

Vita

The author grew up in Columbia, Maryland, and graduated from Centennial High School in 1993. He enrolled at Virginia Tech in the fall of that year. After studying a broad range of topics in the Civil and Environmental Engineering program, Edward J. Shea completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in May, 1997. He entered graduate school at Virginia Tech later that year, and pursued a Master's of Science Degree in the Hydrosystems Division of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The primary focus of his graduate studies involved the modeling and design of surface water systems. Mr. Shea's interest in applied engineering within the ski industry prompted the subject of his thesis. In pursuit of this effort, he worked with Herman Dupre, the inventor of numerous snowmaking technologies and owner of Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA. In May, 1999 Mr. Shea began working at Virginia Tech's Center for Transportation Research as a Research Associate. He will continue to pursue his interests in snowmaking and hydrosystems engineering as the operator of the All-Weather Testing system on Virginia's Smart Road.