About the Authors

Matthias Hecking is 41 years old. He received his Master's degree in computer science (Dipl.-Inform.) at the University of Hamburg in 1984. During and after the studies Matthias developed commercial software for different software houses. From 1985 to 1988 he worked at the SINIX Consultant (SC) at the chair of Prof. Wahlster at the University of the Saarland. Matthias joined the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI). From 1988 to 1993 he worked on the PHI project. He received his Ph.D. in computer science at the University of the Saarland in 1993. Then Matthias became a house husband. During this time he worked on the Jesko and Jascha projects. Since 1996 Matthias works as a free-lancer software engineer in the Microsoft world.

Stephen J. Hegner received the Ph.D. degree in Computer and Information Science from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1977. Currently, he is a senior lecturer in the Department of Computing Science at Umeå University, Sweden. His areas of professional interest focus on algorithmic aspects of knowledge representation and inference in database and knowledge-base systems.

John Jones was born in 1956 in England and died in 1994. He achieved a BSc First Class degree in Mathematics from the University of Nottingham in 1980. He completed his Ph.D. in Mathematical Logic at the Department of Mathematics, University of Nottingham. He was a Research Fellow in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Edinburgh from October 1983 until September 1986. He joined the Department of Computer Science at the University of Hull as a Lecturer in October 1986 and remained there until he died.

Christel Kemke received her Master's Degree in Computer Science from the University of Dortmund, Germany, with a thesis on Finite State Machines and Neural Network Modeling, and a Ph.D. from the Technical Faculty at the University of Bielefeld, Germany, with a thesis on Neural Network Models for Natural Language Processing. She also completed a B.Sc. honours degree in Psychology at the Open University, Milton Keynes, England. From 1984 to 1988 she has been working on the SINIX Consultant Project at the University of Saarbruecken, Germany. Then, she conducted research in the ASL project at the DFKI in Saarbruecken on the application of Neural Networks for Speech and Language Processing which she continued during a 6 months stay at the International Computer Science Institute in Berkeley, CA, USA. She worked as a Research Computer Scientist at the University College Dublin, Ireland, in the

EU funded QUALIT Project on Knowledge Engineering and Representation. She has conducted several university seminars and conference tutorials on Neural Network Modeling, Natural Language Processing, and Knowledge Representation, in Germany and Ireland, and has supervised 12 Master's Degree students. She was elected Co-Chair of the German Interest Group on Neural Networks and is member of the German Computer Science Society and the Cognitive Science Society. Currently, she is visiting professor of the Computer Science Department at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA.

Paul Mc Kevitt is 36 and from Dún Na nGall (Donegal), Ireland. He is Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer) in the School of Computer Science at The Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Previously, he has been Visiting Professor of Intelligent MultiMedia Computing in the Institute of Electronic Systems at Aalborg University, Denmark and a British EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) Advanced Fellow in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Sheffield, England. The Fellowship, commenced in 1994, and released him from his Associate Professorship (tenured Lecturership) for 5 years to conduct full-time research on the integration of natural language, speech and vision processing. He completed a Master's degree in Education (M.Ed.) at the University of Sheffield in 1999. He completed his Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Exeter, England in 1991. His Master's degree in Computer Science (M.S.) was obtained from New Mexico State University, New Mexico,

USA in 1988 and his Bachelor's degree in Computer Science (B.Sc., Hons.) from University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland in 1985. His primary research interests are in Natural Language Processing (NLP) including the processing of pragmatics, beliefs and intentions in dialogue. He is also interested in Philosophy, MultiMedia and the general area of Artificial Intelligence.

Mark Millington is 39 and from Chester, England. He is a consultant specialising in finance and telecommunications applications, working in the Chicago area. He completed his Ph.D. in Computer Science in 1985 at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and his Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Mathematics in 1980 at the University of Essex, England.

Peter Norvig received a B.S. in Applied Mathematics from Brown University and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of California at Berkeley. He has been a Professor at the University of Southern California and a Research Faculty Member at Berkeley. He has over forty publications in various areas of Computer Science, concentrating on Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing and Software Engineering. He has also served as a Senior or Chief Scientist at Sun Microsystems Labs, Harlequin Inc. and Junglee Corp., and is currently Chief of the Computational Sciences Division at NASA Ames Research Center.

Maria Virvou is 34, from Athens, Greece. She has been a lecturer in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Piraeus, Greece since 1994. She completed her Ph.D. in Artifi-

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Robert Wilensky received his B.A. and his Ph.D. from Yale University. In 1978, he joined the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley, where he is now Professor in the Division of Computer Science, and in the School of Information Management and Systems. He has served as Chair of the Computer Science Division, the director of BAIR, the Berkeley Artificial Intelligence Research Project, and the director of Berkeley Cognitive Science Program. Professor Wilensky has published numerous articles and books in the area of artificial intelligence, planning, knowledge representation, natural language processing, and digital information systems. He is currently Principal Investigator of UC Berkeley's Digital Library Project.