

Vita

Patricia Graham-Thiers was born in Waltham, Massachusetts in 1968. She attended Hudson Catholic High School and graduated in 1986. From there she entered the University of Massachusetts at Amherst as an animal science major. During her stay in Amherst, she completed a Senior's Honor Thesis entitled "The effect of protein nutrition on a vaccine to *Heligmosomoides Polygyrus*". She graduated Magna Cum Laude in May of 1990. In August, she entered the University of Florida to pursue her Master's in Animal Science with a focus on Equine Nutrition. Following the completion of her degree in May 1992, she married Scott Thiers in August of 1992. After two years as a technical representative for Manna Pro Feeds Inc., she left for a teaching appointment in the Equine Studies Department at Virginia Intermont College, Bristol in 1994. She entered a doctoral program in equine science in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences in January 1996.