Janet Renee Pedrazzani was born on August 14, 1970 in Baltimore, Maryland. She joined the Fiber and Electro-Optic Research Center at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University as an undergraduate in the summer of 1993, and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Bradley Department of Electrical Engineering at Virginia Tech in December 1993. Ms. Pedrazzani began work on her Master's degree in Electrical Engineering in the beginning of 1994 while continuing to work at the Fiber and Electro-Optic Research Center. In May 1995, after completing the coursework for her degree, she left Virginia Tech to work with optical fiber gratings at Bell Laboratories. She left Bell Laboratories in August of 1998 to pursue graduate studies at the Institute of Optics at the University of Rochester. She received her Master's degree from the Bradley Department of Electrical Engineering at Virginia Tech in December of 1999.