



## **ROBERT A. GABLE, PhD** by Robin Sweitzer

Robert A. Gable, PhD, born February 1, 1944, in [Lancaster, Pennsylvania](#), is a leading scholar in the field of special, or exceptional, education. He is best known for his work to improve the education of children with behavior disorders. He has written

several book chapters and professional journal articles in addition to editing leading scholarly journals. He is the Constance F. and Colgate W. Darden professor and eminent scholar at [Old Dominion University](#) in Norfolk, Virginia.

### **Academic Career**

Gable obtained his undergraduate degree in art education from Pennsylvania's [Kutztown University](#) in 1966 (Cook, Guidara & Williams, 2006). While teaching art at Allentown State Hospital, he developed an interest in special education (R.A. Gable, personal communication, November 2, 2009). In 1970, Gable took a position as Director of Education at Friendship House, a residential and day treatment facility for children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders, in Scranton, PA. During this time, he continued his education at [Marywood University](#) where he obtained a master's degree in special education in 1973. His education specialist and doctoral degree was earned from the [George Peabody College for Teachers of Vanderbilt University](#), Nashville, TN, in 1977. He was on the special education faculty of [Peabody College](#) from 1977-1978. Following his time at Vanderbilt, Gable accepted a position as Director of Education at the National Children's Rehabilitation Center, a residential facility in northern Virginia, from 1979-1984. He was on the education faculty of the [University of](#)

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**ROBERT A. GABLE, PhD**

**Born:** February 1, 1944  
Lancaster, PA

**Fields:** Special education

**Career:** Allentown State Hospital  
Friendship House,  
Vanderbilt University,  
National Children's  
Rehabilitation Center,  
University of Pittsburgh,  
Old Dominion University

**Alma maters:** Kutztown University  
Marywood University  
Vanderbilt University

**Known for:** special education,  
behavioral disorders, teacher training  
programs, inclusion

[Pittsburgh](#) from 1982-1984 before taking a position at [Old Dominion](#) University in 1984. He was named an eminent scholar at ODU in 1994 ("Faculty awards", 2005).

### **Professional Interests and Achievements**

For over thirty years, Gable has written over 250 journal articles, monographs, books and textbook chapters on teacher training, assessment measures, behavioral interventions and treatment advances in special needs or at risk children (Cook, et.al., 2006).

He was President of the [Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders](#) (CCBD) from 2003 to 2004 (R.A. Gable, personal communication, November 2, 2009). In addition to serving on the editorial board of numerous professional journals, Gable has been Consulting Editor of *Behavioral Disorders* since 1980 and of *Teacher Education and Special Education* since 1988. He has been the Executive Editor of *Preventing School Failure* since 1990. He is also a Research Fellow with the American Institute of Research in Washington, D.C. ("Robert A. Gable, PhD", n.d.).

In addition to his scholarly contributions, Gable has also made significant achievements in research and intervention implementation. Gable, individually and with his colleagues, has been granted over \$25 million dollars from private foundations, the [Virginia Department of Education](#), and the [United States Department of Education](#) toward these efforts ("Robert A. Gable, PhD", n.d.). In 1995 he received ODU's faculty Outstanding University Researcher Award followed by the Rufus Tonelson Distinguished Faculty Award in 2005 (Cook, et.al., 2006). He was co-awarded the

Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2005 from the [American Association of State Colleges and Universities](#). Kutztown University awarded him with the Rothermel Alumni Award in 2006 ("Academic," 2006).

Working closely with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Education, Gable was a leader in the implementation of such programs in the state's educational system as the Training and Technical Assistance Center (T-TAC) and Commonwealth Special Education Endorsement Program (CSEEP). T-TAC is a statewide program providing training and technical assistance to educators in order to enhance the education of children with disabilities ("Thirty years," 2009). CSEEP is a program at Old Dominion University funded by a grant from Virginia's department of education to offer reduced tuition to special education teachers wishing to achieve full licensure (Commonwealth Special Education Endorsement Program Team, 2005). He is also director of the commonwealth's initiative, Effective School-wide Discipline (ESD). ESD essentially is Virginia's version of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). ESD helps teachers in classroom inclusion settings come together in their schools to discuss problems and procedural changes.

## **Publications**

Dr. Gable has written or co-written over 250 journal articles, textbook chapters, monographs, and books. These publications include:

Gable, R.A. & Hendrickson, J.M. (Eds.). (1990). *Assessing students with special needs: A sourcebook for analyzing and correcting errors in academics*. White Plains, NY: Longman.

Gable, R.A., Hendrickson, J.M., Tonelson, S.W. & Van Acker, R. (2000). Changing disciplinary and instructional practices in the middle school to address IDEA. *Clearing House*, 73(4), 205-08.

Gable, R.A., Howell, K.W., Quinn, M.M. & Yanek, K. (2008). *Functional behavioral assessment, behavioral intervention plans, and positive intervention and supports: An essential part of Effective Schoolwide Discipline in Virginia* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Education.

Gable, R.A., Sugai, G., Lewis, T., Nelson, J.R., Cheney, D., Safran, S.P. & Safran J.S. (1998). Individual and systemic approaches to collaboration and consultation on behalf of students with emotional/behavioral disorders. In the *Second CCBD Mini Library Series: Successful Interventions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Reston, VA: Council for Exceptional Children.

Gable, R.A. & Warren, S.F. (Eds.). (1990). *Strategies for teaching students with mild to severe mental retardation*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company.

Stowitschek, J.J., Gable, R.A. & Hendrickson, J.M. (1980). *Instructional materials for exceptional children: Selection, management, and adaptation*. Germantown, MD: Aspen Systems, Corp.

## **Family**

Gable is the proud father of two wonderful daughters, Melissa K. Gable and Rebecca A. Gable.

## References

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<http://www.kutztown.edu/news/brief/2006/may/may10brf.htm>
- Commonwealth Special Education Endorsement Program Team. (2005). "Meeting the needs of Virginia's children with disabilities: the Commonwealth Special Education Endorsement Program". Retrieved October 7, 2009 from  
<http://education.odu.edu/cseep/home/about/directory/index.shtml>
- Cook, V.M., Guidara, M. and Williams, C. "KU's outstanding alumni". (2006). *Tower*, 8(3):11.
- "Faculty awards and retirement dinner". (2005). *The Courier*, 34(11).  
Robert A. Gable, PhD. Retrieved September 17, 2009 from  
<http://education.odu.edu/cseep/home/about/directory/index.shtml>
- "Thirty years and counting: T-TAC at Darden College of Education Grows in Scope and Sophistication". (2009). *Quest*, 12(1).

## External Links

- American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
(<http://www.aascu.org/http://www.aascu.org/index.htm>)
- American Institute for Research (<http://www.air.org/>)
- Commonwealth of Virginia's T-TAC link (<http://ttaonline.org/>)
- Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders and *Behavioral Disorders*  
(<http://www.ccbd.net/>)
- CSEEP website (<http://education.odu.edu/cseep>)
- Friendship House (<http://www.friendshiphousepa.org/>)

Kutztown University (<http://www.kutztown.edu/>)

Marywood University (<http://www.marywood.edu/> )

Old Dominion University T-TAC program (<http://www.ttac.odu.edu/>)

Old Dominion University, Darden College of Education website  
(<http://education.odu.edu/> )

*Preventing School Failure* publisher's site  
(<http://www.heldref.org/pubs/psf/manuscripts.html> )

Robert A Gable, PhD biography - Darden College of Education faculty directory  
(<http://education.odu.edu/cseep/home/about/directory/index.shtml>)

*Teacher Education and Special Education* (<http://www.tese.org/> )

University of Pittsburgh (<http://www.pitt.edu/> )

U.S. Department of Education (<http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml>)

Virginia Department of Education (<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/>)