



## PRESS RELEASE FOR CREATIVE WRITING FELLOWSHIPS

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**DATE:** December 13, 2016

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### **National Endowment for the Arts Announces FY 2017 Creative Writing Fellowships *MFA@FLA Alumnus Hai-Dang Phan (MFA, 2013) among 37 recipients nationwide***

Washington, D.C. — This week, the National Endowment for the Arts announced that Hai-Dang Phan is one of 37 writers to receive an FY 2017 individual creative writing fellowships of \$25,000.

“The NEA has an excellent record of supporting writers who have gone on to have impressive literary careers,” said NEA Director of Literature Amy Stolls. “With their talent and diverse backgrounds, this year’s Creative Writing Fellows, including Hai-Dang Phan, will add to our country’s rich literary history.”

“What a tremendous honor it is to have my work recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts,” said Phan. “I am completing the manuscript for my first book of poetry. In addition to the windfall of time and money, this fellowship gives me a big boost of confidence and affirmation to write the poems I still need to write. It also gives me the added hope that these poems might matter not only to me, but also others.”

A 2013 graduate of UF’s Creative Writing Program, Phan studied poetry with Michael Hofmann, William Logan, and Sidney Wade. “I have nothing but love and wild gratitude for MFA@FLA” Phan said. “The writing and reading, the leaning and loafing I did in Gainesville has shaped me and my writing in all the best of ways.”

Currently an assistant professor of English at Grinnell College, Phan is the author of the chapbook *Small Wars* (Convulsive Editions, 2016). His poems have been published in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *Best American Poetry 2016*, *New England Review*, *jubilat*, and other journals. His awards include the Frederick Bock Prize from *Poetry* magazine, the *New England Review* Emerging Writers Award, a scholarship from the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, and a fellowship from the Thomas J. Watson Foundation. Born in Vietnam and raised in Wisconsin, he currently lives in Des Moines.

Phan was selected from more than 1,800 eligible applicants. Through its creative writing fellowships program, the National Endowment for the Arts gives writers the time and space to create, revise, conduct research, and connect with readers. Applications are reviewed through an anonymous process on their artistic excellence. Fellowships alternate between poetry and prose each year and in FY 2017 fellowships are in poetry. The full list of FY 2017 Creative Writing Fellows is available [here](#).

Many American recipients of the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry and Fiction were recipients of NEA creative writing fellowships early in their careers. For more information on NEA Creative Writing Fellowships, visit the NEA’s [Writers' Corner](#).

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