

Vita

John Rowland Cotton was born in 1965 in Buffalo, New York. He moved with his parents to Northern Virginia in 1969, where he was a attended Prince William County public schools. He graduated from Gar-field High School in 1983.

Attending Virginia Tech, John received his Bachelors degree in 1987 from the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics. Staying at Virginia Tech, he recieved his Masters degree in 1989 in Engineering Mechanics, specializing in computational and biomechanics.

He then supported the Intelligent Vehicle Highway Systems (IVHS, or “smart highways”) program as a contractor to the Federal Highway Administration. He was in charge of maintenance and extension of FRESIM, a computer program that simulates freeway traffic flow. Leaving this position in 1993, John and his wife spent the next year backpacking the Pacific, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

In the fall of 1994, John returned to Blacksburg to commence his doctoral work. Once again, he has specialized in biomechanics and computational mechanics.

John has been married to Sarah Mitchell since 1992. They have a son, Nathan, born in 1995.