

## Vita

The author, Mitchell Lee Jackson, was born in November 1965 in Portsmouth, Virginia and lived in Chesapeake, Virginia. After graduating from Deep Creek High School in 1984, he pursued his undergraduate studies in Engineering Science and Mechanics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in 1989. During his undergraduate career he served three internships with the Dow Chemical Corporation in Midland, Michigan. In 1990 he began studies in graduate school with research interests in the field of microwave processing and electrical characterization of materials. In 1992 he won a research fellowship to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory where he investigated the sintering of ceramics using microwave energy. He completed the requirements for a Master of Science degree in Engineering Mechanics at VPI & SU in June 1993. While pursuing a Ph.D. in Materials Engineering Science he served as a graduate co-op working at Microwave Materials Technologies in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he developed a high temperature-capable microwave frequency dielectric measurement system. In 1996 he returned to VPI & SU as a full-time student to complete his Ph.D. degree under the direction of Dr. Brian Love. Shortly after returning to Blacksburg, in September 1996, he married Brenda Holmes. After graduation the author plans to pursue a career in the electronics industry as a materials engineer.