About the Contributors

**Christine Spratt** has a Bachelor of Education from the University of New England (Armidale), a Master’s Degree in Distance Education and a PhD (Education), both from Deakin University (Geelong). She and has worked in Australia and Singapore in a variety of academic teaching, research and senior management positions in the university, corporate and non-profit educational sectors in particular in health (Nursing, Health Sciences and Medicine). Dr Spratt has particular research and pedagogical interests in curriculum design and development and e-learning, open and distance education. She has extensive experience in educational leadership in professional education managing a variety of education and curriculum projects at universities such as Monash, Deakin and the University of Tasmania in Australia.

**Paul Lajbcygier** combines extensive industry and academic experience in investments. Since 1990, Paul has provided investment advice for various prominent domestic and international: funds managers, banks and hedge funds. Since 1995, Paul has published over 50 academic papers and generated over $3.1 million in government grants and payments in-kind. He has sat on over 10 journal editorial boards and conference program committees. He has also worked and researched at amongst the best business schools in the world, including: London Business School and the Stern School of Business, New York University.

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**Dr Christine Armatas** has a PhD in Psychology from the University of Melbourne and over twelve years experience working as an academic, including eight years at Deakin University teaching in the School of Psychology. In this role she was involved in promoting innovation in teaching and learning through innovative curriculum design for blended and fully online units. At Deakin she was an ‘Online Teaching and Learning Fellow’ and led the team which was awarded a grant from the Australian University Teaching and Learning Committee which funded an innovative multi-media learning resource for the teaching of research methodologies. She has recently returned to academia after working for three years in a commercial role in the telecommunications industry as a human factors and interaction design expert, researching innovative applications for emerging technologies to support teaching and learning. Her current role is as an Educational Developer at Victoria University.
**Dr Benson** is a Senior Lecturer in Educational Design and e-Learning in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University, Australia. She has an MEd (Hons) in adult education and her PhD is in distance education. She has worked in educational design, development and research for over twenty years and during this time has undertaken and coordinated evaluation activities and programs, developed and offered academic professional development programs, and worked with teaching staff to increase the flexibility of their learning and teaching activities and resources. In recent years a particular focus of her work has been on the support of good teaching practice through the appropriate use of new learning technologies.

**Charlotte Brack** joined Monash University in 2003. She has an academic background in Biochemistry. She pursued research and teaching in the discipline and became increasingly interested in the challenges and theories of teaching and learning. She developed early computer-facilitated modules for teaching molecular mechanisms, moving to problem-based and online methods within the discipline. Charlotte is interested in exploring educational design in online environments, in particular: situated learning, case and problem-based learning, experiential, authentic learning. She is also interested in using new technologies to support learning communities. Working in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash, Charlotte has developed online, face-to-face and blended learning opportunities within interdisciplinary contexts.

**Elaine Brown** is a Senior Lecturer in Computing and Technology at Anglia Ruskin University. She is interested in the affordances of representation (designs to programs, avatars to people), in particular the affordances of virtual worlds for learning and teaching. Her avatar name in Second Life is Kur Ash.

**Dr Bernard Colbert** has been actively involved in the design and analysis of the security of information systems and networks for over 15 years. He worked as a security consultant to assess the security of IT assets of major banks and government organisations. His research is in the fields of Cryptography and Robust Network Design. He is currently working in Telstra’s Chief Technology Office in Melbourne Australia and is a Visiting Researcher at Deakin University in Melbourne.

**Fadi P. Deek** is Dean of the College of Science and Liberal Arts, Professor of Information Systems, Information Technology, and Mathematical Sciences at NJIT. He is also a member of the Graduate Faculty - Rutgers University Business School. His research interests include Learning/Collaborative Systems, Software Engineering, Open Source Development, Computer Science Education. Dr. Deek has published over 140 articles in journals and conference proceedings and he has given over 40 invited and professional presentations. He is also the co-author of ten book chapters and three books: Open Source – Technology and Policy, Strategic Software Engineering – An Interdisciplinary Approach, and Computer-Supported Collaboration with Applications to Software Development.

**Greg Duncan** is a Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice at Monash University. Greg has postgraduate qualifications in public health and is involved internationally with practice development and education. He teaches in the Faculty programs in pharmacy and medicine. His particular expertise is in Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) and Public Health. He designs and conducts graduate and continuing professional development programs in evidence-based clinical practice and plays a key role in the development of wound care and EBP skills for health professionals through professional development.
programs in Australia and internationally. He is heavily involved in the development and evaluation of a range of innovations in teaching and learning in the health care area and has presented at international conferences. He recently presented at an international symposium on assessment at the Prato campus of Monash University.

Norbert Elliot is Professor of English at New Jersey Institute of Technology. He is author, most recently, of ‘On a Scale: A Social History of Writing Assessment’, a volume that was awarded the 2007 Outstanding Book Award from the Conference on College Composition and Communication. His most recent collaborative assessment work has been published in the ETS Research Report series, Journal of Writing Assessment, Technical Communication, International Journal on E-Learning, and IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication. His research and teaching interests cluster in the following areas: History, Practice, and Theory of Writing Assessment; Theory and Practice of Technical Communication; Biography; Theory and History of Environmental Rhetoric; Empirical Research Methods; Technology and Education.

Jan Fermelis is a Senior Lecturer with the School of Management and Marketing at Deakin University. She has made significant contributions to the strategic priorities of Deakin in relation to graduate attributes and international education, having received university and national awards for her passionate teaching of business and academic communication, and her efforts to improve the learning outcomes of international students. Following a secondment as a Fellow of the Institute of Teaching and Learning, she was recently invited to become a founding member of the College of Distinguished Deakin Educators. In recent years Jan has worked to improve her research profile, publishing on topics related to pedagogy within higher education, international education, family business and business communication. She is currently conducting research for a doctoral award in the area of Australian intercultural business communication in Shanghai.

Robert S. Friedman is Associate Professor of Humanities and Information Technology at New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he directs the B.S. in Science, Technology and Society program. Recent publications include “On Heuristics, Narrative and Knowledge Management” for Technovation, Principal Concepts of Technology and Innovation Management: Critical Research Models, and Collaborative Learning Systems: A Case Study. Current research includes explication of the confluence of science, technology, and environmental expression in 19th-century American texts, and the development of an open electronic archiving system for information and computing scholarship based on an open source ethos and building on successful social computing methodologies.

Marie Gordon is a Senior Lecturer in Computing and Technology, at Anglia Ruskin University, specializing in networking Linux, and Open Source applications. She has set up and supports departmental VLEs such as Moodle, wordpress and MediaWiki. She introduced Second Life into the main curriculum, and has a great deal of practical experience with a combination of in-world / off-world skills from deep immersion in SL. Her avatar name in Second Life is Sandry Logan.

Dr Päivi Hakkarainen received her PhD from the University of Lapland, Finland, in 2007. Currently she is lecturer in media education at the University of Lapland. Her research interests are educational uses of digital videos, meaningful learning, development of teaching, pedagogical models, and problem-based learning.
Mike Hobbs is a Senior Lecturer in Computing and Technology and Pathway Leader for the Computer Gaming and Animation Technology degree at Anglia Ruskin University. Teaching courses in programming languages, artificial intelligence, game design and development. Researching into applications of Artificial Intelligence, knowledge management and more recently involved in learning and teaching with virtual worlds and helped to host the Higher Education Academy’s Massively Multi Learner workshop in 2008 His Second Life avatar name is Austin Thatcher.

Professor Hurst’s research interests include programming languages and software engineering, particularly in the areas of persistence, compiler construction, literate programming, document technologies, and, most recently, computing education. He is co-leader of a research group called the Computing Education Research Group (CERG), which has undertaken several significant research projects. The most significant of these was an investigation into best practice and innovation in IT and CT, funded by the Australian Universities Teaching Commission for $300,000 over two years. Currently he leads the IntelliVEE project, which is investigating “pedagogically agnostic” e-learning systems. He holds BSc and BE degrees from The University of Adelaide, and a PhD in Computer Science from the University of New South Wales. He also completed a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education at Monash University, during his term as Associate Dean (Teaching). More recently, he served a term as President of the Academic Board at Monash University.

Dr. Markham is a psychologist with extensive experience in education and in consulting. His core professional area is vocational behavior and careers counseling. He was a comprehensive background in educational and psychological measurement. This has ranged from standard educational assessment within teaching environments through to the development of psychological assessment tools in traditional as well as cross-cultural contexts, including developing careers assessment tools for the Indonesian technical education system. He has also carried out evaluation projects on assessment systems for both educational and commercial organizations. Dr. Markham has also been working with computing-based systems for most of his career. This involvement began with the educational use of an early HP mini-computer at Queensland Institute of Technology. Some years later he wrote a careers support tool for the Apple IIe. In 1997 he developed an internet-based career development system. More recently he has supported the Computing Education Research Group at Monash University in the development of various projects on computers in education.

Dr. Som Naidu is Director, Teaching and Learning Quality Enhancement and Evaluation Services, Charles Sturt University, Division of Teaching and Learning Services, and Adjunct Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Management & Technology, University of Maryland University College, USA. Dr. Naidu possesses undergraduate qualifications in Education from New Zealand and graduate qualifications in Educational Technology from Montreal, Canada. His career in the field of educational technology dates back to the early 1980s during which period he has worked in various roles in the fields of educational technology, e-learning and also distance education in Canada, Australia, United Kingdom and the USA. More recently, he has been working on several educational development projects in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore. Dr. Naidu’s research interest is on learning experience design in online educational environments. His publications in this area include several books, book chapters, journal articles and conference papers. Dr. Naidu has been Executive Editor (since 1997) of the international peer-reviewed journal “Distance Education” [http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/car-
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fax/01587919.html], the journal of the Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia which is published by the Taylor & Francis Group. He is Co-series Editor of the RoutledgeFalmer book series on “Open and Flexible Learning” also published by the Taylor and Francis Group [http://www.routledge.com/education].

**Dr. Stuart Palmer** is a Senior Lecturer in the Institute of Teaching and Learning at Deakin University. He is a chartered professional engineer, having practiced in consulting engineering for a decade before joining the School of Engineering at Deakin University. He lectured in the management of technology for twelve years, working with engineering students studying in on-campus, off-campus, off-shore and online modes. In 1999 he was awarded the Australasian Association for Engineering Education Mc-Graw-Hill New Engineering Educator Award. His research interests include frequency domain image analysis and the effective use of digital/online technologies in teaching and learning. More recently, he has joined the Deakin University Institute of Teaching and Learning where he contributes to institutional research and academic professional development.

**Professor Heli Ruokamo** is currently professor and the director of the Centre for Media Pedagogy at the University of Lapland, Finland. She received her PhD from the University of Helsinki, Finland, in 2000. Her research interests include network-based education, pedagogical models, playful learning environments, virtual learning environments, and mobile learning.

**Dr. Tarja Saarelainen** received her PhD from the University of Lapland, Finland, in 2003. She teaches in the areas of public management. Her current research focuses on strategic partnerships and network management practices in purchaser-provider models.

**Dr. Saliba** has a BSc(Hons) in Biochemistry majoring in Psychology, with a PhD in Perceptual Psychology. Anthony’s previous role was as Director of Consumer Behaviour Research at Telstra Research Laboratories; the use of mobile phones as educational tools was one of the major enabling research programs. His research seeks to understand why people do things in a particular contexts’. He has worked in diverse fields such as telecommunications and aviation, and is currently working for the National Wine and Grape Industry Centre as a Sensory Scientist. His current research aims to better understand the wine consumer.

**Dr. Andrew Sanford** is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Accounting and Finance where he teaches undergraduate units in finance. He previously worked for over twelve years in the Banking, Finance and IT industries before joining academia to complete his PhD. His research focuses on the application of Bayesian analysis to empirical finance and educational research.

**Dr. Richard Tucker** is an internationally recognised specialist in the pedagogy of collaborative and sustainable design. His work has involved substantial grant-funded projects that have enhanced learning satisfaction and outcomes for his students. He has over 25 publications and submitted eight grant applications in a previously neglected area of education. His acknowledged teaching excellence lies in the area of teaching innovation through his research and related scholarship to enable effective collaborative, multidisciplinary, studio-based learning in design and sustainable building. Richard’s research has led to improvements in collaborative learning across Deakin University, the promise of improvements in
this area in other higher education institutions, and has been recognised through a Carrick citation and the WJC Banks Award as the most outstanding teacher at Deakin University in 2007. Richard’s teaching leadership was recently recognised by his appointment as Associate Head of School (Teaching and Learning) and by his admission as a Fellow of the College of Distinguished Deakin Educators.

Dr. Paul J. White is a Senior Lecturer and Alternate Associate Dean (Education) in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He completed a PhD in 1996, and was a post-doctoral scientist at the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute prior to his academic appointment at Monash University in 1998. Dr White is heavily involved in innovative teaching and learning approaches, including leadership and ‘coalface worker’ roles at the Faculty and University level. Dr White has been an invited participant in Australian Government funded projects in 2001 and 2007 aimed at improving teaching and learning outcomes in Higher Education. His areas of interest within higher education include active learning in lectures, formative and summative assessment online, and peer assessment.