

VITA

Diane Chieko Yamane was born on November 26, 1968 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She grew up in Winchester, Massachusetts with her parents and brother. She attended Tufts University, in Medford, Massachusetts, for four years. There she met her future husband and received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in May 1990. She worked for Metcalf & Eddy, Inc. in Wakefield, Massachusetts for two years as a geotechnical engineer. She attended Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana, for two years and received a Master of Science in Civil Engineering in August 1994. She began her doctoral studies at Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Virginia, in August 1994. In July 1996, she married Chris Baxter, who received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech in August 1999. She is an alumnus of the Tufts Dance Collective, Purdue Repertory Dance Company, and the UJIMA Dance Company of Blacksburg Virginia.