

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- 1997 **Ph.D. Special Education**
University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA
Dissertation Title: Membership in Inclusive Classroom: Middle School Students Perceptions
Minor: Psychology
- 1992 **Teaching Certificate**
Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts, USA
Educating Children with Deafblindness and Multiple Disabilities
International Educational Leadership Program
- 1988 **M.R.Sc. Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Science**
Holy Cross College, Bharathidasan University, Trichy, India
- 1986 **B.R.Sc. Bachelor's Degree in Rehabilitation Science**
Holy Cross College, Bharathidasan University, Trichy, India
- 2004 **International Computer Driver License (ICDL)**
Sponsored Programs by UNESCO, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- April 2008 –Present Associate Professor and Practicum Coordinator, Education Studies Department
Emirates College for Advanced Education (ECAE), Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2005 – March 2008 Associate Professor in Special Education, College of Education
Practicum and Internship Coordinator
Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- 2004 - 2005 Associate Professor, Education
American University of Kuwait, Kuwait
- 2001 - 2004 Associate Professor in Special Education, College of Education, (Promoted in 2003)
Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- 1997 - 2001 Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education,
Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky, USA
- 1992 - 1997 Teaching & Research Assistant - Department of Special Education & Rehabilitation,
University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA
- 1988 - 1991 Lecturer, Department of Rehabilitation Science
Holy Cross College, Trichy, India
- 1994 - Present **Consultant, Hilton/Perkins International Programs - Boston, Mass. USA.**

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Publications

- Briegel, T., Tennant, L., & Garcia, C. (in press, March 2008 Issue) *Mothers' and Teachers' Perceptions on Forming Home/School Partnerships*. Middle East Educator, Bahrain.
- Briegel, T., Dada, R., Tennant, L., Hedaiat, N., Al- Muhairi, S. (2007, in review). *Teacher Practices in Secondary Schools in the United Arab Emirates*. Middle East Educator, Bahrain.
- Briegel, T., Jongsma, K., Bryant, S., Adams, K., Tennant, L., Engelbrecht, G., Atallah, F., Tennant, R., Dada, R., & Carr, K. (in press, 2006). The United Arab Emirates. Greenwood Encyclopedia of Children's Issues Worldwide. Greenwood Publishing: Westport, CT.
- Tennant, L., & Walker, I. (2006). *How Schools Use Computers In Teaching & Learning*. Conference Proceedings, International Conference on Information Communication Technologies in Education (ICICTE).
- Bradshaw, K., Tennant, L., & Lydiatt, S. (2004). *Special Education in the United Arab Emirates: Attitudes, Anxieties & Aspirations*. International Journal of Special Education, Vol. 19 (1). <http://www.internationalsped.com/documents/ACF4B7.doc>
- Garriott, P., Snyder, L., Tennant, L., & Ringlaben, R. (2004). *If it Takes a Village, Then We'd Better Educate the Villagers: Preservice Teachers' Attitudes and Beliefs about the Inclusion of Students with Severe Disabilities*. The Electronic Journal of Inclusive Education, USA. http://www.ed.wright.edu/~prenick/Summer_fall04/8TH_EDN.HTM
- Tennant, L.J. (2003). *WebQuest: Integrating the Curriculum with the Internet*. Journal of Teaching and Learning, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates.
- Tennant, L. J. (2000). *Students with Severe Disabilities in Inclusive Education Classrooms: Implications for Educators*. 66 (3), 17-23. The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin.
- Williams (Tennant), L., & Downing, J. (1998). *Membership and Belonging in Inclusive Classrooms: What Do Middle School Students Have to Say?* Journal of the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps, 23 (2), 98-110.
- Downing, J., Eichinger, J., Williams (Tennant), L. (1997). *Inclusive Education for Students with Severe Disabilities: Comparative Views of Principals and Educators at Different Levels of Implementation*. Journal of Remedial and Special Education, 18, 133-142.
- Ryndak, D., Downing, J., Morrison, A., Williams (Tennant), L. (1996). *Parents' Perceptions of Educational Settings and Services for Children with Moderate or Severe Disabilities*. Journal of Remedial and Special Education, 17(2), 106-118.
- Ryndak, D., Downing, J., Williams (Tennant), L., Morrison, A. (1995). *Parents' Perceptions after Inclusion of their Child with Moderate or Severe Disabilities in General Educational Settings*. Journal of the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps, 20(2), 147-157.

Book Reviews

- Tennant, L., & Wilson, C. (1998). Review of the Book [Lloyd, L.L., Fuller, D.R., & Arvidson, H.H. (1997). *Augmentative and Alternative Communication: A Handbook of Principles and Practices*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.]. *Advance Update*, 8(50), 30.
- Williams (Tennant), L., MacFarland, S., Umbreit, J. (1996). *Involvement in Society* - Review of the book; An Introduction to Persons with Severe Disabilities: Educational and Social Issues. *Journal of the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps*, 21(2), 96-97.

Newspaper and Newsletter

- Tennant, L. (December 2007)- *Inclusion for Students with Special Needs* - Al Bayan Arabic Newspaper.
- Tennant, L. (May, 2007). *Future Center Offers Learning Opportunities for Zayed University Students*. *Future Voice* Vol. 3(1) p.23. Future Center: Abu Dhabi.
- Tennant, L., & Bradshaw, K. (Feb. 2004). *Gifted Students are Unused Wealth Waiting to be Spent*. *Khaleej* (Arabic Newspaper), February 14, 2004, p 10.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Elementary Mathematics Teachers' Awareness of Dyscalculia in the UAE
- Inclusive Experiences of Students with Down Syndrome in the UAE.
(The above two research studies are in progress -2007-2008)
- Principal Investigator: An Analysis of the Perceptions of Mothers and Teachers of Early Adolescents on Home and School Partnerships in the UAE *Research Grant funded by ZU (2005-2007)*.
- Co-Researcher: How Schools Use Computers in Teaching and Learning. *Research Grant funded by Zayed University(2003-2005)*.
- Co- Researcher: A Study of Teaching Practices of Secondary School Teachers in the UAE, *Research Study funded by the Ministry of Education & Youth, United Arab Emirates (2002-2003)*.
- Co-Researcher: *Preservice Teachers and their Use of Technology* (non funded).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Inclusive Education
- Parent and School Partnerships
- Teacher Education – Special Educators
- Use of Technology in the Classrooms

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Camp Director** for English Summer Camp (ADEC) 2007: Western (Abu Dhabi) Educational Zone. (Visited 10 campsites in Western Zone and supervised 30 faculty and managed the budget).
- **Consultancy and PD workshops** provided to teachers of children with multiple disabilities, Bahrain (March, 2007) funded by the US Embassy, Bahrain as a consultant for Hilton/Perkins International.
- **Grant Reviewer** for Deaf Blind Centers-Grant Competition for the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), United States Department of Education, Washington D.C. (June 17-19, 1999).

PRESENTATIONS

International

- Counseling Arabia 2008 Conference: *Learning Difficulties in Mathematics: Teachers' Perspectives*, March 26, 2008, Zayed University Campus, Dubai. Co-presenters: Ray Tennant & Amal Jasem
- Dubai International Rehabilitation Conference March 2008
 - *Alternative Assessment for Children with Special Needs in Inclusive Classroom*
 - *Designing Functional Curriculum for Students with Moderate Disabilities in Inclusive Classrooms*
- ACCESS 2008 Conference: *Experiences of Inclusion for Children with Down Syndrome in the UAE: Preliminary Findings*. Abu Dhabi, March 9-11, 2008. Co-presenter: Dr. Fiona Baker.
- *Building a Community of Diverse Women: Leadership for Social Transformation*. March 10-12th, 2008, Third Women as Global Leaders Conference, Dubai. Co-presenter: Dr. Poonam Arora.
- *Computers in Teaching and Learning: A Qualitative Study on the Perceptions of Administrators and Teachers in Two Schools in Abu Dhabi*, International Conference on Information Communication Technologies in Education (ICICTE) 6-8 July 2006, Island of Rhodes, Greece.
- *Perspectives of Emirati Women Educators on Schools as Communities for Leadership and Development*, March 12-14th, 2006, Second Women as Global Leaders Conference, Abu Dhabi (organized round table discussion with Lolowa Al Marzouqi, Amena Al Majed, Safiya Mohamed, & Bushra Al Fardan).
- *Integrating Curricular Activities with the Internet*. Professional Educators Association of Kuwait (PEAK) Conference 2004 November 24-25, 2004, Al'Takamul International School, Kuwait.
- *Perceptions of Mothers and Teachers on Early Adolescents on Home and School Partnerships in the UAE*. The 10th Annual Conference on the Global Education of the Child. Lebanese American University, Byblos & Beirut, Lebanon, April 15-17, 2004.
- *If It Takes a Village, Then We'd Better Educate the Villagers: Preservice Teachers' Attitudes and Beliefs about the Inclusion of Students with Severe Disabilities*. Tenth International Education and Literacy Conference, Institute of Education, University of London, London, July 15-18, 2003.
- *Full Inclusion for Students with Multiple Disabilities*, Holy Cross College, Trichy, India, June 27, 2002.
- *Web Quest: Using the Internet as an Educational Tool*, Eastern Mediterranean University, Famagusta, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, May 8-10, 2002.
- *Preparing Teacher Assistants for Students with Functional Mental Disabilities (FMD) in Inclusive Settings*, 45th Annual KY Exceptional Conference, Louisville, KY, USA March 2-4, 2000.
- *How to Survive the First Year of Teaching?* 35th Annual Exceptional Children Conference, Louisville, KY, November 22-24, 1999.
- *Participation is the Key to Achieving a Sense of Belonging for Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Classrooms*, Kentucky Occupational Therapy Association 1999 Annual Conference, Richmond, KY, October 8-10, 1999.

- *A Sense of Belonging...Voices of Middle School Students with and without Severe Disabilities in Inclusive Classrooms*, The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Annual Convention, Charlotte, NC, April 1999.
- *Strategies for Teacher Assistants & Managerial Tips for Teachers in Inclusive Settings*, Kentucky Federation of The Council for Exceptional Children, Annual Convention, Louisville, Feb, 1999.
- *Special Education Programs in the United States: A Perspective*, Holy Cross College, Trichy, India, January 8, 1999.
- *The Role of Interpreter in Inclusive Classrooms*, American Educational & Research Association (AERA), Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, April 1998.
- *Membership and Belonging in Inclusive Classrooms: Perceptions Middle School Students*, Kentucky Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children, Annual Convention, Louisville, February, 1998.
- *A Common Sense Approach to Working with Students who have a Combined Vision & Hearing Loss*. The Council for Exceptional Children - Deafblindness, Annual State Conference, Phoenix, AZ, February 1997.
- *Perceptions after Inclusion of their Child with Moderate or Severe Disabilities & Exploring the Issues Surrounding Full Inclusion for Students with Severe Handicaps* Annual International Conference of the Association of Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH), Atlanta, GA., December 1994.
- *Technology to Make Learning Fun*, Student Workshop -The Eastern Kentucky University Autism & Related Disorders Group, March 5 & 6th 1999.

Regional

- *Making It Firmer: Redesigning a Teacher Education Program for Third Millennium Teachers in the UAE*, Redesigning Teacher Education Conference, United Arab Emirates University October 21-23, 2003, Dubai, Copresenter: Ian Walker.
- *Does Technology Infusion Create Technology Using Teachers? The Lap-Top University Meets the Government Classroom*, Redesigning Teacher Education Conference, United Arab Emirates University October 21-23, 2003, Dubai, Copresenters: Ian Walker, Toni Briegel, Robin Zoubi.
- *Differentiated Instruction: Using Tiered Lessons*, Workshop for Teachers of Abu Dhabi Model Schools, November 17, 2002, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi.
- *One Size Fits All or Does It? Zayed University, College of Education International Conference, Tomorrow's Teachers: Success Through Standards*, Dubai, March 31-April 1, 2002, Copresenter: Winnifred Procyshen.
- *WebQuests: Web-Supported Problems-Based Instruction in Post-Secondary Education*, IBM Fly In, Zayed University and Higher Colleges of Technology, December 15, 2002, Dubai, Copresenter: Robin McGrew-Zoubi.
- *Hi Tech! Low Tech! No Tech! Opinions of Preservice Teachers*, Poster Session- Zayed University, College of Education International Conference, Tomorrow's Teachers: Success through Standards, Dubai, March 31-April 1, 2002, Copresenters from College of Education.

- *Using the Internet in the Classroom*, Education for Results Conference, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE, November 8, 2001, presented jointly with students.
- *Click and Fix: Use of Digital Camera and Photoshop*, Education for Results Conference, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE, November 8, 2001, presented jointly with students.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Conducted for Teachers in the United Arab Emirates (2005-2007)

- Differentiated Instruction: Using Tiered Lessons and developing integrated thematic units. (Science and Math in English - SAMIE Project Schools)
- Meeting Individual Needs of Students in the Classrooms: Adaptations and Accommodations. (Al Nahda National School and Dubai National School).
- Teaching with the Internet & Integrating Technology in the Curriculum. (Al Afaq Model School and Al Mawaheb Model School)
- Teaching Strategies for Gifted and Talented Learners. (Al Nahda National Girls School and Dubai National School).
- Portfolio Assessment (Dubai National School)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Learning Styles, Zayed University, Dubai, February 5-7, 2008 (accepted to attend training).
- NCATE Conference 2007, Crystal City, Arlington, VA, USA September 27-30, 2007.
- Value Parenting, SAI Group, ZU, Abu Dhabi, September 2007.
- Numbers Don't Make Sense! Supporting Numeracy in Children with Learning Difficulties, Dyslexia Association, Dubai, June 2nd 2007.
- ACCESS Conference, Zayed Humanitarian Society for Special Needs, Abu Dhabi March 2007.
- Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century in the UAE: Research Forum, Nov 19, 2006.

SERVICE TO COMMITTEES

(2005-2008)

- Member of University Standing Committee for Academic Affairs (2005-2007).
- Steering Committee Member Middle States Accreditation (MSCHE): 2005-2008.
- Co-Chair for the Working Group on the Standard for Assessment of Student Learning (2005-2008).
- Co-chair: NCATE – International Recognition for Teacher Education (2007-2008).
- Chair: Student Affairs College Committee (2007-2008).
- Steering Committee Member for ZU TECH Exhibition Conference 2008.

MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS

- CEC - The Council for Exceptional Children
- TASH - The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps
- AERA- American Educational & Research Association
- ASCD- The Association for Curriculum Development and Supervision
- DKG - The Delta Kappa Gamma International Society – Omicron Kentucky Chapter

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2002 Winner - UAE IT CHALLENGE under the Best Technology Teacher Projects Category at the Tertiary Level: www.zu.ac.ae/apps/itchallenge
- 1992-1997 Graduate/Research Assistantship, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA
- 1991-1992 Scholarship-International Educational Leadership Program, Perkins School, Massachusetts, USA
- 1989 Certificate of Merit, Best Graduating Student of the Year
Holy Cross College, Trichy, India
- 1989 Meritorious Student Award given by Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Trust, New Delhi, India
- 1988 Gold Medal, First Rank in the University, Holy Cross College, India
- 1987 Youth Merit Award given by Rotary International, Trichy, India

LIST OF COURSES TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL

Undergraduate

- Essentials of Learning (College Freshmen course)
- People with Special Needs
- Parents as Educators
- Teaching as a Profession
- Diverse Learners in the Classroom
- Teaching Students with Special Needs
- Families, Schools, & Societies
- Special Topics in Education
- Introduction to Psychology
- Inclusive Curriculum and Educational Change
- Educational Studies II
- Learning Technologies
- Learning Outcomes Assessment
- Directed Capstone Projects
- Supervised Practicum and Internships

Graduate

- Exceptional Children & Youth
- Current Trends and Issues in Special Education
- Educational Services Management
- Transition and Employment of Students with Special Needs
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication for nonverbal students
- Teaching Methods for Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities and Autism
- Teaching Students with Dual Sensory (Deaf Blindness) Impairments
- Teaching Students with Special Needs – Intellectual Disabilities & Multiple Disabilities
- Assistive Technology & Integrating Technology in the Curriculum
- Collaboration and School Partnerships