Traditions and Cultures classes at the UA. Willie has presented work at several conferences such as those of the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Latin American Studies Association, and Association for Borderlands Studies. He has been a member of the latter organization since 2008. He is a border studies track Ph.D. candidate working on a dissertation about nativist discourses in the new media and the ways in which anti-immigrant “mediascapes” are constructed and disseminated through the Internet.

Confluentcenter Student Workers



We couldn’t accomplish all we have without our student assistants and our volunteers. Above is a photo of some of them: (l to r) Rennie Ballesteros, Kurt Feil, Robert Wilson and Daniela Johannes.

- **Robert Wilson**, a senior majoring in visual communications, calls Phoenix home. He is responsible for the design of all our printed materials, including this report.
- **Rennie Ballesteros**, an Arizona assurance scholar, is a sophomore double-majoring in political science with an emphasis on American government and Spanish with a focus on translation and interpretation. Originally from Cumpas, Sonora, Rennie has lived in Tucson since 2001.
- A Navy veteran, **Kurt Feil** is a political science major with an emphasis on international relations. He’s working toward applying to the Foreign Service with the U.S. State Department.
- **Daniela Johannes Salvo** is working toward her Ph.D. in Hispanic literature and border studies, which she plans to complete in 2015. A native of Santiago, Chile, Daniela has been in Tucson since 2010. She is working with Willie Costley on our website.
- **Ileyn Godoy** is a senior with a double major in Spanish and pre-business. In 2011-12, she was the marketing director for a student leadership group and has been with Confluentcenter for a year. Prior to Confluentcenter, she was a student assistant for the department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Our volunteers have included Stu Goldman, Judy Parsons, Alan Hershowitz, Peri Costley, Raik Zaghloul, Margaret Kearns, Kimberly Wine, Andrea Lee, Gillian Pain-Murrietta, Valeria Sanchez, Beatriz Jimenez, Kate Ervin, Jamie Wilson, Andres Guzman, Rachel Chapman, Rosario Hall and David Aguiniga. If you are interested in volunteering for Confluentcenter, please contact Maria Telles at 520-621-5137.

Meet our Faculty Advisory Board members and learn what Confluentcenter means to them...



Linda Waugh

“Interdisciplinary and innovative campus leader”

Linda R. Waugh, Ph.D. is a professor in the departments of French & Italian, as well as English, and an affiliate of Anthropology, Linguistics, and Language, Reading and Culture. She chaired the Graduate Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching (SLAT) from 2002 to 2010 and is a founder and co-director of the federally-funded Language Resource Center, Center for Educational Resources in Culture, Language and Literacy (CERCLL). She was the winner of the Excellence in International Education Award in 2008 and, in December 2010, she was the featured faculty member at the Board of Regents' UA meeting. Her Ph.D. is in linguistics from Indiana University and she taught at Cornell University from 1971 to 2000. Lin is a French linguist, a general linguist, a discourse analyst and a semiotician. In addition to more than 60 articles and chapters, she has authored, co-authored and co-edited 12 books and monographs.



Jackson Boelts

“Reaching out to the community with innovative ideas and presentations”

Jackson Boelts is a professor of art in the School of Fine Arts. He has been an educator, designer and artist for more than 30 years, and he has won over 500 awards for his work as an artist and designer. He has exhibited in Moscow, Mexico City, Berlin, Warszawa and numerous places nationally. Jackson is a master at landscape watercolor and is currently working on large watercolor/digital prints and DNA-inspired monoprints. His business, Boelts Design, Inc., specializes in branding and identity and was given the inaugural Copper Cactus Award for Best Place to Work and for Community Service for the pro bono design work he gives to local non-profits. The Tucson Advertising Club has recognized his work over the years with numerous top awards including 2003 Advertising Professional of the Year. Jackson's love and mastery of teaching is evident in his network of thousands of accomplished graduates.



Anne Betteridge

“Bringing research to new audiences in innovative ways”

An anthropologist with a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Anne H. Betteridge is director of the UA Center for Middle Eastern Studies and a faculty member in the UA School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Her research interests focus on Iranian culture, and women and ritual in particular. She conducted fieldwork and lived in Iran from late 1974 until early 1979, and has made three visits to Iran since that time. At the UA, Anne teaches courses related to ethnography of the Middle East, the study of Middle Eastern women, and Iranian culture and society. She is currently co-chair of the Council of Directors of Title VI of National Resource Centers, a member of the Academic Steering Committee of the Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Tufts University; and on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Persianate Studies. She served as executive director of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) from 1990-2002.



J.C. Mutchler

“An opportunity to reach out to border communities with innovative programs”

J.C. Mutchler, Ph.D. is an associate research historian and associate research professor with the Southwest Center. His Ph.D. and M.A. in American studies are from Yale and he holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from the University of New Mexico. In addition to being in the inaugural class of both the Flinn Foundation's Civic Leadership Academy and the UA Academic Leadership Academy, J.C. sits on the UA President's Cabinet and Faculty Senate Executive Committee, chairs the UA Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee and is secretary of the UA Faculty. J.C.'s research focuses on ranching history, land use and cowboy culture and he has lectured in venues ranging from the Smithsonian Museum to the Autry Center for the West. He and his wife, Lissa Howe, make award-winning goat cheese on their ranch on the U.S.-Mexico border.



Peter Beudert

“A place to create something completely new and different”

Peter Beudert is a professor of scenic design in the School of Theatre, Film and Television. A two-time recipient of Fulbright Fellowships to France, he was awarded the title of University Distinguished Professor in 2011 and is also a recipient of the Charles and Irene Putnam Award for Excellence in Teaching. A professional scenic designer, Peter has designed scenery, projections and lighting for many notable productions at the UA Repertory Theatre including *As You Like It*, *Dracula*, *Urinetown*, *The Who’s Tommy!*, *The Kentucky Cycle*, *The Cider House Rules* and many more. Peter has designed professionally for theatres around the country including New York, Chicago, Detroit and the Tucson-Phoenix area. He has developed an interdisciplinary partnership with the department of electrical and computer engineering to explore technology in the entertainment industry, creating industry partnerships with Cirque du Soleil and Fisher Technical Services in Las Vegas.



Ken McAllister

“Delving into digital and virtual interactions with the public”

Ken S. McAllister, Ph.D. is professor and director of the graduate program in Rhetoric, Composition, and the Teaching of English (RCTE), where he studies the history of technology, computer culture (hacking, phreaking, breaking and virus writing) and computer games. In 1999, he co-founded and continues to co-direct the Learning Games Initiative (LGI), an international trans-disciplinary organization that studies, teaches with and builds computer games. Ken also co-curates the LGI Archive, one of the world’s largest working research archives devoted to game studies with 10,000+ games from around the world, more than 100 working game systems representing the half-century-long history of computer games, and an uncountable number of game related items, from the latest scholarly monographs to obscure Pac-Man tumblers from the 1980s. He has lectured, published and taught extensively on the rhetorics of new media, game industry labor practices and digital aesthetics.



Maribel Alvarez

“Crossing boundaries: both literal and symbolic”

Maribel Alvarez, Ph.D. holds a dual appointment as associate research professor in the English department and as associate research social scientist at the Southwest Center. She teaches courses on cultural analysis with particular emphasis on folklore, visual culture of the Southwest, objects and material culture, oral narratives, and the distinctive cultures and history of the U.S.-Mexico border. Together with renowned UA ethnobotanist Gary Nabhan she co-directs Sabores Sin Fronteras, a binational alliance of farmers, ranchers, cooks, and food writers. In 2009-10, Maribel was a Fulbright Fellow conducting research in Sonora, Mexico on the importance of wheat as economic and symbolic crop in the formation of a regional identity. She is a trustee of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and is program director of the iconic folklife festival Tucson Meet Yourself.



Paula Fan

“Creativity, Collaboration, Community”

Paula Fan, D.M.A. is the first Regents’ Professor from the College of Fine Arts. She teaches piano and coaches vocal and instrumental chamber repertoire and offers a course on the history and development of art song, which has been the catalyst for her series of “Time Travelers Concerts,” in which guest artists and faculty members appear as historical figures who both converse and perform. Paula has recorded 19 albums and has broadcast for the BBC, National Public Radio, Radio Television China and other international networks. She has coached and accompanied singers from the world’s great opera houses, and, as a specialist in wind chamber music, has performed with leading clarinetists at international festivals. She is passionate about bridging the gap between the scientific and musical worlds and is a founding member of Solar Storytellers, a solar powered piano trio, and she has produced four “Music of the Sphere” events at Biosphere 2.

Our newest Faculty Advisory Board members joined us in summer 2012...



K. Tsianina Lomawaima

K. Tsianina Lomawaima, (Muskogee Nation) Ph.D. is professor of American Indian studies. Her book, *They Called it Prairie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School* received the 1995 American Educational Association's Critics' Choice Award and three other honors. Her most recent book *To Remain an Indian: Lessons in Democracy from a Century of Native American Education*, co-authored with Teresa McCarty, received the 2007 Outstanding Book Award from the American Educational Research Association. Tsianina teaches a number of graduate courses including Dynamics of Indian Society, Interdisciplinary Research: Theory and Methods, and College Teaching Methods. She developed History of Indian Education and provided leadership for the development of Many Nations of Native America, a general education course for freshmen. Tsianina is a member of various professional associations in education, anthropology, history and ethnohistory. A past president of the American Society for Ethnohistory, she is 2012-13 president of the Native American & Indigenous Studies Association, an international scholarly association she helped found. Her ongoing research projects include the research survey team who produced the 1928 "Meriam Report."



Stacie Widdifield

Stacie G. Widdifield, Ph.D. teaches modern and colonial Mexican art and holds her doctorate in art history from UCLA. She is currently researching the relationship between science and medicine in 19th century Mexico. Her previous research projects have focused on history, gender, nationalism and institutions in 19th and early 20th century Mexico. She co-edited a volume of essays titled *Buen Gusto and Classicism in Late 18th and 19th Century Latin American Art* to which she has also contributed an article. She recently published "Art and Modernity in Porfirian Mexico: Julia Escalante's *Graziella* and the *Lechero*" in *Bulletin of Latin American Research* and "Under Lock and Key: The Making of Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez in 19th Century Mexico" in *Miradas Disidentes: Géneros y Sexos en la historia del arte*. Previous publications include the edited volume *La Amplitud del Modernismo y la Modernidad*, her monograph *The Embodiment of the National in Late 19th Century Mexican Painting*, as well as multiple articles on 19th century Mexican art.



Alison Hawthorne Deming

Alison Hawthorne Deming is professor in creative writing and serves as chairperson of the board of directors for *Orion* magazine. She was the director of the UA Poetry Center from 1990 to 2000. Alison received an MFA from Vermont College (1983), a Wallace Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University (1987-88) and two poetry fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1990, 1995). A poet and essayist, she is the author of eight books, including *Science and Other Poems* (LSU Press, 1994), *Genius Loci* (Penguin, 2005) and *Writing the Sacred into the Real* (Milkweed, 2001). Her book published in 2009, a collection of poems entitled *Rope*, follows the paths of imagination into meditations on salt, love, Hurricane Katrina, Greek myth and the search for extraterrestrial life. Her newest work is *The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World*. Deming has received many awards for her writing, including a Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets, a Pushcart Prize and a Fine Arts Work Center fellowship.



Thomas Sheridan

Thomas Sheridan, Ph.D. is research anthropologist at the Southwest Center and professor in the School of Anthropology. He has conducted ethnographic and ethnohistoric research in the Southwest and in northern Mexico since 1971. He was director of the Office of Ethnohistorical Research at the Arizona State Museum from 1997 to 2003. Tom has published 12 books and numerous articles, including a revised edition of *Arizona: A History* (UA Press, 2012). His current projects include: "Moquis and Kastiilam: The Hopi History Project," which combines Spanish colonial written accounts of the Moquis, as the Hopis were called, with Hopi oral traditions about the Kastiilam, the Hopi word for Spaniards. He is also co-editing a volume entitled *Stitching the West Back Together: Collaborative Conservation and Working Landscapes in the American West*. Tom has been deeply involved in Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, the Canoa Ranch Advisory Committee and the Conservation Acquisition Commission. He is a member of the board of the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance as well.

And we said “farewell” to a founding member...



John Olsen

One of our founding members, John Olsen, left our advisory board in June 2012 to devote more time to his many appointments, most recently as co-director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Arizona and interim director of the School of Anthropology. However, he plans to remain active with Confluentcenter in special outreach activities with board member and fellow Regents' Professor Paula Fan.

John is a professor of anthropology and executive director of the Je Tsongkhapa Endowment for Central and Inner Asian Archaeology at the UA. He attended Florida State University and received B.A. degrees with Highest Distinction and Honors in anthropology and oriental studies from the UA. John holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley. His research focuses on the Pleistocene prehistory of arid lands and high elevations in central and inner Asia. John has conducted archaeological fieldwork recently in the now independent central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union, and in Russia, China, Tibet and Mongolia. He is co-director of the Joint Mongolian-Russian-American Archaeological Expeditions and the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Zhoukoudian International Paleoanthropological Research Center in Beijing. Olsen is one of only a few foreign scholars to be awarded academic titles by the Mongolian Academy of Humanitarian Sciences (Academician, 1998) and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (Doctoris Archaeologiae Honoris Causa, 2003).

*John was integral in creating **our vision:***



creativity and innovation
collaboration and discovery
community and public engagement

From a report to a reality... the creation of Confluencenter

The seeds for Confluencenter for Creative Inquiry were planted in 2004 with a report titled “Focused Excellence” from the Cultural, Ethnic, Gender and Area Studies (CEGA) team which recommended creating an interdisciplinary body focusing on the research between humanities and social sciences to support collaborative scholarship.

In 2005-6, departments across campus began a dialogue around creating a border studies initiative and then, in 2009, conversations on a substantial humanities initiative resurfaced. It wasn’t an easy conversation; not all faculty were in favor of such an institution. At one point a participant wrote in an on-line conversation: “We need this high profile effort. I can’t help but invoke here the beloved interdisciplinarian Goethe: ‘Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.’”

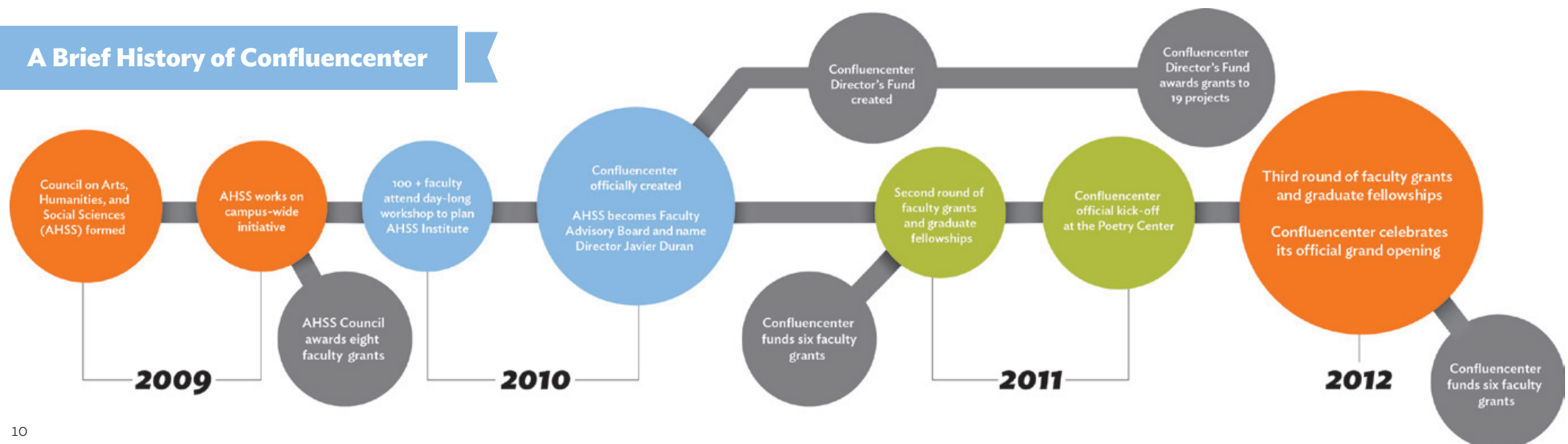
The Provost’s Strategic Advisory Council on Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences was created in spring 2009 and in the fall they began to award the first batch of nine faculty grants and seeds were sown for the Collaboration and Innovation Faculty Grants. (See page 13 for a description of those first projects.) As the second batch of the faculty grants was being announced in spring 2010, the AHSS Council held a day-long workshop to brainstorm around a detailed plan for this new arts, humanities and social sciences institute. More than 100 faculty members attended and debates ensued around everything from the name to the mission to governance.

The Council spent the summer synthesizing all that had been discussed and came up with a proposal for the new Confluence, a Center for Creative Inquiry to address the grand challenge of human existence. Their vision was “to provide a physical home and intellectual space for extraordinary creative inquiry on topics crucial to the grand challenge of human existence. At Confluence, faculty, students and the public will jointly undertake and witness forward-thinking creativity and research. Nourished by its demographic and disciplinary diversity and its unique cultural and environmental setting, Confluence will proliferate new networks of collaboration and creative synergies.”

The provost and president accepted this proposal, dedicated funding to it, and Confluence was born. The AHSS Council became the first faculty advisory board with Steve Johnstone as the first director. Javier Duran assumed the post in December 2010.

The Confluence office was, initially, Professor Duran’s tiny office in the Modern Languages Building. As the staff grew to include a research associate and a program coordinator, they moved into a refurbished apartment at Park and Helen. With the addition of a research coordinator and a director of development, Confluencenter finally moved into its permanent quarters in a renovated bungalow on Helen Street. The name underwent a few changes from Confluence: Center for Creative Inquiry to, finally, the trademarked Confluencenter for Creative Inquiry.

A Brief History of Confluencenter





AHSS Founding Members

Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry founding members Javier Duran, Miranda Joseph, Tsianina Lomawaima, John Olsen and Anne Betteridge cut the Confluentcenter cake at our Grand Opening in April 2012. Other founding members of the original Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Council, the precursor of Confluentcenter, include: Maribel Alvarez, Peter Beudert, Paula Fan, Jory Hancock, Terry Horgan, Fenton Johnson, Steve Johnstone, Diana Liverman and Linda Waugh.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



As Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry was being formed, the office of the provost established the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Grants and funded eight proposals involving 22 faculty members across campus during the 2009-10 academic year.

“A lot of faculty members in the arts, humanities and social sciences are really excited about this because it’s an area where there’s not a lot of funding by the government, foundations or on campus. This is a really new opportunity for many faculty members,” **Linda Waugh** told *Lo Que Pasa* in a story highlighting the grants. Linda co-chaired the AHSS review panel with Regents’ Professor of Music **Paula Fan**. Both became Confluentcenter board members.

The management of these grants was transferred to Confluentcenter and the office of the vice president for research. Presentations of each project were made across campus in 2010 and 2011.

Six faculty members from four departments—**Peter Beudert** and **Philip Blackwood** (Theatre, Film & Television), **Norm Weinberg** (Music), **Jory Hancock** (Dance) and **Jerzy Rozenblit** and **Hal Tharp** (Electrical and Computer Engineering)—worked together to produce *Speed*, a large-scale collaborative public performance with computer-controlled machines, where movement, music and set design interact.

Ellen McMahon (Art) collaborated with **Beth Weinstein** (Architecture) and **Ander Monson** (English) on a project exploring ways in which art, design and science can collaborate to raise public awareness of environmental issues. With help from UA science consultants and the Rillito River Project, the team and students created *Ground:Water The Art, Design and Science of a Dry River*, a book of art and creative writing published by UA Press.

Jadwiga Pieper Mooney (History) joined forces with **Fabio Lanza** (History and East Asian Studies) and **Elizabeth Oglesby** (Geography and Regional Development and Center for Latin American Studies) to host a 4-day conference titled “De-Centering Cold War History: Street-Level Experiences and Global Change.” They published selected presentations in a journal which focused on cutting-edge research in the study of the Cold War.

Eithne Luibheid (Gender & Women’s Studies), **Sally Stevens** (Southwest Institute for Research on Women) and **Spike Peterson** (School of Government & Public Policy) studied the barriers facing immigrant parents in Southern Arizona who seek public benefits for their citizen children. A third of children in Arizona have immigrant parents, many of whom are reluctant to seek access to public services and benefits for them.

Heidi Harley (Linguistics) and **Bill Beezley** (History) studied 14 hours of personal narratives by Yaqui elders taped in the 1960s-2000s and had them digitally re-mastered, transcribed and annotated. These tapes are valuable because they preserve the conversational language of a past generation of native speakers and provide rare first-hand evidence of the persecution of the Yaqui people by the Mexican dictatorship.

Diana Archangeli (Linguistics) partnered with **Ian Fasel** (Computer Science) and **Jeff Berry**, a linguistics graduate student, on “The Arizona Articulatory, Acoustic, and Visual Speech Database” project. The team extracted data from videos of the lips and tongue for the beginnings of a dataset that eventually will include audio, nasal airflow and vocal folds data, as well as ultrasound images of the tongue and video of the lips and face.

James Greenberg (Anthropology) studied a species of marine snail that produces an intense purple dye and how its high value in some places and low value in others affect the sustainability of its population. He collaborated with **Raphael Sagarin** (Institute of the Environment) to explore how effective certain regulations are in protecting populations of the snail to study the intersection of state regulation, markets and stakeholder communities and how those relate to the sustainable uses of natural resources.

Rosario Carrillo (Mexican American Studies) and **Adela Licona** (English) teamed up on a project to videotape interviews with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the Mexican American and American Indian communities to enhance the current archival holdings of the Arizona LGBT Storytelling Project Archive and to publish journal articles on the intersection of language, sexuality and identity.

The Director's Fund for Excellence Grants funded 19 projects in 2011 – 2012 with grants evenly divided across the three colleges.



We supported the participation of students from the College of Fine Arts at the Cats in the Community Day at WorldCare in March 2012.



Gayatri Spivak spoke on “A Borderless World?” to a packed house at Crowder Hall in January 2012. The video has more than 3,000 views on our YouTube channel.



Emma Kleiner (left) and Lauren Johnston edited the first Arizona Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies, released at our grand opening in April 2012.



Gustavo Arellano of “Ask a Mexican” talked about his new book, *Taco U.S.A.*, at the Student Union Memorial Center in April 2012.



“Looking at Arts, History, and Place in the U.S./Mexico Borderlands” was a two-day symposium organized by the UA Border Research Group in December 2011.

The Director's Fund for Excellence is available to UA faculty, students and affiliates for projects reflecting the Confluentcenter values of creativity and innovation, collaboration and discovery and community and public engagement.



Linguist Noam Chomsky spoke on "Education: For Whom and For What?" in front of 4,000 people at Centennial Hall and in two overflow video rooms in February 2012.

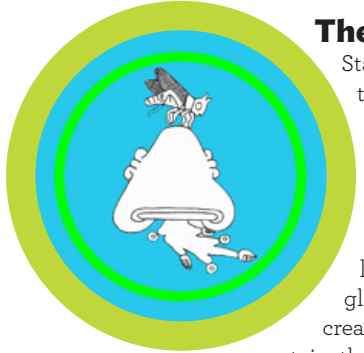


In addition to co-sponsoring "Arizona at 100: A Celebration" in February 2012, we are funding "The Arizona Centennial Project," a portal to the UA campus of yesteryear using a mobile device application.



"Virtual Divides: Biometrics, Bodies and Borders, an International Symposium" was held in November 2011 and featured guest speakers from Australia, Canada and the U.S.

The 2011 winners of the Collaboration and Innovation Faculty Grant ... from 3D learning to gorilla games.



The Art History of Air and Water in Mexico

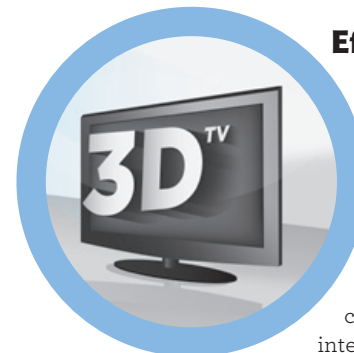
Stacie G. Widdifield, professor of art history, is director of this project to examine the role that Chapultepec Park, a historically significant site in the middle of Mexico City, has played in the relationship between humans and water in the midst of a dynamic urban milieu. The role of visual images, i.e., land- and aqua-scapes, in the development of public sensitivities to resources is a key part of the investigation. The park is also an elegant reflection of the larger struggle—in Mexico and across the planet—to protect the global commons in the face of rapid environmental change and to create a sense of connection between people and the places that sustain them. The project will include an on-line exhibition of the works studied in the project and those created in a new graduate seminar, “Waterworks,” as well as a week-long “think tank” during the first week of October 2012. The team includes faculty, staff and graduate students as well as a scholar affiliated with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia.

Confluentcenter Collaboration and Innovation Faculty Grants are for innovative, scholarly and creative projects that cross disciplinary boundaries and bring together researchers, scholars and artists from diverse areas at the University of Arizona. Applications are due each March and workshops for applicants are held prior to the deadline. For more information, visit our website.



“Multilingual, 2.0?”

Confluentcenter was a principal sponsor of this international symposium on multilingualism held at the UA in April 2012. Coming from disciplines as diverse as computational linguistics, anthropology, second language acquisition, comparative literature, and translation studies, a body of prominent scholars from around the world met for a public discussion about what it means to live in more than one language in the 21st century, including all of the emotions, politics, identities, practices, pleasures, and dangers that doing so can involve. More than 200 people attended this three-day event, along with 250 online viewers from around the world. The peer-reviewed journal that will emerge as a result of this conference, Critical Multilingualism Studies, can be found at www.multilingual.arizona.edu. This publication will trace the state of the art of multilingualism research across disciplines that often lack a common venue for dialogue on this burgeoning topic. The Confluentcenter grantees for this project were two assistant professors in German studies, David Gramling and Chantelle Warner, as well as an assistant professor in Turkish studies, Aslı Iğsız.



Effectively Employing 3-Dimensional Effects to Enhance Student Engagement in Online Learning

Two researchers—Heshan Sun, assistant professor, School of Information Resources, College of Science and Mary A. Peterson, professor, department of psychology, and research social scientist, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences—tackled the question, “How can 3D effects be used effectively to enhance student engagement in primary learning tasks?” They combined their expertise in visual science and human-computer interaction to create a study employing more than 100 UA students. The results of the study will revolutionize the growing field of 3-D web-based learning.

Our grant winners will present their projects on campus and throughout southern Arizona in 2012 and 2013. Visit our website often — www.confluentcenter.org — to learn about upcoming events.



The Christian Right in Contemporary American Culture and Politics

Karen K. Seat, Ph.D., an associate professor in religious studies, was awarded the Provost's Grand Challenges Faculty Grant for this project, which took her to such places as the Faith & Freedom Coalition Conference, a Southern Baptist convention, Pat Robertson's Regent University, Liberty University School of Law, Phoenix Seminary and the Smart Girl Politics conference. She interviewed dozens of leading social conservative and Tea Party activists, lobbyists, professors and talk show hosts. A central piece of her research is an examination of gender in conservative Christian movements and her most prized interview was with 86-year-old anti-feminist icon Phyllis Schlafly. Karen's expertise on evangelicals in America made her an in-demand speaker during the Republican primaries. She has and will continue to present papers at scholarly conferences: "The Christian Worldview as a Master Narrative: Negotiating Gender and Politics in Evangelical Subculture(s)," "The Politics of Southern Baptist Complementarianism" and "Evangelicals and Women's Leadership in the Post-Palin Era." She also has been approached by two scholarly presses about writing a book.



Gorilla Games: Play Is Paternal Care

Yuri Makino, associate professor, School of Theatre, Film & Television, is working with UA faculty members Drs. Dieter and Netzin Steklis, experts on African apes, on a documentary exploring the beneficial role of play in wild gorillas. They will seek to answer the question, "In what ways may play help build skills, increase fitness, regulate emotions, and promote relationships and sexual reproduction among gorillas?" Determining the essential qualities of play and their benefits in gorillas is of particular interest in light of the recent discovery that humans and gorillas differ in only 1.75% of their DNA—much less than previously believed. *Gorilla Games* will feature footage of wild gorillas in Africa at play as well as humans playing. Audiences will learn how these activities impart critical skills and experiences that are life-enhancing and life-extending. While play may seem trivial in our lives, it may define who we are and how we came to be. The film is slated to be finished in 2013.



Food Security and Equality Across Borders

In the desert borderlands of the U.S. and Mexico, water scarcity is one of many driving factors threatening food security, particularly for people in Arizona and Sonora. The food production and distribution systems in these two states are already vulnerable. But climate change may further de-stabilize them, making food insecurity and inequity even more common. This project examines the vulnerabilities in our shared food and water resources and finds a means of creatively communicating these problems and their potential solutions to farmers, ranchers, cooks, chefs, policy makers and activists on both sides of the border. This project bolsters the efforts of Sabores Sin Fronteras, an interdisciplinary team at the Southwest Center, bringing together political geographers, water policy analysts, applied anthropologists and agroecologists; and it builds on the Center's long collaboration with researchers of the Centro de Investigaciones en Alimentación y Desarrollo, based in Hermosillo, Sonora. Among the scientists engaged are: Jeffrey Banister, Maribel Alvarez, Gary Paul Nabhan, Margaret Wilder, Ernesto Camou Healy, Kraig Kraft and UA graduate student Laurel Bellante.

The 2012 winners of the Collaboration and Innovation Faculty Grants ... from hip hop to homeownership



The Poetics and Politics of Global Hip-Hop Culture

Alain-Philippe Durand, director of the School of International Languages, Literatures and Cultures (SILLC) received funding for a symposium (Feb. 7-9, 2013), performances and a journal on the emergence and evolution of hip hop in the U.S. and in France. His collaborators are: Alex Nava, an associate professor of classics; John Melillo, a visiting assistant professor in English; Tani Sanchez, an adjunct lecturer of Africana studies; and Praise Zenenga, an associate professor of Africana studies.

The Culture of Homeownership in Crisis

Co-principal investigators Jane Zavisca, assistant professor of sociology, and Marilyn Robinson, associate director of the Drachman Institute, will examine the cultural equation of mortgage indebtedness and homeownership with three initiatives: a study of mortgagors in Tucson; a symposium for scholars, policymakers and community stakeholders on the meaning of mortgages and homeownership; and an external grant proposal to support a national research network to encourage interdisciplinary research on the topic of housing and the home.

The Precariat: An Intellectual History and Digitally Enhanced Learning

Hai Ren, assistant professor of East Asian studies and Jonathan Sprinkle, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, received a grant to study the history of the emergent class, the precariat, and to develop an interactive mobile application to inform others about their findings. They will meld innovative technologies with new knowledge in a way that is informative and engaging. The precariat are people whose lives and finances are precariously impacted by economic shifts, social insecurity and globalization.

The American Indian Interactive Film Gallery: An Interdisciplinary Visual Archive

Jennifer L. Jenkins, associate professor of English, will launch this interactive website with a collection of more than 450 films by and about Native peoples of America, representing dozens of tribes from Anasazi to Zuni. Many of the films date back to the early days of filmmaking and include government informational films, the renowned 1922 film *Nanook of the North*, and a series of documentaries produced by television station KYUK in Bethel, AK spotlighting life among the Yup'ik of southwestern Alaska.

Group of Early Modern Studies

Meg Lota Brown, professor and associate head of the department of English, was awarded a grant to support this consortium of community members and more than 125 faculty and students from 17 departments—including art, history, literature, music, science and theater—in five colleges, who pursue research in the early modern period (roughly 1400-1800). They will present a series of six lectures in the 2012-2013 school year.



We have many ways for you to become a part of our exciting new endeavor.

Investment Opportunities at Confluentcenter

Creative Inquiries Downtown at Playground

\$300 per session or \$1,000 per semester

Support these free multi-media talks with UA professors in an informal atmosphere and receive recognition on the posters, flyers, on-line and on-screen at the event.

Creative Collaborations with Paula Fan and Friends

\$1,500 each

Supporters of these free musical salons with guest lecturers at the UA Student Union BookStore and elsewhere will be acknowledged on posters, flyers, on-line and on a banner at the event.

Festival of Books: Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry International Venue

Investments begin at \$5,000

Sponsors of our inaugural international series of panel discussions at the Festival of Books will receive credit, signage and interaction with our guests, commensurate with the sponsorship level.

Confluentcenter I-19 Series

\$500-\$5,000

Our I-19 Series will begin in November with a symposium in Nogales on issues surrounding food and water and the border. Other presentations will include lectures and musical presentations in Sahuarita, Green Valley, Tubac and Rio Rico. Sponsors will receive credit, signage and other benefits depending upon the presentation.

KUAT-KUAZ Underwriting Sponsor

\$1,000+

Enhance the reputation and awareness of your business or organization by underwriting radio spots mentioning Confluentcenter on Arizona Public Media.

Join the Confluence Circle

For a minimum contribution of \$1,000, you will receive preferred seating at many of our events, invitations to special events and your name listed on our website and in our next annual report. To join visit our website at www.confluentcenter.arizona.edu and click on "give today" or call our development office at 520-621-4587.

Investments in lectures, symposia, visiting professors and more opportunities are available. Contact our development office at 520-621-4587 for more information.



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