About the Authors

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James R. Lindner (j-lindner@tamu.edu) is an associate professor and chair of technology-assisted learning in the Department of Agricultural Education at Texas A&M University. He received his PhD from Ohio State University. He has established a national reputation as a rigorous scholar and prolific author focusing on planning and needs assessment, and research, measurement, and analysis in the context of distance education. Within the department, Dr. Lindner is helping to develop and deliver the Master’s of Agriculture at a distance program and the doctoral Doc@Distance program. He has authored or coauthored two books, several chapters, and more than 150 articles and papers. He has received numerous honors and awards for presentations of research findings at international and national conferences.
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Chehrazade Aboukinane is a PhD student in the Department of Agricultural Education at Texas A&M University. Her research focuses on educational technology and delivery strategies. She received her BS in biological systems engineering and MS in agricultural engineering from Texas A&M University. Ms. Aboukinane was nominated as a future leader in CIGR (International Commission of Agricultural Engineers) and has presented papers at professional meetings.

Rhonda D. Blackburn is the lead IT consultant at Texas A&M University’s Instructional Technology Services. She develops workshops that help faculty incorporate technology into their courses. During the workshops she emphasizes planning, instructional design, and andragogical practices. Along with training, Dr. Blackburn teaches psychology while using the same principles and practice she stresses to the faculty.

Barry L. Boyd is an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Education at Texas A&M University. He earned his doctorate from Texas A&M in 1991 with an emphasis in leadership education and instructional design. His research in learner-centered instructional methods has been published in six refereed journals. His emphasis as a student-centered instructor has earned him recognition from both students and faculty. Dr. Boyd consistently ranks in the top 25% of the teaching faculty at Texas A&M and was
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James Buford, Jr. is the director of Ellis-Harper Management, a human resource consulting firm, and adjunct professor of management at Auburn University. He also serves on the faculty of Troy State University-University College and is affiliated with the Center of Local Government Studies. He earned his BSF and MS degrees from Auburn University and his PhD from the University of Georgia. Dr. Buford is certified by both HRCI and PHRCC. Dr. Buford has authored and co-authored three texts and more than 75 articles and papers. His work has appeared in many of the leading HR management journals. In addition to his research, teaching, and continuing education activities, he has consulted widely with organizations in the areas of selection, performance appraisal, and compensation. He was involved in the development of one of the first accreditation programs in the United States for local government HR professionals. He also writes creative nonfiction, including two critically acclaimed collections of essays.

Yakut Gazi is a PhD candidate in the Department of Educational Psychology at Texas A&M University, specializing in educational technology. She received her BS and MA at Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey. She taught undergraduate students for several years and is currently working as a multimedia specialist. She is interested in how people communicate in intercultural online environments and how this communication is affected and shaped by the technological features of the communication platform as well as people’s backgrounds.

Atsusi Hirumi is an associate professor of instructional technology at the University of Central Florida. Born in New York, Dr. Hirumi spent most of his formative years growing up in Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa. He received his BS in biology from Purdue University with a secondary teacher certification in biology and general science. He received his MA in educational technology from San Diego State University and his PhD in instructional systems from Florida State University. Dr. Hirumi’s work focuses on developing systems to train and empower K12, university and corporate educators on the design, development and delivery of interactive distance education programs. His research concentrates on the design and sequencing of e-learning interactions.
He has published over a dozen articles, several book chapters, and has made over 100 presentations at international, national and state conference on related topics.

**Kathleen D. Kelsey** earned her PhD from Cornell University in 1999. Her dissertation focused on interaction in a distance education setting. She received the Alan A. Kahler Outstanding Dissertation Award from the American Association for Agricultural Education for this work. She has continued to research distance education issues while teaching research and evaluation methods at Oklahoma State University. Evaluation of educational programs has become Dr. Kelsey’s main research focus. Dr. Kelsey is a member of the American Evaluation Association and adheres to the Guiding Principles for Evaluators and follows the Program Evaluation Standards advocated by the AEA.

**Walt Magnussen** has his Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Minnesota and his PhD from Texas A&M University. He has been teaching continuing education classes in data communications since 1985. He is currently the director for telecommunications for Texas A&M University where he is responsible for 35,000 telephone subscribers, several thousand cable television connections, all wireless communications, fiber optic cable plant and a wide area network that connects close to 200 sites both in the State of Texas and internationally. He is also the director of the Internet2 Technology Evaluation Center, one of four centers that promote the deployment of advanced technologies to Internet2 member universities. Other responsibilities include chairing the Operational Subcommittee of the Telecommunications Planning and Operations Council (legislatively mandated to oversee State Telecommunications in the State of Texas), chairing the publications committee for the Association for Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education (ACUTA) and Co-Chairing the Voice over IP Working Group for Internet2. Dr. Magnussen has worked in over 30 countries in establishing Distance Education Networks. He helped in the design of the Lonestar Education and Research Network (LEARN), one of the largest state optical backbones in the USA.

**Tim Murphy** is associate professor and assistant department head for Graduate Programs in Agricultural Education. He advises graduate and under-
graduate students, teaches courses in methods of teaching and technological change, and conducts research in methods of technology-assisted learning and distance education.

**Susan Eugenia Wilson** is a graduate assistant and student in the Department of Agricultural Education at Texas A&M University. She studies conceptual and concrete connections between communication and education. She earned her bachelor’s in agricultural journalism from Texas A&M University in 2003.