

Bland Simpson

Kenan Distinguished Professor, Department of English & Comparative Literature, College of Arts and Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC, US

Bland Simpson is an award-winning author, musician, playwright and songwriter and an expert on N.C.'s coast and waterways.

A teacher since 1982 in UNC-Chapel Hill's Creative Writing Program, and the program's director from 2002 to mid-2008, Bland Simpson is Kenan Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing, and is author of a number of books. In September 2015, UNC Press published Simpson's "Little Rivers & Waterway Tales: A Carolinian's Eastern Streams," with photography by Ann Cary Simpson. He is also the author of "The Great Dismal: A Carolinian's Swamp Memoir," "Into the Sound Country: A Carolinian's Coastal Plain," and "The Inner Islands: A Carolinian's Sound Country Chronicle." "Little Rivers and Waterway Tales" is a finalist for the Southern Environmental Law Center's Reed Writing Award and a nominee for the Southern Independent Booksellers' Pat Conroy Book Prize, Nonfiction. A member of the Tony Award-winning, internationally acclaimed stringband The Red Clay Ramblers since 1986, Simpson has toured extensively in North America, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and has also collaborated on, or contributed to, the following musicals: "King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running: Songs & Stories of the Carolina Coast"; "Diamond Studs; Hot Grog; Life on the Mississippi"; "Lone Star Love, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Texas"; Tony-nominee "Pump Boys & Dinettes"; "Cool Spring; Tar Heel Voices"; "Kudzu, A Southern Musical"; and three-time Broadway hit and Special Tony Award-winning "Fool Moon." In November, 2005, Simpson was given the North Carolina Award for Fine Arts, the state's highest civilian honor.

Creative Writing, North Carolina's coast and waterways, Writing on the Natural World, Coastal Studies, Musical theater, Playwriting, Songwriting, Creative nonfiction, Southern Literature

The Red Clay Ramblers : Member, The Coastal Cohorts: Member, American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) : Member, Center for the Study of the American South Advisory Board : Member, North Carolina Coastal Federation President's Council

Immerse Yourself in the World of Author Bland Simpson

Meet & Greet

North Carolina Maritime History Council 2015 Conference

Lecture

Lawson's Legacy: Nature writing and North Carolina, 1701-200

Reading

The Friends of the Canal Museum and Trail Lecture Series

Lecture

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
B.A. political science

Edward Kidder Graham Award
2018

UNC-Chapel Hill General Alumni Association's Faculty Service Award
2015

Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professorship
2006-2011

Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching
2006, 1998

North Caroliniana Award for Extraordinary Contributions to the Literature, Music and Culture of North Carolina
2010 Given by the North Carolina Society

R. Hunt Parker Award for Significant Contributions to the Literature of North Carolina
2009 Given by the N.C. Literary and Historical Association

The North Carolina Award for Fine Arts
2005 Sometimes referred to as the "Nobel Prize of North Carolina," The North Carolina Award is the highest civilian award bestowed by the U.S. state of North Carolina. It is awarded in the four fields of science, literature, the fine arts, and public service.

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