

## About the Authors

**Mary Pannbacker** is professor of speech–language pathology in the Department of Communication Disorders, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center–Shreveport. She received her PhD in speech–language pathology from State University of New York at Buffalo, and her MCD from the University of Oklahoma Medical Center. Dr. Pannbacker has published papers in the areas of cleft palate, voice disorders, and professional issues such as report writing. She serves as a legislative councilor from Louisiana to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (1992–present), and is a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

**Grace Middleton** is professor emerita of speech–language pathology at the University of Texas at El Paso. After 28 years of service, she retired from the university and upon her retirement she was serving as program director for speech–language pathology. She received an EdD in higher education from Texas Tech University, an MCD in communication disorders from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and a BS in speech education from Oklahoma State University. She holds ASHA's Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech–Language Pathology and has practiced in school, clinical, and university settings.

**Gay T. Vekovius** is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Disorders, School of Allied Health Professions, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center–Shreveport. She received an MS degree in audiology from

Vanderbilt University. She is a 2001 fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), recognizing outstanding and consistent contributions in the areas of clinical service, teaching, and service to professional organizations. She holds ASHA's Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology.

**Kathryn L. Sanders, MS, CCC-SLP**, received her bachelor's degree in speech and hearing therapy from West Texas State University and her master's degree from East Texas State University, now Texas A&M–Commerce. She has served as a director of speech and audiology at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paris, Texas; instructor and clinical supervisor at ETSU; owner of Communication Disorders Clinic; and rehab manager for various healthcare companies. At present, she is a supervisor for speech therapy for five school districts in the Northeast Texas area surrounding her home of Commerce, Texas. She is also a cancer survivor.

**Merric Pendergrass, MA, CCC-SLP**, is an assistant professor of clinical communication disorders at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center–Shreveport. Following 10 years of practicing in the public school system, she has been a clinical supervisor in the Department of Communication Disorders, and has been a member of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary evaluation teams within the School of Allied Health Professions at LSUHSC for the past 9 years. Her area of expertise is in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).

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