

**Kevin Cuccia**

**Assistant Professor, Prescott Memorial Library**

**Engineering and Science Librarian, 1987-present**

**Louisiana Tech University Senate Chair Award 2018 Nomination**

### **List of Courses Taught**

I give lectures to the English 303 Technical Writing classes mostly on how to conduct library research which includes a handout updated regularly. I also lecture to various classes mostly in the College of Engineering and Science (COES) and occasionally for the College of Applied and Natural Sciences (ANS) as teachers request them. Additionally, I participate with the other Reference Librarians in giving library tours and accompanying lectures for COES students every Fall for the FYE 100 Freshman Orientation course sections.

Here is a list of the number of lectures given for the past 5 years:

2017-18, English 303 and COES classes: 18; Freshman Orientation: 11

2016-17, English 303: 12, Freshman Orientation: 6

2015-16, English 303 and ANS courses: 25

2014-15, English 303 and ANS courses: 22

2013-14, English 303 and ANS/COES courses: 38

### **Importance of Teaching, Research, and Community/University Research**

As a faculty member at Louisiana Tech University for the past thirty years, I recognize the importance that teaching, research, and public service play in the university's overall mission of educating and "preparing students to achieve their goals in a rapidly changing economic and civic environment."

My work in Prescott Library has enabled me to support the work that begins in the classroom by providing students with the resources and skills needed to understand and enhance the body of knowledge in their respective disciplines. As a reference librarian, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work one on one with students to determine their exact research needs. I can help allay their fears of sorting through a staggering amount of information to choose useful and scholarly materials that will help them achieve success both in the classroom and in their daily life.

Lecturing to individual classes has allowed me to connect with students in a more direct and personal way so that I can learn the topics that students are currently researching. I give them my contact information for further one-on-one assistance. The instruction sessions that all the Reference Librarians provide help empower our students and encourage them to return to the library for future research.

Research is essential in order to maintain currency and relevancy in our various fields of study. The library is at the heart of research in all universities. Here at Louisiana Tech, students and faculty can access thousands of journals, books, and government documents by using our catalog and specialized databases; however, the explosion of digital information has now made the research process both confusing and overwhelming.

It is rewarding to help individuals connect with the resources they need. Along with my colleagues I strive to keep up with current scholarship in order to purchase outstanding academic books and databases. For me, writing book reviews is a way of informing faculty members and other librarians of recently published quality materials. I have been doing this for over twenty years now.

Service is the underpinning of all educational institutions. It is a principle that pervades all aspects of university life beyond just the job requirements of one's position. We show our commitment to the institution as a whole as well as individuals by serving on committees, leading professional and civic groups, assisting at various events, and mentoring students in campus organizations. It allows us to network and share our unique talents and skills while developing camaraderie and creating an atmosphere that is both congenial and constructive. People can tell when we are genuinely interested in helping them not simply because we have to but because we want to.

A conscious decision to be more involved in our region of north Louisiana enables us to develop connections and friendships that unite Ruston and Louisiana Tech. We work for the betterment of our community, our society, and we want to see our young people grow and achieve success. Even with the amount of time that such service may require of us, it is both enjoyable and rewarding.

### **Publications**

I currently review books for *Louisiana Libraries* and *Catholic Library World*. Here is a list of reviews for the past 5 years:

"American Energy, Imperiled Coast." *Louisiana Libraries*, vol. 78, no. 3, Winter 2016, p. 23.

"Praying the Gospels with Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ: Jesus Launches His Ministry." *Catholic Library World*, vol. 86, no. 3, Mar. 2016, p. 201.

"Joyful Witness: How to Be an Extraordinary Catholic." *Catholic Library World*, vol. 85, no. 4, June 2015, pp. 274-275.

"What Does It Mean to Be Catholic?." *Catholic Library World*, vol. 86, no. 4, June 2016, p. 277.

"The Wolf and the Shield: An Adventure with St. Patrick." *Catholic Library World*, vol. 87, no. 1, Sept. 2016, p. 69.

"Death Penalty and Discipleship: A Faith Formation Guide." *Catholic Library World*, vol. 87, no. 2, Dec. 2016, p. 111

"The Bethany We Know: Exploring Relationship in the Company of Jesus." *Catholic Library World*, vol. 87, no. 3, Mar. 2017, p. 194.

"I Believe: The Promise of the Creed." *Catholic Library World*, vol. 87, no. 3, Mar. 2017, p. 195.

"Rebuilding Confirmation: Because We Need More Than Another Graduation." *Catholic Library World*, vol. 88, no. 1, Sept. 2017, p. 52.

"Always with Us?: What Jesus Really Said about the Poor." *Catholic Library World*, vol. 88, no. 3, Mar. 2018, p. 185.

## **Grants**

I received a Louisiana Tech Student Technology Board grant, November 2014, for a one-year electronic subscription to both *Statistical Abstract of the United States* and *Statistical Abstract of the World* and for purchase of *Momentum Press*, an engineering e-book database. Awarded \$8990.

## **Community/University Service Activities**

Below I have provided a selected list of service activities for the past 5 years, although I have been participating in some of these from 10 to 20 years.

Louisiana Tech, Instructional Policies Committee; Vice-Chair 2014-16, Interim Chair, March-Sept 2016

Louisiana Tech Research Council, member, July 2015-January 2018

Louisiana Tech Faculty Staff Club, Facebook publicity, past president, president, 2016-present

Assisted with First Year Experience Convocation, past few years up until the present

Chaperone with Dr. Celia Lewis for Honors 104 trip to Subiaco Abbey in Arkansas, Oct 2013 and Oct 2014

Assisted with SGA Big Event, last 10+ years through 2017

Assisted with annual Dog Haul, Fall Quarter, past several years with Lambda Sigma

Assisted with annual President's Midnight Breakfast, past 20 years up to present

Assisted SGA with interviews for selection of Homecoming Queen, Oct 6, 2014

Lambda Sigma Sophomore honor society, co-advisor. Louisiana Tech Chi Chapter has received Honors Chapter status the last several years, and it was the Operation Shoebox 2016 Small Organization Winner here at Louisiana Tech. I received the 2017 Outstanding Advisor award at the national convention, September 2017.

Louisiana Library Association: History Committee (through 2013); Literary Award Committee, 2013-2016; Academic Section By-laws committee, 2017-present and online newsletter correspondent for past several years

Prescott Library Search Committee, Chair, for position of Government Documents/Reference Librarian, June 2014

Prescott Library, Search Committee member for Dean of Libraries position, Sept 2014

Prescott Library, Library Services' Vision Committee, Fall 2015

Prescott Library Search Committee, Chair, for position of University Archivist, June 2016

Lincoln Parish Library, Friends of the Library, past president (2012-2014) and current board member

Ruston Community Theatre, past President, current Historian/Photographer, and now Secretary, past 15 years

St Vincent de Paul Society, St Thomas Aquinas Church, Spiritual Director for Lincoln Parish conference, past 20 years

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Sunday School teacher for various grades, past 15 years

Epiphany Ministries, bi-annual youth retreats at Swanson Detention Center in Monroe, 2013-present; Board member, now secretary for Louisiana chapter starting Fall 2017, Lay Director May 2017 and March 2018

Yucatan Evangelistic Association, summer mission trips to Mexico through Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2013-2016

BARC Volunteer for the 2016-17 Regional Autonomous Robotics Circuit Competition of NE La in Monroe, Oct. 22, 2016

Assisted with ABET Accreditation visit for COES, October 2014 and October 2017

Test proctor for numerous Louisiana Tech students, past 10 years; 35 tests administered this past school year

Assist with recycling of paper, cardboard, and now plastics for Prescott Library the past few years

Prescott Library, social committee, current chair

Prescott Library, building committee, Sept 2017- present