ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are a number of people to whom I am deeply grateful for helping me complete this doctoral work, and without whom this study would have been impossible.

I would first like to go to where it all started. I was very fortunate to have worked for Dr. Easterling, who is not only a great authority on composite structures, but also a great educator and motivator. He not only provided me with a great deal of knowledge in structural, composite, and cold form steel, but also motivated me to gather information, seek answers, and dig deep. When I made the decision to accept a full time job 800 miles away from Virginia Tech and pursue, also full-time, the Ph.D. at the same time, he wholeheartedly accepted the adventure knowing it would be an enormously difficult task for both of us. For all of this I owe him more than I can describe. He is just one of those people who likes to see and help people succeed.

The same can be said for Dr. Murray, whose work is quoted in virtually every textbook on structural steel design. He has an answer to just about every question related to steel design, and can list 1010 reasons why steel is better than concrete. He has broadened my horizons in structural steel design and analysis for miles, and contributed greatly to this study. For all of this and many other things I thank him deeply. My experience at Virginia Tech would not have been the same without him.

I am profoundly thankful to Dr. Cousins, Dr. Roberts-Wollmann, and Dr. Rojiani for their input and participation on this committee. They are truly great educators and I feel fortunate to have had all three of them either on this committee, or in classroom while at Virginia Tech.

I wish to also mention and sincerely thank Dr. Pleimann from University of Arkansas. He laid an important engineering foundation for me, and has followed my work all the way up to this point. His encouragement, advice, friendship and bits of wisdom were truly precious.

I am thankfully to many students that have lent their assistance to various projects I was involved in since arriving at Virginia Tech. It is impossible to list them all in a fair manner, so I bid them all a collective Thank You. Exception to this is a good friend Jason Piotter. I met him when I started my work at Virginia Tech in 1999, and we have worked
together on a number of things ever since. Of enormous value was his assistance in numerical analysis. He unselfishly shared expertise on a difficult subject he gathered though many hours of hard work. Finally, he supplied literature, and served as the only link between the campus and myself for all these years.

I wish to deeply thank Pinnacle Structures, Inc. and its president Will Feland on their continuing support, encouragement and understanding throughout my doctoral work. Without these, my Ph.D. would not have been a possibility.

The last, but not the least, I thank my parents, and the family and friends like the Ashbies, the Burnsides, the Chandlers, and many others who have encouraged and supported me in many different ways for all these years.