

Teda International School Teacher Profiles

2011-2012





Joseph Azmeh
Headmaster and Secondary Principal
Bachelor of Science (Biology)
Masters in Educational Administration
United States

I've had the unique experience of being a student, teacher, counselor, administrator, and parent all in international school settings. After serving 13 years at the American Nicaraguan School, I am now beginning my second year here at TIS.

Outside of school I love to travel, swim, play basketball and spend time with my wife and two daughters. Over the summer we enjoyed traveling through the Netherlands and Belgium. This year, we're looking forward to seeing more of China.





Yvonne Williamson
Primary Principal
Diploma Teaching, B Education, MA
Applied Linguistics, Cert of International
School Leadership
Australia

I started my teaching career in Australia in Primary and High Schools and have continued it in China since 2004. My experience includes teaching and administration in Primary and High Schools as well as teacher and TA professional development. I am totally committed to the idea that learning never stops and love being involved in education.

My interests are family, photography, genealogy and the great outdoors. My children all live in Australia and I enjoy the opportunity to visit them and explore new places.





Cavon Ahangarzadeh
Vice Principal Pk-12/Technology
Coordinator
Bachelors Degree(Psychology)
Masters of Business Administration
Certificate in Education Leadership
United States

This is my third school year at TIS. I am proud to be a part of such a capable and dynamic team! I have worked within education for over 12 years now. Some of my former positions have included: School Director, VP of the Higher Education sector of an E-learning corporation and Director of Operations for a private college with multiple campuses. My experiences at TIS have been among the most fulfilling of my career. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our students and parents and I look forward to further growth and development of our student centered learning community here in Teda. In my spare time my family and I enjoy traveling, technology and the outdoors.





Nida Ahangarzadeh
Early Childhood Academy Coordinator /
PK4 Teacher
B.A. Spanish
USA

I have taught children for 11 years in the USA, and 2 years in TEDA here at TIS. I am happy to be able to teach PK4 this year! These early years are so important for a child's character development and self-esteem. I love helping the children to become confident and happy in their learning and play times.

As ECA Coordinator, I am happy that I have been able to get to know and work with so many children and parents in the Early Childhood Academy this year.

When I am not at work, I enjoy spending time with my family, biking, photography and sewing.





Carlos G. Arboleda
Guidance Counselor
Masters in Education Counseling
America

My experience in the area of Education includes five years as the Associate Director of the Johnston College of Integrated Studies at the University of Redlands in California, USA, and a four years as a Humanities and Language Arts bilingual/ESL teacher in Arizona. I strive to serve student wellbeing, academic strength and college-bound success.





Eloisa Azmeh
ELC 2 Teacher
Masters in Education
Nicaragua

I have lived in China for 2 years, but this is my first year working at TIS. I have over ten years of experience teaching ESL students and worked as a preschool teacher for 3 years before moving to China. I enjoy reading and sipping on a good cup of coffee with my husband. I have two daughters, both attending TIS.





Emebet Belete

Primary Art

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours)

Bachelor of Education

Canada

I love art. After graduating from the Fine Arts School of Addis Ababa, I worked as a studio artist for many years. I've exhibited my work on three continents. I enjoy working with children, and sharing my enthusiasm for art.





Ann R. Clavin

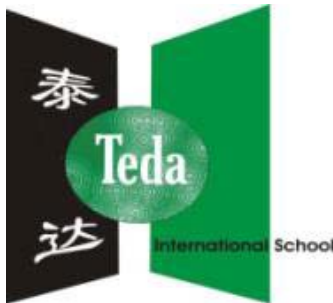
**English, Social Studies: 6th & 7th
grade**

B.A. , Applied Conflict Management

M.Ed. , Middle School Education

U.S.A.

As teachers we strive to help facilitate the learning process both for our students and continually for ourselves. I continue to marvel at the hard work and determination of the students, faculty and staff. With such dedication great things can be accomplished!





Brian J. Crowley
Secondary ELC Teacher
BA in Recreation Administration,
Certified Family Counselor,
Graduate Studies in Education for
Development

I grew up in Vancouver, Canada, and have been living in China for the past 18 years. I am married, and have 2 sons and a daughter. Having grown up in a very multicultural community, I enjoy the diversity at TIS.





Danielle Desjardins-Senyonga

Pre-K Teacher

Bachelor of Education (Major in Early Childhood Education)

Mandarin Language Certificate

Canada

I have been living in Asia for over 14 years now and this is my 9th year in TEDA. I enjoy teaching early childhood and love to do professional development in this area. I try to stay active and enjoy working out and playing basketball. I have an active 3 year old who keeps me busy and now attends TIS Pre-K3. He loves coming to school as much as I do!





Roberta Daniels
Library and High School Drama
Masters in Theatre for Young Audiences
in Education, Graduate Certificate in
Library Management
United States

I began my education career teaching drama in schools, in conjunction with a theatre company. I migrated into the classroom by teaching Grade 2, which then lead me to becoming the librarian. Now I am able to do both the things I love: work with students of all ages in the library, and be dramatic at the same time!





Natalia de Backer

Dance, PreK-2 - HS

**Honors Degree in Choreography and Art
Creative Work**

Russia

I graduated from Primorsky region Cultural and Educational College, Ussuriisk, Russian Federation. My background is wide. I have worked as a pre-school teacher, I have taught English and Drama, but mostly of course I have taught dance and performing arts. The Ballet school in my childhood defined my future and career. My 18 years teaching experience is interesting. I was teaching different styles of dance in Russia and China (Kunming, Shanghai). Ballet, Jazz, Latina, Folk... My other passions include travelling all over the world, and reading.





Christina Farnell

Grade 1

B.A. (General), B.Ed (PDP/International)

Canada

This is my second year teaching in China and 7th year of formal teaching. As a teacher, I enjoy creating a classroom community where students feel comfortable and free to explore and expand their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. In my free time I enjoy cooking and exploring China by bicycle with my husband Benjamin.





Benjamin J. Farnell

Biology/ General Science: 6, 9 & 10
BSc. Honors (CO-OP) Biochemistry
Canada....Eh!

This will be my first year teaching at TIS, but second year teaching in China.

I enjoy an active lifestyle, but have a real passion for Golf and Hockey. My wife and I enjoy exploring new areas on our bicycles with the hope of locating new restaurants to try in the future. I also enjoy eating different types and styles of food and finding great writing to read, both fiction and non-fiction.





Erin Flynn
Kindergarten Teacher
BA(Honours) – Trent University
B.Ed. – Queen’s University
Canada

I have enjoyed teaching Kindergarten at TIS for the past two years. I love the excitement and enthusiasm for learning that five year-olds have! I have also had teaching experiences in pre-kindergarten, both junior and senior kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, grade 4, grade 5 and high school in Canada before my husband and I moved to China. My husband teaches high school mathematics at TIS and we have loved learning about the Chinese language and culture together. I enjoy ice skating, skiing, swimming, reading, and spending time at the beach. I look forward to working and learning with you!





Youngpei Gao
Mandarin K-8
Bachelor's Degree
China

I started working in TIS when everyone was watching the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, before which, I was an ESL teacher in a local high school. I have also taught Mandarin for 1 year in America. I love teaching foreign languages. Personally, I like running and cooking.





Olinga Mazlum

HS Music

Degree in Piano performance, music composition and history released by the conservatory of Florence – Italy

Founder and Music Director of the band “Light in the Darkness” and Member of the award winning international choir, “Voices of Baha”.

What I find most uplifting is to listen to students performing inspiring music. My favorite hobby is playing chess. I took part in several competitions. In one game I happened to beat the Italian female champion!!!





Lea Gentile

Primary Music, K-4

Master of Music/Piano Performance, Master of Teaching/English to Speakers of Other Languages – advanced studies in piano at The Banff Centre in Canada, in Rome and Siena, Italy, and in New York City USA

I'm beginning my 12th year in China and 11th year at TIS. I'm a world citizen and see the earth as one country. It's fascinating to me to discover and learn about the infinite diversity within our human family and earthly environment. I hope to leave this world in a better condition than when I was born into it and actively seek to establish the unity of humanity on a firm foundation.

Besides being a practicing and performing musician, I also practice Taijiquan regularly and am interested in sharing both these life-enriching practices with others.





Jing Hammond
Secondary Math
Bachelors of Engineering
Master of Arts in Teaching
United States

Jing attended Shanghai University as an undergraduate and received her master's degree from the University of Central Missouri. Her teaching career started in the Blue Springs School District in Missouri, USA. This is her second year at TIS. Jing is married to Paul Hammond, who also teaches at TIS. Her best friends include her husband and Buster, her dog.





Paul Hammond
Secondary Humanities
Master of Arts in Geography
Bachelor of Science in Social Studies Education
United States

Paul is originally from Missouri in the United States. He attended the University of Missouri and has been teaching for 10 years. Paul has been married to his lovely wife Jing for 5 years. His hobbies include jogging and reading. Some of his proudest moments include getting married and climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.



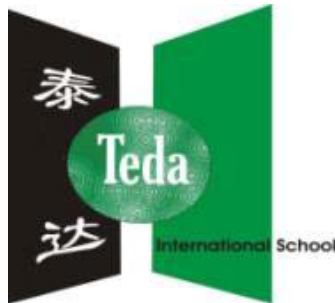


Joanne (Jo) Hay

Grade 2

**Bachelor Science, Diploma of Teaching
New Zealand**

I have taught in New Zealand Primary Schools for many years, but now that our four children have left home, my husband Andy and I are taking the opportunity to teach in China. We both enjoy meeting people from other countries and cultures. I also enjoy participating in recreation and sports activities. One of my favorites is hiking, or tramping as we call it in New Zealand.





Carmel Kleinhenz
ELC 1 and AP Literature
Bachelors in English Literature and
Secondary Education from
Northwestern University
United States

Having grown up on three continents, I am lucky to be a world citizen, and I naturally love living and working in diverse environments like the TIS community. This is my first year at TIS, but my second year teaching in China.

I am passionate about education. I believe international students have the unique opportunity to not only serve their local communities, but to also contribute building a more just and peaceful world. In my spare time I love painting, reading, and traveling.





Andrew Kraftchick
High School Mathematics
Bachelor of Science (Major in Math/Physics)
Bachelor of Education
Canada

I am a very active person and I enjoy sports and coaching. I coach at least 3 sports a year and am involved in many school related activities. I have an appreciation for music and taught music in the previous year. I am also very interested in technology and ways to integrate technology into the classroom.





Bart Lambrecht

ELC 8 (ELC HoD)

**MA Applied Linguistics & TESOL
(Leicester University), Cambridge**

CTEFLA

Canada

I've been living and working in China, in numerous ESOL-related functions, for more than a decade. I enjoy sharing the nuts-and-bolts of language learning with my students and colleagues. Our school is fortunate to be one of the few in Asia to have a dedicated, in-house English Language Center. This Center and its staff support English language learning from Kindergarten all the way to Gr. 12.

I am twice lucky in also being the coach of the very successful HS Volleyball team 'the Comets'!





Nora Lambrecht
Health –Primary and Secondary
BA International Environmental Studies
USA

I'm very happy to be teaching Health classes this year from Kindergarten to Gr.10. We have an excellent curriculum that deals with social issues and bullying at all ages.

I have been at TIS for over 7 years and in China for over 18 years. I believe that successful children are those children that learn to respect themselves, their environment and people from all over the world. An educated child who also has good manners is what we all desire for our children.





Daisy Lee
Prek 1 Teacher
Tianjin Normal University
English & Business
China

It was through friends that I discovered TIS. After working with the children here, I realized my future would be in teaching. I have worked with children for four years, have taken courses and read many books on early childhood development and education in my free time. I continue to study and I really love working with the small children in my class.

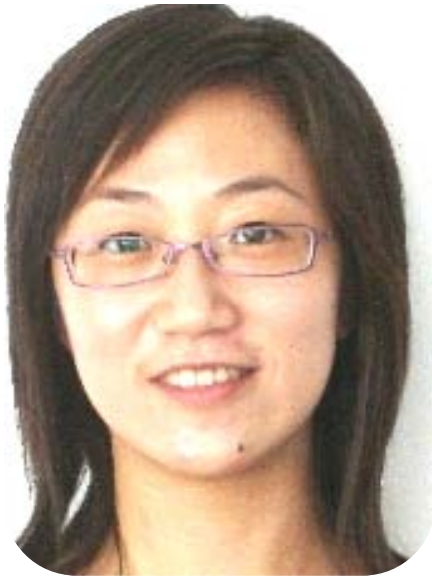




Ken Li
Primary Physical Education
Bachelor in Physical Education,
Ningbo University
Swimming Coach Certificated by Center of
National Sports Bureau
China

I began my education career teaching PE during my fourth year of university. After five years experience, I have gone back to university and have begun working on my master's degree in Technology Education. My focus is using technology skills in teaching teamwork sports and health.





Lu Li

Primary Chinese Teacher

**Master of Arts in teaching Chinese as a second language, Beijing Normal University
China**

I have taught Chinese to international students for over 6 years. This is my third year in TIS. My hobbies include, but are not limited to, swimming and reading.





Kurt Marchl

Physics 12, Math 8 & 9, Science 7

B.Sc. B.Ed.

Canada

I have been teaching high school math and physics for the past 8 years in Canada, England, US and China. This is my first year working at TIS and I am looking forward to getting to know the students. In my spare time I enjoying traveling, movies and baseball.





Laura McLuckie-Khandan

5th grade

BA in English Education

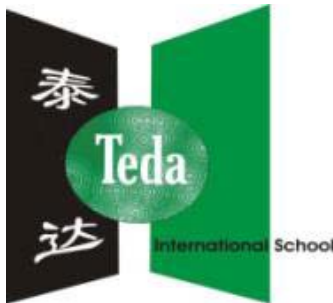
United States

Assisting students to be of service, reveal the potentials within themselves and interact within an interconnected world, is my goal as a teacher.

I have taught a wide variety of subject areas, Pre-K through grade 12. This is my 5th year at TIS.

I strive to make learning an adventure for both the students and myself!

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, painting and reading.





Des O'Shea
High School Art
BA Graphic Design
Canterbury School of Art
Post Graduate Art Education
University of Wales
United Kingdom

Besides teaching I've worked as a graphic designer, gardener, shepherd, photographer, storekeeper, cook and community worker. In my teaching career I've taught many subjects to both primary and secondary school students as well as working as a radio teacher, teaching children who live in isolated locations.

At TIS it is part of the school philosophy that we can, as teachers and students make a difference. As an artist I believe that visual arts education is an integral part of the way students learn and develop, helping them to realize their full potential, providing them with the some of the skills and knowledge to meet the challenges of the 21st century, not only as designers of a more beautiful world but as inspirers of a more united, peaceful world.





Scott Pare

7-12 Humanities (Humanities HoD)

Bachelor of Arts, English and history

Bachelor of Education

Master of Arts in English Education (in progress)

Canada

Greetings! I am from Toronto, Canada and I have been teaching in Asia for over 10 years. I enjoy photography, art, literature and computers. I am married with one daughter who attends TIS in the primary division.





Sunita Rakhecha
K-7 Technology Teacher
Bachelor of Commerce (Hons),
Diploma In Software Management (Aptech)
Certified Montessori Educator,
Certified in Pre and Primary Teaching and
ESL
India

I have found my forte here as an educator very rewarding. Every day is like embarking on an exploration, discovering new possibilities to blend technology with teaching.

My goal is to help students perform to the best of their abilities.





Kerry Ratigan
Humanities, Grade 8
AP Comparative Politics, AP
Statistics
M.A. Political Science
B.A. Political Science and Spanish
United States

Kerry is currently completing her Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she received her teacher training and taught at the introductory level. Prior to graduate study, Kerry taught English in Qingdao. She and her husband, Kurt Marchl, enjoy traveling and playing with their cat, Dusty.





Margie Reichlin

Pre-k 3 Teacher

BA in Education

**Certified in Early Childhood and K- Gr. 8
USA**

I was raised in Seattle, WA, USA, but have made my home in NE China for over six years. I have a grown son still living in Seattle. My passion for teaching is in Early Childhood. I believe that the early years lay the foundation for character and virtue development. It brings me joy to be a part of such an important aspect of our children's lives.





Gerda Sanchez
ESL / Spanish Teacher
B.A. Health and Nutrition
M.Ed
Colombia

Education is for me the key to progress, it is the best we can give to students to succeed in life. My background in health and nutrition, social action, education, plus more than 15 years teaching in Asia, assists me to provide rich learning experiences to students.

I enjoy cultural diversity, nature, good conversations, and team work! I am looking forward to being an active member of the school community for the betterment of TIS.





Lorne Singer

Grade 4

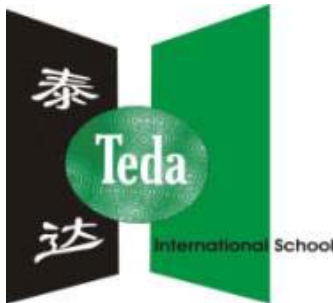
B.Sc (Honours, Physics), B.Ed

Canada

I've taught in Ethiopia, Canada, and now for four years in China. I'm really pleased to be teaching fourth grade this year, and seeing all the enthusiasm and expertise our students bring with them.

In Ontario I was most recently teaching grade 2; the last three years I taught high school math here.

My favourite sport is trampoline – I competed and coached for many years. So if you see me riding a unicycle, or juggling this year, you'll know why.





Zoe Song
Pre-K 2 ECA
Bachelors in English Literacy
China

*I have been working in TIS since 2003.
Working with little kids makes me feel
younger and younger. I enjoy every day in
pre-k 2!*

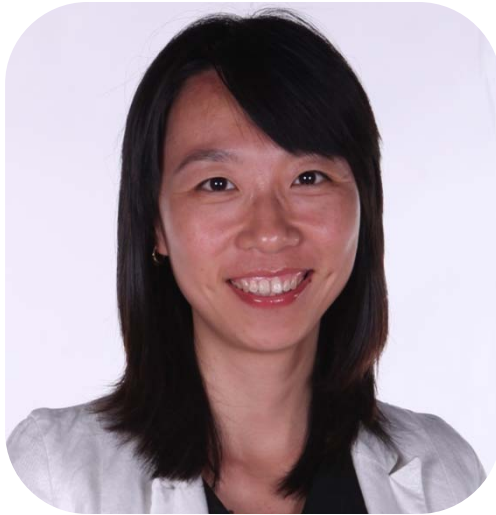




Vassel Sundiata Spencer
English 9th and 12th Grade
Bachelors in African American Studies
Masters in Teaching Social Studies and
Language Arts
USA

Originally from Jamaica, Vassel Sundiata Spencer grew up in Atlanta where he attended Georgia State University. Mr. Spencer has an intense love for teaching. In America he volunteered his time founding and coordinating youth empowerment groups to help his students and neighbors meet their true potential. Mr. Spencer comes to TEDA International School this year from KIPP WAYS Academy where he taught 6th and 7th grade English. He recently completed his Masters of Arts in Teaching Social Studies and Language Arts and is excited to join the TIS community as the new 9th and 12th grade English Teacher.





Eva Zhao

Chinese Language Teacher

**Bachelors on Chinese Language and English Literature, Master on Teaching Chinese as the Second Language
China**

I have been working in TEDA International School since 2004. I have two Bachelor degrees and a Master degree. I am always interested in any opportunity to develop myself. I enjoy swimming, fine dining, traveling and watching movies.





Maru Vicentini
Pre-k 3 Teacher
BA in Early Childhood Education
BA in Graphic Design

I am from Caracas, Venezuela and this is my second year here in China and my first year at TEDA International School.

I made the decision to be an early childhood teacher when I was just five years old... never changing my mind, it has always been part of my life and has defined me as a person and as a professional.

I feel it is an honor to be part of the lives of these young students at this important time in their lives.





Edward Wang
High School P.E. Teacher
Bachelor Degree-Physical Education
Teaching Certificate-Physical Education
China

I have been in Tianjin for 9 years, 5 years studying in Tianjin Sports University, and 4 years working in the P.E. Dept. here at TIS. Soon, I plan on pursuing my Master's Degree in P.E. Prior to joining TIS, I served as a volunteer in the P.E. Dept. at REGO International School. As a student, I enjoyed many sports and competed in track, running the 100m. Currently, I enjoy playing ultimate Frisbee and was a member of the Chinese National Championship team. I also love working as a P.E. teacher in TIS.





SeogWon Yoon / 윤석원
G6-12 Korean / 6-12학년 국어
Bachelor of Korean Language Education
/ 국어교육학 학사
1st,2nd level Certification of Middle
School Korean Teacher / 중등 국어 교사
2급, 1급 자격증 취득
Korea / 한국

안녕하십니까. 저는 한국에 있는 서울에서 왔습니다.

저는 한국에서 고등학생들을 10년 정도 가르쳐왔고, 이곳 중국에서도 학생들을 가르친지 6년 정도 되어갑니다.

결혼을 하였고 아들 둘이 있는데 모두 TIS에 다니고 있습니다.

휴일이 되면 저희 가족은 가까운 곳으로 여행을 하는 등 같이 있는 시간을 소중하게 생각합니다.





Zhang Yuyan

Chinese Language Teacher

China

I like reading. I like Chinese culture and I try my best to teach my students to learn about and understand the culture and history of China.





Hillary Zhao
PK 4 Co-Teacher & ESL Teacher
Degree in English
China

This will be my first year teaching in the ECA, but my fourth year working at TIS.

I have enjoyed every day here working with my colleagues and with students from all over the world. I love teaching young children and can't resist their beautiful smiles and nature.

In my spare time I enjoying traveling, ice-skating, basketball and reading.





Chaowei Zhu
AP Environmental Science 12th
Grade
Chemistry 11th grade
Master degree in Chemistry
USA

I have been living in China for about a year and half. Before I came to China, I was a Chemistry instructor in a community college in the United States, teaching first year and second year college level Chemistry. I believe that teachers not only have the responsibility of teaching students academic principals, but that we also need to prepare our students to be responsible citizens in society.

