Dr. Lane was the first woman to be elected a Fellow of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association. She was elected in 1984.

Dr. Lane is now retired, but was a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of California - Davis. She is Professor Emerita in the same department. Throughout her academic career, she has consistently focused on consumer interests and had a genuine concern for consumer welfare. Dr. Lane was the first consumer economist appointed in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Davis. Over the course of her career, her research interests included consumer credit, consumer class actions, health care and rural health service delivery, housing, tax incidence, elderly needs assessment, low income nutrition, and food stamps.

CWAE administers the Sylvia Lane Mentor Fellowship in her honor.

Dr. Lane received her B.A. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley, her M.A. in Economics from University of California, Berkeley, and her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1957.