About the Authors

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Kim E. Dooley is Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education at Texas A&M University. Her area of specialization is distance education. She has developed faculty training programs for distance delivery for more than five years. Her graduate course, Advanced Methods in Distance Education uses interactive video and the web as delivery tools. Dr. Dooley’s research focuses on change facilitation (diffusion of innovation) of distance education in K-12, Higher Education, and Corporate Settings. One particular research project investigated the effects of computer animation on the asynchronous learning of scientific phenomena. She has served as distance education consultant for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (Costa Rica) and the International Potato Center (Peru).

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Jane Magill is a Professor of Genetics at Texas A&M University. Her research has been in the area of gene expression and she teaches undergraduate biochemistry and genetics. In 1980, Dr. Magill received the Texas A&M University award for Excellence in Teaching. She began teaching at a distance in 1993, by doing a course, Biotechnology, in 13 weeks on satellite TV. In 1994, she hosted an international satellite conference on Agricultural Biotechnology that allowed scientists at universities in Africa to interact with scientists at Texas A&M University. Dr. Magill is the Faculty Coordinator for distance education in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and teaches online courses in biochemistry and genetics.

Stewart Marshall is the founding Dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Communication at Central Queensland University in Australia. Although originally an electrical engineer with the Central Electricity Generating Board in the UK, he has worked in higher education for 27 years in England, Papua New Guinea, Australia and Southern Africa. He was the foundation Professor of Communication at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, foundation Professor of Communication in the Faculty of Arts at Monash University, and foundation Coordinator of Academic Studies and Professor of Distance Education at the Institute of Distance Education at the University
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Valerie E. Polichar holds a PhD in Experimental Psychology and an undergraduate degree in Cognitive Science. She works as a technical manager for networking technology groups in Academic Computing Services at the University of California, San Diego. Her recent research and writing is on the applications of psychological principles to computer-based education; she has a particular interest in the use of MUD/MOOs in education. She frequently speaks on these subjects to government and educational groups.

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Previously, she worked for Red Rocks Community College, Colorado, as the full-time director of computer services and a part-time faculty member. Prior to this, she was a manager and trainer in private industry. Vicky has written numerous articles and books chapters about governing consortial distance education programs and administering instructional and student services in cooperation with colleges that are geographically separated.

**Morgan Shepherd** spent ten years in industry, most of that time with IBM. His last position with IBM was as a technical network designer. He earned his PhD from the University of Arizona in 1995, and has been teaching for the I/S Department at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs since then. His primary teaching emphasis is in telecommunications at the graduate and undergraduate level. He has also taught numerous courses on computer literacy, web design and systems analysis and design. In addition, he has been teaching courses via distance education for several years. His primary research emphasis is on making distributed groups productive and applying this research to business as well as education. His research has appeared in the *Journal of Management Information Systems, Informatica, and Journal of Computer Information Systems.*