About the Contributors

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Ian Benest graduated from the University of Essex with a BA in Computer and Communication Engineering in 1974 and completed an MSc by research and then a PhD in interactive computer-aided circuit design - all at the University of Essex. He then spent five years at the UK Science and Engineering Research Council’s Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, latterly in the role of MMI coordinator. Dr. Benest is currently a lecturer in Computer Science at the University of York. He is a member of the Advisory Board for the Information and Computer Sciences network of the UK’s Higher Education Academy (HEA-ICS). His research interests include user interfaces to hypermedia systems, with special attention to inclusive design (for those with aural, visual, cognitive and physical impairments); the work is applied to teaching and learning in electronic circuit design.

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Matthew Irvin is a research scientist at the National Research Center on Rural Education Support at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also an assistant clinical professor in the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research has involved experimental intervention work, cross-sectional and longitudinal correlational studies, and the use of large-scale databases. This work has focused on rural youth, distance education, risk and resilience, student engagement, school adjustment, peer relations, and academic success. He has developed online courses at the university level on child and adolescent development and has taught in university courses utilizing online platforms to support student learning.

Jill Jameson is Director of Research and Enterprise at the School of Education and Training, University of Greenwich. The author of four books and hundreds of other publications, Jill is a Fellow of the Institute for Learning (FIfL), with a PhD and MA (Distinction, King’s College), MA (Goldsmith’s), MA (University of Cambridge), PGCE (Distinction, Univ. Nottingham) and BA, PG Dip (UCT). Co-Chair of ALT-C 2008, National Convenor, SRHE HE-FE Research Network, Special Editor for BJET (2006) and ALT-J (2000), Dr. Jameson is a reviewer for AACE, ALT-J, Studies in HE and JFHE and Series Editor for Continuum International. With many years HE-FE senior management experience, she is co-author, with Professor Sara de Freitas, of a new e-Learning Reader (forthcoming). Director of the JISC eLIDA CAMEL and JISC eLISA projects.

Nicola Jayne BSc(Hons)(Massey), GradCertHE(L&T), PhD(Massey) has been a lecturer in the School of Commerce and Management at Southern Cross University, since 1993, she has taught a wide range of quantitative units both undergraduate and postgraduate. Dr. Jayne has been innovative and experimental in her teaching; developing self-paced units, introducing Minitab and later PaceXL projects for Statistics students and developing unit websites since 2000. Nicola is a co-author of the Australian adaptations of two US statistics textbooks and is currently the Coordinator of Bachelor of Business Course.

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Karen Kaun is co-founder and Executive Director of Knowledge iTrust, a non-profit organization that partners with educational institutions, NGOs, and experts to design, develop, and facilitate digital and real-world literacy through applied learning projects. She has received acclaim in the news media (e.g. The New York Times Education Life magazine, Technology and Learning magazine), from public
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**Angelina Khor** holds the Masters’ Degree certificates in both Education and Distance Learning from Bath and Durham Universities respectively and presently a Lecturer at Lesotho college of Education. Her work experiences include writing and reviewing distance learning modules, mentoring in-service teacher learners as well as organising, co-ordinating and supervising distance education activities at the site, cluster and regional levels. Having served in primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education, she has developed interest in researching on teaching and learning with specific focus on: learner support, learner recruitment and progression, classroom assessment practices, curriculum and programme reviews.

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**Ravisha Mathur**, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Connie L. Lurie College of Education at San José State University. She received her doctorate in psychology from Purdue University in 2003. Dr. Mathur’s research interests are focused on the development of close, interpersonal relationships and building institutional partnerships. Her most recent work has been published in journals such as the *Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration* and *Electronic Magazine of Multicultural Education*. In addition, she has presented her work at several national and international conferences both educational and technological. She currently teaches several undergraduate and graduate courses within the college and serves as newsletter editor for the *Society for Cross-Cultural Research*.

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