

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The completion of my dissertation and subsequent Ph.D. has been a long journey. It's true that "Life is what happens" when you are completing your dissertation. Life doesn't stand still, nor wait until you are finished and have time to manage it. Much as happened and changed in the time I've been involved with this project, or as some of my dear friends have so affectionately referred to it "The Paper." Many have questioned whether I would finish my dissertation, as have doubted my commitment to it. I, on the other hand, barring losing confidence so many times I've lost count, getting writer's block just as many times, ending one relationship, moving, beginning another relationship, computers crashing, needing to work as much as possible, and pure frustration in general, knew I'd complete my Ph.D. I just had to do it in my own time and on my own terms.

My dissertation has always been a priority, but as most know, there are several priorities in a person's life at any one time. Unfortunately due to life's challenges and the changes that followed, my dissertation could not always be the number one priority. At any rate, I have finished, but not alone, and am elated. I could not have succeeded without the invaluable support of a several. Without these supporters, especially the select few I'm about to mention, I may not have gotten to where I am today, at least not sanely.

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