

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to Dr. Valerie Giddings, chair of my committee, for devoting her time to help me complete my dissertation. I would also like to thank her for mentoring me, sharing her insights on the world of clothing and textiles, and for her friendship during this time. I would like to thank Dr. Sherry Schofield-Tomschin for being a friend and also a mentor during my time at Virginia Tech. I would like to thank Dr. Doris Kincade for teaching me about the field of research and her friendship. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. George Terrell and Dr. David Radcliff. Both of these gentleman are from outside my field and willingly shared their expertise in statistics and English respectively.

I would also like to thank my family for all of their love and support without which I could not have managed to complete my dissertation. I would like to thank my husband, Kevin, for waiting up many late nights for my arrival after working late on my dissertation and for taking care of our daughter, Cheyenne Raven. My daughter, a source of unending joy and love, has been wonderfully understanding throughout the dissertation process and has been awaiting the day when I would be finished. Now, we will be able to play outside and sing songs of joy! I would also like to thank my in-laws, Ken and Irene, who have helped to care for Cheyenne so that I would have additional time to work on my dissertation. Finally, I would like to thank my mother for listening to me cry on the phone when I was down and for helping to cheer me up and encourage me to continue on with the research.

I would also like to thank all of my friends at school and at work for encouraging me to continue on and finish up my dissertation. Tammy, thanks for listening and letting me get my anxieties out. Thanks to my Radford colleagues for allowing me the time to finish up my dissertation, your encouragement fostered hope, as well as friendship.