

Faculty Spotlight Series:

5 questions with Patrick Lawrence.

1. What is your role at USC Lancaster, and how long have you worked here? I'm a relatively new English professor at USCL, having started in the fall of 2016. I teach our most common courses, English 101 and 102, but I also do research about Ethnic Literature and regularly teach a course called "Race in American Literature and Culture."

2. Where did you go to college, and what attracted you to the education field? I earned my Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut, but I have bounced around a lot before that—I actually got my Bachelor's degree from that other USC: the University of Southern California. When I was young, I often had an interest in teaching, and it seemed like I always wanted to teach whatever grade I was in at the time. When I finally went to college, it was pretty natural that I would want to teach college students. Now I get to teach the same things that I was excited to learn as a college student myself, which is pretty cool.

3. What is your favorite thing about USC Lancaster? It's really cool to live and teach in the same community and to be able to work closely with students in small classes. And we have great library resources, which lets me get all the interesting books I want to read. I also get a kick out of seeing Lance around town.

4. What are your hobbies/interests? I have two small kids, which takes up most of my free time. I also do what I love, so all my old hobbies (like reading books and writing about them) are now part of my job. Why would I need hobbies?

5. What advice would you give current students or prospective students? I think the most important thing students can do is get involved with the USCL community. The more you can make connections to other students and to faculty and staff, the more you can get out of your time here and the more resources you can tap into. That's one of the best ways to ensure your academic success, but it's also a good way to ensure that your academic success means something to you.



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