

Vita

The author, Daniel Marsden Peairs, was born on February 6, 1978 in Cincinnati, Ohio to Donald and Mary Jo Peairs. He grew up in Wyoming, Ohio and graduated from Wyoming High School in 1996. Following high school Dan attended Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, cum Laude in May 2000. During his undergraduate studies, Dan was involved with many extracurricular activities including varsity swimming and ASME. In addition, Dan also interned at General Electric Aircraft Engines and Los Alamos National Laboratory. In the fall of 2000 Dan began his studies for a Master of Science degree at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University under the advisement of Dr. Daniel J. Inman. In 2001 Dan became a recipient of a NASA Graduate Student Researcher's Program Fellowship. The completion of this work marks the completion of this degree and the beginning of work towards a Doctor of Philosophy degree, also in Mechanical Engineering. In the future Dan would like to work for a national lab before perhaps returning to academia to be a professor.

In his free time, Dan has excelled in the sport of triathlon, qualifying for and completing the Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii. In addition to triathlons, Dan also enjoys racing the individual sports (swimming, biking and running) separately and more relaxing pastimes such as hiking, reading and watching movies.