Acknowledgment

The production of this international book took numerous persons besides us editors (Helen E. Muga and Ken D. Thomas) and we would like to extend our thanks to all of them.

Since the call for chapters was put out in 2013 we relied, among other channels, on professional and personal relationships to spread word to potential authors. To those of you that passed along our call we are deeply appreciative. We know that it certainly helped with us attaining the 36 extremely high quality chapters in this book. It should be noted that all the chapters went through at least a double blind review, with strict technical evaluation criteria, and then editorial reviews by our Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) members. The quality of this final product would not have been what it is without the selflessness and expertise of our reviewers and EAB members. Our utmost gratitude is extended to the 35 reviewers and 7 EAB members.

There would be no book without our authors. Among the 36 chapters there are some 74 authors that collaborated to produce work with global appeal and relevance. Thank you to the authors for trusting our process and for believing in the product enough to publish your original work with us. This opportunity only came because IGI Global showed interest. For this we are thankful to IGI Global especially to Mr. Austin DeMarco, Editorial Assistant, whom we had to work with directly to get to this stage. Thank you for your absolute patience and assistance, we could not have done this without you.

It is an absolute privilege to have someone as esteemed at Dr. Kléber Ghimire, former Research Program Director of United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva, Switzerland and currently Associate Professor at the University of Stendhal, Grenoble, France, write the Foreword to this book. Thank you very much, sir.

Finally, we are absolutely grateful for the support of our affiliate institutions: Department of Engineering, University of Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio, USA; and The Honors College & Biosystems Engineering Department, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, USA.

Ken D. Thomas  
Auburn University, USA

Helen E. Muga  
University of Mount Union, USA