What a tremendous year it has been! Just glance through the following pages and you’ll encounter a year marked by highlights and important milestones across programmatic and institutional boundaries. One highlight for the Poetry Center this year is also a highlight for Arizona: in the fall we helped the State of Arizona and the Arizona Commission on the Arts launch the newly created State Poet Laureate position by hosting an inaugural reading from laureate Alberto Álvaro Ríos. Later that spring, we were honored with a 2014 Governor’s Arts Award in the community category, a top state honor; and we hosted, for the first time, the 2014 Arizona State Finals for the Poetry Out Loud competition. In our library, we prepared 1,200 negatives for digitization of the LaVerne Harrell Clark photo collection, and completed the back-digitization of historical readings from 1963 to 2007 for voca, our audio/video archive.

We also began cataloging the original bound copies of the University of Arizona Creative Writing MFA theses, a great addition to the Poetry Center’s public archive. We had a successful year of fundraising, and while there is still work to do, we are approaching our initial goal of a $1 million endowment to partially underwrite Poetry Center programmatic expenses in perpetuity. This would not be possible without the support of many; we are so grateful to our Tucson community and to the poetry community writ large for supporting and sustaining our work. Thank you!

2013—2014 AWARDS:

2014 Governor’s Art Award
Presented by Arizona Citizens for the Arts, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and the Office of the Governor the evening of March 25th in the category of “Community.”

This same evening, longtime Poetry Center supporters Helen and John Schaefer received the 9th annual Shelley Award for their continued support of the arts.

Annual Report 2013—2014
The Library

THE COLLECTION
The Poetry Center supports an economy for poetry by purchasing 1,200 new books and subscribing to 250 literary subscriptions each year. Our collection now boasts nearly 45,000 books (70,000 total items) available to students, teachers, and community members.

Poetry Center librarians curate resource shelves for easy browsing, such as one for new acquisitions and one to house works by upcoming visiting writers. New this year is an author-curated reading shelf, where we invite visiting poets and writers to browse our collection and select 15 to 20 of their favorite or most influential books for display. (See this page's sidebar for a peek at National Book Award Winner Mary Szybist's list.)

VOCA
This year we completed our project of digitizing the Poetry Center's collection of analog recordings of readings. In this multiyear project, many hundreds of reel-to-reel tapes and audio and video cassettes were transferred to durable digital media. By the end of the next fiscal year, visitors to voca will have access to more than 800 recordings spanning 53 years of writers featured in our Reading and Lecture Series. Now with tools such as user accounts and individual tagging, our online audio/video archive is a vital resource both inside and outside the classroom. Librarians and staff incorporate voca into on-site tours and field trips, lesson plans for instructors, and Poetry Center Classes and Workshops.

Laverne Harrell Clark Photographic Collection
A gift from LD Clark allowed our library to build on last year's completion of the archival processing of the LaVerne Harrell Clark Photographic Collection. This year, under the direction of Poetry Center Librarian Wendy Burk, our photo project archivist Erin Renee Wahl focused on the digitization of LaVerne's collection. This marked the first phase of a two-year project, and by the end of the first year, Erin had prepared approximately 1,200 photos for digitization and catalogued an estimated 10,000 negatives. LaVerne H. Clark directed the Poetry Center from 1962 to 1966. She began the tradition of taking photos of writers when they visited, a tradition we continue to this day. LD Clark remained a good friend of the Poetry Center after his wife's death in 2008. Up until his death in March of this year, LD Clark had a vision to see LaVerne's work continue and thrive.
**The Library: Exhibitions**

**LIBRARY EXHIBITIONS IN THE JEREMY INGALLS GALLERY**

**Altars and Elegies:** For this interactive, community-based exhibit, Tucson artist Noah Saterstrom collaborated with Rebecca Brown of Seattle to create “Some Days,” an installation of texts, images, altered books, and objects that served as the foundation for a Día de Muertos altar. Visitors and community members added their own gifts of remembrance to the altar throughout the installation run. (Sept. 9 - Dec. 4, 2013.)

**Selections from the Permanent Collection: Small Books:** Following on the heels of the library’s successful “Big Books” exhibit, the fall semester featured books mighty in content but miniature in size. The exhibit allowed visitors to explore intersections between the condensed form of poetry and the highly portable, sometimes whimsical form of the small book. (Dec. 9, 2013 - Jan. 29, 2014.)

**Moment and Memory: A Collection of Artist Books by Alice Vinson:** Our spring exhibit featured unique, handmade books and book objects by Alice Vinson, a recent MFA graduate in studio art at the University of Arizona. For the last two years, Vinson has taught bookmaking and letterpress through the Poetry Center’s Classes and Workshops program. (Feb. 3 - May 14, 2014.)

**Selections from the Permanent Collection: Lesbian and Feminist Works from the Marie J. Kuda Archives:** Over the summer months, the Poetry Center featured works from the personal archives of the Chicago-area writer, historian, activist, and publisher Marie J. Kuda, founder of Womanpress and creator of the Lesbian Writers Conferences held in Chicago from 1974 to 1978. Works within the exhibit included Audre Lorde’s *Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power* (published as a pamphlet by Out & Out Books) and a first printing of *Riot* by Gwendolyn Brooks. (May 19 - July 30, 2014.)

**ART EXHIBITIONS**

Art exhibitions provide a public platform to local artists and give community members a chance to explore, interact with, and understand the Poetry Center in new ways. This year’s three exhibits directly corresponded with the library’s exhibitions.

**Some Days:** Created by artists Noah Saterstrom and Rebecca Brown, this collaborative exploration of death, life, memory, and loss complemented the library’s Altars and Elegies fall exhibit. (photo below by Wendy Burk)

**Moment and Memory: A Collection of Artist Books by Alice Vinson:** Vinson used mixed-media and hand-sewn details to create pieces of literary art that ranged in structure from the miniature to the wearable.

**Hattie Lockett & UA Student Contest Broadside Exhibition:** Once again, University of Arizona undergraduate and graduate student winners of Poetry Center contests collaborated with the UA Book Art Collective to create an exhibit highlighting their creative work.
The Poetry Center’s Reading and Lecture Series is one of the longest continually running programs of its kind in the nation. This year, the University of Arizona Foundation awarded the series with one of its highly competitive Community Connections Grants. This grant helped support 27 events, including readings by Timothy Liu, Tan Lin, CAConrad, and National Book Award Winner Mary Szybist.

In a successful collaboration between the Poetry Center and UA Prose Series, our fall lineup featured a four-part “series-within-a-series.” The Hybrid Writing Series focused on writers working “at the boundaries and intersections of genre.” Lia Purpura, Maggie Nelson, Jenny Boully, and Thalia Field all read. Hybrid Witing was co-sponsored by the UA College of Medicine Program in Medical Humanities and the Next American Nature and Science Writing Series.

Also new this year: the Poetry Center inaugurated two named readings. The Morgan Lucas Schuldt Memorial Reading, formerly known as The Next Word in Poetry reading, features emerging and innovative poets. This fall, both Eduardo C. Corral and Natalie Diaz read for the inaugural event. In spring, we celebrated the newly established Hannelore Quander-Rattee Works-in-Translation Reading, an annual event that features translators of poetry, international poets, and writers and scholars working across the boundaries of translation. Poet and translator of Italian poetry Geoffrey Brock officially opened the annual reading in April of this year.

**SPECIAL EVENTS AND CO-SPONSORSHIPS**

The Poetry Center co-sponsored 12 events with local partners such as Sonora Review, POG, Trickhouse, Intermezzo, Buffalo Exchange, The Loft Cinema, Tucson Poetry Festival, UA Creative Writing MFA Program, and the UA English Department.
COMMUNITY CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS PROGRAM

The Classes and Workshops program is a fee-based program that employs local writers, many of whom are recent graduates of the UA Creative Writing MFA Program. We presented 13 classes and workshops this year, serving a total of 139 students. Community members and students alike had a chance to participate in noncredit creative writing courses, varying from introductory to advanced topics and writing levels. This year's lineup included "Ekphrastic Writing," "Craft of Fiction," "The Autobiographical Eye," "Line by Line: A Close Reading Workshop," as well as classes that focused on specific poets or poetry movements, such as one on poet Robert Duncan and another on the New York School. In addition to these classes, we also offered a class titled "Hybrid Poetry: Crossing Prose with Poetry" to complement our series within the Reading and Lecture Series (see page 4).

SHOP TALKS

This poetry discussion group largely follows the Poetry Center's Reading and Lecture Series. Attendance this year for each discussion averaged 25, and attendees included community members, local writers, MFA students, undergraduates, and high school students. Featured this year was the work of writers in the Hybrid Writing Series, Tan Lin, and CAConrad, as well as Muriel Rukeyser, whose birth centennial was in 2013.

A CLOSER LOOK BOOK CLUB

A core group of devoted readers continued to set the bar high this year by reading books on the theme of “Genre Meets High Art.” Books included in this list included The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka, The Collected Works of Billy the Kid by Michael Ondaatje, Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic by Alison Bechdel, and Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov. The group met a total of 7 times and average community attendance was 16 participants.
The Poetry Center’s education program collaborated this past year with the UA Honors College to create an interactive professional development course that supports college students with an interest in service learning and the arts. Students enrolled in the course used classroom time to examine influential pedagogy and develop resources in the field of arts education and service learning: throughout the year they observed teaching artists and other community artists, and volunteered to support the Poetry Center’s in-house education programs, including Family Days, matinees, and K-12 field trips. Altogether, these students supported 14 individual events and devoted over 76 hours of support (outside classroom time) to these programs.

After completing a successful pilot year, “Writing the Community” will be offered again this fall through the Honors College, with hopes to develop deeper support networks for Family Days and K-12 field trips.

**SPOTLIGHT ON: K-12 FIELD TRIPS**

*Sponsored by TCI Wealth Advisors & Winifred Bundy in memory of Ted Robert Bundy and Joe E. Smelt*

The Poetry Center worked with Tucson-based Arts Integration Solutions to develop an interactive field trip guide that helped align the Poetry Center field trips with Arizona’s College and Career Ready Standards. The resulting field trip consisted of two parts: the first, administered by Poetry Center docents, included an introduction to the Poetry Center and activities that allowed students to explore the inside/outside relationship of the Poetry Center’s building to that of a poem; we gave students a special look at one of the Poetry Center’s Rare Book Room treasures: a book-object known as a flexigon called “Inside Chance,” by Alberto Álvaro Ríos. In the second half of each field trip, UA Honors College students led students in a writing activity based on the visiting teacher’s curriculum.

**POETRY OUT LOUD**

*Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, Poetry Foundation, Arizona Commission on the Arts, and Polsinelli PC*

In the summer of 2013, we hosted our second Poetry Out Loud professional development workshop for teachers in southern Arizona. Fifteen teachers attended this workshop to receive training on how to incorporate the Poetry Out Loud program into their classroom. As follow-up support, the Poetry Center sent teaching artists to more than 13 participating schools throughout the year. These teaching artists worked with students and helped prepare them for their classroom, school, regional, and state finals.

This year the Poetry Center and southern Arizona was host, for the first time, to the Poetry Out Loud State Finals during the Tucson Festival of Books. Arizona State Poet Laureate Alberto Álvaro Ríos read between rounds; in the end, Matthew Kaplan, from Tesseract High School in Phoenix, took home first place and competed in the national competition in Washington, D.C., later in the spring.

**FAMILY DAYS**

*Sponsored by Pima Federal Credit Union, Tori and Langdon Hill, and Bruce Larkin*

With help from our UA Honors College class, we continued to offer drop-in creative writing workshops for children of all ages, coupled with activities that incorporated dance, visual art, storytime, and bookmaking into poetry and writing. Themes this year, planned in large part by the Honors College students, included time travel, ancestry, and the color blue. Family Days ran from September to April this year and served a total of 380 children and their families.

**14TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL BILINGUAL CORRIDO CONTEST**

*Sponsored by Richard Elias, Pima County*

The Poetry Center received 335 entries from 13 schools this year. Judge Matt Mendez awarded first prize to Daniella Ibarra from Amphitheater High School. Alejandra López (Rio Rico High School) received second, and Diana Vargas (Rio Rico) received third. All three winners read their corridos at the Poetry Center Annual Awards Ceremony on April 26, with special emcee guest Ernesto Portillo and music by UA graduate student Edgar Ricaud.
Summer Residency

In February the Poetry Center announced Stephen Willey as the 2014 winner of the Summer Residency Contest. Willey’s work was selected from a large and talented pool of writers by Creative Writing faculty member Farid Matuk.

Supporting University of Arizona Students

POETRY CENTER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
Internships provide students with a behind-the-scenes look at how a poetry library and literary center work to provide a community experience like none other. Last year, through a partnership with Creative Writing MFA Program’s Writer as Citizen Project, our staff worked with five graduate students within the areas of arts administration, arts education, and marketing. Funding was provided by the Graduate College to the UA English Department.

STUDENT CONTESTS
In the fall, the Hattie Lockett poetry prize for undergraduate seniors was awarded to Paul Thomson, Katarina Lee, and Daniel Marks. Poet and UA MFA alum Peggy Shumaker judged the contest. Winners of the spring UA Student Poetry Contests were selected by poet Timothy Liu. The winners were: Jarrett Eakins (Academy of American Poets Prize), Sylvia Chan and Jessica Jenkins (Margaret Sterling Awards), and Jake Syersak and Mason Gates (Poetry Center Prizes). Every other year, the Poetry Center also awards its LaVerne Harrell Clark Fiction Prize. This year’s winner, selected by Elizabeth Frankie Rollins, was MFA fiction writer Laura Miller.

READINGS
The Poetry Center continued its long-standing tradition of presenting a reading for Persona, the undergraduate journal of art and literature, as well as readings by this year’s graduates from the Creative Writing MFA Program.

UNIVERSITY FIELD TRIPS
The Poetry Center hosted 42 visits from university classes, serving 778 students. This year, with special support from a group of teachers and teaching artists, our staff was able to develop lesson plans that allowed the Poetry Center to collaborate with a larger pool of university groups, including a technical writing class, and support existing writing curricula. For the coming year, our staff has plans to offer professional development sessions to writing instructors and to continue to expand the lesson plan library.
**Fundraising Activity**

**TOTAL FUNDS RAISED $ 618,068**

### PROGRAMS ENDOWMENT: $414,305

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### BUILDING FUND

Pledges and New Gifts: $23,300

### OTHER GIFTS: $70,500

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### OPERATING GIFTS: $64,654

**Walt Whitman Circle and Friends of the Poetry Center**

Community and individual gifts continue to make up the greatest portion of the Poetry Center’s fundraising narrative. We cannot thank our poetry community enough for its support!

- **Walt Whitman Circle**
  - Membership total: 101
  - Gift amount total: $46,929
- **Friends of the Poetry Center**
  - Number of gifts: 125
  - Gift amount total: $17,725

### GRANTS AND CORPORATE SPONSORS: $31,809

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<td>TCI Wealth Advisors</td>
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<td>Pima Federal Credit Union</td>
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<td>Poets and Writers, Inc.</td>
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### READING SERIES UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SPONSORSHIPS : $3,500

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<td>Next American Nature and Science Writing</td>
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**Volunteers**

The Poetry Center thrives through the support and encouragement we receive on a daily basis from a core group of volunteers (front desk, library, events, K-12 education), docents, and Development Committee members. Thank you, all!

**TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 5,331**

Using the State of Arizona estimate of $19.71 (as of 2010) per hour rate, the total value of volunteer hours last year was **$105,074**.

---

**POETRY CENTER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Chair**

Tony Luebbermann

**Co-Chair**

Helen S. Schaefer

**Ex-Officio**

Tyler Meier (Poetry Center Executive Director)
Mary Wildner-Bassett (College of Humanities Dean)
Bill Finley (College of Humanities Development Officer)
Julie Lauterbach-Colby (Poetry Center Development Coordinator)

**Development Committee members at the 2014 Governor’s Arts Awards**

(L - R): Jim Walsh, Elizabeth Rollings, Tony Luebbermann.
Walt Whitman Circle 2013-14

*LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP*
Colleen and Jim Burns*
L.R. Benes
Gail Browne and Frances Sjoberg*
Alison Deming*
James Hensley*
Randall Rodman Holdridge*
Lillian Marie Janssen
Claire Livesey
Michael Rattee*
Boyer Rickel*
Helen and John Schaefer*
Lois and Richard Shelton*
Peggy Shumaker and Joseph Usibelli*

*ENDOWMENT CIRCLE*
Jimmye and Helen Hillman*
Nancy Warfield*

*SPONSOR CIRCLE*
Winifred Bundy*
Donald Pitt Family Foundation*
Tori and Langdon Hill
Melanie and Peter Maier*
Robert and Lisa Swift*

*DIRECTOR’S CIRCLE*
Kate Bernheimer and Brent Hendricks*
Norma and Stanley Feldman*
James and Louise Glasser*
William and Leslie Holmes*
John Hudak*
Amanda Hunt and Chris Chavez*
Maurynne Maxwell and Yvonne Morris*
Barbara Sherman and Ted Maynard
Tom Sanders and Chris Treptow*
Donna Somma
John Wahl and Mary Lou Forier*
Susan and Les Wallach*
Carol Whiteman*

*BENEFACTOR CIRCLE*
Anonymous*
Christine Baines*
James Brandi
Wendy Burk and Eric Magrane*
Thomas Cobb*
Beth A. Cooper
Jenny Flynn
Larry Evers and Barbara Grygutis*
Marc and Muriel Goldfeder
Marilyn Halonen*
Cynthia and Jorgen Hansen*
John Iurino and Joni Wallace*
Bonnie and Greg Kuykendall*
Tyler and Katie Meier
Matthew Meyer and Tami Danze*
Anita and Jim Rankin
Stacey Richter and Dan Coleman*
Ted and Shirley Taubeneck*
Tim and Kathy Torrington*
Bill and Brenda Viner*
James and Judy Walsh*
Mary Wildner-Bassett*
Matthew and Lisa Winkler

*SUSTAINER CIRCLE*
Susan Hardy Aiken*
Barbara Allen*
Anonymous*
Anonymous*
Anonymous*
Anonymous*
Anonymous*
Denise Barnes*
Dorothy Blake
Debby Jo Blank
Lucinda and Bill Bliss
William Boyd*
Dianne Bret Harte*
Archibald and Laura Brown*
Jane and Marvin Brown
William Burnett
Sylvia and Alejandro Canelos
Sherrye and Kimble Cohn*
Geraldine and Stephen Connolly*
Caroline and Terry Daniel*
Ann Dernier*
Curtis and Elizabeth Dunshew*
Darrell Dunshew
Elizabeth Evans and Stephen Reitz*
Dennis Evans and Robin Schader*
Karen Falkenstrom*
Bill Finley*
William Fry*
Judith Gaussen*
John Gray and Nancy Silvis*
Agnes Griffen*
Christine and Jonathon Gross*
Bruce Gungle*
Jim Hannley and Pamela Powers Hannley*
Edwin and Mary Hartman*
Janet and Joe Hollander
Joshua M. Hurand and Ashley M McLaren
David and Marsha Irwin*
Pamela Jackson
Frederic and Gayle Jandrey*
Jeremy Kahn
Russ Kick
Kimberly King
Linda Lou Lamb*
Law Office of David E. Hill, PLC
Robert Lipinczycyk and Shelli Hall Lipinczycyk
Julie and Eric Lauterbach-Colby*
Tony and Susan Luebbermann*
Pamela McClelland
Courtney McEniry
Michael and Linda McNulty
Thomas and Kerstin Miller*
Mary Myers
Christopher Nelson*
George and Alice O’Brien
Ann-Eve Pedersen and Peter Eckerstrom*
Marjorie Perloff*
Rodney Phillips*
Siri North
Pamela Portwood and Mark Taylor*
Seymour Reichlin
Elizabeth Rollings and Doug Friman
Barrie Ryan*
Gregory Scaven
Seth Schindler and Diane Dittemore
Robin and David Shambach*
Harriet Silverman*
Lucia Slomkowska*
Susan and Robert St Pierre
Bradley and Jane Stroup*
Sandra Szegal and Carol Kells*
Christine Szuter and Thomas Sheridan*
Hale and Holly Thomas-Hilburn*
Henry Tom and Lillian Bazan*
Merle Turchik*
Whitney Vale and William McCoy
David Wagstaff IV and Ashley Wagstaff
Tom and Barbara Waldron*
Nancy Wall*
Bonnie Wehle
Lisa Winton
Lisa Wise and Cameron Cohen*
Israel Wygnanski*