

ANNE C. WARD

Boone, North Carolina

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EDUCATION

M.F.A. Film/Video (documentary thesis), Columbia College, Chicago, IL

B.A. American Studies, Trinity College, Hartford, CT

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024 to present **Associate Professor, Department of Communication**
Appalachian State University, Boone NC

Affiliate Faculty Member, Center for Appalachian Studies
Appalachian State University, Boone NC

Courses taught:

- COM 1600 Fundamentals of Electronic Media
- COM 2416 Video Production
- COM 3301 Writing for Electronic Media
- COM 3313 Professional Ethics in Electronic Media
- COM 3316 Television Studio Production
- COM 3320 Audio Video Production (iPad version)
- COM 3540 Special Topics: Professional Video Production
- COM 4580 EM/B Senior Seminar

2018 to 2024 **Assistant Professor, Department of Communication**
Appalachian State University, Boone NC

2011–2017 **Lecturer, Department of Communication**
Appalachian State University, Boone NC

Courses taught:

- COM 2101 Public Speaking
- COM 2300 Introduction to Mass Communication
- COM 2416 Video 1
- COM 3301 Writing for Electronic Media
- COM 3320 Audio Video Production (video camera version)
- COM 3618 PR Writing
- COM 4416 Video Production II
- COM 4418 Public Relations Seminar (capstone)

JURIED/PEER-REVIEWED FILM FESTIVALS & COMPETITIONS

“Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture: Farm, Food & Community” – a documentary (RT 21:45) that looks at the community impact of Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture (BRWIA), a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 by women to help women farmers in the High Country of western North Carolina. The film explores the 20-year development of BRWIA and the local food pathways this organization has created for the Appalachian counties of Watauga, Ashe and Avery. Link to this documentary (password required):

<https://vimeo.com/952483861?ts=0&share=copy>

Screenings and recognition:

- **International:**
 - 2025 Oregon Documentary Film Festival – based in Portland, OR. A juried film festival that screens international independent documentary films, series and experimental films, established in 2017. This festival accepts 25% of its international submissions. Award finalist in the Best Documentary category.
 - 2025 Spotlight Documentary Film Awards – Awarded the Silver Award in this international documentary film competition founded in 2014 and based in Atlanta, GA. This documentary competition celebrates the art of nonfiction storytelling by recognizing exceptional documentary filmmakers from around the globe.
- **National:**
 - 2025 Raleigh Film & Art Festival – based in Raleigh, NC. A juried film festival that defines itself as a showcase for "the best talent at the largest film & art festival in the country." Established in 2013.
- **Community impact: several hundred people in the community viewed the film across four local screenings:**
 - Blowing Rock Art History Museum (BRAHM) screening, April 10, 2025
 - Sustainability Program screening, March 18, 2025, Three Top Room 169, Plemmons Student Union
 - One of the films screened at the “Documenting Our Common Humanity: Climate, Community, Resilience” block of the Boone Docs Film Festival, held at the Appalachian Theatre on Feb. 22, 2025, sponsored by High Country Humanities.
 - Appalachian State University Community FEaST Event, in conjunction with the Sustainability Program, screening and panelist discussion in the

Solarium. Oct. 22, 2024, 5-7pm. CANCELLED DUE TO HURRICANE HELENE

- Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, screening held on Sept. 6, 2024 to an audience of about 80 people.

“WASU at 50: College Radio As It’s Meant To Be” – a documentary (RT 18:30) on WASU-FM’s first 50 years. Completed as a faculty/student collaboration in my fall 2021 COM 3540 special topics class. Served as producer/director/editor of the documentary and supervised student contributions to the video. Link to this documentary (hosted on the department’s website):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZTz-WqNBxE>

Screenings and recognition:

- **International:**
 - **2023 Festival of Media Arts Award of Excellence** – awarded by the Broadcast Education Association’s (BEA) Festival of Media Arts, an international juried competition. The 2023 winners were selected from a pool of more than 1,650 entries from more than 300 colleges and universities. Less than 22% of the submissions were recognized with awards.
 - This film was judged in the Mixed/Pedagogical category: “Entries to this category must be the substantive work of a full-time faculty member; students can only assist with the production process,” as per BEA guidelines.
 - The Award of Excellence is awarded to films that “connote superior quality works, parallel in idea to the research published in a refereed journal,” as s per BEA FAQs.
 - **2024 North Carolina Film Festival**, based in New Bern, NC. Peer-reviewed international film festival that celebrates diversity and inclusion, established in 2019. “Honorable Mention” in the documentary short category.
- **National:**
 - **2024 Blackbird Film Festival**, held in Cortland, NY. A peer-reviewed national film festival established in 2015. “Honorable Mention” in the documentary short category, making it a finalist in the competition.
- **Regional:**
 - **2024 Longleaf Film Festival**, based in Raleigh, NC. Peer-reviewed regional festival established in 2015.

“Fog Likely Farm: An Appalachian Story” – a documentary (RT - 27:35) focused on the lives two local artists and the lessons learned on Fog Likely Farm. Co-directed with Chip Williams, Associate Professor in the Art Department; I additionally served as writer/editor of the documentary. Link to this documentary:

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/489387277>

Screenings and recognition:

- **International:**
 - **2021 RiverRun International Film Festival**, based in Winston-Salem and established in 1998. An international, peer-reviewed, Oscar® qualifying festival for the documentary short category. In 2021, RiverRun accepted 134 films representing 24 countries, with an acceptance rate of less than 9% of all films submitted.
 - **2021 Spotlight Documentary Film Awards** – awarded the Silver Award from this international, juried documentary film competition founded in 2014 and based in Atlanta, GA. Silver awards are “awarded to unforgettable films with the third highest scores from our panel,” ss per the Spotlight Documentary Awards criteria.
- **National:**
 - **2021 University Film and Video Association** – selected for peer review and screening at the national association’s annual conference, which was held virtually in 2021 due to COVID. UFVA was established in 1947 and is, according to the UFVA website, “the leading association in the United States dedicated to the promotion and study of moving image practice in higher education.”
 - **2021 Footcandle Film Festival**, based in Hickory, NC. Peer-reviewed national film festival established in 2015 to bring “unique, challenging and entertaining films to western NC.”
- **Regional:**
 - **2022 Carrboro Film Festival**, Carrboro, NC. Peer-reviewed regional film festival established in 2005. Festival is billed as a “celebration of Southern cinema.”
 - **2022 Boone Docs Film Festival**, Boone, NC. Part of a special invited screening to kick off the inaugural regional film festival celebrating Appalachian culture.
 - **2021 Longleaf Film Festival**, based in Raleigh, NC. Peer-reviewed regional festival established in 2015.

“A Father’s Dream” – a documentary (RT: 6:54) about the family influences that inspired fine-woodworker David Finck, based in Western North Carolina, to move his career from fine woodworking into violinmaking. I co-directed with Chip Williams; I also served as writer/editor of the documentary. Link to this documentary:

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/194288679>

Screenings and recognition:

- **International:**
 - **2018 Newport Beach Film Festival**, held in Newport Beach, CA. Peer-reviewed international festival established in 1999.
- **National:**
 - **2018 Blackbird Film Festival**, held in Cortland, NY. Peer-reviewed national festival established in 2015. For the 2018 festival, Blackbird accepted only seven percent of the total submissions.
- **Regional:**
 - **2018 Longleaf Film Festival**, held in Raleigh, NC. Peer-reviewed regional festival established in 2015.
 - **2018 Boone Film Festival**, Boone, NC. Peer-reviewed festival that ran from 2015 – 2019.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Ward, A.C. (2023), “An Experiment with Art and Trash.” *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, 29(1).

Ward, A.C. (2023), “Digital Watauga: Creating an ‘Archival Memory’ for an Appalachian Community.” *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, 29(2).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PAPERS

- Ward, A.C. and Williams, C.H. "Notes from the Field: A Look at the Work of Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture." Paper presented at the *Legacies of Environmental History and Farming in Appalachia* session at the **2024 Appalachian Studies Association national conference** at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina.
- Ward, A.C. "Digital Watauga: Creating an 'Archival Memory' for an Appalachian Community." Paper presented at the *Media Influences on Cultural Understanding* session at the **2023 Appalachian Studies Association national conference** held in at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.
- Ward, A.C. "Our Appalachian Home: A Journey of Discovery." Paper presented at the *Placemaking* session at the **2022 Appalachian Studies Association national conference** held at West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.
- Ward, A.C. Virtual panelist on the "*Pandemic Video Production: Are Student Solo Projects the Only Way to Fly?*" panel at **2021 Broadcast Education Association (BEA) national conference**. Conducted virtually due to coronavirus pandemic.
- Ward, A.C. "Lessons Learned Teaching Writing and Video Production." Presented at the *Good, the Bad, and the Not-So-Great Production Projects: Shifting from Mediocre to A-Level* panel at the **2020 Broadcast Education Association (BEA) national conference**. Conducted virtually in due to coronavirus pandemic.
- Ward, A.C. "A Field Producer's Guide to Teaching Multicam Production." Presented at the *How Do You Teach Multicam Production?* panel at the **2020 Broadcast Education Association (BEA) national conference**. Conducted virtually due to coronavirus pandemic.
- Ward, A.C. "Bridging the Divide: Teaching Visual Literacy to the Snapchat Generation." Presented at the *On Teaching Visual Literacy* panel at the **2019 Broadcast Education Association (BEA) national conference** in Las Vegas, NV.
- Ward, A.C. Panelist on the *On Writing* panel at the **2016 Carolinas Communication Association Conference** held in Wilmington, NC.
- Ward, A.C. Panelist on the '*Did You Really Just Ask Me That?*' *Responding with Civility to Inquiries about Multiple Birth Children* panel at **2013 Carolinas Communication Association Conference** held in Charlotte, NC.

CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- 2025 **Award Finalist** in the Best Documentary category at the Oregon Documentary Film Festival (international) for “Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture: Farm, Food & Community.”
- 2025 **Silver Award** from Spotlight Documentary Film Awards, an international competition, for “Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture: Farm, Food & Community.”
- 2023 **Award of Excellence** for “WASU-FM at 50: College Radio As It’s Meant To Be”, an 18-minute documentary on the history of WASU-FM. Awarded by the Broadcast Education Association’s Festival of Media Arts, an international competition.
- 2021 **Silver Award** from Spotlight Documentary Film Awards, an international competition, for “Fog Likely Farm: An Appalachian Story,” a 28-minute documentary on the lives two local artists and the lessons learned on Fog Likely Farm.

INDUSTRY AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 2010 **MarCom Platinum award** for the C.A.R.E.S. Alliance brochure, which provided information about Covidien’s new patient safety initiative. MarCom Awards is international competition for marketing and communication professionals. I served as writer on this project.
- 1996 **Bob Award** for *Lights Up!* This award recognizes the best local video work broadcast on Chicago PBS/WTTW’s Image Union show.
- 1995 **Recipient of the Rosebud Scholarship** for outstanding graduate work. Columbia College, Chicago IL.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Broadcast Education Association (BEA)
- Appalachian Studies Association (ASA)
- University Film and Video Association (UFVA)

SERVICE

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE – LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- Engineer Search Committee chair: 2023-2024
- Technology Committee chair: 2022-2024, member 2020 – 2024
- Annual Review Committee chair, 2022-2024
- Spring Forward Planning Committee event organizer & chair: 2018-2020

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE – COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- Search Committees:
 - COM Studies Lecturer Search Committee, 2025
 - EM/B – DJ Faculty Search Committee, 2024
 - AppTV General Manager Search Committee, 2023
 - EM/B Faculty Search Committee lecturer search, 2023
 - EM/B Faculty Search Committee practitioner-in-residence search, 2023
 - EM/B Faculty Search Committee, 2022
 - EM/B Faculty Search Committee, 2020
- APT P&T document revision **Subset Committee**, 2025 – present
- APT Committee, 2024 – present
- Strategic Planning Committee, 2024 – present
- Public Speaking Committee member, 2019–2022
- Alumni Committee member, 2019-2020
- EM/B PCR Committee member, 2019
- Scholarship Committee member, 2018-2019
- Social Media Committee member, 2018 – 2019
- Social/Intellectual Committee 2011-2016, **Chair**: 2015-2016.
- Events Committee member, 2015-2016

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- University AP&P Committee, 2024–present
- **Writing In the Discipline consultant** for the 2021–2022 academic year. Worked with Appalachian State’s Writing Across the Curriculum faculty and discussed methods for teaching writing in the disciplines.
- **Discussion leader** for the university’s common reading program, 2014, 2015 and 2016

STUDENT ADVISING

- **Advisor**, advise between 25 to 40 students, depending on the semester
- Faculty Advisor, National Broadcast Society, 2019–2021
- Faculty Advisor, Hi Neighbor! 2018–2020

FILM FESTIVAL CURATION

- **Festival Organizer & Judge**, Boone Docs Film Festival, 2021 through present (regional)

- One of the founding organizers of the festival, a showcase for films that reflect on and celebrate the Appalachian region.
- Judge the documentaries
- Curate the festival
- Develop/write promotional materials

FILM FESTIVAL JUROR (PEER REVIEW)

- **Juror**, BEA Festival of the Arts, student documentary competition, 2023 & 2025 (international)
- **Juror**, BEA Festival of the Arts, faculty documentary competition, 2024 (international)
- **Juror**, Footcandle Film Festival, feature documentary competition, 2022 (national)
- **Juror**, BEA Festival of Arts, faculty documentary competition, 2019 (international)
- **Juror**, Boone Film Festival, student competition, 2018 (regional) documentary film festival

MEDIA PROJECTS WITH COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Writer, “Electronic Media/Broadcasting Production Team Produced a Proof-of-Concept Video for PBS Member Stations.” Shared on the College of Fine and Applied Arts and Department of Communication websites on March 19, 2025.
<https://communication.appstate.edu/news/electronic-mediabroadcasting-production-team-produced-proof-concept-video-pbs-member-stations>
- Writer, “February 21-22: 4th Annual Boone Docs Film Festival.” News release about the films to be screened in the 2025 Boone Docs Film Festival. Shared on the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Fine and Applied Arts websites on January 30, 2025.
<https://cas.appstate.edu/news/february-21-22-4th-annual-boone-docs-film-festival>
- Writer, “Appalachian State University Electronic Media/Broadcasting Senior Graduating with Emmy Nomination.” News release about Will Allen’s work on “Sacred Dog,” an ESPN E60 documentary on the beauty and dangers of the Indian Relay horse races. Shared on the College of Fine & Applied Art’s website on April 25, 2024.
<https://faa.appstate.edu/news/appalachian-state-university-electronic-media-broadcasting-senior-graduating-emmy-nomination>
- Writer, “Appalachian State University’s Speech and Debate Team Wraps Up a Successful Year.” News release about the successes achieved by our debate team in 2022-2023 competitions. Shared on the department’s website and linked to from the College of Fine & Applied Art’s website on May 22, 2023.
<https://communication.appstate.edu/news/appalachian-state-university’s-speech-and-debate-team-wraps-successful-year>
- Writer, “Department of Communication Receives Multiple Awards at Broadcast Association National Conference.” News release about BEA awards received by the communication department, published on the university’s College of Fine and Applied Arts website on April 26, 2023.
<https://faa.appstate.edu/news/department-communication-receives-multiple-awards-broadcast-education-association-national>
- Writer, “Showcasing the Beauty and Complexity of Appalachia.” News release on Boone Docs Film Festival, picked up by local media outlets and shared on the university’s College of Fine and Applied Arts website on Feb. 16, 2023.
(<https://faa.appstate.edu/news/boone-docs-film-festival-collaboration-between-app-state-and-app-theatre-returns-february-25-2>)
- Writer, “App State Student Works Toward his Dream of Becoming a NASCAR Broadcaster.” Profile of EM/B student Noah Cornelius, published on the university’s College of Fine and Applied Arts website on Aug. 20, 2022.
(<https://faa.appstate.edu/news/app-state-student-works-toward-his-dream-becoming-nascar-broadcaster>)

- Writer, director and video editor, “Friends of Watauga” – documentary short (RT: 1:42.) Produced as a promotional video in 2019 in collaboration with members of High Country WATCH, a local, all-volunteer, nonprofit environmental advocacy group. (<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/364202156>)
- Writer, co-director (with Chip Williams) and video editor, “Gail E. Haley: A Conversation with the Artist” – a short video profile of the award-winning artist Gail Haley; video commissioned for the Blowing Rock Art History Museum for the museum to use during the 2017 Haley exhibition (<https://vimeo.com/241415799>); video also is included on Gail Haley’s professional website: (<http://gailehaley.com/exhibition-interview/>).

LOCAL PRESENTATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibitor, “Watauga County USA” multimedia website included “From Here: The Bioregional Imagination in Recent Art by Appalachian State University Professors” at the Hiddenite Art and Heritage Center, Hiddenite NC. (Exhibit ran from 1/18/21 – 2/26/21.)
- Exhibitor, 2020 Fine and Applied Arts Faculty Biennial. Featuring images and words from our “Watauga County USA” multi-media project. Worked in collaboration with Chip Williams; I provided the copy; Chip provided the images used in the exhibition.
- Multimedia website, “Watauga County USA” – work-in-progress launched in 2019 – developed and launched the website (<http://www.wataugacountyusa.com>) for this multi-media project; began populating the website with stories. This project incorporates video, stills and text to tell the multifaceted story of Watauga County, an influential county located within Appalachia. Co-producing this ongoing project with Chip Williams.
- “The Accidental Appalachian” – a talk presented at the inaugural Spoken Traditions of Appalachia event in 2018, sponsored by the Department of Communication’s AppSpeaks program.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- WID and Capstone Course Re/Design Institute – a three-day intensive institute to re-envision my COM 3301 Writing for Electronic Media, held on campus from May 13 – May 15, 2025
- LinkedIn Learning certificate earned for “Introduction to Video Color Correcting.” May, 2024.
- LinkedIn Learning certificate earned for “After Effects 2021 Essential Training: The Basics.” May, 2024.
- “The Independent Filmmaker’s Production Packet” – an interactive, in-person workshop on legal documents needed by independent filmmakers, led by entertainment attorney Thomas Varnum. Held at Longleaf Film Festival in Raleigh, North Carolina, May 2024.
- LinkedIn Learning certificate earned for “How to Research and Write Using Generative AI Tools.” 2023.
- Panelist/Attendee, 2022 Writing Across the Institutions Conference. Held at Appalachian State in April 2022.
- WID / Capstone Course Redesign Institute, offered by Appalachian State’s Writing Across the Curriculum program – two day seminar providing information to be used to revise my COM 3301 Writing for Electronic Media course. 2021.
- Reel South: Reel Digital 2020 – full day virtual lab aiming to connect content creators based in the south to local public media stations. Sponsored by PBS and local PBS stations including UNC-TV.
- Agile Learning Academy by Appalachian State’s Center for Academic Excellence. 2020
- NC State’s Designing Effective Online Courses, 2020.
- Online Learning Consortium Workshop: New to Online, Essentials Part 2: Converting your Course to Online. 2020.
- Online Learning Consortium Workshop: Creating Effective Assessments. 2020.
- Online Learning Consortium Workshop: Engagement. 2020.

- Faculty Instructional Development: attended multiple Active Learning seminars sponsored by Appalachian's Center for Academic Excellence. 2019.
- Adobe Certification: 60 second documentary production and editing course. 2019.
- Training session in Black Magic's Davinci Resolve editing system at BEA national convention. 2019.
- BEA Studio Showcase and Training Workshop, Elon University, Elon, NC. Received training on broadcast production workflows. 2018.
- Premiere Pro training, Ledet Training, Atlanta, GA. 2016.
- After Effects training, BEA Super Regional Conference, Columbia SC. 2016.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1998 – 2018 **Writer/Producer, Chicago IL & Boone NC**

Develop strategic communications across all media platforms for clients in a broad range of industries (healthcare, law, technology, food, consumer products.) Creative services include conceptualizing, story development, writing and video production.

Content created for companies that include: Abbott Laboratories, Allrecipes.com, Audienz, Bausch & Lomb, Cardinal Health, Caterpillar, Chicago Parent, Chicago Tribune, FreemanXP, InVision, Jack Morton Worldwide, Kodak, Kraft, Lions Clubs International, Microsoft, Motorola, Nextel, The Nielsen Company, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, TAP Pharmaceuticals, University of Chicago.

Areas of expertise:

Production: Develop video projects from initial concept through budgeting, research, production and post-production. Experienced interviewer of subject matter experts, both in US and internationally. Currently edit with Premiere Pro.

Writing: Copywriting, speechwriting, medical writing, feature writing, profile pieces, essays, script writing. Projects include: video scripts, proposals, articles, newsletters, corporate reports, brochures, websites, sales aids and executive speeches.

2009 – 2011 **Staff Writer, Hamilton Communications, Chicago IL**

Created compelling and engaging content that aligned healthcare clients' communication campaigns (both internal and external) with their strategy and goals.

Clients included: AstraZeneca, Baxter and Covidien.

1995–1998 **Executive Producer, Superior Street Post, Chicago, IL**

Instrumental in helping Chicago post-production company grow from start-up to established post-production house generating \$3+ million in annual revenues. Developed bids and supervised operations of the company. Cultivated clients. Hired editing assistants.

Clients included: Harpo Productions, advertising agencies and documentary producers.

- 1993–1995 Post-Production Producer, IPA, Chicago, IL**
Managed client accounts, developed bids and coordinated projects for the independent post-production house located in Chicago’s Lincoln Park.
- Clients included: David Axelrod and Associates and the producers of the award-winning documentary *Hoop Dreams*.
- 1990–1993 Producer, Cutting Room Floor Productions, Park Ridge, IL**
Produced and wrote promotional and educational videos for a variety of clients. Produced, wrote and edited *With Very Little: Blindness Prevention in Developing Countries*, a 60-minute documentary that aired on PBS. Conducted interviews with blindness prevention experts on location in multiple countries in Africa, Asia and Central America.