

# Preface

This handbook project was instigated by a perfectly innocent message from Andrew Peart, an acquisitions editor for Wiley-Blackwell, to Patricia Bauer, on February 3, 2010. In the message, Andy remarked that he had been looking for a developmental analog to *The Oxford handbook of memory* (2000), edited by Endel Tulving and Fergus I. M. Craik. He was unable to find one and wondered whether I might be interested in editing one. One trip down the hall to Robyn Fivush's office and 44 chapters later, we have this book, *The Wiley Handbook on the Development of Children's Memory*. Our thanks to Andy for asking the question.

The development of memory has been a lively research area over the past 40 years. Several excellent authored and edited volumes have been published on various aspects of the topic, and a few overview chapters have been included in volumes focused on adult memory literature. Yet, this handbook represents the first comprehensive volume in which critical topics in the development of memory are covered from multiple perspectives, covering multiple ages, in multiple chapters. It was planned over several working meetings at Saba's in Emory Village, a favorite pasta restaurant with a respectable wine bar around the corner from the Department of Psychology. Having worked in the field our entire careers, we knew well the great strides that had taken place in understanding the development of memory in the latter part of the last century and into the present. We view this volume as a primary vehicle both for capturing the advances for posterity, and especially for encouraging the next generation of researchers in the study of the development of memory.

As the table of contents began to come together, we extended invitations to both senior researchers who had defined the field, and more junior researchers who have expanded and redefined it. Our goal was to provide both breadth and depth of theory and methods. With very few exceptions, our invitations were accepted with enthusiasm. In many cases, we asked authors to write about what they knew best. For others, we asked for a bit of a stretch or a reach-back to a former focus. Even these invitations were accepted graciously. We are forever grateful to all the authors for agreeing to have their work represented in this handbook. We also extend a special note of thanks to the authors who—again for the most part—submitted their chapters on time, not once but twice, for the first draft and then for the final version. The result is a handbook that is as current when it went to press as when the chapters were originally drafted. Again, thank you.

The handbook has the strengths that it does due to the efforts of another group of collaborators—the Ph.D. students who participated in a seminar that we offered in Fall 2011,

during which we read many of the chapters of the handbook in first-draft form. Many thanks for the comments, critiques, and lively discussion to Shala Blue, Chi Cheung, Cory Inman, Maria Jones, Brandi Kenner, Jackie Leventon, Natalie Merrill, Jason Shepard, Aylin Tasdemir, Christina Tzeng, Nicole Varga, and the honorary student Dr. Marina Larkina. This group provided the perfect initial audience for this volume. We also thank Jacqueline Leventon for her service beyond the seminar room as our editorial assistant for the project. Thank you, Jackie, for keeping us organized and on track throughout the process.

Our sincere gratitude to all who helped bring this project to fruition. As a result of your efforts, we now have a comprehensive state-of-the-art volume that defines the field, past, present, and future.

PJB and RF  
*October 29, 2012*