ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To the casual witness, a Master's thesis may appear a solitary endeavor. However, to complete a work of this scale requires a network of support, and I am indebted to many people.

First and foremost, I explicitly thank my thesis advisor Dr. Jiunn Yih Chang, whose enlightened engagement guided and encouraged me to attain the academic level of my expectation, and whose patience and faith fostered my confidence. Equally, I wish to thank my thesis committee members, professors Chung Fu Chang and Chun-Fa Tung, for the manner and substance of their genius.

I would like to extend heart-felt thanks to the indigenous friends gained through this study, especially the people of Laipunuk and their descendants who named me as family. I owe great appreciation to Nabu Husungan Istanda, Culture Director for The Bunun Cultural and Educational Foundation in Taitung for including me in his life quest to share the Laipunuk story with the world.

With gratitude I thank the government and people of Taiwan, and particularly Emily Shen and the human resources at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Los Angeles, for without their support through the *Taiwan Scholarship Program*, this study would not have been possible.

Dr. David Blundell, associate and mentor, originally recommended the pursuit of *Austronesian Studies* as an integral component to *Taiwan Studies*, facilitating our research expedition to the Batanes Islands Philippines, and connecting me with archeologists Peter Bellwood and Wilhelm G. Solheim the II. Collectively, these luminous minds, in their spirit of adventure and scholarship, became the greatest inspiration to this study, and I am much obliged to each of them.

I express high regard to Tommie Williamson, a filmmaker with O.D.N. Productions, a New York City based NPO, who supported this study in immeasurable ways, especially through sharing computer and video resources and technology.

Although many fine scholars in Taiwan offered valuable insights during the three years of this thesis project, I appropriately and particularly thank Academia Sinica Professors Huang Ying-kuei (who pinpointed essential aspects of Bunun culture and Laipunuk history for me) and Elizabeth Zeitoun who bestowed upon me her book *We Should Not Forget the Stories of the Mantauran. Vol.1: Memories of our Past*, which became my model for organizing and presenting ethnographic data.

Taiwanese Professor Li Chong Lee's support, through his encouragement and generous efforts in translating WWII era Japanese documents, added an empirical component to this research for which I earnestly thank him.

I wish to express feelings of good fortune to have made the acquaintance of Mr. Wei from Nan Tian Book Store (SMC Publishing Inc.) who, with patience and grace, spent several late nights sourcing extremely rare Japanese materials crucial in this study.

For his generous volunteer work in the accurate translation of Chinese text on the subject of Laipunuk history, I wish to show appreciation to my Chinese language teacher, Mr. Yan Zhao from the National Chengchi University Language Center.

I would like to thank Dimitri Kokoromytis from the IMCS (International Master's China Studies), National Chengchi University, for applying his computer excellence to the formatting of this thesis.

I am deeply appreciative toward everyone at the Bunun Center (Bunun Cultural and Educational Foundation), Yen-ping Village, Taitung County, especially the Istanda family and Pastor Bai Guang Sheng (Biung Husungan Istanda), for their kind-heartedness during my on-location research.

With genuine gratitude I am forever indebted to Barry B. Crivello, MBA, CPA and his family who encouraged me to go abroad for this study and managed my countless affairs at home in Hawaii.