

## DEDICATION

*To my parents, Dave and Lucy Stockdill,  
who have sacrificed so much for me.*

*To my sister and brother,  
Teresa Barth and Jon Stockdill,  
who have been role models to me all of my life.*

*To my eighth grade science teacher,  
Mary Alice Robinson,  
who sparked a passion that has not died.*

*Finally, to my nieces and nephews,  
Hudson Barth, Deirdre Stockdill,  
Landen Barth, Jonah Stockdill, and Zoe Barth,  
who have provided the extra motivation to finish my Ph.D.*