

# UPDATE

## Winter 2016



As the 21st century picks up momentum, TMFD finds itself at the threshold of a new era in the department's development

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TMFD Assistant Professor of Practice in Design Michael Burton secures a highly competitive UNL Arts & Humanities Grant to produce an animated historical record.

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TMFD's Professional Advisory Council has been re-installed with a new slate of members from diverse areas in the textile and apparel industries. The PAC convened in November. Read more...

This past Fall 2015, following on the retirement of five longtime TMFD faculty, we welcomed four new faculty members to the department. Joining our 2014 extension specialist hire Dr. Andrew Zimbhoff, and the rehire of Michael Burton as an assistant professor of practice, are (pictured below, left to right) Dr. Mary Alice Casto, Dr. Katy Polston, Dr. Jennifer Jorgensen, and Sandra Starkey. Currently we have three additional searches underway: an assistant/associate professor and extension specialist, an assistant professor of merchandising, and an assistant/associate professor of textiles and material culture. To say that it's an exciting, even exhilarating, time in TMFD would be an understatement! We're looking to the future, to new research, new curricular content, and new learning opportunities. We extend a warm welcome to our new colleagues!



# Michael Burton, TMFD Asst. Prof. of Practice, Awarded UNL Arts & Humanities Grant



*"Will Thomas's research on the freewoman Anna's horrifying experience inspired me to reinterpret her story in animated painting, a genre that is both direct and compelling."*



With support from the University of Nebraska's Arts and Humanities Research Enhancement Program Michael Burton (principal investigator, co-producer, and lead animator) and William Thomas (co-producer), professor and chair, Department of History, recently began preliminary production of "No Ordinary People" by hosting a Spark Talk to identify key writing and production help both at and outside of UNL.

Over the course of the next year Michael and his team will produce the animation, based on the true story of Anna, a freewoman who, in November 1815, threw herself out of a third floor tavern window in Washington, DC, rather than be

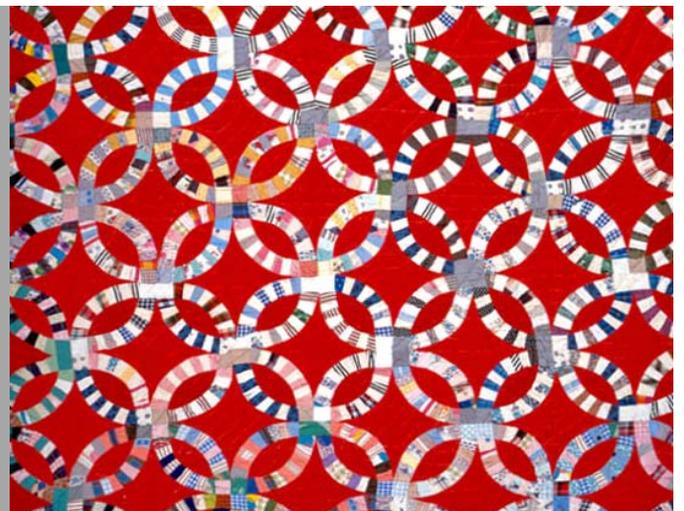
sold south and taken from her husband and family.

Anna's story will be made visible through animated painting, a medium that Burton has been exploring intensively since completing his MFA. A voice-over narration describing the emotional distress that caused Anna to jump to what could only be her death or salvation will complement the visual storytelling. Once cut into short format the animation will be entered into short-film competitions as a viability study to determine the film's competitiveness at the national level where someday, Burton hopes, it could be screened in outlets such as South-by-Southwest and Tribeca film festivals.

CONTINUING AT QUILT HOUSE  
THE INTERNATIONAL QUILT STUDY CENTER & MUSEUM

## African-American Quilts from the Cargo Collection

Through May 25, 2016, visitors to Quilt House have the opportunity to see selections from one of the country's premiere collections of African-American quilts. Dr. Robert Cargo and his wife Helen championed the folk art traditions of the South through their gallery in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. During those years they collected some of the finest examples of African-American textile artistry, now a part of the IQSCM's holdings. Don't miss the color, the energy and the creativity of these unique traditions!





*"The NRF Big Show Student Conference was so beneficial to me. I think it could help everyone in the future. It was very inspiring." - TMFD Major*

Over 500 students and 100 faculty members from across the nation met in New York City's Javits Center for the National Retail Federation's "Big Show Student Program" from January 14 to 17, 2016. The show's program included panels, discussions and presentations on career development, financial advice and retail insights by key industry leaders. Students also had the opportunity to network with over 24 different entities in the retail industry.

Led by TMFD Merchandising faculty members Drs. Shubha Bennur and Jennifer Jorgensen, the 19 TMFD undergraduates who attended had the chance to speak with retailers including Apple, Bloomingdale's, The Body Shop, Belk, Burlington Stores, Crate & Barrel, Dynamite Garage, Home Shopping Network (HSN), Kohl's, Macy's, PetSmart, Ross Stores, Walgreens and Walmart. An NRF-sponsored career fair provided students with additional internship and entry-level career opportunities.

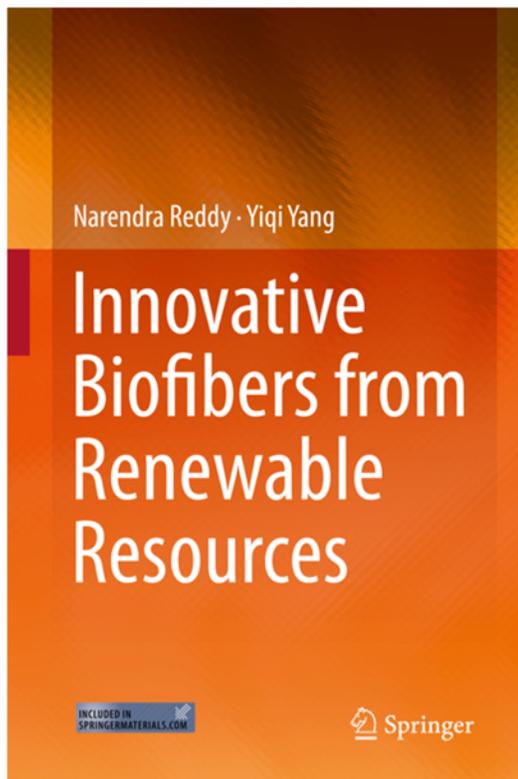
At the conference, students Taylor Jordan and Marissa Wergin interviewed for internship or entry-level position opportunities, Taylor with HSN and Marissa with Crate & Barrel.

TMFD's National Retail Federation Student Association Ambassador, fashion design major Jaclyn Tejada, recruited many of the students who took advantage of this opportunity and by doing so, secured an NRF-sponsored scholarship to underwrite all of her costs associated with making the trip and attending the conference. Jaclyn is a young entrepreneur and owner of The Black Market in downtown Lincoln. "I absolutely adore the TMFD program," Jaclyn enthuses, "and I'm gaining so much from my experience in the department."

## TMFD Students attend the 2016 National Retail Federation's Big Show Student Conference in New York City

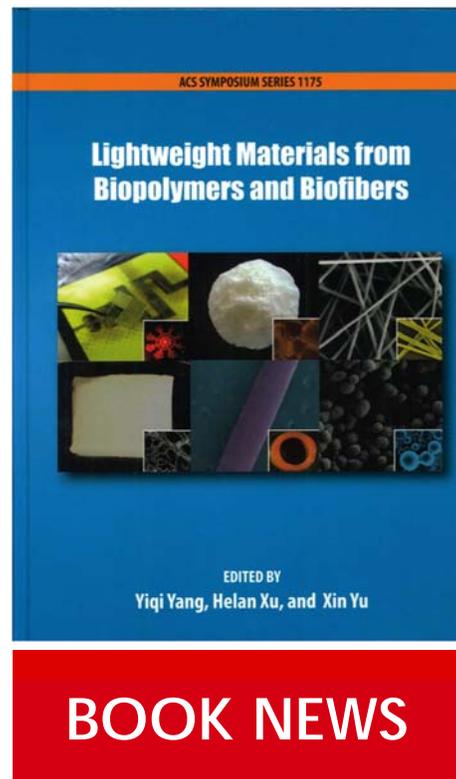
TMFD NRF Student Ambassador Jaclyn Tejada



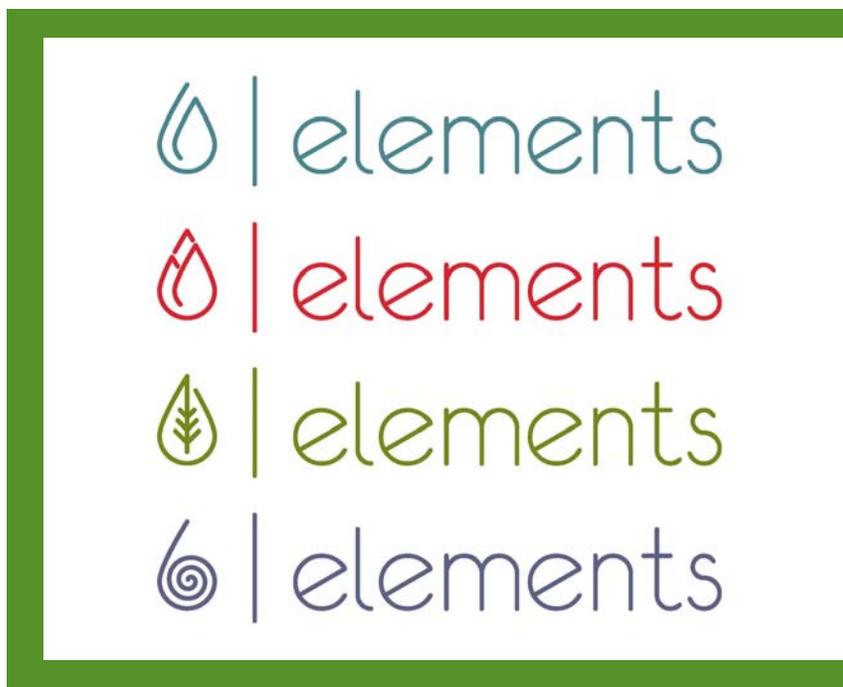


Dr. Yiqi Yang's latest collaboration with TMFD alumnus Dr. Narendra Reddy of the Centre for Emerging Technologies at Jain University in Bangalore, India, was published in 2015. "Innovative Biofibers from Renewable Resources" (Springer Verlag) covers most of the available and potential fibers derived from non-traditional sources. It discusses the production and application of these biofibers in textile, composite, medical and biotechnological industries.

TMFD Assistant Research Professor Dr. Helan Xu and Dr. Xin Yu of China's Zhejiang Fashion Institute of Technology teamed up with Dr. Yang as co-editors of "Lightweight Materials from Biopolymers and Biofibers," published by the American Chemical Society in 2014. The book presents comprehensive coverage of the major aspects of lightweight materials.



## BOOK NEWS



*elements*, TMFD's 2016 Biennial Student Runway Show takes place in Centennial Ballroom in City Union on Friday evening, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale online at the UNL Marketplace March 14. Special pre-show cocktail and heavy hors d'oeuvres reception includes front row seats and a post-show dessert fest.

Jurors for this year's show include designer Laura McGrew of TOMBOY in Kansas City, Brook Hudson, Omaha Fashion Week Producer, and TMFD alumna Jill Fellers of Jill Fellers Custom Bridal Design in Lincoln.



### Joint TMFD/HRTM INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY TOUR TO INDIA

Dec. 23, 2016 - Jan. 7, 2017

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## TMFD'S Professional Advisory Council meeting November 18 - 20, 2015 a major success

Following a lengthy hiatus, the department's Professional Advisory Council, first convened a decade ago, has been re-energized and re-launched. The new Council came together in mid-November with a day and a half of meetings, panels and a "speed-dating" type session that made up a rich agenda of interactions with both students and faculty.

Intended to link TMFD's personnel, academic and research programs with industry, the mission of the Council is to bring to the department some of the latest issues and trends in the textile and apparel industries and to bridge the divide that separates the "real world" of careers and professions from the scholarly world of academia.

Appointed to three-year terms, the PAC's current roster includes:

**Walter Wilhelm**, chairman of Walter Wilhelm Associates, a soft goods business consulting agency based in St. Lake City, Utah

**Stephanie Wilhelm**, president of Walter Wilhelm Associates

**Nicole Ruskamp**, TMFD 2001, B.S., owner of Colea Alterations, Lincoln

**Brook Hudson**, marketing and communications strategist, Omaha, NE

**JLynn Hausmann**, TMFD 2004, B.S., president and creative principal of JHaus Premium Denim, Los Angeles

**Mercedes Gonzalez**, director of Global Purchasing Companies, New York, NY

**Andi Curtis**, TMFD 1997, B.S., classification tariff manager for Cabela's Inc., Sidney NE

**Jennifer Bird Schadegg**, director of materials development, Cabela's Inc., Sidney NE

**Cari Crocker**, divisional merchandise manager of men's denim, Buckle, Inc., Kansas City

**Lynn Killion**, CBA 2006, senior women's buyer, Buckle, Inc., Kearney, NE

**Ramesh Venkataswami**, TMFD

1994, M.S., director of costing & global sourcing, Berkshire Blanket, Ware, MA

**Karlin Warner**, TMFD 2009, B.S. & M.S., textile certification specialist, OneCert, Inc., Lincoln, NE

**Jeffrey Hochster**, president, Westmoor Mfg., Fort Worth, TX

**Tracy Georgiou**, TMFD 2008, B.S., senior brand buyer at J. Crew Group, New York, NY

**Caitlin Harris**, TMFD 2009, B.S. assistant director of human resources, Von Maur Inc, Davenport, IA

(continued on next page...)

*"I had an amazing experience at the PAC convocation! All of the professionals helped me to learn more about the industry and where I could go with my degree. I made valuable connections that I will be sure to follow up with in the coming years. I recommend this event to anyone in the department." - TMFD major*



**TMFD's PAC members** (l. to r.): Tracy Georgiou, Ramesh Venkataswami, Lynn Killion, Walter Wilhelm, Cari Crocker, Stephanie Wilhelm, Mercedes Gonzalez, Jennifer Bird Schadegg, Karlin Warner, Caitlin Harris, Andi Curtis and Brook Hudson. Not pictured: Nicole Ruskamp, JLynn Hausmann and Jeffrey Hochster, who were unable to attend the 2015 meeting. *The dates for the 2016 PAC meeting in TMFD are October 26 - 28.*

The PAC meeting began with a dinner at Quilt House on the evening of Nov. 18, and following an animated meal in the Great Hall, PAC members were treated to a tour of the IQSCM's galleries. The following day PAC members, faculty and students gathered in HECO 11 for an early start to nearly a full morning of panels moderated by faculty and covering a broad range of industry and career-related concerns, from the future of apparel and textile retailing to trends and challenges in product development to global sourcing and the 21st century supply chain. A "speed dating" format brought PAC members and students face-to-face around a large arrangement of tables in the former weaving studio, the soon-to-be body scanning laboratory, for exchanges focused on soft goods industry career opportunities. After a bountiful lunch that brought PAC members, graduate and undergraduate students and faculty together for relaxed "down time," everyone rotated through a series of breakout sessions that covered everything from first steps for successful business start-ups to the art of career planning.

On Friday the PAC and the faculty de-briefed through the morning hours, exploring options for future collaborations and opportunities for building on what the 2015 meeting fertilized. When we adjourned at noon, it was with a sense of real accomplishment and anticipation of the PAC's October 2016 return.





*As Kalari Flotree works toward her Ph.D. and teaches "The Social Psychology of Dress" this semester, she reflects on her career to date and her plans for the future. We asked her to answer a few questions...*

**Tell us a little bit about your background.** I'm a third year Ph.D. candidate and graduate teaching assistant in the department. I'm also a third year recipient of the Dr. Joan Laughlin Fellowship. Dr. Laughlin was formerly chair of the department and I'm honored to have benefited from the fellowship that she created. I hold a B.S. from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, where I taught before coming to UNL, and an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. My professional background includes both academic and industry experiences. I've worked in retail management, visual merchandising, product development and university education. My current research focuses on culture, appearance and the impact of new forms of digital media such as web and video blogs. I'm currently working on creative scholarship that involves draping, silk and shibori dyeing.

**You've taught Social Psychology of Apparel and Dress for us a couple of times now. What are you learning**

**about teaching that surprises you?**

In this course we discuss topics that can be sensitive and personal. I was pleasantly surprised by how open students were to freely sharing their personal experiences with me and with their peers. Although as the course instructor, I bring a fair amount of my own experiences to the course, I'm constantly learning new things about my students' cultures, values and their individual and unique ways of life. Learning about my students' cultural norms is quite fascinating. It's nice because I didn't anticipate learning so much when I first taught this course.

**Your dissertation research focuses on African American women's experiences with culture-specific, lifestyle and beauty weblogs. What drew you to exploring this particular virtual community?**

Blogs are an amazing platform for groups that are underrepresented in mainstream media sources. Although Black and African American women are interested in beauty and

appearance, we are not prominently visible in most mainstream forms of media. It's almost impossible to find advice that is appropriate for our specific beauty related needs in well-known publications. Culture-specific blogs that focus on the beauty-related needs specific to Black and African American women seem to be addressing that issue. My research intends to explore this topic in depth, from the perspective of the women who frequent these culture-specific blogs.

**What are your aspirations once you've completed your dissertation?**

Once my dissertation is complete I plan to continue my career in academia. I'd like to plan and lead international study tours, and teach courses in soc-psych and design. I also plan to continue my exploratory research.

**Work-life balance is always a concern in academia. When you have some 'down' time, what do you enjoy doing?**

I'm a member of a local yoga studio and usually go to classes a few times a week. Practicing yoga keeps me mentally and physically balanced. I also spend a lot of time with my husband. We love cooking together and having friends over for dinner. We also enjoy traveling. We try to schedule a small trip every few months. Visiting friends, family or just taking a little holiday is always refreshing. We can't stop time, but it's nice to slow it down once in a while.



***NEBRASKA:  
STATE OF FASHION I  
in Hillestad Gallery  
through April 1***

Selected fashions from the wardrobes of three Nebraska families display skill, creativity and connoisseurship in the art of dress.

This Winter Professor Emeritus Dr. Barbara Trout, working with Ph.D. graduate student Kylin Jensen, mounts the first of a projected two-part exhibition that offers a glimpse into the wardrobes of several remarkable Nebraskans including former Gov. Kay Orr, prominent Lincolnite Avery Woods and members of her family, and Lincoln dressmaker Ilona Berk.

By focusing both on fashion designed and made within the

state and on fashion imported from major fashion centers like New York and Paris, the exhibition makes the point that connoisseurship and fine artisanal construction were very much alive in Nebraska through the 20th century.

Co-curator Kylin Jensen's exhibition-related talk "Design That Lasts" takes place on February 26 at 12 noon in HECO 31. The Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery will host a gallery talk, fashion event and reception from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4. On March 25 at 5:30 p.m., Kylin Jensen will speak on Ilona Berk, Lincoln fashion entrepreneur and Holocaust survivor. All events are free and open to the public.

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