

Curriculum Vitae
VICTORIA GUERCIA CARUANA

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EDUCATION

- 2007 - Present ABD: Ph.D. Curriculum & Instruction: Special Education: Teacher Ed.
Anticipated dissertation defense September 2011
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
- 2005 – 2007 *Doctoral work: Educational Leadership & Change
Fielding Graduate University
Santa Barbara, CA
- 1998 Certificate in Educational Leadership (modified master's program)
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
- 1988 MEd. Gifted Education
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
- 1984 B.A. Specific Learning Disabilities
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL

*Program change to Special Education: Teacher Education after this.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2010 – Present Instructor, University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
- 2010 – Present Gifted Program Assistant, University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
- 2010 Middle School Tutoring Project, SCATT, University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
- 2009 – 2010 Teacher, Earth Science, 6th grade, Center for Gifted Studies, Dunedin
Highland Middle School
Dunedin, FL
- 2009 – 2010 Coordinator, Center for Gifted Studies, Dunedin Highland Middle School
Dunedin, FL
- 2008 – 2009 Graduate Research & Teaching Assistant, Department of Special Education,
College of Education, University of South Florida
- 2007 – 2008 Learning Specialist/Academic Coach, Early College Program, St. Petersburg
College
- 2006 – 2007 Co-teacher, Science, 8th grade, Madeira Beach Middle School
Madeira Beach, FL

2005 – 2006	Adjunct Professor, Department of Special Education, St. Petersburg College
1991 – 2005	Freelance Writer, Editor, & Educational Consultant. Educational writer and editor for a variety of publications. Private diagnostic services for gifted and learning disabilities, conducted parent and teacher workshops on a variety of gifted education and learning disabilities topics.
1999	Adjunct Professor, Department of Special Education, Clearwater Christian College
1995 – 1996	Teacher, Gifted Education, K-5, Fuguitt Elementary School Largo, FL
1988 – 1990	Teacher, Gifted Education, 6 th grade, Safety Harbor Middle School Safety Harbor, FL
1987 – 1988	Teacher, Specific Learning Disabilities, Modified Self Contained, 6-8 grades, Safety Harbor Middle School Safety Harbor, FL
1985 – 1987	Teacher, Specific Learning Disabilities, Resource, 6 th grade, Lockhart 6 th Grade Center Tampa, FL
1984 – 1985	Substitute Teacher, New York City Public Schools; New York City Parochial Schools Staten Island, Brooklyn, and Manhattan, NY

HONORS & AWARDS

2010	CEC Teachers' Blogs: A Teacher's Journal FEA Blogs www.appleschalkdustjournal.blogspot.com
2008 – present	LITES (Leadership in Teacher Education for Special Education) Scholarship
2007	ING Unsung Heroes Award, in recognition of innovation and excellence in education
2003	The Gold Book Award, in recognition of more than 500,000 copies sold of <i>Apples & Chalkdust</i> (Honor Bks., 1998)

RESEARCH/PUBLICATIONS

Current Research Activities

Caruana, V. *A Pilot Study of the Use of the Learning Activities Survey with Preservice Teachers:*
The purpose of this study is to pilot an online version of the Learning Activities Survey (LAS, King, 1997) for use with preservice teachers.

Caruana, V. *A Pilot Study of the Use of an Attitude Survey with Non Special Education Majors Enrolled in an Online Course:*

The purpose of this study is to pilot an online version of the Sentiments, Attitudes, and Concerns toward Inclusive Education (SACIE, Forlin, 2009) scale for use with non special education majors in an online course about special education and compare to the already established reliability of the paper/pencil version.

Caruana, V., & Semon, S. *The Influence of an Online Course on Attitude Change of Non Special Education Majors toward Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Settings:*

The purpose of this study is to determine if there is a relationship between non special education

majors' engagement in an online course about special education and their attitudes and confidence about working with students with disabilities in inclusive settings. This mixed methods study uses a pre-established survey instrument (Forlin et al., 2009) that measures the impact of coursework on changing the attitudes of teachers towards inclusion. The study also examines one additional outcome measure to detect subtle changes in attitude of participants over time by analyzing the text produced in this virtual class.

Caruana, V. *Assessing Pre-Service Teacher Dispositions:*

The purpose of this study is to understand how the pre-service teacher dispositions instrument used by the COEDU at a large metropolitan university is being used. It is a pilot study.

Refereed Journals

Manuscripts Submitted for Publication/Revise-Resubmit/Decision Pending

Caruana, V. (submitted for review). Dispositions of general education and special education pre-service and in-service teachers towards students with disabilities in inclusive settings: A review of the literature. *Teacher Education and Special Education*.

Caruana, V. (submitted for review). Making up the difference: the need for highly effective as opposed to highly qualified teachers in low SES and urban schools. *Journal of Teacher Education*.

Caruana, V. (revise-resubmit). Dual enrollment meeting the needs of high achieving and academically gifted students. *Gifted Education Quarterly*.

Published

Caruana, V. (1999). Partnering with homeschoolers. *Educational Leadership*, v57, n1, 58-61.

Books

Caruana, V. (2008). *Apples & chalkdust 10th anniversary edition*. New York: Simon & Schuster Publishing.

Caruana, V. (2007). *Standing up for your child*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Publishers.

Caruana, V., & Hammer, K. (2007). *Brain food*. New York: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers.

Caruana, V. (2006). *Before the bell rings*. New York: Simon & Schuster Publishing.

Caruana, V. (2005). *Recess for teachers: renewal of mind, body, spirit*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Kent, C., & Caruana, V. (2005). *Sunshine for teachers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishers.

Caruana, V. (2004). *Apples & chalkdust: a teacher's journal*. Colorado Springs, CO: Cook/Honor Bks.

Caruana, V. (2004). *One heart at a time for teachers*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers.

Caruana, V. (2004). *When teachers pray*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Caruana, V. (2004). *Giving your child the excellence edge*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Publishers.

Caruana, V. (2003). *Apples of gold*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers.

Caruana, V. (2003). *Apples & chalkdust portable*. Colorado Springs, CO: Cook/Honor Bks.

Caruana, V. (2003). *Apples & chalkdust notes*. Colorado Springs, CO: Cook/Honor Bks.

Caruana, V. (2003). (Ed.). *The homeschooler's guide*. Wheaton, IL: Good News/Crossway Bks.

Caruana, V. (2002). *Prayers from a teacher's heart*. Tulsa, OK: Honor Books

- Caruana, V. (2002). *Educating your gifted child*. Wheaton, IL: Good News/Crossway Bks.
- Caruana, V. (2001). *The organized homeschooler*. Wheaton, IL: Good News/Crossway Bks.
- Caruana, V. (2001). *Apples & chalkdust #2*. Tulsa, OK: Honor Books.
- Caruana, V. (2001). *The abc's of homeschooling*. Wheaton, IL: Good News/Crossway Bks.
- Caruana, V. (2000). *Apples & chalkdust for teachers*. Tulsa, OK: Honor Books.
- Caruana, V. (2000). *Success in school*. Bemidji, MN: Focus Publishing.
- Caruana, V. (1998). *Apples & chalkdust*. Tulsa, OK: Honor Books.

Unpublished Manuscripts/Curriculum Developed

- Caruana, V. (preparation for submission). Resiliency in Teachers: Optimistic Attitudes as Contributing Factors to Retention in the Field
- Caruana, V. (preparation for submission). Ethics and teacher education.
- Caruana, V. (2006). *R.A.R.E: Learning Strategy for Answering Short and Extended Response Questions in the Content Areas*. A step-by-step strategy to teach students how to offer complete answers to short and extended response questions. The strategy also aligns to FCAT writing questions in the various content areas. It was piloted in 8th grade science classes at one middle school and is now used in three middle schools at all grade levels in Florida.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Speaker

- 02-09 Caruana, V. Hitting the Wall: Helping Gifted Students Navigate Obstacles. *Gifted Association of Pinellas (GAP) Parent Meeting*. Clearwater, FL (February).
- 11-99 Caruana, V. Aligning Your Curriculum to Standards. *New Mexico Department of Education Summer Institute*. Farmington, NM (November).
- 04-99 Caruana, V. Advice for New Teachers. *University of South Florida, College of Education Student Council*. Tampa, FL (April).
- 01-98 Caruana, V. Big Fish in Little Ponds: Fighting Complacency in Gifted Children. *Gifted Association of Pinellas (GAP) Parent Meeting*. Clearwater, FL (January).
- 04-98 Caruana, V. Homeschool Partnerships: Making the Connection. *Up with Achievement Conference*, Pinellas County Schools. Largo, FL (April).

International/National Presentations

- 04-11 Caruana, V. Assessing Attitudes of General Education Majors toward Inclusion. *CEC International Convention*. National Harbor, MD.
- 02-11 Caruana, V. Resiliency in Teachers: Optimistic Attitudes as Contributing Factors to Retention in the Field. *ATE National Convention*. Orlando, FL.
- 11-08 Caruana, V. Assessing Dispositions: An Inspection of Four Instruments in the Field. *CEC Teacher Education Division*, Dallas, TX.
- 03-05 Caruana, V. Partnering with Parents. *ASCD National Convention*. Chicago, IL.
- 1996 Caruana, V. Writing Your Own Curriculum. *KDP International Convocation*. Birmingham, AL.
- 1990 Caruana, V. The Gifted Child with Learning Problems. *CEC International Convention*. Sarasota, FL.

State/Regional Presentations

- 1998 Caruana, V. Homeschoolers and Exceptional Education. *FFCEC Conference*. Orlando, FL.
 1997 Caruana, V. Underachieving Gifted. *Florida Association for Gifted Conference*. Tampa, FL
 1990 Caruana, V. Making the Home/School Connection. *Florida Association for Gifted Conference*. St. Petersburg, FL.
 1988 Caruana, V. Gifted Children with Learning Problems. *Florida Association for Gifted Conference*. Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

GRANTS/CONTRACT PROPOSALS**Grants Submitted (Funded)**

- Cranston-Gingras, A., Doone, P., Caruana, V.(co-writer) (2009). High School Equivalency (HEP) Project. U.S. Department of Education: Office of Migrant Education. (\$4,000,000)
Caruana, V. (2009). Splash! Mini-grant. Southwest Florida Water Management District. (\$4000).
Caruana, V. (2007). R.A.R.E. Unsung Heroes mini-grant. ING Financial. (\$5000).

Grants Submitted (Not Funded)

- Caruana, V., & Cesta, J. (2008). Early College Summer Enrichment Program. Florida Department of Education, Governor's Summer Program Grant. Application number: TAPS 08C056. (\$40,000).

JOURNAL/BOOK/GRANT/PROGRAM REVIEWS

- Program Reviewer: 2008 – Present: NCATE, Special Education SPA; lead reviewer

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TEACHING – COURSES TAUGHT**University of South Florida****Spring 2011**

EEX 7911: *Ethics in Teacher Education* – Teaching Assistant

Fall 2010

EEX 4742: *Narrative Perspectives on Exceptionality*

Summer 2010

EEX 4742: *Narrative Perspectives on Exceptionality*

Summer 2009

EEX 7939: *The Roles & Responsibilities of Special Education Faculty in a University Setting* – **online** (Teaching Assistant)
 EEX 6025: *Trends and Issues in Special Education* – **online** (Teaching Assistant)

Fall 2008

EEX 4012: *Foundations of Special Education* (**online**)

St. Petersburg College

Fall 2005

EEX 3011: *Nature and Needs of Exceptional Students (special education majors)*
EEX 3012: *Nature and Needs of Exceptional Students (elementary education majors)*
EEX 3012: *Nature and Needs of Exceptional Students (secondary education majors)*
EEX 4940: *Final Internship: Exceptional Student Education (seminar)*

Spring 2006

EDG 3620: *Curriculum & Instruction: Integrated Curriculum*
EEX 3011: *Nature and Needs of Exceptional Students (Teaching in the Inclusive Classroom)*
EEX 3280: *Career/Vocational Assessment & Instructional Planning (online)*
EEX 4940: *Final Internship: Exceptional Student Education (seminar)*

Clearwater Christian College

Fall 1999

EEX 4221: *Educational Assessment of Exceptional Students*

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Membership:

- Association of Teacher Educators (2010 – present)
- Council for Exceptional Children (1985 – present)
- Teacher Education Division, Council for Exceptional Children (2007 – present)
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (2004 – present)
- American Educational Research Association (2005 – present)
- National Association for Gifted Children (1988 – present)
- Florida Association for Gifted (1988 – present)
- Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted (2007 – present)

Service to National Professional Organizations/Contributions at Professional Meetings:

- Chair of Roundtable Session: Division K: Classrooms as Spaces for Teacher Learning: AERA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 2011
- Proposal Reviewer: 2010: FLAG Conference, Tampa, FL. (20 proposals)
- NCATE Program Reviewer: 2008 - Present
- Proposal Reviewer: 2008 - Present: CEC Annual Convention and Expo, Teacher Education Division (30 proposals).
- Proposal Reviewer: 2008: CEC/Kaleidascope (8 proposals)
- Proposal Reviewer: 2008: AERA Annual Meeting, NY. (12 proposals).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2009 Internship: NCATE, Washington, D.C.
- 2009 Research symposium: IES grants, Tampa, FL
- 2009 Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Project Directors' Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 2008 Teaching with an Interactive Whiteboard, Tampa, FL
- 2008 NCATE Program Reviewer Training, Dallas, TX
- 2008 Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation, Tampa, FL

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2011 Course Conversion: convert a face-to-face course to an online course
- 2011 Teacher Education Study Group
- 2010 Substantive Undergraduate Course Change submission
- 2009 Editor: Doctoral Program Student Newsletter – SPECTrum – 2008, University of South Florida
- 2008 – 2009 Research Committee member, University of South Florida
- 2008 – Present Teacher Education Committee, University of South Florida

CURRENT UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

- 2008 – 2009 Doctoral Student Program Committee (Special Education), University of South Florida
- 2009 University Task Force on Faculty Rewards, University of South Florida

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2009 - Present High School Youth Ministry, St. Jerome Catholic Church, Largo, FL
- 2008 Volunteer for Regional Special Olympics, St. Petersburg, FL