

## VITA

Varun Ratta was born to Reva and D.B. Ratta on March 15, 1972 in New Delhi, India. Raised up in New Delhi, he completed all his schooling at Salwan Public School, Rajindar Nagar. Subsequent to this, he joined Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur in 1991 to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering. He graduated with honors receiving the 'Bachelor of Technology' in 1995. This was followed by a brief stint at Asian Paints Ltd., Bombay during the summer, 1995. He joined the Department of Chemical Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in August, 1995 for graduate studies. He received his 'Master in Engineering' in December, 1998 and continues his graduate studies towards a doctoral degree in Chemical Engineering. After graduation, he plans to continue with Dr. Garth L. Wilkes as a research associate in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Virginia Tech.