



The South Carolina Academy of Authors will induct four new writers into the Palmetto State's literary hall of fame in a weekend featuring an awards dinner, free public conversations, exhibitions, and tours in Beaufort, April 27–29. The SCAA's 32nd annual induction weekend will honor the literary contributions of James Beard Award-winning cookbook author

Nathalie Dupree

,
New York Times
best-selling novelist

Mary Alice Monroe

, Pushcart Prize-winning fiction writer

Valerie Sayers

, and dramatist and first director of the SC Academy of Fine Arts

John Blake White

(1781–1859).

As Beaufort is also the adopted hometown of best-selling author and 1988 SCAA honoree **Pat Conroy**

, the weekend's events will include tours and exhibitions honoring Conroy's lasting literary legacy.

Playwright and SCAA board member **Jon Tuttle will** accept John Blake White's award on behalf of the late dramatist. "Until now his work has been shrouded in obscurity," says Tuttle,

“and it is very much a product of its time and therefore

very different from what we'd call modern drama. But this is why it's important to recognize it and him: drama served then, as it does now, as a cultural and political sounding board, an occasion for a community to get together and see discussed the issues of their day.”

Tuttle thinks it especially fitting that the SCAA induction weekend will include tours of the Pat Conroy Literary Center. “Conroy had his mentors---like James Dickey—and current writers have Conroy and others to hold as exemplars of dedication and vision. That's kind of what the SC Academy of Authors is about — celebrating that continuity and consanguinity. Plus, having our event at the Conroy Center (in part) lends the event considerable dignity, which it deserves. And we're lucky to have Jonathan Haupt (Conroy Center director) on our board.

Lowcountry Weekly asked the three living honorees – Dupree, Monroe and Sayers –to share their thoughts on their upcoming induction...

When you're inducted into the SCAA, you'll be joining some legendary figures in southern literature. What does it mean to you to be invited into this pantheon?



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