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Robert E. Carlson (Ph.D., Purdue University, 1978) is Professor of Speech Communication at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Many of his publications have focused on communicative attitudes and anxiety/apprehension. His current research interests are in evaluation/assessment of public speaking and communication apprehension, particularly in the context of a labsupported public speaking fundamentals course. In addition, he is actively involved in distance education and teaching the basic speech course internationally.

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Karen Kangas Dwyer (Ph.D., University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1995) is Associate Professor of Speech Communication and Basic Course Director at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She has authored a textbook, instructor's manual, student workbook, and several articles related to the basic communication course. Her research interests are in instructional communication, especially communication apprehension and avoidance. Her work has involved developing and teaching special public speaking classes and workshops for highly apprehensive communicators. She has co-authored a Dutch public speaking trade book. As part of a hobby, she has written three cookbooks published by St. Martin's Press.

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