

CAROL HOWARD

ASSOCIATE PROVOST & PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior academic leader and Professor of English with extensive experience in institutional effectiveness, accreditation, academic affairs, and faculty development at mission-driven liberal arts colleges. Proven record of leading successful SACSCOC reaffirmation, strengthening student retention through data-informed strategies, and building cross-institutional teams that enhance collaboration and mitigate organizational silos. An accomplished administrator with deep expertise in curriculum development, assessment, and faculty mentoring, and a scholar of eighteenth-century British literature, African American literature, and public humanities. Brings more than two decades of experience in higher education leadership, strategic planning, and community engagement, alongside a strong record of publications, public scholarship, and teaching excellence.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, Columbia University

- Primary Field: British Literature 1660–1832

Dissertation on the cultural discourses of freedom and slavery in Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Writings by Women

- Second Field (PhD oral exams): African American Literature

M.Phil. & M.A., English, Columbia University

Certificate, School of Criticism and Theory, Dartmouth College

- Focus in African American Literary Criticism

B.A., Literature, Purchase College, SUNY — *Summa cum laude*

A.A., General Education, State College of Florida — *Summa cum laude*

LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Warren Wilson College – Asheville, NC

Associate Provost (2021–25)

- Led the College’s successful 10-year SACSCOC reaffirmation.
- Direct institutional effectiveness and accreditation processes, including assessment of academic programs, general education, student learning, and administrative units.
- Led campus-wide retention strategy team; retention increased 22%.
- Oversee and mentor all undergraduate academic department chairs.
- Direct cross-functional teams; strengthen collaboration across historically siloed areas.
- Provide leadership in academic policy, faculty personnel processes, hiring, onboarding, budget planning, and faculty development.

Dean of Faculty (2018–21)

- Directed academic personnel, recruitment, faculty review, and academic budgeting.
- Led initiatives in curriculum development, general education, and community-engaged pedagogy.

Associate Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs (2011–2018)

- Managed academic operations, faculty mentoring, and student success initiatives.
- Developed and oversaw first-year academic initiatives and early-alert programs.

Humanities Division Chair (2016–2017); First-Year Seminar Director (2011–2015); English Department Chair (2000–2007)

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS & TEACHING

Warren Wilson College – Asheville, NC | Faculty in English and Theatre (1998-)

Courses Taught – Classical Theatre | Modern Theatre | Literature and Culture of the Enlightenment | Literature and Culture of the Restoration | Romanticism | Gender and Sexuality in Early Modern Literature | Literature by Women | African American Literature | Honors Seminar: Narrative History | The Novel | The Short Story – Nature and the Environment | First-Year Seminar – Gardens and the Literary Imagination (Community-Engagement Course) | College Composition

Directing in Kittredge Theatre – Edward Albee’s *Three Tall Women* | Caryl Churchill’s *Top Girls*

Columbia University – New York, NY | Visiting Assistant Professor, English Department
(1997–1998)

Columbia College

Courses Taught – Literature Humanities (Columbia Core) | British Literature 1660-1789 (Columbia College) | Logic and Rhetoric (First-Year Writing)

College of General Studies

Courses Taught - Scholarly Writing (College of General Studies - Master’s Program in Liberal Studies) | British Literature: Medieval to Romanticism

Barnard College – New York, NY | Adjunct Faculty

Course Taught - First-Year Seminar

Purchase College – SUNY | Purchase, NY | Adjunct Faculty

Courses Taught - African American Women’s Literature | Introduction to Women’s Studies

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- **Teaching Excellence Award**, Warren Wilson College (2002)
Presented annually to one faculty member at the College
- Appalachian College Assoc. & Mellon Foundation Sabbatical Award (2004)
Supported research on Early 18th-Century Actress and Writer Eliza Haywood
- Appalachian College Association & Mellon Foundation Travel Grant (2001)
Supported summer-long research at the British Library and the Bodleian Library, Oxford
- Columbia University (1990–1996)
President’s Fellowship | Elliott V. K. Dobie Teaching Fellowship | Marjorie Hope Nicolson Fellowship

SELECT PUBLIC SERVICE LEADERSHIP

- Chair, Board of Directors, Black Mountain Center for the Arts (2011)
- Chair, Women’s Commission of Buncombe County (2007)

CURRENT RESEARCH

Carl Sandburg, Edward Steichen, and *The Family of Man* Exhibit
Literary Gardeners and Environmental Writers

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Books

Pride and Prejudice, ed. with Introduction and Notes. Barnes & Noble Classics, 2003.
British Writers, Vol. 11, ed. with George Stade. Scribners, 1997.
British Writers, Vol. 10, Associate Editor. Scribners, 1996.

Public Humanities Columns

The Literary Gardener, *The Laurel of Asheville* (2017–present).
50 essays on literature, landscape, and culture.

“100 Years of *The Great Gatsby*” (2025)
“Aldo Leopold Finds His Audience” (2025)
“Edward Steichen’s ‘Carl Sandburg’ Delphinium” (2024)
“Langston Hughes’ Landscape and Community Garden” (2024)
“Edith Wharton’s Walks at Biltmore” (2023)
“O. Henry’s Thanksgiving” (2023)
“Elizabeth Blackwell in Asheville” (2021)
“Georgia O’Keeffe in Asheville” (2021)
“A Southern Garden of the Harlem Renaissance” on Anne Spencer” (2021)
“Fifty Years of Planet Walking” on John Francis (2021)
“Louise Glück’s Winter Bonsai” (2020)
“A Veteran’s Day Landscape” on Yusef Komunyakaa (2020)
“Extreme Composting” on Robert Graves (2020)
“Hurricane Season” on Zora Neale Hurston (2020)
“A Simple Summer” on Tove Jansson (2020)
“Adventures of a Guava Tree Hermit” on Kiran Desai (2020)
“A Midsummer Night’s Time Traveler” on Philippa Pearce (2020)
“Alice in Search of a Garden” on Lewis Carroll (2020)
“Victorian Flowers in the Harlem Renaissance” on Alice Dunbar-Nelson (2020)
“A Landscape of Travels” on Elizabeth Bishop (2020)
“Annie Dillard’s Winter Vision” (2020)
“Neruda’s Garden of Love” (2020)
“Truman Capote’s Southern Christmas” (2019)
“Of a Vegan Childhood & Thanksgiving Turkey” on Louisa May Alcott (2019)

“Shirley Jackson’s Gothic Landscape” (2019)
 “The Language of Flowers” on Victorian Floriography (2019)
 “Spreading Beauty: The Story of the Lupine Lady” on Barbara Cooney (2019)
 “Robert Frost’s Farm Education” (2019)
 “An Urban Garden” on Paul Fleischman’s *Seedfolks* (2019)
 “Jane Austen’s Country Garden” (2019)
 “Beatrix Potter, Naturalist and Farmer” (2019)
 “Mary Oliver’s Natural World” (2019)
 “Finding Love through Nature” on Lucille Clifton (2019)
 “Thoreau’s Winter Landscape” (2019)
 “Virginia Woolf’s Garden” (2018)
 “Carl Sandburg’s Thanksgiving” (2018)
 “That Eden of Poisonous Flowers” on Nathaniel Hawthorne (2018)
 “How the Dahlia Got Its Name” on botanical history and Jamaica Kincaid (2018)
 “A Scottish Farmer’s Love Song” on Robert Burns (2018)
 “Gardens of Independence” on founding fathers (2018)
 “Emily Dickinson, the Gardener” (2018)
 “A Secret Garden Menagerie” On frances Hodgson Burnett (2018)
 “Wendell Berry’s Sacred Earth” (2018)
 “Our Mothers’ Gardens” on Alice Walker (2018)
 “Enjoying the Beauty of Winter Gardens” on Rosemary Verey (2018)
 “A Garden Wedding Classic” on Christopher Marlowe (2018)
 “Shakespeare’s Green Holly” (2017)
 “Pumpkins, Then and Now” on John Greenleaf Whittier (2017)
 “Kale through the Winter” (2017)

Articles, Chapters, Essays

“Elizabeth Blackwell.” *Dictionary of Unitarian Universalist Biography* (2018).
 “A Female Freemason on Stage?: Eliza Haywood’s Patriotism at Henry Fielding’s Haymarket Theatre.” In *The Public’s Open to Us All: Women and Performance in Eighteenth-Century England*. Cambridge Scholars, 2009: 128-55.
 “Michael Riffaterre.” (Remembrance of French-American literary critic and theorist of semiotics.) *The Romanic Review*. 101. 1-2 (Spring 2010), 251-252.
 “Wollstonecraft’s Thoughts on Slavery and Corruption.” *The Eighteenth Century*. 45.1 (2004): 61-86.
 “Talking in Metaphors: Language, Knowledge, and Signifyin(g) in Gloria Naylor’s *Mama Day*.” *Gloria Naylor: Strategy and Technique, Magic and Myth*. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2001, 132-52.
 “Lucille Clifton.” *World Poets*. 3 volumes. Edited by Ron Padgett. New York: Scribners, 2000. Vol. 1, 237-47.
 “The Transition from Graduate School at a Research University to Teaching at a Small College.” *Association of Departments of English (ADE) Bulletin*. No. 125 (Spring 2000), 37-39.
 “‘The Story of the Pineapple’: Sentimental Abolitionism and Moral Motherhood in Amelia

Opie's 1805 *Adeline Mowbray*." *Studies in the Novel*. 30.3 (Fall 1998), 355-76.
 "Aphra Behn." *British Writers*. New York: Scribners, 1996, 19-43.

Columns and Reviews

- Review of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. *Purple Hibiscus* (Anchor Books). In *The Urban News and Observer* (Asheville, NC: June, 2006), 19.
- Review of Hilda L. Smith, ed. *Women Writers and the Early Modern British Political Tradition* (Cambridge). *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Book Reviews On-Line* (Spring 2005).
- Review of Thomas M. Kavanagh. *Enlightenment and the Shadows of Chance: The Novel and the Culture of Gambling in Eighteenth-Century France* (Johns Hopkins). *The Romanic Review* (November 1994), 629-632.
- Review of Heidi Hutner, ed. *Rereading Aphra Behn: History, Theory, and Criticism* (Virginia). *The Women's Review of Books* (July 1994), 40.
- Review of Joan DeJean and Nancy K. Miller, eds. *Displacements: Women, Tradition, Literatures in French* (Johns Hopkins). *The Romanic Review* (March 1994), 336-340.

Columns for *Feminist News: Publication of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender* - Columbia University:

- Review of exhibit "International Women's Day: Celebrating Joan of Arc," 16 (1998), 4.
- Review of book and film opening "Gender and Politics in East Asian Culture." 16 (1998), 5.
- "Marjorie Hope Nicholson" (eminent literary scholar). 16 (1998), 8-10.
- "Ruth Benedict: Pioneering Anthropologist," 16 (1997), 7-8.

CONFERENCES

HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

- SACSCOC Annual Meeting, Houston, TX (2019)
- Deans Summit Meeting, Appalachian College Assoc., TN (2018, 2019)
- AAC&U Dean's Institute and Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (2019)
- SACSCOC Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA (2018)
- Learning and the Brain, Boston, MA (2014, 2016)
- John Gardner Institute Symposium on Student Retention, Asheville, NC (2015)
- Bonner High Impact Institute for Student Community Engagement, Albany, NY (2013, 2014)
- RNL Enrollment Management, Charlotte, NC (2012)
- RNL Marketing, Enrollment, Retention, and Advising, Denver, CO (2011)
- Professional Grant Development Workshop, Raleigh, NC (2008)
- Council of Independent Colleges, Department and Division Chairs, Atlanta, GA (2008)
- Embedding Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes, Lenoir-Rhyne College, NC (2006)
- North Carolina Center for Women in Public Service, Asheville, NC (2004)
- Budgeting, Fundraising, and Resource Development, Appalachian College Assoc., VA (2004)
- Women in Higher Education Leadership, Appalachian College Assoc., Asheville, NC (2003)

LITERARY CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

- "What Jane Austen Wrote about History and Politics," Black Mountain Public Library, NC, 2012.
- "Jane Austen's Queens," SEASECS, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA, 2012.
- "Aphra Behn's Idea of Heroism," MLA Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 2004.
- "The Idea of Virtue in Sarah Fielding's *Lives of Cleopatra and Octavia*," SEASECS, Univ. North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2002.
- "Mary Wollstonecraft's Idea of Slavery," SEASECS, Armstrong State Univ., Savannah, GA, 2000.
- "The Transition from Graduate School to Teaching at a Small Liberal Arts College," Assoc. of Depts. Of English, Rye, NY, 1999.
- "Eighteenth-Century English Actresses," NEASECS, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, 1996.
- "The Rhetoric of 'Oriental' Slavery in 18th-Century Feminist Writings," 18th- & 19th-C. Women Writers Conference, Univ. Notre Dame, IN, 1995.
- "Feminist Abolitionism in Eighteenth-Century English Literature," NEASECS, Univ. of Ottawa, Canada, 1995.
- "Sentimental Abolitionism and Moral Motherhood in the Work of Amelia Opie," NEASECS, Yale Univ., New Haven, CT, 1994.
- "Gender in the Composition Classroom," Race, Class, and Gender in the Composition Classroom, Columbia Univ., NY, 1993.
- "Representations of Slavery in Opie's *Adeline Mowbray*," 18th- and 19th-Century Women Writers Conference, Univ. Oregon, Eugene, OR, 1992.
- "Feminist Revisions of Milton." Conference on Revisioning Knowledge and the Curriculum, Michigan State Univ., East Lansing, 1990.
- "Mrs. Gulliver's Travails." WSECS, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, 1990.

EDITORIAL SERVICE

Consultant or reviewer for *New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century*; *Heartstone*; *The Bedford Handbook* (6th ed.); Broadview Press; PMLA.