

I Love My  
Librarian!  
2015 Award

**Nominee: Doug Campbell**  
**Willis Library**  
**University of North Texas**  
**Denton, Texas**

**Nominator: Traci Treadway-Burt**

**1. Please tell us in 2-3 sentences why your nominee should win this award. What sets him/her apart?**

If I'm completely honest about why I'm nominating Doug, I run the risk of sounding overly effusive. It's a risk I have to take. Doug isn't just a great librarian, in my book (book pun intended), he's THE great librarian. For many, attending college for the first time is a scary endeavor; Doug has created a safe haven for them in the Willis Library at U.N.T. He's freakishly smart, so of course he can assist them with research and assignments, but - and this is what makes him so loved - he's also incredibly approachable and kind. The smart/kind combo is a rare and beautiful thing.

**2. Please discuss how the nominee has helped you and/or others and made your experience of the library a more positive one.**

How hasn't Doug helped enhance students' learning experience is the better question. It's an innate quality he possesses; he can't help but help. For example, I'm not nominating Doug because he's a colleague or because I'm a U.N.T. student. I'm nominating him because I'm a high school English teacher who is forever grateful that a university-level librarian would be gracious enough to come guest lecture in my Advanced Placement English III class. Doug's talk on Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* wowed them. Afterward, he handed out his U.N.T. contact cards, and my kids couldn't wait to get a head start on college library visits, so they could go see Doug. And how's this for a class act: after his supreme lecture, he sent my class a thank you card for THEIR time and attention. His heart, his passion, his intellect are all befitting his home state of Texas - where everything is bigger!

**3. How does the nominee make the college, community college, or university a better place?**

It's painful for someone as devoted to words as I am to admit this, but actions do speak louder. Doug's actions set him apart from the rest of the librarian crowd. He lives his

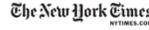
calling to be a librarian on campus (literally - he spent a year living in a dorm as the Resident Librarian). Whenever he meets a freshmen, he engages them regarding literature. I can't tell you the number of times I've received e-mails from him with this opener: I met one of your former students today. We wound up talking American literature. Doug's actions on behalf of libraries extend far beyond his workplace. He's served on the Denton Public Library Board - a very non-paid position. Whether he's visiting high schools, working at U.N.T., or being civic-minded at the public library, Doug is contributing to all.

**4. How has the library, and the nominee in particular, had an impact on students and faculty and the teaching and learning process?**

Doug's leadership is unique because he's managed to do the unmanageable. He makes the library and librarians look cool! Whether it's a campus-wide campaign (posters all over U.N.T. with Doug's formerly bearded image on it bearing the slogan: Go see Doug), or a seminar he's coordinated on the literary value of comics, Doug meets students where they are and then challenges them to be more. Oh, and there's his tattoo (more on that later).

**5. How has the individual demonstrated leadership in the campus community?**

Impact is a difficult thing to quantify. There's no data collection on making a library feel like a home away from home, making students feel valued, and making colleagues feel supported (and entertained). Pity. Doug does those things in spades on a daily basis. He's just really good at what he does. It's who he is. Doug recently got his first tattoo, and it's so apropos of everything I could possibly write about him and his dedication to being the best. It's the Beta Phi Mu symbol accompanied by the Latin phrase that epitomizes why I'm nominating him as a loved librarian: ALIIS INSERVIENDO CONSUMOR (Consumed in the Service of Others).



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**Nominator: Shay Youngblood**

**1. Please tell us in 2-3 sentences why your nominee should win this award. What sets him/her apart?**

Doug Campbell has a passion for knowledge and is devoted to sharing, not only all of the resources the library has to offer, and teaching people how to use those resources, but he is also dedicated to helping create an eco friendly community through his relentless efforts to encourage a bike friendly town. He does not wait for patrons to seek him out in the library there is time set aside in his busy schedule to be posted in public areas around campus and markets his presence so that students, faculty and staff have access to him in the places where they spend the most time. I believe his efforts encourage more visits to the library.

**2. Please discuss how the nominee has helped you and/or others and made your experience of the library a more positive one.**

One of Doug's super powers as a librarian is that he connects people with information and people to people. If a student is working on project and he knows a professor or staff person with expertise in that area he will connect them. He brings to life the idea of a human library. As a regular patron of public and university libraries, Doug did not need to encourage me to spend more time in the library. He has a genuine interest in the university and public community and if he thinks some bit of information can be useful he will forward material and information. As a novelist, playwright and teacher, I often need information that I can't access from a home computer. Doug continues to provide requested research information on a vast range of topics for my writing projects, classroom projects and public events and sometimes information that he thinks will be useful and it always is.

**3. How does the nominee make the college, community college, or university a better place?**

Doug has made the University and the city of Denton a better place to live. There is a social media campaign #WeLoveUNTLibrarianDoug that supports the fact, that Doug has helped thousands of students and countless faculty, staff and community members with his research and library skills, added richly to the community by encouraging students to vote, spent countless volunteer hours creating awareness of the positive impact of bike culture on the environment and the city's culture. UNT Students use Twitter daily to show their gratitude via student videos or photos which can be seen through @WeLoveLibrarianDoug

**4. How has the library, and the nominee in particular, had an impact on students and faculty and the teaching and learning process?**

Douglas Campbell has any leadership positions on campus and in Denton community. He is the President of Denton Public Library advisory board. He gives public workshops about bike safety on campus and the city of Denton. Also, he encourages students to choose healthy lifestyle through positive attitudes, eating healthy and exercising regularly after completing their academic responsibilities. He is very protective and kind brother and uncle to many students and the little community members.

**5. How has the individual demonstrated leadership in the campus community?**

Doug Campbell had/has a big impact on students and the faculty, (particularly the School of Journalism). He teaches about how to find specific information through the library resources, and always encourages the UNT students to reach him out whenever they need help. I have observed many positive impact on the UNT students and our Denton community in general. He is a great mentor, teacher and a friend to many of the students, faculty and community members.

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**Nominator: Sheri Broyles**

**1. Please tell us in 2-3 sentences why your nominee should win this award. What sets him/her apart?**

Doug isn't just any librarian. He's "Doug the Librarian," an affectionate title bestowed upon him by students across our 37,000-student campus. His passion is helping students solve problems, and he's the trusted guide our students go to when they're lost. What makes Doug stand out is that he never will do a project for a student, but at the same time he never gives up on a student. Ever. He'll work with them until they understand both the process and how to use the information. He also does some hand holding for faculty. We're all better because Doug is on our team.

**2. Please discuss how the nominee has helped you and/or others and made your experience of the library a more positive one.**

One of the gateway courses to the Mayborn School of Journalism is Introduction to Media Writing. This is a required course for every student – advertising, broadcast/digital, print and digital, photography and public relations – who come through our program. It's a tough class that includes both lecture and lab.

Doug Campbell does a guest lecture in every section, every semester. There are two purposes for him coming to this class. First, what he talks about is an important topic not just for journalism majors, but also for our overall society. Specifically he digs into how one should evaluate a website and other sources. Is this site legitimate? Is the data valid? Is it reliable? These are important questions for students and journalists, but more than that, such critical thinking is important as we train the citizens for our larger world. Second, this course allows us to introduce "Doug the Librarian" to every student, and over the years there have been thousands who have learned who Doug is and walked away with his business card. He tells them to come see him if they have any questions on this or something for any of their other classes. And they do. A student will often say, "You gave me your card and said I could come for help..." then dive into the question

they have. Knowing someone who is as open and approachable as Doug makes it easier for a student to reach out.

Doug also speaks in the advanced class of News Reporting, Writing and Editing. These students are expected to handle more complex stories and find the sources for their stories. Doug is often where they start, not as a source but as a way to find sources. He doesn't just give them names. Rather he helps them think through the process:

- So what is your story about? Let's talk about that.
- What type of sources do you think would have the information you need?
- Okay, now let's find those sources together.

Doug isn't just a librarian. He's a teacher. He makes our students smart, critical thinkers. Not only does Doug work with our entry-level undergraduates, but he does the same for our graduate students. He's the first person they meet in Readings of Mass Communication. This is a class students take their first semester in our graduate program and, like the undergrads, each gets one of Doug's business cards. He helps them not only in their classes, but also on when it comes time to dive into the literature review for their theses.

Doug Campbell is an integral part of our journalism program. Both the faculty and the students know that he's a person who will help them, no matter what the question.

### **3. How does the nominee make the college, community college, or university a better place?**

Doug Campbell wants to go to where the students are. In fact, he prefers to think of himself as an "embedded librarian." That is, rather than expecting the students to come to him in the library, Doug goes to where the students are. One year he lived in the largest dorm on campus, which houses more than 1,000 of our first-year students. He was a fixture there, even setting up his help desk one night a week in the lobby to assist students with research questions and to teach them how to access the library resources remotely. Helping students who are new to campus by acquainting them with the library's resources and how to use them gives them the foundation to be successful in all their classes while attending our university.

Doug continues his outreach across campus. This semester he spends part of his time four days a week at buildings across campus. Three are in dorms, where he is accessible to more than 6,000 students. The other is the building that houses our 1,000 journalism students. Our students will find him every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon on the benches by the windows as they walk in the doors. He sets up his poster – the one with his bearded face that everyone recognizes – and students will stop by and sit down to talk with him about whatever project they might be working on. Again, he wants to be accessible – where the students are when they have questions.

Not only does Doug reach out to help students, but he also reaches out to the faculty to assist in any way he can. Even for faculty, it's sometimes hard to find the right person to answer a question. However, an email to Doug will result in a quick response. For example, I asked if a book could be placed on reserve for my class this fall. I get an email back saying he had reserved the hard copy of the book for the semester, then he added a note that there was also an online version of the book that could be open to as many students as needed. And he gave me the precise information the students would need to

access the book. He not only made my job easier, but he also made my 40 students happy campers.

I've also found that when you tell students to "go to the library," they are reticent to go. But if you say – "Doug is your librarian. Ask him." – they go. Then Doug helps them figure it out. Once they go, Doug helps them understand the system. He's a teacher. A guide. And a library guru. Plus he has an open personality that makes both students and faculty willing to reach out. Doug has endeared himself to students and faculty alike because he's open, assessable and wants to make us all better and successful.

#### **4. How has the library, and the nominee in particular, had an impact on students and faculty and the teaching and learning process?**

Doug has been come into my classroom for years to help students understand how to access and use one of the library databases – the Mediamark Reporter Inc. or MRIs. The students and faculty like it so much that we've turned it into the Doug and Sheri Show and regularly do two or three classes a semester.

Doug sets up a class page for every course with all the handouts for reference and a tab that takes the students directly to the MRI database. He walks them through how to register and how to access the database both from on and off campus. Together we then work through what all the numbers mean and how to read the complicated tables. We get the students to chant together going through different examples until they understand the way the numbers work. It's extremely satisfying to see students who are terrified of numbers begin to understand then embrace what they can do with this database. Before the end of class Doug always gives each student one of his cards and says, "If you have any problems getting into the database, call or email me. If you have any questions about this or anything else, I'm here to help. I'm your librarian. Use me and abuse me." And he means it. He's there for our students.

#### **5. How has the individual demonstrated leadership in the campus community?**

Doug is a leader in many ways. He's an ambassador for the libraries by bringing the library resources to both faculty and students. But he's more than "just a librarian." The Mayborn School of Journalism is a professional program, and Doug helps our students become journalists, advertising professionals and public relations practitioners. And, by doing so, he's helping change our larger world.

He's also a leader across the university. He's been an elected member of the Faculty Senate for several years. In the September 2015 meeting he was elected to represent his group (one of eight) on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. This is the leadership team that does the heavy lifting for the faculty and librarians, including meeting monthly with the president and provost of the university. His is an important voice for both the library and other units across campus.

Doug is also a role model to us all. His ever-positive disposition lifts everyone he comes in contact with. We are fortunate that "Doug the Librarian" is an ongoing fixture on the UNT campus. He always says that he is "our librarian for life." That is a great commitment by him. And a great comfort to all those lives he touches year after year. I'm honored to nominate Douglas Campbell for the 2015 I Love My Librarian Award. He represents the best of what a librarian can be.