Pima Community College's Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor along with Faculty Senate invite you to be inspired by some of PCC's distinguished faculty. The topics are surviving the Grand Canyon, the aging brain and poetry.

Fall Event Dates

**Tuesday, October 7**
Life, Death and Redemption at the Grand Canyon
By Tom McDonald, Physiology Faculty

Tom McDonald will talk about his hike down the steepest and most remote route to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, the Lava Falls route, and how he remained at the bottom for two days unable to find his way back to the rim. His talk also will cover the geology of the Grand Canyon, its flora and fauna, and spectacular views of regions most people will never visit.

Tom McDonald is an adjunct faculty member at Central Arizona College and Pima. He also is a docent instructor and co-presenter of Sonoran Desert reptiles at Tohono Chul Park. He has taught at the University of California at Santa Barbara, University of New Mexico and Stanford University. McDonald also is a former researcher in the Ion Channel Lab at The University of Arizona College of Medicine. Each summer, McDonald spends a month hiking and camping in remote parts of the Grand Canyon and southern Utah, where he often goes a week or more without coming into contact with other people.

**Tuesday, November 4**
The Aging Brain
By Sarah B. Burger, Ph.D., Psychology Faculty

Sarah Burger will give a presentation on the aging brain, contrasting the healthy aging process with prodromal or early dementia processes. She will identify and debunk common myths about aging, highlight normal age-related changes to memory and cognition, and identify compensatory strategies older adults can employ in order to minimize the impact of age-related processes on daily functioning. She also will define dementia, discuss its various causes and relay research findings regarding potential risk and protective factors for developing dementia.

Sarah Burger has been an adjunct faculty member in Pima's Psychology Department since 2012. She also teaches undergraduate courses at The University of Arizona, supervises doctoral students through UA’s departmental clinic and works full time in private practice as a clinical neuropsychologist while pursuing board certification. She earned her Ph.D., in Clinical Psychology from UA and was licensed as a psychologist in 2013. She continues to do research and is designing a project to investigate the influence of mindfulness meditation on aging and age-related cognitive changes.

**Tuesday, December 2**
The U.S. Poetry Academy
By Kristen Hoggatt, Writing Faculty

Kristen Hoggatt's presentation will include a reading of her selected poems and discussion of her U.S. Peace Corps service in Uzbekistan (2003-2005) and living abroad. She worked in Egypt and Uzbekistan for three years.

Kristen Hoggatt has been an adjunct faculty member in Pima’s Writing Department since 2012. She received her Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing from Emerson College, Boston. Her chapbook, “Arab Winter,” was published by Finishing Line Press. Her poems also have appeared in The Sow's Ear Poetry Review, The Ledge Magazine, Nimrod International Journal and The Smart Set, where she also was the “Ask a Poet” advice columnist from 2008-2011.