

## **Vita**

Kandathil Nikhil Eapen Verghese, son of Kandathil Verghese Verghese and Mary Valsa Verghese was born in Calcutta, India. He achieved most of his formative education in schools all over the north and then moved south in 1983, at the age of 12 to The Lawrence School, a public school in Lovedale, Ooty. Upon graduating from school, he went on to attend college in 1989 at the Manipal Institute of Technology, India. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering with honors (2<sup>nd</sup> in a batch of 120 students) in 1993 and then traveled to the U.S to pursue higher education at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. As a part of the Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) program, he successfully defended his thesis in 1996 under the advice of Dr. A. C. Loos in the area of polymer composite manufacturing. He then joined the Materials Engineering and Science Program (MESc) and Dr. J. J. Lesko's group to pursue his ultimate dream, a Ph.D. Upon successfully defending his dissertation, he will continue to work with Dr. J. J. Lesko and the Designed Interphase Group (DIG) as a post-doctoral research associate.