

Bland Simpson

Kenan Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing

Bland Simpson has taught in the Creative Writing Program at UNC-Chapel Hill since 1982. He is the author of nine books, primarily creative non-fiction about eastern North Carolina, including *Into the Sound Country* and *Little Rivers & Waterway Tales* (with photography by Ann Cary Simpson, his wife) and *The Coasts of Carolina* (with photography by Scott Taylor).

A member of the Tony Award-winning stringband The Red Clay Ramblers since 1986, Simpson has toured extensively in North America, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and has collaborated on the musicals *King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running*, *Diamond Studs*, *Hot Grog*, *Life on the Mississippi*, *Kudzu*, and three-time Broadway hit *Fool Moon*.

Simpson is the recipient of two Chapman Awards (1998, 2006) and one Tanner Award (2004) for Excellence in Teaching at UNC-Chapel Hill, as well as the UNC General Alumni Association's Faculty Service Award (2015), North Caroliniana Society Award (2010), John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities from the NC Humanities Council (2017), and North Carolina Award for Fine Arts (2005), the state's highest civilian honor.