

# confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry

2013–2014  
Annual Report



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ARIZONA

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

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# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to peruse the Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry's third annual report. I am pleased to share our accomplishments and their impact.

We are extremely proud of the faculty collaborations and innovative student research we have funded. We are very pleased with the many partnerships we have established on campus and in the Tucson community through our Creative Collaborations and Show & Tell series.

We have supported lectures, workshops and symposia including the Security, Technology and Society lectures. We brought in two distinguished speakers for this series: Peter W. Singer, Senior Fellow and Director of the Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence at the Brookings Institution, and Husain Haqqani, Pakistani scholar and former ambassador to the United States.

The UA Strategic Plan, "Never Settle," mentions the Confluentcenter as an innovator in interdisciplinary scholarship. In April, President Ann Weaver Hart celebrated our efforts to include many voices and engage diverse audiences with the Peter W. Likins Inclusive Excellence Award (pictured below).

We are grateful to the Confluentcenter donors and would especially like to thank JoAnna and Bill Westcott for their belief in our mission, for supporting our Graduate Fellows Colloquium, and for funding year-round underwriting announcements on Arizona Public Media.

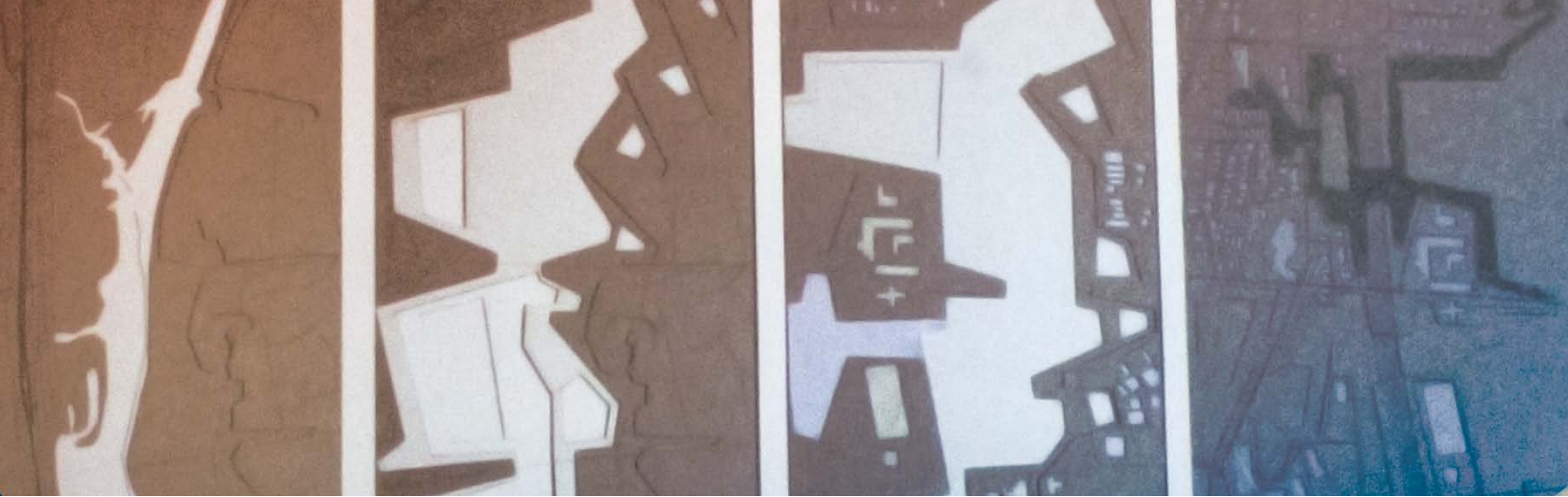
As an adaptable young center, we strive to create boundless possibilities for excellence through collaboration, innovation and community engagement. We are poised to address some of the "grand challenges" in society today, and community support is essential to our future. We encourage you to explore one of many ways to join our efforts as a donor, researcher, volunteer or friend of the Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

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



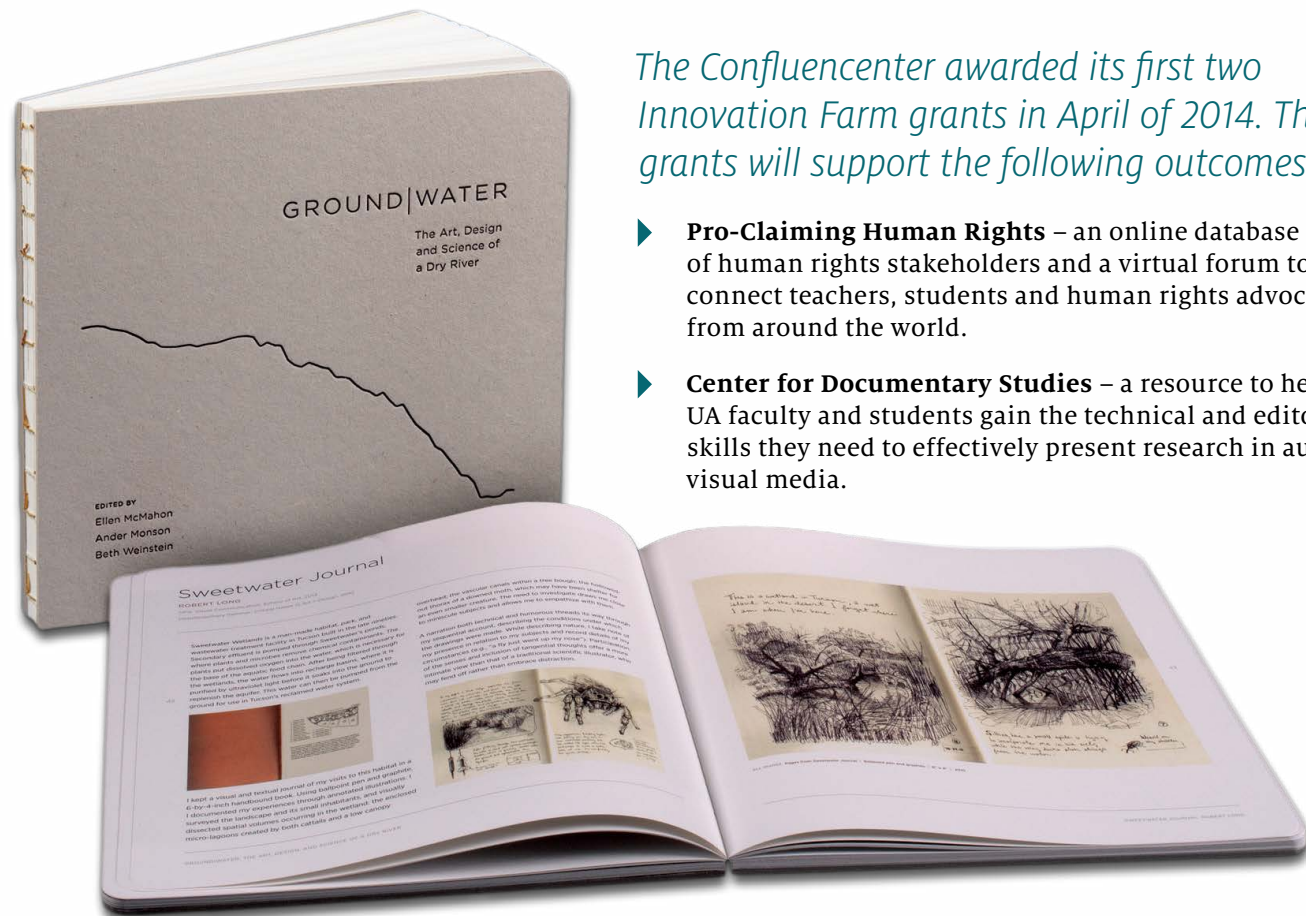




## FROM BUDDHISM TO BASEBALL

—We advance faculty collaboration and research

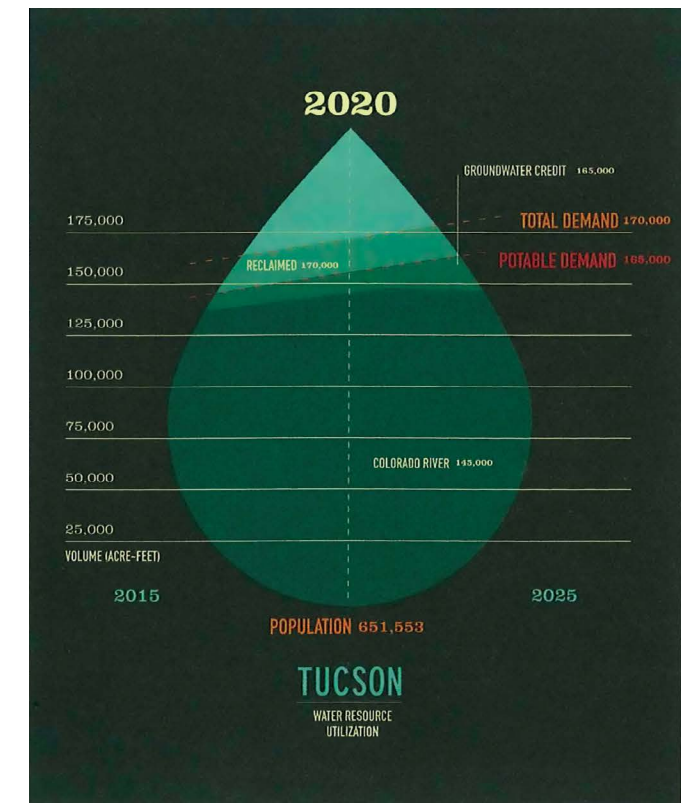
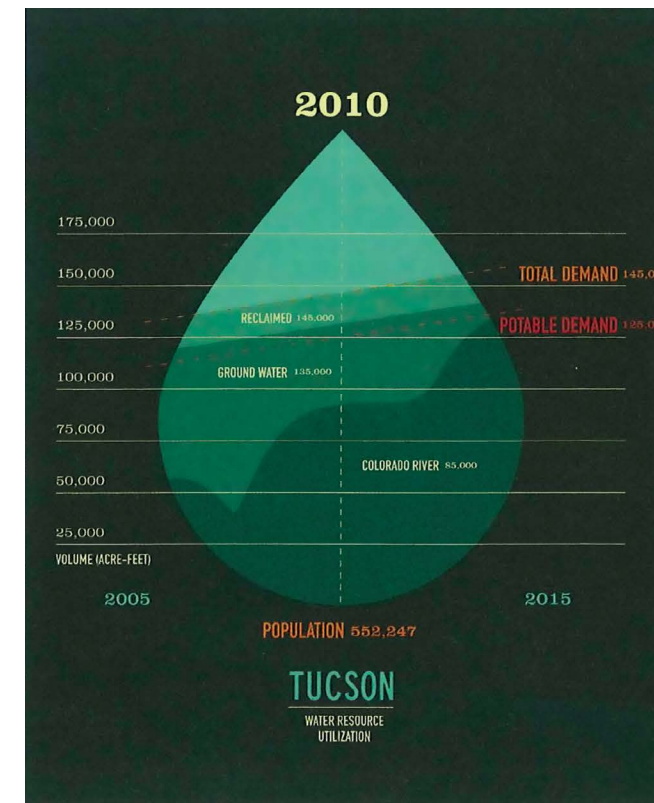
Through our new Innovation Farm program, we provide seed money and staff support to interdisciplinary faculty teams undertaking projects with the potential to make a lasting impact on campus life. In December of 2013, the Conflucenter convened the **Contemplative Traditions Working Group**. Spanning four colleges, the donor initiated faculty team is designing a Buddhist Studies minor at the UA and planning a public lecture series on Buddhism and contemplative practices.



The Conflucenter awarded its first two Innovation Farm grants in April of 2014. These grants will support the following outcomes:

- ▶ **Pro-Claiming Human Rights** – an online database of human rights stakeholders and a virtual forum to connect teachers, students and human rights advocates from around the world.
- ▶ **Center for Documentary Studies** – a resource to help UA faculty and students gain the technical and editorial skills they need to effectively present research in audio-visual media.

*Ground|Water: The Art, Design and Science of a Dry River*, one of the earliest results of our faculty funding, gives an overview of Tucson's climate, hydrology and water policy in creative and interdisciplinary text, design and images. The book received two design awards from the University and College Design Association in 2013.



Infographic excerpts (pictured above and left) taken from *Ground|Water: The Art, Design and Science of a Dry River* highlights Tucson Arizona's water levels presently and in the future.

We are very pleased to have awarded nearly \$93,000 for six projects through our Faculty Collaboration Grants for 2014–2015. Twenty-five faculty members across Fine Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Humanities, Medicine and Engineering are participating.

- ▶ **“Musical Cognition, Emotion and Imagery”** – Music Associate Professor Donald Kinser-Traut and Arizona Public Media’s Dan Kruse will conduct a research study and produce a documentary on why “ear worms” – the tunes that get stuck in our heads – arrive in our minds, and why they stay there.
- ▶ **“Kinuta: Noh Soul in Western Garb”** – James Cook and Noel Pinnington, associate professors of Art and East Asian Studies, respectively, will create a screenplay of the Japanese Noh play, *Kinuta*. The screenplay will be infused with contemporary language and Western social trappings.
- ▶ **“A Poetry of Art: Burchiello Redressed”** – Art Professor David Christiana will create interpretive etchings of poems by Burchiello and Aileen Feng, and Fabian Alfie from the French and Italian Department will provide research and translations into this Florentine’s work for an exhibit at the Poetry Center.
- ▶ **“Turkey in Theory: An Interdisciplinary Workshop”** – Director of the new Arizona Center for Turkish Studies, Brian Silverstein, and Salih Can Açiksöz, Assistant Professor of Middle East and North African Studies, will organize a two-day workshop on contemporary Turkish society, history, politics and arts.
- ▶ **“The Dance of Baseball: An Exploration of Aesthetics”** – Fine Arts Dean Jory Hancock and Assistant Professor Amy Ernst will be joined by faculty in Medicine and Engineering to study human movement in baseball and dance to provide a holistic approach for analyzing the aesthetics of movement.
- ▶ **“Translating Gender”** – Susan Stryker, Director of the Institute for LGBT Studies, and David Gramling, Assistant Professor of German, will invite 18 leading scholars in Translation Studies and Transgender Studies for a three-day workshop that will include a translational “slam” and curated reading for the public.



# FROM FELLOWSHIPS TO INTERNSHIPS

—We encourage student innovation beyond the classroom

At the Confluentcenter, we encourage both undergraduate and graduate students to think beyond their core disciplines by providing real-world experiences and funding interdisciplinary research. Whether students research, publish, travel or work alongside professionals in their field, our aim is to help them engage in new opportunities while at the University of Arizona.

*We awarded 14 Graduate Fellowships for 2014–2015 totaling \$52,000 to students from the colleges of Fine Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS), Humanities and Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs (GIDP).*

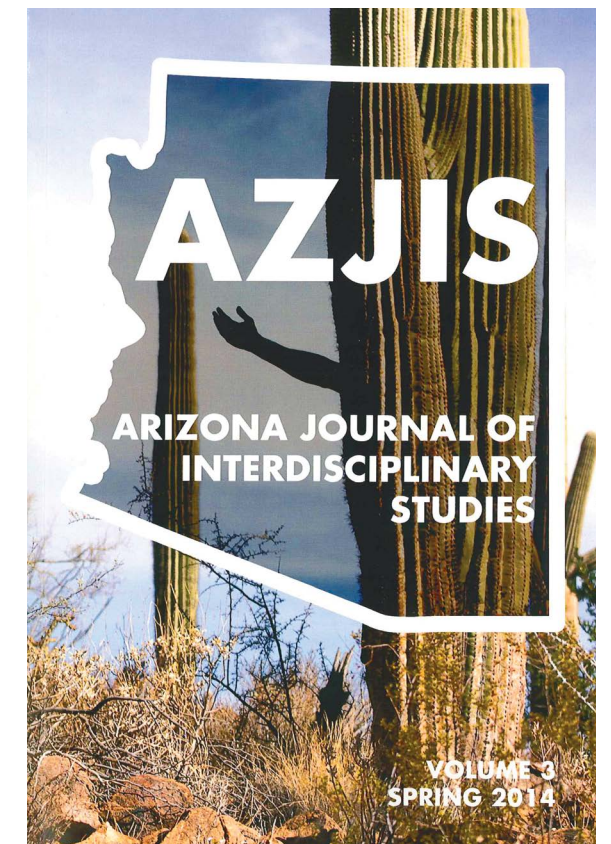
- EMILY BELL .....Government & Public Policy (SBS)
- LAUREL BELLANTE .....Geography & Development (SBS)
- JOSEPH BICKLEY .....History (SBS)
- JAN BINDAS-TENNEY .....English (Humanities)
- KYLE BOGGS .....English (Humanities)
- CECILIA LEWIS .....Mexican American Studies (SBS)
- YURONG (JOY) LIU .....Arid Lands (GIDP)
- MARCO MACIAS .....History (SBS)
- ERIC MAGRANE .....Geography & Development (SBS)
- DYLAN MCCARTHY BLACKSTON .....Gender & Women's Studies (SBS)
- EDWARD POLANCO .....History (SBS)
- GINA RICHARD .....American Indian Studies (GIDP)
- VALENTE SOTO .....Geography & Development (SBS)
- CARI TUSING .....Anthropology (SBS)



At our colloquium, undergraduate Honors Intern, Chanlin Wong, shares his report on the effects of SB 1070 on the Tucson economy, which he prepared for the Mexican Consulate of Tucson.

*This year, the Confluentcenter expanded real-world opportunities for students, aiding the University of Arizona's Strategic Plan goal of 100 percent student engagement.*

- ▶ Confluentcenter undergraduate interns from the University of Arizona's Honors College worked at the Mexican Consulate of Tucson.
- ▶ One of our graduate interns, Anabel Galindo, convened a trilingual team of Pascua Yaqui tribal members to translate colonial Spanish documents in the Arizona State Museum's collections.
- ▶ For the past three years, the Confluentcenter has supported undergraduate students who produce the Arizona Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, an annual publication.
- ▶ Working with the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC), we awarded \$10,000 in travel grants to students who attended or presented research at academic conferences.
- ▶ Our undergraduate Visual Communications student employees, Thomas McCarthy and Sebastian Campos-Alvarez, designed this annual report!







Aztec Dancers, Calpulli Tonantzin, offered a blessing with drumming and dancing on the first day of our "Voices Across Borders" panels at the Tucson Festival of Books.

## FROM SALOONS TO SALONS

—We bring learning experiences to all

As part of a land grant institution, Conflucenter has a mission to share faculty research, knowledge and creativity with audiences of all ages, ethnicities and educational backgrounds, both on and off campus. Our ongoing series – **Show & Tell** and **Creative Collaborations** – are popular free programs.

At **Show & Tell @ Playground**: Conflucenter's Multimedia Learning Experience, students and lifelong learners pack the Playground Bar & Lounge to see videos and live demonstrations by faculty on the second Wednesday of every month.

At **Creative Collaborations**, Regents Professor Paula Fan, playing her 1901 Steinway grand piano, transforms the Student Union Bookstore basement into an old-fashioned salon. On one Saturday morning each month during the academic year, Dr. Fan invites a professor to join her in a "musical dialogue" about topics ranging from astronomy, to AIDS to the Holocaust. Our friends at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) often join in for lunch and a lively discussion afterward.

In 2014, we launched "**Voices Across Borders**" a multilingual series of panels at the Tucson Festival of Books. Five Latina authors from U.S. universities and Mexico City joined local novelists, journalists, poets and storytellers to discuss their poetry and prose. Working closely with the Mexican Consulate and other local partners, we presented panels in English, Maya, O'odham and Spanish. More than 700 people attended the panels at the Stevie Eller Dance Theatre on the UA Mall.





# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

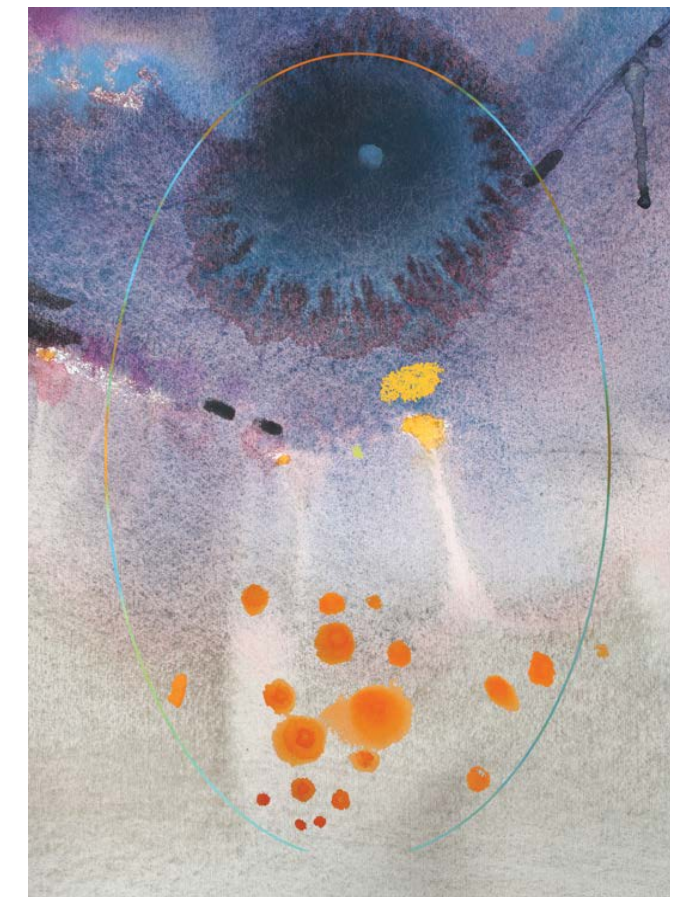
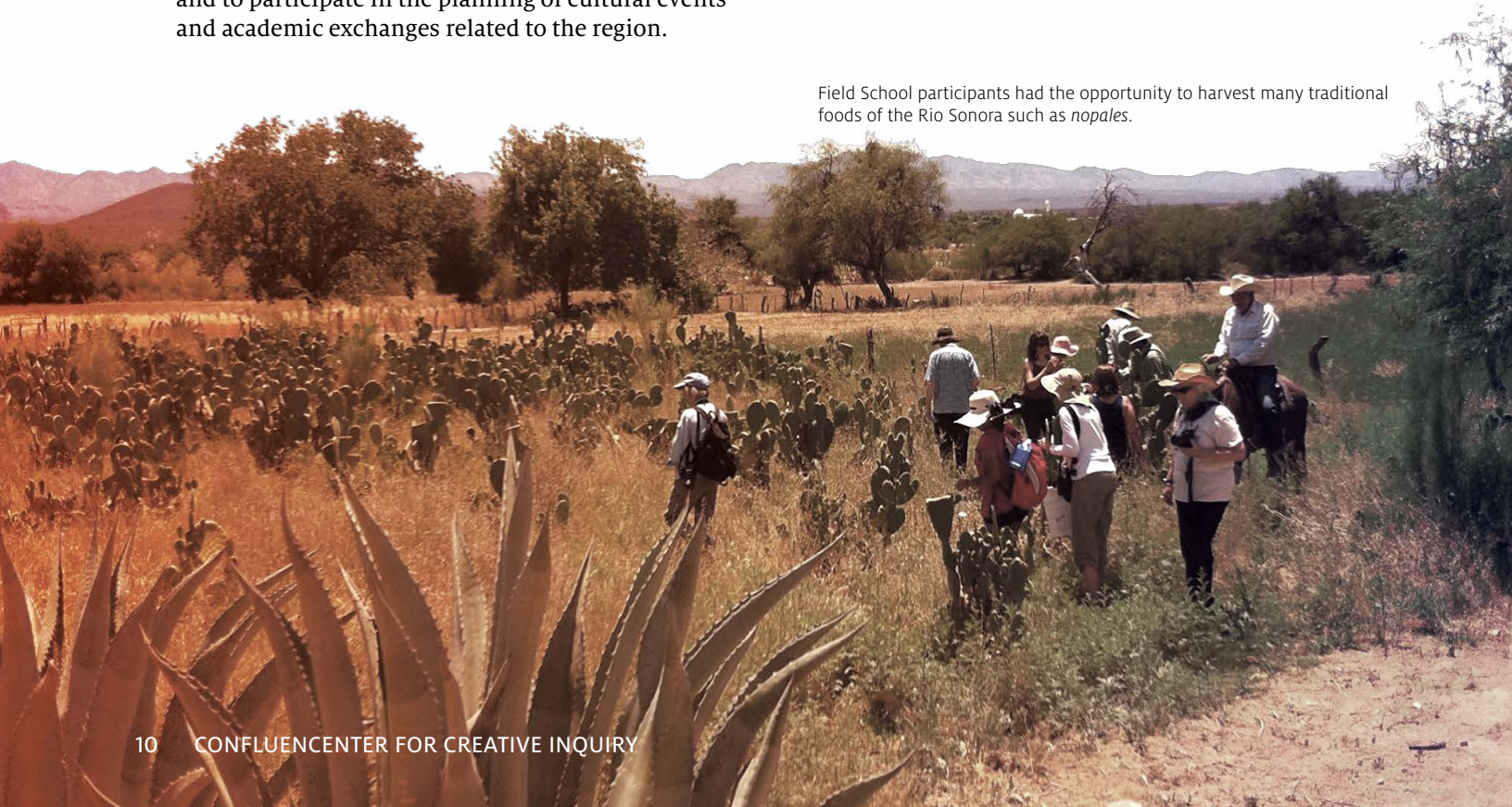
—We support a wide variety of activities across campus

The Confluentcenter collaborated with dozens of University of Arizona departments and local nonprofit organizations to co-present speakers, symposia, conferences and workshops. Read about some of the many activities we supported through our Director's Fund for Excellence in 2013–2014.

- ▶ **Tucson Meet Yourself's "Ethnographic Field School"** – taught classes and workshops in Banámichi, a rural community in Sonora, Mexico. Participants learned the basics of folklife studies through this full immersion cultural experience.
- ▶ **College of Humanities' "Humanities, Medicine and Wellness Conference"** – presented research panels and papers at the intersections of the humanities, health sciences and wellness initiatives to address global challenges.
- ▶ **Hanson Film Institute's "Tucson Cine Mexico"** – focused entirely on the work of Mexican directors and producers. The festival is dedicated to presenting the best in contemporary Mexican cinema to a diverse audience.
- ▶ **The Middle East and North Africa Graduate Student Organization's (MENA) "Middle Eastern and North African Studies Graduate Conference"** – provided a platform for graduate students from numerous universities within and outside the U.S to receive valuable feedback on their academic papers and to participate in the planning of cultural events and academic exchanges related to the region.
- ▶ **School of Art's "Visiting Artist and Scholar Series (VASE)"** – Internationally recognized speakers demonstrated how art practice and scholarship can produce a critical awareness of our relationship to our dwelling places and environments.
- ▶ **Tucson Pima Arts Council's Special Lecture** – featured Junot Díaz, Pulitzer Prize winning author and McArthur Fellow who spoke at this special engagement at the Fox Theatre.

*Missed one of these exciting events? To stay informed about our upcoming events and lectures, visit our website and sign up for our mailing list at [www.confluentcenter.arizona.edu](http://www.confluentcenter.arizona.edu).*

Field School participants had the opportunity to harvest many traditional foods of the Rio Sonora such as *nopales*.



The Confluentcenter is grateful for the diverse ways our donors contribute. Professor Jackson Boelts is a Confluence Circle member, and he donated these beautiful digital archival prints from his "Shield" series to the center.

## JOIN THE CONFLUENCENTER

—Please support creative inquiry at the UA and give a tax-deductible donation today!

### CONFLUENCE CIRCLE

Donate \$1,000 to become a member of our Confluence Circle to support Graduate Fellows. To become a Circle member, or make a donation of any amount:

- ▶ Visit our website at [www.confluentcenter.arizona.edu](http://www.confluentcenter.arizona.edu) and click on DONATE TODAY (on the web form, you may specify what program you wish to support), or
- ▶ Mail a check made payable to Confluentcenter/UA Foundation, P.O. Box 210302, Tucson, AZ 85721-0302.

### EVENT AND SERIES SPONSORSHIPS

Corporate and individual sponsorship opportunities are available for Creative Collaborations, Show & Tell @ Playground and our multilingual venue at the Tucson Festival of Books.

If you have a special project in mind – some "grand challenge" you'd like to see addressed – we might be able to gather a group of great minds at the UA. Just give us a call at 520-621-5137 to start a conversation about a sponsorship.





**confluentcenter**  
for Creative Inquiry

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College of Humanities

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& Behavioral Sciences

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