

## Martin Lammon

### Biographical Information

**Martin Lammon** holds the Fuller E. Callaway endowed Flannery O'Connor Chair in Creative Writing at Georgia College & State University and coordinates the MFA in Creative Writing Program there. His collection of poems *News from Where I Live* won the Arkansas Poetry Award, and his poems and creative nonfiction essays have appeared in such journals as *Black Warrior Review*, *Connecticut Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Iowa Review*, *Midwest Quarterly*, *Nimrod*, *Poets & Writers*, *Ploughshares*, *Puerto del Sol*, and *West Branch*. W. S. Merwin selected his poems for a 1997 *Nimrod*/Hardman Pablo Neruda Prize. He is also the editor of *Written in Water*, *Written in Stone: Twenty Years of Poets on Poetry*, part of the University of Michigan Press's distinguished Poets on Poetry Series. He is editor and founder of *Arts & Letters Journal of Contemporary Culture*, which debuted in 1999. From 1998-2003, I served on the AWP Board of Directors and was president from 2000-2002. An active member of AWP for 20 years, I helped to establish the endowment for the AWP Award Series Donald Hall Poetry Prize, and I was especially active in fund raising efforts for the AWP conferences in New Orleans (2002) and Atlanta (2007). In 1995, I sold my house, took a leave of absence from my teaching job, and lived for a season in Costa Rica. That experience is the subject of my recently completed creative nonfiction memoir, *Almost Paradise: A Romance*. Early versions of chapters from that memoir were selected as runner-up for the 2003 Iowa Award in Literary Nonfiction, published in *The Iowa Review*, and co-winner of the Lamar York Prize, published in *The Chattahoochee Review*. I have also recently completed a new collection of poetry, *All Souls*, featuring previously uncollected poems first published in *The Atlanta Review*, *Chelsea*, *The Dos Passos Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Margie Review*, *Mid-America Review*, *The Southern Review*, and other journals. Since 1997, I have lived in Milledgeville, Georgia, with my wife, Libby.

### Campaign Statement

election as the Southeast Region Program Directors' representative to AWP's board of directors—a position that I previously held from 1998-2003—I understand that I would represent two primary constituencies: Southeast Region program directors and faculty, and those programs' talented students. However, in my life (raised and educated in Ohio; a former resident of Connecticut and Pennsylvania), I have also been an adjunct instructor, a summer conference coordinator, and a faculty member not affiliated with a full-fledged university creative writing program. I would, then, ably represent all constituencies within our region, and beyond our region.

As a past AWP board member and former board president (I became the Southeast Region representative at the 1998 conference in Portland, Oregon), I helped support the effort (largely thanks to our dedicated and loyal administrative staff) that preserved AWP after we nearly had to close down in 1995-1996, and that ultimately led to one of the greatest success stories in the history of non-profit literary organizations. I was conference chair for the 2002 conference in New Orleans, and although many members don't remember that site's hotel very fondly, attendance that year grew to 2,500 (we were thrilled in 2000 when 1,500 people attended the Kansas City conference) and sponsorship more than tripled.

Since then, our membership has grown, and our conference has doubled and tripled (more than 5,000 attendees in Atlanta; then about 8,000 attendees in New York and Chicago). Sponsorship has increased even more. This growth has been remarkable, and now, after seven years off the AWP board of directors, after completing two new book projects, and after managing similar growth at my own program, I would like to offer my services again to our association and pick up where I left off. AWP faces many challenges (the best kind, but still requiring our due diligence) created by its exponential growth. My experience in academic administration and programming, fund-raising, fiscal management, and literary advocacy, will allow me to provide our region, and all of AWP's membership, the best representation possible. I hope you will let me step up and continue what I helped to build a decade ago. Thank you for your support.