

## **VITA**

The author, Juan C. Alvarez, was born in Bogotá, Colombia on April 3, 1973. Since the age of sixteen, he has lived in Long Island, New York. He received his Associates degree in engineering science from the State University of New York at Farmingdale in 1994. Immediately after, he enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering Department at Binghamton University where he completed his Bachelors degree in May 1997. In August of the same year, he joined Dr. W.C. Thomas in his heat transfer laboratory at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to pursue his Masters degree.