For Immediate Release

Brian Turner Receives 2016 Guggenheim Fellowship

Incline Village, Nev. (April 5, 2016) – Brian Turner, author of the acclaimed war memoir My Life as a Foreign Country, and director of the low-residency MFA program for creative writing at Sierra Nevada College at Lake Tahoe, has been named one of the 2016 Guggenheim Fellows by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

The Board of Trustees of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation approved the awarding of 175 Guggenheim Fellowships (including three joint Fellowships) to a diverse group of 178 scholars, artists, and scientists. Appointed on the basis of prior achievement and exceptional promise, the successful candidates were chosen from a group of nearly 3,000 applicants in the Foundation’s ninety-second competition. The Foundation also awards several other prestigious international awards each year, including the Fields Medal, the National Book Award, and the Nobel Prize.

Turner, whose other accolades include the 2010 T.S. Eliot Prize Shortlist, the 2009 Amy Lowell Poetry Travelling Scholarship, the 2007 Poet’s Prize, and the 2007 NEA Literature Fellowship in Poetry, and a Lannan Fellowship, among many others, recently established the Brian Turner Literary Arts Prize at SNC Tahoe, where he helped to build the region’s first low-residency program in creative writing in 2012. Turner is a cornerstone of the literary community that is centered at Lake Tahoe, and in the program he encourages new writers — veterans and non-veterans alike—to write courageously and nurture each other’s creative work.

Brian Turner earned an MFA from the University of Oregon before serving for seven years in the US Army, where he was an infantry team leader for a year in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Prior to that, he deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina with the 10th Mountain Division (1999-2000). He was featured in the documentary film Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience, which was nominated for an Academy Award. His prior works include Here, Bullet and Phantom Noise.

Resources:  www.brianturner.org
  Turner Literary Arts Prize at SNC Tahoe
  The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation

Word Count: 309
Image information: Brian Turner headshot

---

ABOUT SIERRA NEVADA COLLEGE: Located on the shores of Lake Tahoe and in the heart of the Sierra Nevada, SNC Tahoe is Nevada’s only accredited private four-year college. With a focus on four core themes (entrepreneurial thinking, professional preparedness, liberal arts and sustainability), Sierra Nevada College is committed to using active learning and fostering a culture of competition that guides students to think on their feet, communicate persuasively, acquire the higher-order thinking skills necessary to thrive in the real world.