About the Authors

Gregory Aist (Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University) is an Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics and Communication Studies in the English Department at Iowa State University. His research and teaching interests include natural language processing and computer-assisted learning, driven by and applied to literacy and new literacies. He has a particular interest in computer-assisted learning embedded in authentic contexts such as school or work, and especially in human-computer spoken dialogue to support learning in those contexts. He is also interested in curriculum design, especially in the areas of computer literacy, computational thinking, and research methods.

Douglas W. Canfield is the Coordinator of the Language Resource Center at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. His background is in French instruction via hybrid courses with significant online modules. His research explores music and video clips as catalysts for the Chomskyan "Language Acquisition Device," the creation of discourse and gaming communities for language instruction and research, and the leveraging of open-source and low-affect technologies in language resource centers. His proposed dissertation, "Authentic Encounters in Synthetic Worlds: A Discursive Investigation of Communities of Language Practice in the Metaverse," has been selected to be part of the 2010 Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship Program of the Social Science Research Council. His goals include, among other things, fostering the use of technology for instruction, communication, collaboration, and recreation.

Masatake Dantsuji holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Masters Degree in Literature from Kyoto University. He currently works as a professor in Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies and Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies at Kyoto University. His research interest includes applied linguistics, acoustic phonetics and CALL.

Sébastien Dubreil is Assistant Professor of French and Applied Linguistics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is also Director of the French Language Program at UTK. His research interests include the definition of culture in the foreign language classroom, its place in the curriculum, and the methods of assessment of culture learning. More specifically, Dr. Dubreil has extensively investigated the use of multimedia technologies (video and the Internet) in the teaching and learning of culture in the foreign language classroom. More recently, he has investigated learning trajectories and issues of identity negotiation in transnational, transcultural telecollaborative learning environments. He has also published on the subject of French and Francophone cinema and taught several classes around this topic.

Jesse Gleason is currently a doctoral student in Applied Linguistics and Technology at Iowa State University, where she teaches intermediate Spanish and Spanish grammar and composition. She received her M.A. in Linguistics from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in 2009. She has taught ESL in Santiago, Chile, for 10 years at the primary, secondary, and university levels. For three years she taught ESP to students of English pedagogy, business administration, tourism, and speech pathology. Her current research interests include Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL), L2 motivation and L2 selves, and the computer assessment of L2 oral proficiency.

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Kimberly R. LeVelle is a Ph.D student in Applied Linguistics and Technology at Iowa State University. She teaches courses in ESL writing, reading, and listening along with working as a teaching assistant for Introduction to Linguistics. She also has designed online courses and serves as an organizer and editor for the Pronunciation for Second Language Learning and Teaching conference. Her research interests are teacher development, online learning, and ESL pedagogy.

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James D. Miller, Ph.D. is the Principal Scientist at Communication Disorders Technology, Inc. He has retired from the Central Institute for the Deaf (Saint Louis, MO) where he holds the title of Director of Research Emeritus. While in Saint Louis he also held the positions of Adjunct Professor of Psychology, of Speech and Hearing Sciences.

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Heidi Ramaeke (B.A., Iowa State University) graduated cum laude in Linguistics from Iowa State University in Spring 2010. She was a recipient of the Hixson Award in 2006 and in 2008-2009 was a tutor with America Reads. In 2010, along with Tanner Howard, she was in charge of Campus and Community Involvement for VEISHEA, one of the largest student-run festivals in the United States. She is currently working at Wells Fargo and enrolled in a Master's program in Public Administration at Drake University.

Roy Sillings has a Masters Degree in Instructional Systems Technology. He is skilled in a variety of computer languages, including authoring and graphic design tools. He also has experience with implementing internet access and server interaction. Since 1992 he has served as programmer and interface designer at Communication Disorders Technology, Inc. He is responsible for the programming of the SPATS-ESL system.

Tammy Slater (Ph.D., University of British Columbia) is an Assistant Professor of Applied Lingustics/TESL in the English Department at Iowa State University of Science and Technology. Her research, which draws upon analytic methods from Systemic Functional Linguistics, seeks to understand the development of academic language through content-based and project-based teaching and learning, particularly as these inform the field of education for English language learners.

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