

Ben Crane, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Ph.D., Communication Arts and Journalism

Doctoral Distinction Award, for excellence in the Communications doctoral program; was the only person to receive this honor in a ten-year period

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

B.A., Mathematics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY:

Associate Professor

Created and taught many courses, including:

Critical Thinking and Mass Communication
Documentary Workshop
Ethical Issues in Mass Communication
Exploring the Documentary
Issues and the News
Senior Seminar

Assistant Professor

Media generalist; taught:

Advanced Writing for TV	Dramatic Scriptwriting
Audience Research	Ethical Issues in Mass Communication
Audio Production	Introduction to Mass Communication
Critical Journalism	Media Writing
Documentary Research	Senior Seminar

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN:

Assistant Professor

Audience Research	Radio and Television Production
Broadcast Programming	Scriptwriting

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI:

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Broadcasting in America
Radio Programming and Production

ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONORS

2009

Co-founder, Ithaca College Documentary Studies and Production major

- New Bachelor of Arts program, several years in development; the first interdisciplinary degree in the Park School

Creative Consultant, *Good Fortune* (a documentary feature about misguided humanitarian aid to Africans; produced by alumni of my documentary class)

- Winner of the Witness Award at the 2009 AFI SilverDocs International Film Festival
- Official selection of Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, Boston Film Festival, Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival, California Documentary Festival, One World Film Festival (Ottawa, Canada), Orlando Film Festival, Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (The Netherlands), among others

2008

Co-creator, TV-R Department Documentary Production Concentration

Producer, *Strongest Ever* (documentary feature on the world's strongest woman)

- Signed international distribution contract with Electric Sky Ltd. (London, England)
- Sales to national networks in Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland
- Winner, Omaha Film Festival, *Audience Choice Award*

Creative Consultant, *Team Eckbo* (documentary feature on a national tour of Norway's four top comedians; produced by an alumnus of my documentary class)

- Aired NRK, (the Norwegian equivalent of the PBS network)

2007

Selected by Ithaca College for national *Professor of the Year* award, sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education

Producer, *Strongest Ever*

- Winner, Rhode Island International Film Festival, *Providence Grand Prize*

Executive Producer, *Walking the Line* (documentary feature on the United States – Mexico border conflict; produced with alumni of my documentary class)

- Featured on Free Speech TV, national satellite channel (DISH network)

2006

Producer, *Strongest Ever* (documentary feature)

Collaboration with alumni from my documentary class

Executive Producer, *Walking the Line* (documentary feature)

- Broadcast in the United States by Link TV, direct satellite service founded by Internews Network and the Independent Television Service (ITVS)
- National broadcast in Denmark on VPRO

2005

Executive Producer, *Walking the Line* (documentary feature)

- Official selection of more than two dozen film festivals, including: Absolute Time Film Festival (San Francisco), Austin Film Festival, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Boston International Film Festival, DocuFest Atlanta, Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, Leeds International Film Festival (England), Long Island International Film Expo, New England Film and Video Festival, Ohne Kohle International Film Festival (Austria), *First Prize*, One World Film Festival (Canada), Oxford Film Festival, River Run International Film Festival, River's Edge Film Festival, *Prize winner: Media That Matters*, San Antonio Cinefestival, Savannah Film Festival, Scottsdale International Film Festival, Sedona Film Festival, Staten Island Film Festival, Taos Mountain Film Festival
- Latin American Film Series selection, Cornell University

Executive Producer, *Mad Cow Crusaders* (documentary short on Mad Cow Disease in the United States)

- Society of Professional Journalists, *Mark of Excellence*, Regional Winner and National Finalist
- National Broadcasting Society Electronic Media Competition, *Honorable Mention*

2004

Executive Producer, *Mad Cow Crusaders* (documentary short)

- College Broadcasters Inc., *National Winner*, Documentary and Public Affairs

Executive Producer, *Walking the Line* (documentary feature)

2003

Executive Producer, *Mad Cow Crusaders* (documentary short)

Nominated for Ithaca College *Excellence in Teaching Award*

2001

Producer/Writer, *School Prayer: A Community at War*

(documentary feature on church and state separation, six years in research and production)

- Best of ITVS national tour: *Shaking Up the Box: A Decade of ITVS* selected as one of the best independent documentaries of the previous ten years
- Exhibitions: Museum of Modern Art, NYC
Kennedy Center, Washington, DC
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

2000

Producer/Writer, *School Prayer: A Community at War* (documentary feature)

- Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, *National Emmy Award*, News and Documentary division, "Outstanding Coverage of a Continuing News Story"
- Documentaries International, Washington, D.C., *First Place, Jan Kariski Award*, recognizing outstanding documentaries on moral courage

1999

Producer/Writer, *School Prayer: A Community at War* (documentary feature)

- National broadcast on PBS series, *P.O.V.* estimated audience: 6 million viewers; set series record for audience feedback
- Official selection of a dozen film festivals:
Athens International Film and Video Festival
Columbus International Film & Video Festival, *Bronze Plaque*

Double Take Film Festival (now Full Frame Documentary Film Festival)

Flagstaff International Film Festival, *Bronze Award*

Hope and Dreams Film Festival, *Best of the Festival Award*

Human Rights Watch Film Festival

International Documentary Film Festival – Lisbon, Portugal

International Film Festival – Leipzig, Germany

Lincoln Center Film Society selection

Louisville Film and Video Festival

New York Lower East Side Film Festival

WorldFest – Houston, *Gold Award*

- Fundraising speaker for PBS; screened and discussed *School Prayer* at Robert De Niro's Tribeca auditorium

1997

Producer/Writer, *School Prayer: A Community at War* (documentary feature)

- Independent Television Service, *Production Funding Grant*

1996

Producer/Writer, *School Prayer: A Community at War* (documentary feature)

- Soros Documentary Fund, *Production Grant*
- New York State Council on the Arts, *Media Production Award*

1993

Writer/Producer/Director, *Hopper for Hire* (radio and stage play)

- Columbia University Major Armstrong Award, *Best Radio Drama* (regarded as the most prestigious award for FM broadcasting)

1990

Writer/Producer/Director, *When the Sky Was Opened* (radio and stage play)

1989

Writer/Producer/Director, *Rod Serling's The Loner* (radio and stage play)

1988

Researcher, *NOVA: The Chip and the Chessmaster* (PBS national broadcast)

1987

Writer/Producer/Director, *I Shall Not Be Moved* (radio and stage play)

- Ohio State Award, *Best Dramatic Radio Program*
(longest-running national award competition in radio and television broadcasting)

1986

Dana Teaching Fellow, Ithaca College (then IC's top award for excellence in teaching)

Writer/Producer/Director, *Shadow Play* (radio and stage play)

- Ohio State Award, *Best Dramatic Radio Program*
- Columbia University Major Armstrong Award, *Honorable Mention, Radio Drama*

1985

Writer/Producer/Director, *The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street* (radio and stage play)

- National Catholic Communication Association, *Gabriel Award, First Place*
- Ohio State Award, *Best Dramatic Radio Program*

SERVICE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Co-founder of the Documentary Studies and Production degree, Park School's first interdisciplinary major (with Prof. John Scott), 2006-2009.

Created new Documentary concentration for TV-R Department.

Chair, Television-Radio Department Personnel Committee, 2004-present; responsible for overseeing tenure and promotion cases.

Participated in Department, School, and College committees, including many faculty searches, reviews of student scholarship applications, Park Chair Evaluations, College faculty grant applications, program discussion groups, Faculty Council, etc. Contributed to many admission and marketing events, and often met with prospective students and their parents. Developed promotional materials for the School and Department, and engaged in many other service activities.

Co-founder of the Journalism program in the School of Communications (with Prof. John Hochheimer).

Faculty advisor to numerous student groups, including the IC Documentary Club, IC Skeptics, IC Chess Club, IC Table Tennis Club, and ICTV productions.

Columnist for city newspaper, *Ithaca Journal*.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Documentary Association
Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers
Committee for Skeptical Inquiry
Skeptics Society