

CURRICULUM VITAE

Paul Jeffrey Stekler

Professor, Department of Radio-Television-Film
 Wofford Denius Chair in Entertainment Studies
 University of Texas at Austin, CMA 6.120
 Austin, TX 78712
 (512) 471-6679
 e-mail: Paul.Stekler@austin.utexas.edu
 website: www.paulstekler.com

EDUCATION

Williams College, Williamstown MA

Political Science (Highest Honors,
 Phi Beta Kappa) B.A. 1974

Harvard University, Cambridge MA

Government Ph.D. 1982

field: American Politics

dissertation: Black Politics in New South

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017-current Full Professor, RTF

2010-2017 Chair, RTF Dept., Wofford Denius Chair in Entertainment Studies
 with appointments in Government and in the LBJ School

2008-2010 George Christian Centennial Professor, in Communication

2006-2010 Director of Research, Center for Politics and Governance, LBJ School, UT

2001-2008 Full Professor (Production Area Head 2003-5)

1997-2001 Associate Professor and Production Area Head, University of Texas;
 Radio-Television-Film Department

AWARDS (for film and series work)

Sundance Film Festival

2000 (*George Wallace*) Special Jury Prize)

George Foster Peabody Award

1990 (*Eyes on the Prize II*)

1996 (*Vote for Me*)

Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Journalism Award

1991 (*Eyes on the Prize II*)

1993 (*Louisiana Boys*)

1998 (*Vote for Me*)

Emmy Award, from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences

1993 (*Last Stand at Little Bighorn*)

1997 (*Vote for Me*)

2001 (*George Wallace*)

a total of eight Emmy nominations in 1991, 1993, 1997, 2001

International Documentary Association Award

2000 (*George Wallace*)

Writers Guild of America

2001 Best Documentary, other than current affairs (*George Wallace*)

2005 Best Documentary, other than current – nomination (*Last Man Standing*)

Career Reel: Watch at <https://vimeo.com/142836763>

Briscoe Center interview

<http://news.utexas.edu/2015/12/14/steklers-archives-reveal-intersection-of-film-and-politics>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IITK9sBEyfA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xY0EftneMHM>

Variety Magazine's Mentor of the Year award, 2014

<http://variety.com/2014/film/news/paul-stekler-variety-2014-mentor-of-the-year-1201167072/>

!

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY CREDITS

***Postcards from the Great Divide* (2016)**

Executive producer, with Louis Alvarez and Andy Kolker, of a series of nine short films about political dynamics in nine different states, all topics related to aspects of our overall political divisions that impacted the 2016 presidential election. We produced three of the films, while overseeing production teams in the six other states. The states included in Texas, Nevada, Wisconsin, Florida, Washington, Colorado, Nebraska, Kentucky and Minnesota. The series launched online, with five films on July 2016, at the Washington Post's political The Fix website <http://wapo.st/2016postcards> (with this lead article <http://wapo.st/29D1Pj4>) and at the PBS.org's online platform pbs.org/politicalpostcards. The last four films onlined in Sept.2016. Subsequently, the films were repackaged for national PBS World Channel broadcast in Oct. 2016. \$500,000 in funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcast and Latino Public Broadcasting. Films viewable at: <http://www.politicalpostcards.org/the-films>

***Getting Back to Abnormal* (2013)**

Producer for a feature documentary that looks at the state of New Orleans politics and its people four years after the events of Hurricane Katrina. The film tells the story of the next chapter of the city's life, trying to recover still, against the backdrop of the 2010 local political season and the election of

a new mayor. Produced and directed with Louis Alvarez, Andrew Kolker and Peter Odabashian, the same team that made the award winning “Vote for Me: Politics in America.” Premiered at SXSW 2013. Screened at the New Orleans Film Festival, Lincoln Center NYC’s Art of the Real series, the Hot Springs Documentary Festival (Audience Award winner), the Havana International Film Festival, and the Bergen (Norway) International Film Festival. The Los Angeles Times described it as “poetry... every frame is full of life,” the New Orleans Advocate called it “raucous and brilliant,” the Boston Globe said it “embodies all the drama of living life in post-racial America,” “an entertaining portrayal of New Orleans in all its glorious dysfunction” wrote the Austin American Statesman, the Washington Post said “a fabulous introduction to N’awlins-style politics,” and the National Journal called it “a film unlike any you have ever seen before.” \$310,000 in funding from ITVS, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

National broadcast as a feature documentary on PBS’s POV series, July 2014. Rebroadcast on PBS’s World Channel, August 2015. Watch online at: www.vimeo.com/cnam/gbta (password: abnormal)

The Choice 2008 (2008)

Writer and Producer, with Michael Kirk and James Gilmore, of a two hour PBS special ‘Frontline’ film on the 2008 presidential election. The film interweaves the political narratives/biographies of Barack Obama and John McCain, the two major party candidates, as a way to understand the ’08 electoral choice. Aired three times nationally in October 2008, the film reached an estimated 7.8 million viewers for the broadcasts, and an additional 3.5 million viewers on-line before election day. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch described ‘The Choice’ as “skilled storytellers working at the top of their game...to create an intellectual and emotional journey that can surprise you.” The Boston Globe wrote that “these two hours are refreshingly free of campaign talking points,” while the Baltimore Sun found it “a nearly seamless two-hour film that moves with such focus and force that it feels more like 30 minutes... storytelling, is what drives this documentary with such velocity... This is biography with a capital “B” seeking to bag bigger prey: journalistic, if not historical, truth.” And the Los Angeles Times saw it providing “a startling contrast to the rest of the news cycle. Why... can’t the actual campaign be as sensible as the “Frontline” documentary?”

National PBS broadcast on the PBS Frontline series October 2008. Watch online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpEpg12kEnc>

Last Man Standing: Politics, Texas Style (2004)

Producer, Director, Writer and Narrator of a feature length documentary about a contest for Texas state representative in Lyndon Johnson’s old hometown between a GOP Christian conservative incumbent and his 24 year old Democratic challenger that highlights the 2002 battle, across the Lone Star state, between George W. Bush’s ascendant Texas Republicans and a multi-cultural Democratic ticket headed by a Mexican-American gubernatorial candidate and an African-American candidate for United States Senate. What happens sheds light on today’s American politics -- and tomorrow’s too. Three short sequences were nationally broadcast on PBS’s Washington Week with Gwen Ifill in 2003. \$610,000 in funding support from the

Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Mattsson-McHale Foundation, the Audre and Bernard Rapoport Foundation, and the Austin Community Foundation. Premiered at South by Southwest. Nominated for a Writer's Guild Award.

National PBS broadcast on the PBS P.O.V. series July 2004.

Watch online at: <https://vimeo.com/226210605>

***George Wallace: Settin' the Woods on Fire* (2000)**

Producer, director and writer, with Daniel McCabe, of a documentary biography of the four-time candidate for the presidency and Alabama governor for nearly two decades. This film, based on historian Dan Carter's "The Politics of Rage," is about the rise of white backlash, the turn of American politics towards the right in the aftermath of the civil rights movement, and the role that George Wallace played in this history. The film aired as a two night special on the PBS series THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE on April 23-24. The film was called "stunning and probing," "stunning and probing," and "boisterous" by *The New York Times*, "a full-blown Shakespearean saga... riveting" by the *Houston Chronicle*, "a brilliant achievement" by the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, "a remarkable documentary" by the *National Journal*, "mesmerizing" by the *Boston Globe*, and a "gripping documentary, fluent, explosive... swift-paced and seamless" by the *Toronto Star*. *Newsday* said it "sets the television on fire," while the *Wall Street Journal* wrote that the film was a "documentary filled with enough drama and dark comedy, wry twists of fate and fortune, corruption of the spirit and of the body politic, sin and salvation to make fans of 'The Sopranos' forget for a while." And the *Texas Observer* wrote that the film was "an epic political biography... makes most fictional films seem thin and lifeless by comparison." "George Wallace" was included as one of the films in the 2001 Academy Awards Oscar Night "Tribute to Documentaries." \$1.7 million in funding from PBS, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Schumann Foundation, and seven southern state humanities committees. Premiered at: Sundance Film Festival (winner of the Special Jury Prize for writing in a documentary).

Online to watch at: www.vimeo.com/cnam/wallace

National PBS broadcast on THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE as a two-night special, April 2000.

***Vote for Me: Politics in America* (1996)**

Producer, director and writer, with Louis Alvarez and Andy Kolker, of this four-part, four hour series looking at American electoral politics by examining our political culture. The series visits thirty states and covers elections from the smallest rural precinct to the White House using the humorous, provocative, entertaining style of our earlier film *Louisiana Boys*. Described as a "a landslide of an election special" by the Los Angeles Times, "the standout in a season of documentaries" by the Chicago Tribune, "pure Americana, merry and marvelous and authentic" by USA Today, "the best four credit course on real politics you could ever take" by Roll Call, and, by the Atlanta Journal Constitution, as "a masterpiece, unmatched by anything you'll see this political season in the breadth and depth with which it makes you laugh, makes you enraged and -- most remarkable of all -- makes you care about politics." \$2 million in funding from PBS, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, and the C.I.T. Corp. Awards: Peabody Award, an Emmy Award, and a DuPont-Columbia Journalism Award.

National PBS broadcast as a two-night special, October 1996.

Watch online: The Political Education of Maggie Lauterer: <https://vimeo.com/cnam/maggie>

Vote for Me, part 1: <https://vimeo.com/226210726>

Vote for Me, part 2: <https://vimeo.com/228699765>

Watch sequences at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6hLHcA7d8w&index=1&list=PL2E661DECE7B15871>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLgeX8qVwNU> (Rodney Ellis)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRdsARAZkSM> (Buddy Cianci)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sx10pscvcPY> (series intro)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72piw2LiAys> (Maggie sings Amazing Grace)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Awfs-hb7H7I> (anti Jefferson ad)

***Last Stand at Little Big Horn* (1992)**

Producer and director, co-writer with Blackfeet novelist James Welch (*Winter in the Blood*, *Fool's Crow*), of a documentary for PBS's THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE series. The film explores the creation of the myth of Custer's Last Stand by focusing on the larger context of the American conquest of the West, using the voices of both sides of that conflict, Native American and white. Funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Awards: Emmy Award, for best research (and nominated for writing), CINE Golden Eagle, American Film Festival Blue Ribbon. Described by the Chicago Tribune as a “fine experience... allowing us to hear the story of the battle from the Native-American perspective,” by the New York Times as “a moving and intelligent contribution,” and in the Boston Globe as “Custer wouldn’t have believed it – an Indian collaborating with a white man to write, and right the history.” \$510,000 in funding support from the NEH, PBS, the Native American PBS Consortium and seven state humanities committees.

National PBS broadcast on THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE November 1992 (six million viewers in national audience, one of the most watched PBS programs of 1992-3). A book, “Killing Custer,” written by Welch and Stekler was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year in 1995.

Watch online at: <https://vimeo.com/228699685>

***Louisiana Boys: Raised on Politics* (1991)**

Producer, director and writer, with Louis Alvarez and Andy Kolker, of an hour-length video documentary examining the colorful, Byzantine political culture of Louisiana, from the days of Huey Long up to the present. Awards: Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Journalism Award, a Silver Baton; nominated for a national Emmy. Described in the Boston Globe as a “look at the flamboyant political history of the Bayou State, (that’s) every bit as insightful as it is entertaining,” a “sassy yet serious review of the revels” by the New York Times, “marvelously entertaining” by the Texas Observer, as “tragicomic... replete with the kind of imagery and sound-bites that incite voters to term limitations, if not revolution.”

National PBS broadcast on PBS series P.O.V., August 1992

Article with various sequences at <http://www.knowlouisiana.org/38410/>
 Watch sequences at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1kkFpvo6hY> (intro)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJvxabztns4> (Huey Long & list of governors)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pMisdvYbvU> (Edwin Edwards)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlZktrXpyfE> (campaign ads)

Watch online at: <https://vimeo.com/225300698>

Eyes on the Prize: II - America at the Racial Crossroads 1965-1980 (1990)

Producer, director and writer, with Jacqueline Shearer, of two hour-long films in a multi-part civil rights history series. "The Promised Land: 1967-68," about Dr. Martin Luther King's last year, and "The Keys to the Kingdom: 1972-78", about school desegregation in Boston, the election of Atlanta's first black mayor, and affirmative action. Awards: (for "The Promised Land") Nominated for two Emmys, for writing and editing, CINE Golden Eagle, Banff Television Festival, best documentary finalist; (for the Series) George Foster Peabody Award, Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Journalism Award, a Silver Baton, Organization of American Historians' Eric Barnouw Award (among many others). Described by Time Magazine as "about as good as TV documentaries get," "a compelling (but) disturbing portrait of what it means to be black in America" by Newsweek, "a work of art...complex, moving and magnificent" by the New York Post.

National PBS broadcast January 1990

Watch online at: <https://vimeo.com/225299826>

Retrospective "The & Now" trailer: <http://www.klru.org/blog/2016/06/eyes-on-the-prize/>

Among Brothers: Politics in New Orleans (1987)

Producer, director and writer of an hour-long video documentary about an election for mayor of New Orleans between two African-American candidates. Awards: American Film Festival Red Ribbon, National Educational Film Festival Bronze Apple

National PBS broadcast, September 1987

Watch online at: <https://vimeo.com/225299825>

Hands that Picked Cotton: The Story of Black Politics in Today's Rural South (1985)

Producer, director, writer and editor, with Alan Bell, of hour-long documentary film examining the political legacy of the civil rights movement for blacks in the Mississippi Delta. Awards: Gabriel

Award, American Film Festival, finalist for best documentary feature. The New York Times wrote “the first rate documentary... isn’t necessarily trying to be inspiring here, but in its celebration of the political process, it really is.”

National PBS broadcast, February 1985

Watch online at: <https://vimeo.com/225300127>

FILMS IN PROGRESS

Politicos

Looking back on four decades of filming political campaigns, three veteran documentarians present a rogue's gallery of colorful politicians, wily operatives, and voters both angry and idealistic to arrive at some truths about our American politics. Filmmakers Louis Alvarez, Andrew Kolker, and Paul Stekler have crisscrossed the US looking for stories that help illuminate the excitement, contradictions, and the occasional glories of the American way of politics. Along the way they've won some of the industry's highest awards for work like *Vote for Me*, *People Like Us*, and *George Wallace: Settin' The Woods on Fire*. Delving into their rich library of campaigns past and present, *Politicos* will embark on a fresh new take on the state of our political union. Part memoir, part master class, this will be a wild ride through the last few tumultuous decades of American politics, filled with humor and insight and appealing to anyone who wonders how we've ended up in our present state.

Initial funding from the Bernard & Audre Rapoport Foundation and private individuals.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/329421456>

The Stars in Their Eyes

As the sun sets behind the Davis Mountains of west Texas and the temperature in the high desert begins to fall, work is just beginning. An astronomer begins to open the doors of a giant white domed observatory to begin their night's work. Below the mountain tops three huge telescopes, the parking lot of a visitor's center is filling up as hundreds of people slowly walk to an open-air amphitheater, awaiting the dark and the beginning of a star party. As the twilight turns to night, the Milky Way and a sky full of stars appear, brilliant in ways that most people in cities and suburbs have never seen. This is just another night at one of the gems of the astronomy world, the McDonald Observatories. *The Stars in Their Eyes* will be a film about year in a place that no one who works there or visits ever forgets.

Initial funding from the Hobby Family Foundation.

For the Record

Co-producer of director Heather Courtney's short documentary that follows what may be the last months in the life of the small-town newspaper The Canadian (Texas) Record. An oil bust in this once oil boomtown, coupled with wildfires more than two years ago that ranchers are still recovering from, have slowed the economy. A slow economy means less ad revenue for the paper, as businesses move to free advertising on social media. Can the paper, family owned and run by Laurie Brown, now in her 70's, survive – and what will it mean to this small community if it ceases to publish.

Funding from the Arnold Ventures fund.

EXECUTIVE & PRODUCER CREDITS

***McCain* (2018)**

Additional Producer on Frontline's documentary about the political career of Senator and former presidential candidate John McCain. Broadcast nationally on PBS in April 2018.

***Divided States of America* (2017)**

Additional Producer on Michael Kirk's four hour Frontline about the growing political divide in the country during the Obama years. Broadcast nationally on PBS in January 2017.

***Tower* (2016)**

Consulting Producer for Keith Maitland's documentary about the witnesses, heroes and survivors of America's first mass shooting in 1966 at the University of Texas. The film combines archival footage, first person interviews, and rotoscopic animation. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and screened at the SXSW Film Festival in March 2016. Shortlisted for an Academy Award in 2017.

***Above All Else* (2014)**

Consulting Producer for John Fiege's documentary portrait of a group of landowners and activists in East Texas trying to stop the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline from crossing their land. The film premiered at the SXSW Film Festival in March 2014.

***Where Soldiers Come From* (2011)**

Consulting Producer for director Heather Courtney's documentary about boyhood friends in Michigan's Upper Peninsula who join the National Guard and are sent to Afghanistan.

Premiered at SXSW 2011. Winner of an Emmy and a Independent Spirit Award.
National PBS broadcast on PBS's POV series Fall 2011.

***Sunshine* (2010)**

Consulting Producer for Director Karen Skloss' meditation on unplanned pregnancy and single motherhood, told through her own story. The film premiered at the 2009 SXSW Festival. Nationally broadcast on PBS's Independent Lens series in 2010.

***The Eyes of Me* (2010)**

Consulting Producer for Director Keith Maitland's documentary about the lives of four students during a year at the Texas School for the Blind. The film premiered at the 2009 SXSW Festival. Nationally broadcast on PBS's Independent Lens series in 2010.

***Along Came Kinky: Texas Jewboy for Governor* (2009)**

Executive Producer for Director David Hartstein's documentary about musician/writer Kinky Friedman's 2006 run for Texas Governor. The film premiered at the 2009 SXSW Festival.

***Writ Writer* (2008)**

Advisor on Susanne Mason's documentary telling the story of how the Texas prison system was fundamentally changed by a case brought by Fred Cruz, a convicted armed robber with an 8th grade education, whose long legal battle resulted in an historic court decision. The film aired nationally on PBS's Independent Lens series in 2008.

***Special Session – season 2* (2007)**

Executive Producer & Host of a weekly Texas politics program combining studio discussions with on-location documentary sequences, focusing on the issues facing the state legislature. 17 programs were produced, each broadcast statewide on every Texas PBS affiliate stations from Feb.-June 2007. Short documentaries produced for the season included films on the lives of Molly Ivins and Ann Richards, school finance, the controversy about Texas highway construction, and a day in the life of conservative State Senator Dan Patrick. Nominated for three Lone Star Emmys. Every program can be video-streamed at <http://www.klruweb.org/specialsession/episodes/>

(click on individual shows, then click on View Entire Show)

***Be Here to Love Me* (2006)**

Executive Producer (with Louis Black and Chris Mattsson) of a feature length documentary, directed by Margaret Brown, on the life of Texas singer/songwriter Townes Van Zandt. Premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in competition Sept. 2004, numerous world-wide festival screenings (London Film Festival, Buenos Aries Film Festival, Munich Film Festival, Rotterdam Film Festival, Full Frame, SXSW. Los Angeles Film Festival, Nashville Film Festival, and so on);

purchased for theatrical distribution in Spring '05 by Palm Pictures, national theatrical release Dec. 2005. National broadcast on the Sundance Channel 2006.

***Woody Guthrie: Ain't Got No Home* (2006)**

Consulting Producer on a documentary biography of Woody Guthrie. Directed by Peter Frumkin. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. National PBS broadcast on the AMERICAN MASTERS July 2006.

***Special Session – season 1* (2005)**

Executive Producer & Host of a weekly Texas politics program combining studio discussions with on-location documentary sequences, focusing on the issues facing the state legislature. 17 programs were produced, each broadcast statewide on every Texas PBS affiliate stations from Feb.-June 2005. Short documentaries produced for the season included films on a day at a rural school in Comfort, Texas, the battle over a Planned Parenthood clinic in Waco, a long interview with Karl Rove, and an examination of Hispanic politics in San Antonio. Every program can be video-streamed at <https://video.austinpbs.org/show/special-session/episodes/>

(click on individual shows, then click on View Entire Show).

***Girl Wrestler* (2005)**

Advisor on Diane Zander's documentary about Tara Neal, who faces exclusion from her school's wrestling team because of state laws barring coed wrestling at that age. The film aired nationally on PBS's Independent Lens series in 2005.

***Miss America* (2002)**

Consultant on Lisa Ades' documentary about America's oldest beauty pageant -- the Miss America pageant -- from its inception in 1921 as an event to lure tourists to Atlantic City to today. Premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and aired nationally on PBS's American Experience series in 2002.

***People Like Us* (2001)**

Co-Producer (and Co-Director of sequences shot in Texas) of a sequel to *Vote for Me*, by the same production team, focusing on social and economic class in America. In a country where 85% of Americans believe themselves to be "middle class", this two hour special is about the myriad of ways that class identity and divisions shapes our society -- and the consequences of our national myth of a "classless society." Described as "pointed and witty" by the New York Times, "funny, poignant and chilling" by the Montreal Gazette, and "a straight-on, nuanced look at the American class system -- refreshing on American television" by the American Prospect. "Landmark television," wrote the Baltimore Sun, "should not be this much fun." National PBS broadcast as a two hour special Sept. 2001.

***At the River I Stand* (1993)**

Consultant on directors David Appleby, Allison Graham and Steven Ross' documentary examining the 1968 Memphis sanitation workers strike which brought Dr. Martin Luther King to Memphis, where he was shot and killed. Based on a book and on footage archival saved by a few Memphis activists. Winner of Erik Barnouw Award for Best Documentary by the Organization of American Historians, the film aired on PBS on the 25th anniversary of Dr. King's death, in 1993.

***Backlash: Race and the American Dream* (1992)**

Consultant on director Bess Carrick's documentary exploring the attitudes of Louisiana voters, seen through the prism of former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke's campaign for United States Senator.

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER CREDITS SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

***Ann & Molly* (2018)**

Director of a short film about Ann Richards and Molly Ivins, two pioneers as woman in politics and political writing, produced with footage we shot with both of them before they passed away a decade ago. Premier at the Austin Film Festival, Oct. 2018. Online at: <https://vimeo.com/294207125/bd9cf46aa1>

***Building Futures* (2011)**

Co-Director, with Miguel Alavrez, of a short film documenting a rural school in Mfuwe, Zambia, and two of its young female students, Beauty and Mercy Banta. Produced to raise funds for a non-profit, ScaleAfrica, which helps to build school facilities in Zambia. Online at <http://vimeo.com/26778637>.

***Blanton Museum of Art* (2009)**

Producer / Director of a film about Jack Blanton and the Blanton Museum of Art. Featured at the museum's 2009 gala, the film helped the museum to raise \$2 million dollars and has been used on the Blanton's website. Online at: <http://vimeo.com/26115123#at=0>.

***Texas Observer at 50* (2005)**

Producer / Director of a film about the history of the Texas Observer on its 50th anniversary. The film includes interviews with Molly Ivins, Jim Hightower, and a host of

former Observer editors, along with a focus on the Observer's breaking of the Tulia, Texas undercover drug convictions corruption case. The film was aired on every Texas PBS affiliate (online at <http://vimeo.com/25736220#at=0>).

***Spit Farther!* (2002)**

Director/Co-Producer (with Mark Nathan). For the last half century, the little town of Luling, Texas has held an annual Watermelon Thump Festival – and its own world championship watermelon seed spitting competition. This short documentary is about both the contest and the chief seed spitting judge, Phil, an underemployed, over-stimulated, former expatriate, who's come home after years abroad in Europe. Premiered at SXSW 2002. Screened at Doubletake (Full Frame) Film Festival and the Dallas Video Festival. Texas PBS broadcast on *SXSW Presents* Oct. 2006. Online at: https://texasarchive.org/2006_00020

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Killing Custer: The Battle of the Little Bighorn and the Fate of the Plains Indians, co-author on book written by James Welch, Norton Press, N.Y., October 1994, 320 pages. One of the New York Times notable books of the year in 1995.

Articles

“How Serendipity, the 1986 World Series and believing in possibilities changed my filmmaking career,” Current: News for People in Public Media, October 11th, 2021, https://current.org/2021/10/henry-hampton-filmmaking-career/?wallit_nosession=1

“How Democrats Can Win in 2022,” Austin American Statesman, September 29th, 2021, <https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/columns/your-voice/2021/09/29/how-democrats-can-win-texas-2022/5914767001/> also in the San Antonio Express News, the Waco Tribune, and the Bryon Eagle, <https://news.utexas.edu/2021/10/11/how-democrats-can-win-texas-in-2022/>

“How UT's Tom Schatz Shaped Austin's Film Scene,” Austin Chronicle, August 13th, 2021, <https://www.austinchronicle.com/screens/2021-08-13/how-uts-tom-schatz-shape-d-austins-film-scene/>, also at: <https://rtf.utexas.edu/news/tom-schatz-leaves-legacy>

“Edwin Edwards and the Politics of a Bygone South,” New Orleans Advocate, July 28th, 2021
https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/opinion/article_eeb417fe-ee47-11eb-8f57-132a5cf710cd.html

“Forgetting – and Remembering – the Alamo,” San Antonio Express News, July 9th, 2021
<https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/commentary/article/Commentary-Forgetting-and-remembering-the-16305227.php>

“Texas Democrats must not give up in 2022,” San Antonio Express News, June 28th, 2021,
<https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/commentary/article/Commentary-Texas-Democrats-must-go-big-for-2022-16278071.php>; also in Waco Tribune-Herald, June 25th, 2021, the Canadian Record, July 8th, 2021, and at
<https://news.utexas.edu/2021/07/02/texas-democrats-cannot-give-up-on-the-2022-elections/>

“Texas Democrats hoping for Hail Matthew pass in 2022?,” Waco Tribune-Herald, April 28th, 2021,
https://wacotrib.com/opinion/columnists/paul-stekler-texas-democrats-hoping-for-hail-matthew-pass-in-2022/article_c9f5826e-a788-11eb-a4ae-efab65097a4e.html, also in the Abilene Reporter News and at
<https://news.utexas.edu/2021/05/10/mcconaugheys-polling-numbers-show-texas-democrats-are-in-trouble/>

“Find a rope, get a tree: That's the sorry history of lynching, not the justice we need now,” USA Today, April 11th, 2021,
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2021/04/11/lynching-find-rope-get-tall-tree-texas-justice-chip-roy-column/7152632002/> also in the Candidian (TX) Record and at “The Sorry History of ‘Get a Rope’ in Texas” <https://news.utexas.edu/2021/04/15/the-sorry-history-of-get-a-rope-in-texas/>

“Lawmakers must save the Texas Film Industry,” Houston Chronicle, March 19th, 2021,
<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Opinion-Lawmakers-must-save-the-Texas-film-16036188.php>, also in the San Antonio Express-News and the Lubbock Avalanche, also at:
<https://news.utexas.edu/2021/03/22/the-texas-film-industry-needs-lawmakers-help-now/>

“Is the Dream of a Blue Texas Hopeless? (my original title), Houston Chronicle, January 27th, 2021,
<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Opinion-Why-Texas-Democrats-flopped-in-2020-but-15899115.php>

“The African American hands that picked senators in Georgia have been a long time coming,” USA Today, January 21st, 2021,
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/voices/2021/01/12/raphael-warnock-georgia-black-voters-election-column/6624962002/> Also at:

<https://news.utexas.edu/2021/01/15/the-hands-that-picked-senators-in-georgia-have-been-a-long-time-coming/>

“Blue Wave eludes Democrats, but Hope laps at Texas’ shores,” Austin American Statesman, November 18, 2020,

<https://www.statesman.com/opinion/20201118/opinion-blue-wave-eludes-democrats-but-hope-laps-at-texasrsquo-shores> (also in the San Antonio Express News)

<https://news.utexas.edu/2020/11/30/as-blue-wave-fizzles-houston-area-democrats-savor-what-progress-they-can/>

“Donald Trump may end what George Wallace started,” The Hill, July 21, 2020, by Dan Carter and Paul Stekler

<https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/508350-donald-trump-may-end-what-george-wallace-started>

“As COVID-19 Spreads, a Possible Katrina Moment for Trump?,” San Antonio Express News, March 16, 2020,

<https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/commentary/article/Commentary-As-COVID-19-spreads-a-possible-15135636.php>

“Will Impeachment Stop Democratic Gains in the South”, The Hill October 25, 2019,

<https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/467403-will-impeachment-stop-democratic-gains-in-the-south>

“Is a Purple Wave Coming to Texas in 2020?”, Austin American Statesman, August 16, 2019,

<https://www.statesman.com/opinion/20190816/opinion-is-purple-wave-coming-to-texas-in-2020>

“O’Rourke-Cruz race has already changed the future of Texas politics,” Austin American Statesman, Nov. 4th, 2018

<https://www.statesman.com/opinion/20181105/orourke-cruz-race-has-already-changed-future-of-texas-politics>

“George Wallace stoked the fire of racial division that Trump carried all the way to the White House,” LA Times, Sept. 23, 2018, by Dan Carter and Paul Stekler,

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-carter-stekler-wallace-racial-language-2018-0923-story.html>

“Required Viewing: Educators Share Their Top Five Docs for Students,” International Documentary Association Magazine, Spring

2018, <https://www.documentary.org/feature/required-viewing-educators-share-their-top-five-docs-students>

“The Real Meaning of Martin Luther King Jr’s Mountaintop Speech,” The Washington Post, April 2, 2018,

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/king-wanted-the-poor-to-reach-the-promised-land-his-call-remains-unanswered/2018/04/02/fb18e78c-335a-11e8-94fa-32d48460b955_story.html?utm_term=.6025cbc2b1ac

“Courageous Storytelling: Turning the Lens to Disaster Survivors,” ITVS blogpost, October 11, 2017, <https://itvs.org/blog/turning-the-lens-to-disaster-survivors>

“How to Kill the Texas Film Industry,” Fort Worth Star Telegram, April 26th, 2017, <http://www.star-telegram.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/other-voices/article146681864.html> (also in the Austin American Statesman, Dallas Morning News, San Antonio Express, Denton Record-Chronicle, McAllen Monitor, and the Rio Grande Guardian), also at: <https://news.utexas.edu/2017/05/04/how-to-kill-the-texas-film-industry/>

“Bursting the Bubble: Covering Political Stories in the Age of Trump,” January 18th, 2017, International Documentary Association, <http://www.documentary.org/online-feature/bursting-bubble-covering-political-stories-age-trump>

“Texas Democrats must appeal to White Voters,” Dallas Morning News, January 10th, 2016 (also appearing in the Houston Chronicle, the Waco Tribune Herald, the Austin American Statesman and the San Antonio Express News) <http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2017/01/10/texas-democrats-must-appeal-white-voters>

“Texas Democrats have a long way to go to reach Latinos,” Dallas Morning News, December 9th, 2017 (also ran in the Houston Chronicle, Waco Tribune Herald, and the Austin American Statesman) <http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2016/12/09/texas-democrats-long-way-go-reach-latinos>

“For Democrats, Now What?”, Austin American Statesman, November 10th, 2016 (also run in the Houston Chronicle, the McAllen Monitor and the Rivard Report in San Antonio) <http://www.mystatesman.com/news/news/opinion/paul-stekler-for-democrats-what-now/news59w/>

“The problem with a one-party state government in Texas,” Austin American Statesman Op Ed. Saturday, July 9th, 2016 (the Op Ed also ran in the Fort Worth Star Telegram, the Waco Tribune, the Houston Chronicle, the Rio Grande Guardian, and the McAllen Monitor, <http://www.mystatesman.com/news/news/opinion/stekler-the-problem-with-a-one-party-state-governm/nrtRh/>

“Austin eyes an Oscar while Texas Filmmaking is under Siege,” Austin American Statesman Op Ed, Saturday, January 24th, 2015 <http://www.statesman.com/news/news/opinion/stekler-austin-eyes-an-oscar-while-texas-filmmakin/njt5c/>

“Documenting New Orleans; And Putting ‘Getting Back to Abnormal’ in Context,” Cultural Vistas -- Magazine of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, Summer 2014

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/abnormal/a-history-of-documentary-film-in-new-orleans/>

<http://www.knowlouisiana.org/documenting-new-orleans-on-film>

“Voting Restrictions Will Not Stand,” Austin American Statesman Op Ed, May 13th, 2014

<https://www.statesman.com/news/20140512/stekler-voting-restrictions-will-not-stand>

“Blood Brothers: Bringing James Welch’s novel of Native life, ‘Winter in the Blood,’ to the screen,” Austin Chronicle, Oct. 25th, 2013

<http://www.austinchronicle.com/screens/2013-10-25/blood-brothers/>

“We Need Daring Democrats to step up, break GOP hold,” Austin American Statesman Op Ed, July 26th, 2013

<http://tablet.olivesoftware.com/Olive/Tablet/AustinAmericanStatesman/SharedArticle.aspx?href=AS%2F2013%2F07%2F26&id=Ar01101>

“The Ten Greatest Texas Documentaries,” Texas Monthly, March, 2013

<http://www.texasmonthly.com/story/ten-greatest-texas-documentaries>

“The Value of Taking a Chance”, Cultural Vistas -- Magazine of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, Fall 2012, p 96, <http://www.nxtbook.com/leh/lcvfall2012/lcvfall2012/index.php>

“George Wallace ushered in today’s polarized politics,” Austin American Statesman Op Ed, October 7th, 2012, page F-7,

<http://www.statesman.com/news/news/opinion/stekler-wallace-set-the-woods-on-fire/nST57/>

“Bill, James & George’s Excellent Adventure: Back in ‘The War Room’,” Documentary (International Documentary Association), Summer 2012, Vol. 31, No. 3, pp. 10-11,

<http://www.documentary.org/magazine/bill-james-and-georges-excellent-adventure-back-war-room>

“Rick Perry for President,” Texas Observer on-line, June 2011,

<http://www.texasobserver.org/oped/rick-perry-for-president>

“Eunice and Me,” Texas Monthly On-Line, August 2009,

<http://www.texasmonthly.com/2009-08-01/webextra19.php>

“Cold Cash,” Texas Monthly On-Line, August 2009,

<http://www.texasmonthly.com/2009-08-01/webextra16.php>

“Gone (Back) to Texas”, Texas Monthly On-Line, February 2009,

<http://www.texasmonthly.com/2009-02-01/webextra6.php>

“Reality Candidates: Documentaries on the Campaign Trail,” Documentary (International Documentary Association), Fall 2008, Vol. 27, No. 4, pp.23-30,
<http://www.documentary.org/content/reality-candidates-documentaries-campaign-trail>

“His Presence was a Lovely Thing: James Welch 1940-2003,” Austin Chronicle, August 22nd, 2003, <http://www.austinchronicle.com/books/2003-08-22/174033/>

“Lost Weekend: The Mummy Returns... to Pearl Harbor (and Other Tales of Woe,” The Texas Observer, August 17, 2001, Vol. 93, No. 16, pp. 22-24,
www.texasobserver.org/367-lost-weekend-the-mummy-returns-to-pearl-harbor-movie-reviews-by-paul-stekler/

“How to Steal the Presidency Without (Having to Seem Like You’re) Really Trying,” The Texas Observer, June 22, 2001, Vol. 93, No. 12, pp.22-25,
<http://www.texasobserver.org/232-remember-florida/>

“All the Pretty Pictures,” The Texas Observer, February 16, 2001, Vol. 93, No. 3, pp16-17,
<http://www.texasobserver.org/29-all-the-pretty-pictures/>

“In Memory,” (about the late Henry Hampton), Austin Chronicle, January 1st, 1999,
<http://www.austinchronicle.com/screens/1999-01-01/520923/>

“Vote for Me: Politics in America,” PS -- Political Science and Politics, September 1996, Vol. XXIX, Number 3, pp. 419-422 (in an issue devoted to the film series *Vote for Me*).

“Vote for Me,” Cultural Vistas -- Magazine of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, Fall 1996, pp. 38-46, <http://www.nxtbook.com/leh/lcvfall96/lcvfall96/index.php#40>

"Black Political Attitudes and Behavior in the 1990's," with Wayne Parent, in Huey Perry et. al. (eds.) Blacks in the American Political System, University of Florida Press, Gainesville, FL 1995, pp. 41-49.

"Putting 'Louisiana Boys - Raised on Politics' in Context," Cultural Vistas -- Magazine of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, Summer 1992, pages 18-23.
<https://64parishes.org/louisiana-boys-raised-on-politics>

"Custer and Crazy Horse Ride Again.... And Again, And Again - Filmmaking and History at Little Bighorn," Montana - Magazine of Western History, Autumn 1992, pp. 63-72.

"From Black Politics to Blacks in the Mainstream: The 1986 New Orleans Mayoral Election," with Monte Piliawsky, The Western Journal of Black Studies , Summer 1991, pp.114-121.

"Win, Jesse, Win: A Test of Models of Race and Vote," with Douglas Rose, in Robert Steed et. al. (eds.) Blacks in Southern Politics, Praeger Press, New York, 1987, pp.163-90.

"The Political Implications of Economic Stratification in the Black Community," with Wayne Parent, Western Political Quarterly (December 1985), 521-538.

"Electing Blacks to Office in the South: Black Candidates, Bloc Voting and Racial Unity Twenty Years After the Voting Rights Act," The Urban Lawyer (Summer 1985, vol. 17, no. 3), 473-487.

DEPARTMENTAL/COLLEGE SERVICE

Department Chairman 2010-2017, interim Chair 2002

Production Area Head 1997-2001, 2003-2005

LBJ School's Center for Politics & Governance, founder and research director 2005-2008

Chair, College of Communications Promotion & Tenure Committee 2001, 2002, 2003

Chair, College of Communication Endowed Chair Selection Committee 2008

Member, RTF Executive Committee/Budget Council 1997-2017

Chair, Five Year Plan/Review Committee for the Production Area
(co-writer of report to the Provost) 1997

Chair, MFA Admissions Committee 1997-2001, 2003, 2006

Chair, Production Faculty Search Committees 1998, 1999, 2004

Member, Graduate Studies Committee 1997-current

RTF Annual Hollywood Showcase of Best UT Student Films Host 1997-2001, Selection Committee 1997-2001, 2003-2005, 2010-2017

UT MAJOR INITIATIVES

LBJ Center for the Study of Politics and Governance:

Initiated idea for and wrote funding proposal for a center, with a track curriculum, involving interdisciplinary studies but housed within the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Center activities would include a resident fellows program, classes in various campaign politics topics, twice a year national polling, various policy studies associated with the current Texas legislature, and relevant media projects. Initiated the first step in team teaching a large graduate lecture course in Modern American Political Campaigns 2005-6, team taught with Matthew Dowd and Mark McKinnon, the Bush-Cheney 2004 chief strategist and the campaign's advertising chief, and Wayne Slater, Karl Rove

biographer and longtime Dallas Morning News political reporter (class size ranged from 60-75). \$1 million dollars to fund for three years by AT&T.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

		overall ratings (1-5 scale)	
		Instructor	Course
1997			
Spring	RTF 366K Production of the Documentary	4.7	4.5
Fall	RTF 366K Production of the Documentary	3.8	3.8
	RTF 388P Documentary (grad class)	4.6	4.3
1998			
Fall	RTF 366K Intro Documentary Production	4.2	4.2
	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary	4.3	4.2
1999			
Fall	RTF 881KA Principals of Film and TV Prod.	3.7	3.9
	RTF 366K Intro Documentary Production	4.7	4.6
2000			
Fall	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary	4.3	4.5
2001			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary	4.1	4.1
Fall	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary	4.3	4.3
	RTF 388P Documentary (grad class)	4.5	4.4
2002			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary	4.7	4.6
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.5	4.3
2003			
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.4	4.3
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary	4.8	4.4
	RTF 388P Adv. Documentary (Graduate)	4.5	4.5
2004			

Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.7	4.1
	RTF 366K Intro Documentary Production	4.5	4.4
2005			
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	3.9	3.9
	RTF 488M MFA Thesis Film Production	4.6	4.6
	PS 388K Modern American Political Campaigns (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	3.7	3.6
2006			
Spring	PS 388K Modern American Political Campaigns (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.0	4.1
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.6	4.5
	PS 388K Modern American Political Campaigns (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.0	4.1
2007			
Spring	PS 388K Modern American Political Campaigns (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	3.8	3.7
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.4	4.2
	PS 388K Modern American Political Campaigns (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.5	4.4
2008			
Fall	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary	4.4	4.2
2009			
Spring	PS 388K Modern American Political Campaigns (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.2	3.8
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.3	4.0
	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.2	3.7
2010			
Fall	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.4	4.2
2011			
Spring	UGS 302 Reel Politics	4.5	4.4
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.1	3.9

2012			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.9	4.8
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.6	4.4
2013			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.6	4.4
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.6	4.4
2014			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.7	4.5
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.2	3.8
2015			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.4	4.2
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.4	4.3
2016			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.9	4.7
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.5	4.3
2017			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.7	4.6
2018			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.8	4.7
	UGS 302 Reel Politics	3.9	3.3
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.3	4.4
	RTF 384C Storytelling Policy Wonks	4.2	3.6
2019			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary		

	(LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.8	4.4
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.2	4.2
2020			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.8	4.8
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.4	4.4
2021			
Spring	RTF 343 Advanced Documentary (LBJ School of Public Affairs)	4.2	4.0
Fall	RTF 881KA MFA Directing Documentary	4.1	3.8

Instructor/Course Averages 4.4 / 4.3

GRADUATE SUPERVISORY ACTIVITIES

Supervisor of MFA Thesis Film and Reports (30)

Rachel Tsangari	1998
Neil Kammerman	1999
Michael Dean Conyer	1999
Matt Johnson	2000
Janele Irene McCall	2000
Galen York	2001
Paul Kris	2001 (MA)
Laura Dunn	2002
Diane Zander	2002
Matt McClung	2003
Shu-Chun Lee	2004
Edward Gesing	2004
David Hartstein	2004
Rosanna Brillantes	2005
Lisa Gross	2006
Jenn Garrison	2006 (Co-Chair)
Lisa Kaselak	2006 (Co-Chair)

John Fiege	2006
Shara Lange	2007
Ben Steinbauer	2007
Ruth Fertig	2009
Keith Wilson	2009
Fangas Chen	2010
Marcel Rodriguez	2010
Kim Hall	2010
John Moore	2012
Leah Griffin	2016
Shelby Hadden	2016
Joel Fendelman	2017
Rachel Bardin	2017

Member of MFA/PhD Thesis Committee (44)

Elizabeth Sikes	1998
Kyle Henry	1999
Issac Mathes	2000
Spencer Parsons	2000
Siobhan Walshe	2001
Heather Courtney	2001
Scott Rice	2003
Amy Herrup	2004 (PhD)
David Garcia	2004
Angela Aguayo	2005 (PhD)
Javier Bonafont	2005
Aaron Dubrow	2006 (Journalism)
Kendra Dorthy	2007
Berndt Mader	2007
Katja Straub	2008
Gaby Yepes	2008
Ajae Clearway	2008
Linden Dalecki	2008 (PhD)
Maria Buendia-Senties	2008
SunHee Cho	2008
Marianela Vega	2009
Amy Bench	2010
Rogelio Salinas	2011
Jeehyun Dong	2011
Rhithu Basu	2012
Ivete Lucas	2012
Anand Modi	2013
Monique Walton	2013
Annie Silverstein	2013

Evan Roberts	2014
Jing Yang	2014
Matt Koshmrl	2016
Eli Poupko	2017 (PhD, LBJ School)
Sophia Loffreda	2018
Louis Black	2019 (PhD)
Andres Felipe Torres Montaguth	2019
Taniel Kilajian	2019
Cris Magliozzi	2020
Arturo Jimenez	2020
Jackie Ferro	2020
Mary Elizabeth Esquibel	In-Progress
Sinead Keirans	In-Progress
Robert Hope	In-Process
Tania Cattebeke Laconich	In-Process

MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS

Undergraduate:

Meredith Jewel Barad	University Fellowship \$1000,
Bani Khoshnoudi	University Fellowship \$1000,
Jeremy Liebman	Mitchell Coop Thesis Award, 2 nd place \$5000
Lauren Banta	Mitchell Coop Thesis Award, 1 st place \$20,000
Keeley Steenson	Mitchell Coop Thesis Award \$2000

MFA Graduate:

Laura Dunn	Student Documentary Academy Award, “Green”
Heather Courtney	IDA Wolper Award for “Los Trabajadores”, national PBS broadcast on “Independent Lens” 2003
Scott Rice	Nominee, Student Oscar for “The Adventures of Mad Max”
Diane Zander	Finalist IDA Wolper Award for “Girl Wrestler” national PBS broadcast on “Independent Lens” 2004
Ben Steinbauer	“Winnebago Man,” re-edit of thesis film, premiers at SXSW, screens at numerous film festivals 2008-9
Ruth Fertig	Student Documentary Academy Award, “Yizkor” 2010
Joel Fendelman	“Man on Fire” thesis film aired nationally on “Independent Lens” 2018

Numerous student films accepted into national and international film festivals.

SERVICE -- Nation, State and Community

Austin Film Society, Advisory Board Member, Co-founder of the Texas Documentary Tour, monthly documentary screenings with filmmakers presenting, 1997-present time

HERA International (Her Equality Rights & Autonomy) USA Board Member, funds women entrepreneurs to combat human trafficking and other forms of violence, conflict and exploitation, targeting Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine

Texas Book Festival, board member, 2013-2016

Texas Observer, Molly Ivins Prize Steering Committee, 2012-current

Shiv Nadar University (SNU, India) Advisory Board for the Department of Communication and the School of Social Sciences & Humanities, 2014-16

Funding/Selection Panels for:

- PBS's P.O.V. series
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Southern Humanities Media Fund

South by Southwest Film Festival, Austin, TX:

- Advisory Board Member, organized documentary film panels, chaired and served on panels 1997-2013

Austin Film Festival/Heart of Film Screenwriting Conference, Austin, TX:

- Chaired panels 1997-2012

Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Durham, NC, program curator 2003, 2004

University of Kansas, Film and Media Studies Department, External Review Committee, 2011

University of Utah, Film Department, External Review Committee, 2021

Promotion & Tenure external reviewer:

- USC – 2016, 2010, 2009, 2006, 2002, 2000
- Columbia – 2005
- Oregon -- 2009
- Kansas -- 2005
- NYU -- 2012, 2000
- American University – 2002
- University of Memphis – 2007, 2005
- LSU 2012
- Northern Illinois University 2012

Stanford University 2013, 2021
University of Albany 2013
University of Nevada, Las Vegas 2014
Santa Clara University 2014
Northwestern University 2016, 2015, 2018, 2018
Rice 2017
University of Colorado 2018
Carnegie Mellon 2018
University of Texas 2018, 2021 (RTF & Journalism)
Virginia Tech 2020
University of North Carolina 2021
University of Michigan 2022