

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Collectively, I thank my graduate committee consisting of Dr. Henry Wilson, Dr. David Holshouser, and Dr. Scott Hagood. Each individual was instrumental in my graduate education. Most of all I thank my major advisor, Dr. Wilson, for the friendship, guidance, and financial support that he has provided during my two years as a graduate student. I am extremely grateful to have been a part of Henry's program. The knowledge and skills I have gained through him, no dollar amount can pay. I would also like to thank Tommy Hines for his invaluable technical assistance in the field. Tommy has been a good friend and helped me out tremendously with my research. I could always count on Tommy to answer all of my questions about the Eastern Shore and provide some good entertainment when things got a little dull. I would like to especially thank my fellow graduate students, Greg Armel, Andy Bailey, Rob Richardson, Brian Trader, and Corey Whaley, for all of their assistance and friendships. I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such a great group of guys. I wish all of you the best of luck with your future endeavors. I am also very thankful to Mrs. Arleta Boyd and Mrs. Nancy Davis. I could always count on these women to take time to answer my questions and steer me in the right direction. I would also like to thank Dr. Marc Alley and Dr. Ozzie Abaye for being excellent advisors, as well as great friends, during my undergraduate years and for providing me with motivation towards pursuing a Master's Degree. Lastly but certainly not least, I would like to thank my family for all of their love, encouragement, and support they have provided throughout my life. Without them, none of this would have been possible.