About the Contributors

Ursula Thomas is the Director of Field Experience and Assessment at Georgia Perimeter College. Her research agenda includes issues of cultural mediation and its effects on instructional choices, the power of teacher educator research on diversity in the classroom, views of social justice in the early childhood classroom, and preservice teachers’ disposition on professionalism and diversity in teacher preparation programs. Dr. Thomas’s research has resulted in more than 30 publications in journals, book chapters, and conference proceedings. She is the editor of “Culture or chaos in the village: The journey to cultural fluency “(2011).

Jill Drake is a mathematics education professor at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia. Dr. Drake has served the mathematics education community as a teacher, professor, and consultant for the past 25 years.

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Tara L. R. Beziat is an assistant professor of educational psychology at Auburn University at Montgomery. Her research interests include metacognition, teaching strategies and assessment practices.

Brooke A. Burks, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of Secondary Education at Auburn University at Montgomery. She serves as Secondary Intern Coordinator and has trained secondary teachers as well as faculty colleagues in Writing Across the Curriculum. Dr. Burks has published and presented research related to education, writing, and technology, which are her key research interests. Dr. Burks is the author of the short story collection Tawanda’s Quest.

Jennifer Byrom received her M.Ed. in Biology Education from Auburn University Montgomery (AUM) in 2000. Since then, she has earned her M.Ed. in Instruction Technology from AUM in 2014 and will earn her Ed.S. in Instructional Technology from AUM in May 2016. She has worked in the field of Instructional Support, primarily STEM courses, since 2000. She is currently a math specialist at Columbia Southern University, a fully-online private university with over 20,000 students worldwide.

Patricia Costa Pereira da Silva received her PhD in Education from Fluminense Federal University in 2016. She works as an Educator at Social Work School of Rio de Janeiro Federal University since 2009. Her research interests are sociology of education, higher education, racism, racial relations, blackness and affirmative actions.
Melissa Dean is a respected leader in STEM education, having led for years the development of formal and informal curriculum and programs for K-12 schools and science museums in Alabama and Louisiana. She is highly experienced in curriculum development, writing, training and implementation and served as the Primary Investigator for the National Science Foundation grant-funded program, Engaging Youth through Engineering. She has led a number of teacher development programs and works closely with STEM teachers in the Mobile County Public School System which serves 60,000 students annually. Ms. Dean received her bachelors of science from Louisiana State University in Shreveport and is currently working toward her doctorate in Instructional Design and Development at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL.

Bonita Flournoy is currently the Site Director for Year UP Greater Atlanta. She formerly served as the Dean for the Division of Science, Mathematics, and Health Professions and Professor of Chemistry and Science Education at Atlanta Metropolitan State College. She has held tenured positions at Columbus State University and Clark Atlanta University and has prepared scientists and science teachers for over 23 years. She received her doctorate degree from the University of Georgia. She has served in administrative positions for over six years in positions of Chair, Dean, and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs. In these positions, she has been responsible for maintaining quality and standards-based academic programming, increasing the retention, progression, and graduation of students, while ensuring that the corps of faculty are of high quality and accountable to student-centered academic programming. Her research in science education focuses on learning styles of students in science with their problem solving strategies in chemistry. She has also investigated the synthesis and characterization of modified nucleosides in biochemical systems.

Mechelle Gittens has worked and carried out research in software engineering since 1995. She is currently a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) at the University of the West Indies – Cave Hill Campus. Mechelle has a doctorate from the University of Western Ontario (UWO), where she was the first black woman to graduate with a degree in Computer Science, and where continues active collaboration with colleagues and is now a Research Adjunct Professor. Her work is in lifestyle management technologies, software quality, testing, empirical software engineering, software reliability, and project management, and she has published at several international forums in these areas. Dr. Gittens’ industrial work has included work with IBM Canada as a Research Staff Member and then Consultant for IBM Software Group. She has also consulted for the Institute for Government Information Professionals in Ottawa and done software development for an Internet start-up. Gittens’ research has led to work with the IBM Centre Advanced Studies (CAS) where she is a Faculty Fellow. On the academic side, she was also a faculty member in Computer Science at the University of Waterloo from 2002 to 2004; and more recently, she taught Software Quality for the Consortium for Graduate Education in Software Engineering (ConGESE) for UWO at IBM. She has acted as the elected president of a professional association whose membership includes representation from management in software quality in the Canada’s Technology Triangle in Kitchener/Waterloo. Her current research is in customer-based software quality where she works to understand how customers use software in order to create intelligence for more reflective quality assurance, development and installation. She is also expanding her interest in Quality as she explores a new frontier in Mobile Applications for Quality of Life.
About the Contributors

**Djana Harp**, MD, MSCR, is Co-Director of the Third Year Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine.

**Jamil Harp**, MD, is Co-Director of the Third Year Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship. She is board-certified in Urogynecology and Obstetrics and Gynecology and serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine.

**Helen Jackson** has formerly worked as a research physicist for three of the National Research Laboratories and is now part time faculty at Wright State University. She also has her own consulting company, ElectroGenesis. She received her Ph.D. in Engineering Physics at the Air Force Institute of Technology, specializing in radiation effects on semiconductors. Her research benefited military Air Defense. Her experimental, modeling and simulation efforts of radiation damaged semiconductors was used to obtain reliability and lifetime information, leading to more optimal device design and performance. She patented a method to achieve radiation hardness for military sensors. She previously did medical physics as a Vanderbilt University research associate and developed a prototype for radiation dosimetry for cancer. She did modelling used in nuclear nonproliferation with the Department of Energy while also at Fisk University. She is very active in mentoring the underrepresented in STEM and is a member of many humanitarian and civic organizations.

**Japera Johnson** is an Instructor in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine and a Health Policy Leadership Fellow at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA.

**Robert Kurtz** MD FACS, is Associate Professor of Surgery at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. He has been the director of service for trauma and surgical critical care at the Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn and senior clinical advisor to the chief medical officer of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, the largest municipal healthcare system in the country. At his alma mater, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he co-chairs the MIT industrial advisory committee on minority education. He also holds a gubernatorial warrant on the New York state commission on corrections, which oversees and strives to improve prison medical care statewide. His parents, militant anti-racists, active in the struggle for civil rights, raised him in that tradition, and his interest in it is deep and abiding.

**Susan F. Martin** is project mentor/director of Noyce Pathway to Science and Noyce Pathway to Mathematics programs and is Coordinator of Secondary Education at the University of South Alabama College of Education. Dr. Martin is an associate professor of English Language Arts and English for Speakers of Other Languages, as well as being a former secondary Biology teacher. Her research focus is in accommodating English Language Learners and other special populations through the content area classroom.

**Kristin McCombs** is a PhD candidate in Educational Psychology/Instructional Technology and an adjunct instructor of psychology and education.
Kadian McIntosh is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the Arizona Medical Education Research Initiative at the University of Arizona, a collaboration between the College of Education and the College of Medicine which focuses on holistic admissions, access and success in the health sciences, climate assessment, diversity, and assessing student learning and development. Her research interests also include examining effects of organizational structures and policies, faculty-student interaction, understanding experiences and outcomes of underrepresented students in STEM, and using actionable institutional research to inform strategic planning and data-driven policies.

Charles Mpofu is a health sciences lecturer at Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand. In addition to tertiary education his research interests are in the areas of migrant health and social inequalities and hence his interest in contributing a chapter on sexism and racism in STEM fields. He has previously used the social critical theories to examine issues of medical licensure in New Zealand and other Western English-Speaking countries.

Hyun Kyoung Ro is an assistant professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Her research interests include college effects, diversity, and women and underrepresented minority faculty and students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Ruth Shim, MD, MPH, is Vice Chair of Education and Faculty Development and Chief of Outpatient Psychiatry Services in the Department of Psychiatry at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, part of the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Hofstra/North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine.

Clyde Wilcox is Professor of Government at Georgetown University. He has written extensively on religion and politics, race politics, gender politics, GLBT politics, interest groups, campaign finance, and the politics of science fiction. He has written more than 30 books and scores of journal articles, and lectured in dozens of countries. He provides diplomatic training for the U.S. foreign service, and has provided similar training in Jordan, Poland, Mexico and the UAE. He is currently teaching at Georgetown’s Doha campus in Qatar.

Judith Wilcox (formerly Judith Gwathmey) was Associate Professor of Medicine and Physiology at Harvard Medical School and is now professor at Boston University School of Medicine. She is currently a charter member of the National Institutes of Health, Vascular Cell and Molecular Biology study section. She was founder, CEO and CSO of Gwathmey, Inc., a pre-clinical research biotechnology company. She is known internationally for her research on calcium channeling and heart failure. Wilcox is also a highly sought after motivational speaker and mentor. She is the recipient of the Presidential Mentoring Award in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and the Small Business Administration Tibbetts Award for Excellence in Research.