About the Contributors

Shalin Hai-Jew works as an Instructional Designer at Kansas State University, where part of her work involves the creation of self-discovery learning spaces on a range of projects. She has BAs in English and Psychology and an MA in English from the University of Washington; she earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership with a focus on Public Administration from Seattle University (2005), where she was a Morford Scholar. She was a tenured Professor at Shoreline Community College but left that to pursue a career change in instructional design. She has taught at universities in the PRC from 1988 – 1990 (with the United Nations Development Programme) and 1992 – 1994. She has written for and published with IGI-Global and other presses. She teaches for WashingtonOnline. She was born in Huntsville, Alabama, in the US.

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Nicoletta Adamo-Villani is an Associate Professor of Computer Graphics Technology at Purdue University and a University Faculty Scholar. She received her MS in Architecture from University of Florence, Italy, and she is a certified 3D modeler/animator for Autodesk. Adamo-Villani is an award-winning animator and creator of 2D /3D films that aired on national television. Her research interests focus on the application of 3D animation to education, Human Computer Communication (HCC), and visualization.

Brent A. Anders is an Electronic Media Coordinator (educational media consultant) for the Office of Mediated Education at Kansas State University. He has worked in higher education as well as with military education for over 12 years. His Bachelor’s degree is in Psychology with a human computer interaction focus, and his Master’s degree is in Education with an instructional technology focus. Brent A. Anders also serves in the National Guard as a Master Sergeant (E-8). His main duty is as an instructional Branch Chief, teaching the Army Basic Instructors Course, which produces highly capable military instructors.

Laura Benvenuti studied Mathematics and Philosophy in the Netherlands and obtained her Master’s degree in Italy with a thesis on Computer Science. She worked as a Software Engineer in Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands. At the Open Universiteit, the Dutch University for distance learning, she alternates her research with the development of Web-based courses, online classes, and face to face lectures.

Kari L. Clase is an Associate Professor at Purdue University with a joint appointment in the Departments of Technology, Leadership and Innovation and Computer and Information Technology. She
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of emerging technologies for science education and the elucidation of signaling pathways that control
stem cell fate. She is a recent member of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Science Education
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Elicia Dynae Fullwood, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was the valedictorian of the 1994 Capitol
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She has completed all requirements but a dissertation in the pursuit of a Doctoral degree in Instructional
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Pi. She has been recognized for several Teacher of the Year, Assistant Coach of the Year, and Who’s
Who Among America’s Teachers awards throughout her career in education. Fullwood completed the
2006 Honolulu Marathon and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She regards her personal
hobbies and professional work as support for the organization’s creed: Service to all mankind. Her future
ambitions include learning to speak a foreign language and traveling to exotic destinations.

Robin J. Heyden is an Education Consultant, Developer and Writer. She works with education and
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Paul Kawachi is Professor of Instructional Design, and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of
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Sarah D. Kirby is an Associate Professor and Extension Housing Specialist in the Department of 4-H Youth Development and Family & Consumer Studies at North Carolina State University. Dr. Kirby’s responsibilities involve developing, implementing, and evaluating quality housing educational programs in focus areas that include accessible housing and universal design, safe and healthy home environments, and energy efficiency and conservation. Dr. Kirby is a certified Healthy Homes Specialist and provides instruction for the North Carolina Healthy Homes Training Center. She serves as the state coordinator for the Healthy Homes Partnership focused on improving the health and safety of children in homes by reducing housing hazards that cause injury and disease. Dr. Kirby is a member of the Family Caregiving Community of Practice and the Home Energy Community of practice for eXtension. In 2010, she was inducted into the North Carolina State University Academy of Outstanding Faculty Engaged in Extension. Prior to her work in North Carolina, Dr. Kirby served as Extension Housing Specialist for the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service for nearly ten years. She received her Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. degrees from Oklahoma State University.

Paul A. Kirschner studied Psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the University of Amsterdam. In 1991 he obtained his PhD from the Open Universiteit. Paul has been designing and developing educational materials since 1979 and is currently Chair of the Learning and Cognition program of the Centre for Learning Sciences and Technologies (CELTEC) and Chair Cognition and Education program at the Netherlands laboratory for Lifelong Learning (NeLLL) of the Open Universiteit.

Roger W. McHaney, Professor of Management Information Systems and university distinguished teaching scholar, studies business use of technology to promote organizational mission, and the integration of Web 2.0 technologies with teaching/learning in higher education and business training. He currently holds the Daniel D. Burke Chair for Exceptional Faculty in Kansas State University’s College of Business Administration. His recent projects include co-developing ELATEwiki (E-Learning and Teaching Exchange) -- used for faculty enhancement -- which received the Sloan-C Effective Practice Award for 2009. His Distance Learning Video Gallery -- a year-long effort to collect successful instructional distance education techniques, ideas, and methodologies -- won the 2009 Creative Use of Technology Award from the Association for Continuing Higher Education. He earned degrees from Lake Superior State University, and a Doctorate in Computer Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis from the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas.

Maria Menendez studied Computer Science at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid. She finished her MSc at the Technische Universiteit of Eindhoven where she is currently working as a researcher in User System Interaction. During the last two years, she has been working in an international and heterogeneous research group where psychologists, industrial designers, and engineers collaborate to create User Centered Designs.

Kanubhai K. Patel is an Assistant Professor at the Schools of ICT of Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad, India. He was previously a faculty member at GLS ICA, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad. He is pursuing a PhD degree from the Faculty of Technology at Drarmshing Desai University, Nadiad. He received his MCA from Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad in June 1997. His research interests include
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**Debra C. Burkey Piecka** is an Educational Researcher/Instructional Designer at the Center for Educational Technologies (CET) at Wheeling Jesuit University. She earned B.S. degrees in Industrial and Administration Management, Economics, and Mathematics from Carnegie Mellon University, a MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, and an Ed.D. and graduate certificate from Duquesne University’s Instructional Technology program and Certificate in Interpretive and Qualitative Research. Dr. Piecka’s research interests include students’ meaning making while learning with interactive technologies, technology-supported collaborative learning, simulations, qualitative research methods, ethnography, and early childhood education. She works on the NASA Talk collaborative website where she blogs about using NASA educational resources and promotes STELLAR Awards, a program that recognizes teachers for their exemplary use of NASA resources. Dr. Piecka’s responsibilities also include research and evaluation of other CET projects such as the live simulation project CyberSurgeons funded by the National Institutes of Health and the NASA-funded Micronauts program evaluation. Her recent publications and presentations focus on students’ meaning making when learning with interactive technologies, data visualization for data analysis and meaning making, and applications of Vygotskian learning theory.

**Laurie Ruberg** received her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Virginia Tech, and has been with the Center for Educational Technologies at Wheeling Jesuit University since 1995—first, as a Senior Instructional Designer and (since 2006) as the Associate Director. She serves as project manager for the NASA Talk web-based collaborative. She is the PI on Global Climate Change Education project. She recently completed program evaluations for NASA-funded Micronauts and NOAA-funded STORM-E simulation education projects. She has also served as the lead for the evaluation for NIOSH-funded health and safety training projects. Ruberg has received several awards for her design and evaluation work.

**Christopher Ruckman** is a Computer Programmer for the Center for Educational Technologies. A Wheeling Jesuit University alumnus with a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science, Ruckman has worked five years in professional desktop and web-based application development. He is currently developing the NASA Talk website and a teacher training website for WV Storm.

**Debra M. Sellers** is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Adult Development & Aging, School of Family Studies and Human Services, Kansas State University. Her primary area of focus is adaptive living for people with aging-related limitations or disabilities and their families and caregivers, with an emphasis on supporting functional abilities through access to services and technology. As an Extension Specialist, she is also interested in the transformative process of Cooperative Extension to increase capacity, relevancy, and impact for the 21st century. Dr. Sellers is the past national Chairperson and is a current steering committee member of the Family Caregiving Community of Practice for eXtension, an educational partnership of the land-grant university system. She is a volunteer puppy raiser for Canine Companions for Independence, and was voted one of her city’s most admired people in 2001 (Manhattan, KS). Dr. Sellers has more than 15 years of experience serving older adults and their families in a variety of settings, including long-term care facilities, retirement communities, and government agencies. She
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**Ramesh C. Sharma** holds a PhD in Education in the area of Educational Technology and is currently (since July 2009) working as Director (Distance Education), Institute of Distance and Continuing Education, Guyana (South America) under an assignment of the CFTC, London, United Kingdom. He has been a Regional Director in Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), India and has been instrumental in strengthening distance education in the states of Shillong, Rajasthan, Haryana, Maharashtra, in addition to serving in New Delhi, HQs. He has been a teacher trainer and has taught Educational Technology, Educational Research and Statistics, Educational Measurement and Evaluation, Special Education, and Psychodynamics of Mental Health Courses to BEd and MEd students. He has supervised research dissertations at Master’s and Doctoral levels. He is on the panel of external examiners of different universities in India, Pakistan, and Massey University, New Zealand. He has conducted many Human Development training programmes for the in- and pre-service teachers. He had established a Centre of ICT. He is a member of many committees on implementation of technology in the Open University. His areas of specialization include staff development, on-line learning, student support services in open and distance learning, and teacher education.

**Ya-Chun Shih** was born in Taiwan on November 16, 1971. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Curriculum and Instruction (Bilingual Education emphasis) from Pennsylvania State University in 1997 and 2000, respectively. In 2001, Dr. Shih joined the faculty of National Hualien University of Education, located near the world-famous Taroko Gorge, as Assistant Professor of English Language Teaching. In 2009, the University was renamed as National Dong Hwa University. She is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of English at National Dong Hwa University, Hualien, Taiwan and one of the computer-assisted language learning (CALL) practitioners. She has pursued a wide range of technology supported language learning issues, including serving as an Instructor, Instructional Designer, Researcher, Journal Reviewer, Guest Speaker, Advisor, and Committee Member on related issues. Under Dr. Shih’s leadership, the VEC3D (3D Virtual English Classroom), an interdisciplinary research team of instructional designers and computer science experts, designed and developed a variety of innovative language learning platforms. The VEC3D innovation started with an inspired idea for contextual language learning. Dr. Shih and her research team are expanding beyond the traditional language learning environments and methods by incorporating technology into daily lessons and communicative activities. Her current research focuses on integrating virtual reality technologies and language learning in education. She has investigated the effect of virtual reality assisted language learning on students’ achievement of English as a foreign language. She has also explored issues related to the use of 3D collaborative virtual environments within a social and cultural context. The central research issues for the VEC3D project include research on (non)verbal communication, developing communicative competence, and cultural awareness.

**Gerrit van der Veer** developed computer supported learning approaches, and taught User Centered Design to students of Psychology, Ergonomics, and Information Sciences in the Netherlands, Rumania, and Spain. Currently he teaches Computer Science students in the Netherlands, and Architecture students in Italy.
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John Wiecha, MD, MPH is the Director of Medical Student Education in the Department of Family Medicine and Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs at Boston University School of Medicine, and an Associate Professor. He received his M.D. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and his M.P.H from the University of Massachusetts. He completed residencies in Family Medicine and in Preventive Medicine at the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Wiecha has published studies on patterns of preventive health care among disadvantaged populations, on tobacco abuse among vulnerable populations, and on methods and evaluation of distance medical education which have received national recognition. He has received funding for research and educational program development from numerous private foundations including The Commonwealth Fund, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Physicians’ Foundation, The World Health Organization, and U.S. government sources including the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Institutes of Health. He lives in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and is married with two children.