Editor's Notes

By Dan Surry, University of South Alabama

During the production of this issue of *TechTrends*, we were all very saddened by the news that Dr. David H. Jonassen of the University of Missouri had passed away. A full and fitting discussion of the impact of Dr. Jonassen's career is far beyond my ability to deliver and would take significantly more space than this editorial allows. I would, however, like to say a few words on the occasion. In my opinion, Dr. Jonassen is the most important and influential scholar in our field over the last 50 years. Even those who may disagree with that lofty assessment would probably agree that he is among a very small group of the most important and influential scholars our field has ever produced. His scholarly contributions are notable both for their breadth and depth. During his career he wrote about, and was widely cited in, such diverse topics as visual literacy, hypermedia, task analysis, computers in schools, learning theory, constructivism, and problem solving. His work in each of those diverse areas was always very thoughtful, creative, and theoretically sound. His oeuvre as an author and editor is unparalleled in our field and will likely remain so for a significant period of time.

In every profession a rare person comes along each generation or so to push their field forward and redefine it. Physics had Albert Einstein, anthropology had Margaret Mead, architecture had Frank Lloyd Wright, baseball had Ted Williams, jazz had John Coltrane, and boxing had Muhammad Ali. Each of those people in their own way profoundly impacted their field, altered its direction, and irrevocably changed how the field was to be understood and practiced in the future. For our generation of instructional designers, technologists, and learning theorists, that rare person was Dr. Jonassen. It will be many decades before anyone will be able to make sense of our field, much less practice it effectively, without experiencing Dr. Jonassen's ideas or being influenced by his work. His loss leaves a huge void in our field that will be extremely difficult to ever adequately fill. Faced with that great loss, each of us is challenged to rededicate ourselves to our own scholarship, to be more creative in our own thinking, to be more supportive of our colleagues, and to find ways to give back more of our time and talent to our profession.

Aside from the huge loss that Dr. Jonassen's passing leaves for our field, his death is a great personal loss to those who knew him closely. On behalf of everyone on the *TechTrends* editorial team, I would like to offer our deepest sympathy and respect to his family, friends, colleagues, and students.

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