

## Dedication

I dedicate this report to my wonderful and beautiful family. My wife Tracy, who provided me endless support in the pursuit of my education, and who's unconditional love got me through school, and my children Rachel and Veronica who picked me up when I was down with their unconditional love for me.

I also wish to dedicate this report to my parents Nick and Paula who first inspired my intellectual curiosity. To my brothers and sisters Raphael, Alfred, Margrit, Constantina, and Josie who provided me support in more ways than they know. To my Uncle Rolf and Aunt Betty who gave me confidence to pursue a higher education. To Dolores Rodriguez and Carolyn Bruck, two of my "life" heroes and teachers. To my beautiful nieces, Rebecca, Jennifer, Amanda, Allison, and the rest of my extended family. To Mom and Dad Petersen, Mom and Dad Symons, Mom and Dad Lopez, & Mom and Dad Dutt my other sets of "parents". To Ed and Fred my lifelong brothers and buddies. To Ted, Joe, Simon, Frank, and Rakesh five of my best friends and partners in crime. To my Uncle Franz, Aunt Charlaïne, Aunt Geri, Tim and my grandparents, Charles & Alice Mulgrew & Alfred & Eva Bruckner who provided me spiritual support from above. To Keona, Maureen/Jon for all of their life long support. All of these important and wonderful people got me to this point in my life, and I dedicate this work to them.