About the Author

In a speech in Cape Town, South Africa, in June of 1966, Robert F. Kennedy said, "May you live in interesting times." He said the phrase was of Chinese origin, although even the Chinese are not sure about this, but it certainly applies to we who have become deeply involved with information technology (IT). This book's author, **Dan Brandon**, took his first computer course in college in 1966 and has been fascinated by IT ever since.

As Brandon began his career, IT was also just starting. The disciplines of computer science, software engineering, and IT project management were formulated and solidified during his working years. He has designed and developed software for every generation of software (assembly through object oriented), and almost every generation of IT architecture and hardware (mainframe, mini, PC, client-server, Web). He has also programmed in most major computer languages, including ALGOL, FORTRAN, Pascal, Ada, COBOL, Basic, C, C++, Java, and in modern Web-based languages such as PHP to develop applications in a wide variety of areas encompassing the business, engineering, and scientific fields.

As his career moved him from programmer to designer to manager, he was always involved with the application of new computer technology and concepts to the solution of application problems. The effective management of all the resources and stakeholders involved with building, integrating, and deploying IT applications has always represented a major interest and challenge to him. Along the way he managed to fit in some schooling, earning a BS (Case Western Reserve University), MS, and PhD in engineering (University of Connecticut); his PhD specialization was in computer methods.

Before returning to the university environment, Dr. Brandon accumulated more than 30 years of commercial experience in both the IT technical and management arenas. He was a senior engineer at Mobil Research, a manager of application development for Control Data Corporation, an MIS manager for several companies, and director of information services at the NASA Stennis Space Center.

He is currently a professor of information technology management (ITM) and chairperson of that department at Christian Brothers University (CBU) in Memphis, Tennessee. CBU is a part of the De La Salle Christian Brothers global educational organization, with more than 1,000 schools in more than 80 countries. Dr. Brandon's research interests include both the management and technical side of IT. At CBU he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in IT, including information systems management, project management, software engineering, database design, decision support systems, Internet systems, and programming.

He has been published in a number of books, journals, and conference proceedings including *The Project Management Journal, The Wiley Guide to Managing Projects, Essentials of Project Control, Encyclopedia of Information Technology, Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges, Successful Software Reengineering, Technologies & Methodologies for Evaluating Information Technology in Business, Issues and Trends of Information Technology Management in Contemporary Organizations, Architectural Issues of Web-Enabled Electronic Business, Managing Information Technology Resources in Organizations in the Next Millennium,* and *Managing Information Technology in a Global Economy.*

He is a member of the Society of Information Management (SIM), the Information Resource Management Association (IRMA), and the Project Management Institute (PMI). He also holds the PMP (Project Management Professional) Certification which is the highest certification granted from PMI. He continues to do consulting with a number of companies, both locally and internationally. Currently he is involved in the design and development of comprehensive open source software systems for project management and other business applications.