


## Vita

The author was born in Charleston, SC on February 7, 1969. With a father in the Air Force, he was fortunate enough to live in South Carolina, California, Germany, and Montana before settling in Panama City, Florida. After graduating from Rutherford High School, he went to Gulf Coast Community College for two years, received his A.A. degree in 1989, and subsequently attended Florida State University for his B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering. As he was receiving his A.A. and B.S. degrees, he worked at the Naval Coastal Systems Center as an engineering aide. This experience helped the author decide that he needed to go to graduate school to obtain the skills and background to do the work he was interested in. He began attending Virginia Tech in August, 1992 to work towards a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. Under the direction of Dr. D.G. Baird, he performed research on using thermotropic liquid crystalline polymers as reinforcing materials in thermoplastics, from which the author received his degree in December, 1997.

Michael Allen McLeod

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Allen McLeod". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.