

# VITA

On November 29, 1971, Reece Neel was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie J. Neel in Blufield West Virginia. He grew up in Burkes Garden Virginia, where he lived on a farm and spent his summers working there. At the age of sixteen, his father got him interested in flying, and a year later he received his private pilot license. He was accepted to Virginia Tech, where he spent the next four years as an undergraduate, at which time he then received a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering. Before beginning his final year, he worked for Dr. Robert Walters, who was later to become his graduate advisor. That summer of work introduced him to CFD and made graduate school a real possibility for the first time. The following year he began graduate school under Dr. Walters, where once again he graduated four years later, but this time with a Doctor of Philosophy in Aerospace Engineering. He defended his dissertation on June 6, 1997. Eight days later he was married to Audrey Hanson, who has now become his life long companion and love. Also during that time he started work at AeroSoft Inc. as a research scientist, where he continued to do work in the area of computational fluid dynamics.