

VITA

Eric John Ruggiero

Eric John Ruggiero was born on August 10, 1979, to John and Nancy Ruggiero in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Eric grew up in Kingston, New Hampshire, and graduated Valedictorian of Sanborn Regional High School in 1997. Following high school, Eric received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, graduating magna cum laude in 2001. Having performed undergraduate research his senior year at Virginia Tech directly related to his Masters Thesis work, Eric finished his Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering that following spring of 2002.

Eric's academic career has been rewarded on numerous occasions. In 2003, Eric received a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Award to fund his doctoral program. In 2004, Eric was named the Virginia Tech College of Engineering's Outstanding Graduate Student for demonstration of excellence and service to the field of engineering. Also in 2004, Eric's research efforts into the integration of smart materials with ultra-lightweight satellite technology earned him an AIAA Adaptive Structures Graduate Student Award which included a trip to Reno, Nevada to present his research work. Most recently, Eric received first place at the Virginia Tech Paul E. Torgersen Graduate Research Award competition for his Ph. D. research, matching his first place finish three years prior for his Masters Thesis work.

In 2003, Eric had the opportunity to teach undergraduate vibrations at Virginia Tech. The experience was quite rewarding, and Eric thoroughly enjoyed educating forty-six rising Mechanical Engineering seniors in the field of vibrations. Eric's career has not been spent entirely in the classroom, though. He earned valuable industrial experience throughout his undergraduate and graduate work, spending time at Osram Sylvania in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, Raytheon Missile Systems in Andover, Massachusetts, and Honeywell Space Systems in Glendale, Arizona.

Eric was married to Jennifer L. Vercoe of Colchester, Vermont, on August 4, 2001. Eric, Jennifer, and their son, Mason John, will be moving to Albany, New York. Eric will be working at the GE Global Research Center within the Energy and Propulsion Technologies division on a new wind energy harvesting project. Eric and his family currently reside in Christiansburg, Virginia.

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