

VITA

The author was born February 10, 1979 to Susan and Frederick Szeles Jr. She grew up in Middlesex, New Jersey and graduated from Middlesex High School in 1997. She graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a minor in Chemistry and Biology.

During her fourth year at Virginia Tech the author began looking for opportunities to gain more education. She began her Master of Science with Dr. Charles Hagedorn III in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, in the Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences major, with the help from a fellow graduate Ms. Catherine (Mindy) Waltham. She began working on a bacterial source-tracking project in the Coan River Watershed and the Little Wicomico River Watershed, funded by the Department of Environmental Quality, in Blacksburg, Virginia. This research was part of the development and implementation of a fecal coliform total maximum daily load in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Health and the Division of Shellfish Sanitation.

Upon completion of all requirements for her degree, the author plans to live in Richmond, Virginia and work in the water quality field.