

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Learning is a life-long process, a never ending one! Accomplishment of a goal opens new doors to the beginning of new pursuits of life, and this journey continues till the last breath subsides. Today, writing this note of thanks is the finishing touch on this pursuit of science and I realize that this is just the beginning of many more endeavors. At the end, it is a pleasant task to express my gratitude to all those who contributed in many ways to the success of this study, and made it an unforgettable experience for me.

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