## Dedication

This dissertation is lovingly dedicated to my mother, Catherine Hawes Coleman Seaman, Ph. D. Her support, encouragement, and constant love have sustained me throughout my life.

## Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to the members of my committee, Dr. Robert Richards, Dr. Jennifer Sughrue, Dr. Christina Dawson, and Dr. Kenneth Magill for their time, encouragement, and expertise throughout this project. Special thanks to the chairman of my committee, Dr. David Parks, for his exquisite attention to detail and for his demand for excellence.

There are people in everyone's lives who make success both possible and rewarding. My husband, Richard B. Fisher, my children, Catherine Kinsman, Richard B., Jr., and John Sinnett steadfastly supported and encouraged me. My friend and colleague Sharon Payne helped, cajoled, and prodded me when I needed it the most. I hope to return the favor when she pursues her own doctorate. Terry Moore, I will never forget the long rides and the long walks, thanks for being my friend. Special thanks goes to Yvonne Marcus for her willing help and encouragement during this process and over the years.

Without Jim Lanham, pursuit of this advanced degree would never have been started. "Let's drive two hours each way, take demanding classes for four years and then write a really long paper, it'll be fun!" With those words, Jim became the inspiration for this project. His brilliant mind, razorsharp wit, and unflagging willingness to help did make this project fun. Thank you, Jim, now and always.