



## 2014 Inductees to the South Carolina Academy of Authors

**John Lane** is a Professor of English and Environmental Studies and the Director of the Goodall Environmental Studies Center at Wofford College. As a poet, essayist, and author John Lane has been teaching students in English and creative writing since 1988. He is also the co-founder and a board member of The Hub City Writers Project in Spartanburg

Lane's writings on nature and the environment have been published widely, and he has worked on a range of projects related to this ecological focus. In 2001 he and a Wofford biology colleague designed a freshman learning community called "The Nature & Culture of Water," funded as part of a \$250,000 National Science Foundation grant. Since 2002, he has taught learning community workshops in New Hampshire, California, Washington State, Oklahoma, and Illinois on the collaboration between science and the humanities around the theme of water.

At Wofford, Lane has continued to explore and teach in the world of Southern literature. In 2004 he and creative writing colleague Deno Trakas received a grant from the Watson-Brown Foundation to develop a series of courses called "Cornbread & Sushi" exploring the changing rural South through contemporary literature. The success of the three-course sequence resulted in a book by the same name and a grant extension for another year. Lane and Trakas have traveled with their students through sections of South, meeting writers in their element and learning about the ways in which community and the environment influence these writers' work. In 2008 John Lane's extensive literary papers were acquired by Texas Tech University's James Sowell Family Collection of Literature, Community, and the Natural World. 2008 also saw the publication of a collection of columns from his *Kudzu Telegraph* (on-line and in the *Spartanburg Journal*)

*My Paddle to the Sea* (2011) is Lane's book-length narrative about important Southeastern water issues framed by a kayak trip from his backyard in the South Carolina Piedmont 200 miles to the Atlantic ocean. Of his 2012 collection of essays, *Begin with Rock, End with Water*, one reviewer writes: "As Lane, a lifelong southeasterner, meditates on treks down eastern rivers, up western mountains, and through Mexican waterfalls, the reader has a dependable home within his lively and lyrical prose." His poetry has also received significant critical recognition. His collection *Abandoned Quarry: New and Selected Poems* won the 2012 award for poetry from SIBA (Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance).



Image Courtesy Wofford College

*John Lane*