To Kathryn Louise Rutledge Bereitschaft

tui vires est mihi vires

APPROVAL PAGE

This dissertation has been approved by the following committee of the Faculty of The Graduate School at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Committee Chair Dr. Keith Debbage

Committee Members Dr. Zhi-Jun Liu

Dr. Jay Lennartson

Dr. Anna Marshall-Baker

March 2, 2011
Date of Acceptance by Committee

March 2, 2011
Date of Final Oral Examination

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would foremost like to thank my advisor, Dr. Keith Debbage, and committee members Dr. Jay Lennartson, Dr. Zhi-Jun Liu and Dr. Anna Marshall-Baker for their invaluable guidance, insight and support throughout this project. I would also like to thank my fellow graduate students, and the faculty of the Department of Geography, for providing the stimulating, collegial environment essential to my development as an academic.

This work would not have come to fruition without the additional support of friends and family. Dr. Eliza Nelson was instrumental in providing both intellectual and emotional support, particularly during the final stages when it was needed most. I am infinitely thankful for my parents, Frank and Kathy Bereitschaft, for their unconditional love and unwavering belief that I "will be anything and all [I] strive to be." To my mother, who lost her battle with cancer a year before completion, this is for you.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

LIST OF TABLES

Page

LIST OF FIGURES

Page