The University of Arizona Poetry Center houses one of the nation's most important collections of contemporary poetry. This year we enhanced that treasure by processing our entire LaVerne Harrell Clark Photographic Collection, including thousands of photographs taken by our first director between 1960 and 2007. We made significant progress toward completing the digitization of our 50-year archive of recorded readings to be made available through our unique digital library, voca. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of our Reading Series by presenting an extraordinary array of award-winning American poets, and both our adult and K-12 education programs continue to draw new audiences from throughout Arizona. In June we said goodbye to Gail Browne, who served as executive director for 11 years. In a special spring appeal to honor her tenure, we created a new Director's Fund and raised over $100,000 to support our programs and growing Programs Endowment.

| Total People Served by Poetry Center Library and Programs | 32,820 |
| Individual and group users, tours, field trips | 14,319 |
| Reading Series and events | 3,235 |
| Adult Education | 241 |
| K-12 Education and Outreach | 8,335 |
| voca and Wordplay users | 6,437 |
| Art Exhibitions | 253 |
The Collection

The Poetry Center Library surpassed its 42,000th book this year. We added a number of enhancements to our physical space, including a permanent History of the Poetry Center exhibit (also online at Arizona Memory Project) and exhibit cases in our Rare Books Reading Room.

K-12 Education Program Coordinator Renee Angle completed the planning process for a remodel of the Children’s Corner. In Fall 2013, the Children’s Corner will be more beautiful and accessible than ever, with a stunning mural by artist Sid Henderson and kid- and teacher-friendly housing for the books and educational resources in our children’s collection.

Another addition to our library is our new Read Between the Bars donation bin. The Poetry Center is partnering with community organization Read Between the Bars, Arizona’s Books-to-Prisoners program. Visitors are encouraged to place donations of new or gently used books in the bin.

voca

Our one-of-a-kind digital library, voca, was featured in the Summer 2013 edition of Arizona, the magazine of the University of Arizona Alumni Association. During 2012-2013, voca’s worldwide audience grew by more than 1,000 users! To date, voca features 580 recordings of authors reading their work, with new readings being added every week.

Generous support from the Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historical Preservation and The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation allowed us to digitize more than 140 born-analog recordings this year, including all but a handful of our highly endangered digital video cassettes (DVCs). We have reached the last leg of our digitization project, which we expect to complete by June 2014. Completing the digitization of all our recordings will be a first for a poetry library of our kind and scope.

LaVerne Harrell Clark Photographic Collection

This year, we proudly completed the archival processing of the LaVerne Harrell Clark Photographic Collection, which contains portraits and snapshots of poets, ca. 1960-2007, by the Poetry Center’s first director, LaVerne Harrell Clark. Archival interns Pamela Pierce and Erin Renee Wahl completed the bulk of the processing, individually reviewing and carefully preserving thousands of negatives, photographic prints, and items of correspondence. The newly processed collection is a treasure trove of images and an important photographic record of literary history in the Southwest and nationwide.
New Exhibition Series: Selections from the Permanent Collection
This year, we inaugurated a new winter and summer exhibition series, Selections from the Permanent Collection. The series is designed to highlight holdings from the Poetry Center’s L.R. Benes Rare Book Room, including contemporary fine press work and artist books as well as important works from the 20th century and earlier.

Library Exhibitions in the Jeremy Ingalls Gallery
Selections from the Permanent Collection: Big Books: The Poetry Center inaugurated its new Selections from the Permanent Collection exhibition series with a look at oversized works by Emily McVarish, Robert Creeley and Alex Katz, among others. The exhibit ran throughout December 2012 and January 2013.

Maps: Our early spring exhibit explored the poetic uses of the map in books, broadsides, and artist books from the Poetry Center’s collection. Works featured included books by Judith Schalansky and Denis Wood.

Social Justice Poets: Curated by Erin Renee Wahl and the Progressive Librarians’ Guild of the University of Arizona’s School of Information Resources and Library Science. Social Justice Poets gathered poems, photographs, and original documents representing the deep relationship between poets, their poetry, and their causes. This exhibit was the subject of an Arizona Public Media feature titled “Exhibit Celebrates Progressive Poets.”

Selections from the Permanent Collection: Twentieth Century First Editions: In this exhibit, the Poetry Center Library presented first editions of poetry collections by some of the twentieth century’s most iconic poets, including T.S. Eliot, Robert Frost, William Butler Yeats, Marianne Moore, Frank Stanford, and Elizabeth Bishop.

Art Exhibitions
Art exhibitions provide a service to local artists and give community members a chance to explore, interact with, and understand the Poetry Center in new ways.

This year the Poetry Center featured three art exhibitions, all of which directly corresponded with the library’s exhibitions.

Beata Wehr: This exhibit incorporated materials from Beata Wehr’s one-woman show, From Here and Far Away: Artist’s Books, Pages, and Paintings.

From What I Gather…Works by Karen McAlister Shimoda: This exhibit showcased five series of the artist’s small work: Maps, Poems, Myths, Specimens, and Art Logs.

Hattie Lockett & UA Student Contest Broadside Exhibition: This exhibit featured eight broadsides, made in collaboration with University of Arizona undergraduate and graduate student poets in collaboration with the UA Book Art Collective.
Readings & Lectures

The Reading and Lecture Series celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. It continues to be the cornerstone of our adult community engagement and provides opportunities for UA and community collaborations. This year we presented 23 events, including readings by renowned writers C.D. Wright, Carl Phillips, Nathaniel Mackey, and Cathy Park Hong. We also partnered with the UA Disability Resource Center to bring deaf, Russian-American poet Ilya Kaminsky to campus, and with the Religious Studies Department to present Amish poet G.C. Waldrep's lecture on Spiritual Practice and Poetry.

Our Matinee Program continues to work hand-in-hand with our Reading Series, allowing visiting poets and writers to engage with K-12 students. Ilya Kaminsky gave a matinee reading for 90 students at the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind during his spring visit to the Poetry Center.

We survey Reading Series audiences throughout the year, and the large majority of events receive a rating of “Excellent.” The composition of our audiences is between 50 to 60 percent University students, faculty and UA alumni, while the rest is made up of members from the greater Tucson community. Throughout the fall and spring semesters of last year, our Reading Series events reached approximately 3,000 people.

Special Events and Co-Sponsorships
In addition to regularly scheduled events, the Poetry Center co-sponsored 18 events with organizations such as Sonora Review, POG, Trickhouse, the Tucson Poetry Festival, UA Creative Writing MFA Program, and the UA English Department. In March, the Poetry Center partnered with Chax Press to present a dual reading and performance with poet Nathaniel Mackey and pianist Marilyn Crispell. Over 1,250 people attended these special events and co-sponsorships.

“...This made my night magical.”
Community Classes and Workshops Program

We presented 17 courses, serving 241 students, through our Community Classes and Workshops program. These courses offer community members and students alike the chance to participate in non-credit creative writing workshops and classes on literature. This year we branched out into new areas with courses such as “The Poetics of the Body and Disability;” “Listening to Sound Poetry;” “Poemfi  lms and the Moving Image;” and “Writing at Degree Zero,” taught by poet and Zen Buddhist priest Norman Fischer. This fee-based program employs local writers, many of whom are recent graduates of the UA Creative Writing MFA Program.

Shop Talks

This library program largely follows the Poetry Center’s Reading Series, and features one non-living poet each semester. Attendance this year for each discussion averaged 20, and attendees included community readers, local writers, MFA students, undergraduates, and high school students. Our conversations this year focused on the work of visiting writers such as Carl Phillips, C.D. Wright, Cathy Park Hong, Nathaniel Mackey, Roberto Tejada, J. Michael Martinez, and Carmen Giménez Smith, as well as Wislawa Szymborska and Adrienne Rich.

A Closer Look Book Club

Translation was the theme of this year’s A Closer Look Book Club and featured guest appearances by translators Mary Jo Bang (Dante’s Inferno) and Phil Gabriel (Haruki Murakami’s Kafka on the Shore). We discussed five novels this year; in addition to the two mentioned above, we read Clarice Lispector’s The Hour of the Star, Marcel Proust’s Swann’s Way, Daniel Sada’s Almost Never, and Samuel Beckett’s Molloy. Average attendance per meeting was 16 participants.

Adult Education

Poetry Center Speakers Bureau – Adult Outreach

The Speakers Bureau works to either take poetry and the message of the Poetry Center out into the community, or to create an environment at the Center where various groups can meet and learn. The Speakers Bureau seeks to foster new areas for growth, outreach, and community support, by offering interactive presentations on various topics; these range from discussions on the Poetry Center’s history to work by a specific poet. These presentations invite community groups—as well as the Speakers—to discover together the joy of poetry and to envision ways in which the Poetry Center can better serve the community’s interest in the arts.

This year marked an exciting time for the Poetry Center’s Speakers Bureau. Our growing docent program allowed us to expand our community outreach through off-site presentations and discussion groups.

Throughout the fall members of the Poetry Center development committee and docent groups met to discuss future partnerships with the Tucson Botanical Gardens and Pima County Public Library. In the spring, we launched “Poetry in the Gardens,” a monthly discussion group held in the Botanical Gardens and featuring poems related to particular garden sites. In March, for instance, the group met in the butterfly garden and Poetry Center docent Whitney Vale led a discussion on poems themed around butterflies.

In April, during National Poetry Month, the Speakers Bureau collaborated with seven branches within the Pima County Public Library system to give free, public presentations on poets and poetry, ranging from Southwestern poets to nature poetry.
Family Days
Sponsored by Jimmye and Helen Hillman, TCI Wealth Advisors, and Citibank

Once a month on Saturday, the Poetry Center opened specifically for K-12 children and their families. Beginning at 10 a.m., we offered creative writing workshops for three different age groups: infants, 4-6 year-olds, and 7-10 year-olds. After workshops concluded, the day continued with drop-in activities that included dance, visual art, and writing, plus a book club for children 11+. In the coming year, we will be working with UA Honors College students, who will design and implement the activities for these days.

13th Annual High School Bilingual Corrido Contest
This year our Corrido Contest received 316 entries from high school students throughout the state. The 2013 winners were selected by Dr. Eliane Rubinstein-Avila, Professor of Teaching/Learning & Sociocultural Studies at the University of Arizona. First place went to Jocelyne Muñoz, second place to Claudeth Becerra, and third place to Iván J. Orellana; all winners were from Rio Rico High School. In addition to winners, we selected 50 entries to receive semi-finalist awards. For the first time this year, we also held the Corrido Mini-Resource Fair, in which we invited University and local organizations to share their resources with the audience. These organizations included the Center for Latin American Studies, the Jewish-Latino Teen Coalition, the Arizona State Museum, the UA School of Music, The Tucson Museum of Art, and the Chicano/Hispano Student Affairs.

Matinee Program
This program allows middle and high school students to meet with some of our visiting poets and local authors and enjoy a poetry reading by these distinguished guests. In the fall, poet and Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild read to students from Paulo Fiere Freedom School; in the spring, Ilya Kaminsky visited students at the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind.

Field Trips and Resources for Teachers and Parents
The Poetry Center continued to offer free field trips for K-12 teachers and their classes to visit the Poetry Center. This year we hosted 12 classes and introduced over 260 students to our great space. K-12 field trips are led by Poetry Center staff and education interns, and all include a writing activity that allows students to have a hands-on experience with the library collection. In addition to these field trips, the Poetry Center offers online curricula, a quarterly e-newsletter, and a blog for teachers and parents called WordPlay, which includes real-time lessons, activities, book reviews, and other materials. Over the year, WordPlay received 1,200 visits.
Summer Residency

Since 1994 the Poetry Center has sponsored a summer writers’ residency contest, allowing artists to write and use the library while staying in the Poetry Center’s guesthouse. This year a panel of judges selected poet Anne Shaw and prose writer Polly Rosenwaike. In an effort to provide more opportunities for local poets to read at the Poetry Center, Anne gave a reading with poet Karen Rigby from Gilbert, Arizona and poet Melissa Buckheit from Tucson. Polly read with poet Dexter L. Booth from Phoenix and poet Samuel Ace from Tucson.

Supporting University of Arizona Students

Poetry Center Internship Program
As part of the Creative Writing MFA Program’s Writer as Citizen Project, we provided opportunities for three graduate students to receive hands-on experience in 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 Mika Jankowski, Ryan Mills, and Morgan Shnier. Poet Joyelle McSweeney judged the contest.

Winners of the spring UA Student Poetry Contests were selected by poet Zachary Schomburg. The winners included: Meg Wade (Academy of American Poets Prize), Melissa Goodrich and Hannah Enson (Margaret Sterling Awards), and Jessica Jenkins and Cory Aaland (Poetry Center Prizes).

This year, winners collaborated with the UA Book Art Collective to create broadsides of the winning work. These broadsides were on display in the Poetry Center’s library from May 1 – June 1, 2013. A limited edition of the broadsides were also distributed at the UA MFA Graduate Student Readings on May 1 and 2, 2013 at the Poetry Center.

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 44 visits from University classes, serving 875 students from the Honors College, the College of Humanities, the College of Education, and others. These field trips usually include a building tour and creative writing or research activities led by Poetry Center staff.

A Social Media Snapshot
Increased efforts this year in our social media presence has allowed us to connect with a larger audience both nationally and internationally. Our Facebook following as of August 2012 was 2,262, and grew to 5,932 by June 2013. The number of people following the Poetry Center on Twitter has grown from approximately 650 to 1,500 over the same time period. We’ve also created a Twitter account specifically for voca readings.

e-News
Our general interest email list grew from about 3,208 to 4,153 names this year, and we’ve made efforts to further integrate our e-news service into social media accounts to increase user sign-up. Our new, comprehensive bulletin design prominently features upcoming events and provides space for weekly features on voca. Our weekly e-news announcements are opened at a rate of 24-29%.

Our Online Audience

2012-13 Poetry Center Website
Total number of web visitors ............ 54,525
Unique web visitors .................. 31,387
Number of page views ................. 132,812

Most frequently viewed pages:
Homepage
Summer Residency
Classes and Workshops
Readings and Lectures
People
About
Wordplay
Contact

Visitors by Country: Visitors by City:

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Cottage Courtyard & Red Bud – Cybele Knowels
Fundraising Activity

Total Funds Raised $212,341

Programs Endowment
Jimmye and Helen Hillman, $10,079
Randall Rodman Holdridge, $2,750
Boyer Rickel, $10,000
Michael Rattee, $25,000

Richard and Lois Shelton, $10,000
Nancy Warfield, $5,000

Writer As Citizen Program – Poetry Center/Creative Writing Internships
Peggy Shumaker and Joseph Usibelli, $10,000

Sponsorships
Citi Bank, $1,500 (Family Days)
Horizon Health, $1,000 (Family Days)

Reading Series Sponsorships
Chax Press, $1,500
Disability Resources, $1,000
Religious Studies, $250

Volunteers
Over 70 volunteers, including 17 docents, assisted with all programs of the Center, from front desk reception to support of the library and all events. Volunteer support remains critical to the Poetry Center’s ability to present its full range of programming.

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 4,154

Using the State of Arizona estimate of $19.71 (as of 2010) per hour rate, the total value of volunteer hours last year was $81,875.34.

Walt Whitman Circle and Friends of the Poetry Center
We continue to expand community engagement through our Walt Whitman Circle. Our fall gala this year featured a fairy tale theme and talk by Kate Bernheimer. During its second year, our circle grew to include 114 members. Our 2012 fall appeal focused on program awareness; in the spring we focused our fundraising efforts on an appeal to honor Poetry Center outgoing Executive Director Gail Browne. Between our fall and spring appeals and through our continued efforts with the Walt Whitman Circle, we raised a total of $96,662 for program support. Several gifts for this campaign were designated for the Poetry Center Programs Endowment; these gifts are listed in the Programs Endowment gifts above.

Library
The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation for reading digitization, $3,000

Please note: The Poetry Center’s fundraising activity does not include contributions from the University of Arizona.

Fundraising for Programs

Grants
Arizona Commission on the Arts, $5,000
Poets and Writers, $500

Sponsorships
Citi Bank, $1,500 (Family Days)
Horizon Health, $1,000 (Family Days)

Reading Series Sponsorships
Chax Press, $1,500
Disability Resources, $1,000
Religious Studies, $250

Poetry Center Development Committee

Tony Luebbermann Chair
Helen S. Schaefer Co-Chair
Christine Baines
Dianne Bret Harte
Winifred Bundy
Colleen Burns
Sylvia Canelos
Beth Cooper
Alison Deming
Norma Feldman
Jim Hannley
Jim Hensley
Jimmye Hillman
Randall Rodman Holdridge
Matthew Meyer
Elizabeth Rollings
Tom Sanders
Richard Shelton
Susan Wallach
Jim Walsh
Lisa Wise

Ex-Officio
Gail Browne Poetry Center Executive Director
Bill Finley College of Humanities Development Officer
Mary Wildner-Bassett College of Humanities Dean
Julie Lauterbach-Colby Poetry Center Development Coordinator

2012-2013 Docents

Richard and Lois Shelton, $10,000
Nancy Warfield, $5,000

Total Funds Raised $212,341
Members as of June 30, 2013
*denotes charter member

**Lifetime Membership**
Colleen and Jim Burns*
L.R. Benes
Randall Rodman Holdridge*
Michael Rattee*
Boyer Rickel*
Helen and John Schaefer*
Lois and Richard Shelton*
Peggy Shumaker and Joseph Usibelli*

**Sponsor Circle**
Winifred Bundy*
Tori and Langdon Hill
Melanie and Peter Maier*
Robert and Lisa Swift*

**Director’s Circle**
Denise Barnes, Mary Ellen Barnes and David Barnes*
Kate Bernheimer and Brent Hendricks*
Gail Browne and Frances Sjoberg*
Norma and Stanley Feldman*
James and Louise Glasser*
William and Leslie Holmes*
Amanda Hunt and Chris Chavez*
Mauryneen Maxwell and Yvonne Morris*
Tom Sanders and Chris Treptow*
Susan and Les Wallach*
Carol Whiteman*
Mary Wildner-Bassett*

**Benefactor Circle**
Anonymous*
Christine Baines*
Wendy Burk and Eric Magrane*
Thomas Cobb*
Geraldine and Stephen Connolly*
Beth A. Cooper
Alison Deming*
Larry Evers and Barbara Grygutis*
Paul and Dolores Gohdes*
Marilyn Halonen*
Cynthia and Jorgen Hansen*
John Hudak *
John Iurino and Joni Wallace*
Bonnie and Greg Kuykendall*
Richard and Terri Johnson*
Matthew Meyer and Tami Danze*
Thomas and Kerstin Miller*
Donald Pitt Family Foundation*
Joan Robles*
Stacey Richter*
Tim and Kathy Torrington*
Bill and Brenda Viner*
John Wahl and Mary Lou Forier*
Nancy Wall*
James and Judy Walsh*
Lisa Wise and Cameron Cohen*

**Sustainer Circle**
Susan Hardy Aiken and Chris Carroll*
Barbara Allen*
Anonymous*
Anonymous*
David Black*
Dorothy Blake
Debby Jo Blank
Lucinda and Bill Bliss
Susan and William Boyd*
Dianne Bret Harte*
Archibald and Laura Brown*
Sherrye and Kimble Cohn*
Shawn and Kimberly Daly *
Caroline and Terry Daniel*
Ann Dernier and Chris Smith*
Curtis and Elizabeth Dunshee*
Darrell Durham
Elizabeth Evans and Stephen Reitz*
Dennis Evans and Robin Schader*
Karen and Laura Soon Kee Falkenstrom*
Bill Finley*
William Fry*
Judith Gausnell*
Marc and Muriel Goldfeder
John Gray and Nancy Silvas*
Agnes Griffen*
Bruce Gungle*
Jim Hannley and Pamela Powers Hannley*
Edwin and Mary Hartman*
James Hensley*
Joshua M. Hurand and Ashley M McLaren
David and Marsha Irwin*
Frederic and Gayle Jandrey*
Linda Lou Lamb*
Julie and Eric Lauterbach-Colby*
Sylvia Lett Canelos and Alejandro Canelos
Tony and Susan Luebbernann*
Michael and Linda McNulty
Mary Myers
Christopher Nelson*
George and Alice O’Brien
Ann-Eve Pedersen and Peter Eckerstrom*
Marjorie Perloff*
Rodney Phillips*

Siri Phillips
Pamela Portwood and Mark Taylor*
Anita and Jim Rankin
Seymour Reichlin
Elizabeth Rollings and Doug Friman
Barrie Ryan*
Seth Schindler and Diane Dittmore
Robin and David Shambach*
Harriet Silverman*
Lucia Slomkowska*
Bradley Stroup*
Sandra Szlag and Carol Kells*
Christine Szuter and Thomas Sheridan*
Ted and Shirley Taubeneck*
Hale and Holly Thomas-Hilburn*
Henry Tom and Lillian Bazan*
Merle Turchik*
Tom and Barbara Waldron*
David Wagstaff IV and Ashley Wagstaff
Israel Wagnanski*

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
POETRY CENTER