

## VITA

Miguel A. Pando was born in Ottawa, Canada, on May 13, 1968. His father was from Madrid, Spain and his mother from Bogotá, Colombia. Mr. Pando struggles always when asked where he is from since he grew up in several countries. Mr. Pando lived in Ottawa, Canada from 1968 to 1973, in Caracas, Venezuela from 1973 to 1978, in San Jose, Costa Rica from 1978 to 1983, in Asunción, Paraguay from 1983 to 1988, in Mexico city, Mexico in 1988, in Bogota, Colombia from 1989 to 1992, and in Edmonton and Toronto, Canada from 1992 to 1998. Mr. Pando did the first 3.5 years of his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering studies at the National University of Asuncion, Paraguay (1985-1988) and the last 2.5 years of the 6 year program at the Javeriana University in Bogota, Colombia where he graduated in 1991. He worked as a junior structural engineer for a Colombian bridge design consulting firm from 1991 to 1992. From the Fall 1992 to Fall 1994 he was a graduate research assistant and graduate student at the University of Alberta geotechnical group where he obtained his Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Canada in 1995. Mr. Pando obtained professional experience working for AMEC Earth and Environmental (formerly Agra Earth & Environmental), of Edmonton, Alberta from September 1994 to May 1997, and for Thurber Engineering, Ltd., of Toronto, Canada during the period from May 1997 to July 1998. He has been a registered professional engineer in Canada since 1996.

Mr. Pando enrolled in the Civil Engineering Department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in August of 1998 to pursue a doctoral degree.