

Recent Highlights



The San Francisco Museum of Craft & Design will feature *Traveler's Field*, a textile, sound, and movement installation by Wendy Weiss and Jay Kreimer Feb. 17-May 28, 2006, in an exhibition titled *Installation/Innovation*. The show is curated by Susan Taber Avila and Myra Block of Fiberscene.com.



Mercedes Gonzalez (shown here at right, with graduate student Stacy Eschbach), Director of Global Purchasing Group of New York City, visited TCD in mid-November to speak with students in several TCD classes as well as with faculty. Gonzalez spoke on trend forecasting, niche marketing and the general pulse of the apparel and textile industries as they continue to evolve in more global contexts. Gonzalez met one-on-one with both undergraduates and graduate students in the merchandising and apparel design areas, bringing a wealth of experience and insights to her exchanges with members of the TCD community.

The **Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery** recently published two new brochures featuring the work of Nancy Koenigsberg and Lewis Knauss, with each featuring essays by invited authors and illustrations of the artists' work. Wendy Weiss curated the exhibition, developed the publications and organized community programs with the visiting artists.



Dr. Niemeyer initiated and chaired the first Midwest Mold, Moisture & Ventilation Symposium resulted from a collaboration of UN-L Extension, EPA Region VII, NE Health & Human Service System, and businesses. Participants (243) and 22 exhibitors included housing related professionals including builders, HVAC professionals, health departments, and inspectors.

Dr. Shirley Niemeyer and Rebecca Versch were awarded the national Extension Housing Outreach Award for the Healthy Homes for Healthy Nebraskans: A Radon Awareness and Testing Campaign at the National Extension of Family & Consumer Sciences Annual Conference. October, 2005.

Dr. Yiqi Yang's research on obtaining and using natural cellulosic fibers from cornhusks was published in a prestigious journal, *Green Chemistry*, 7(4), 190 - 195 (2005), and was selected as the cover story of that issue of *Green Chemistry*.



Research on using agricultural byproducts for applications in textiles were funded by the Department of Energy through The Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research, The PolyPlus Co., Ltd., and the Nebraska Wheat Board for a total of \$137,970 for the first year (2005-2006).

TCD Chair Michael James' work in quilts spanning a nearly thirty year time frame was featured in "Questioning Convention: The Studio Quilts of Michael James" at the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, Massachusetts from September 10, 2005 through January 2, 2006. The exhibit included over 20 selections from James' oeuvre, including recent digital quilts produced with the help of the department's state of the art digital textile printer. *Left: Fuller Craft Museum "Questioning Convention: The Studio Quilts of Michael James."*



Dr. Nancy Miller has been granted funding from the National Science Foundation's Program of Innovation and Organizational Change to work with Nebraska specialty stores. Dr. Miller's research looks at how individual businesses collaborate to build strength in the marketplace. (if you need the dollar amount it was \$230,000) *Left: Fall City, Nebraska.*

Dr. Nancy Miller in cooperation with faculty in Marketing, Advertising, Horticulture, and Animal Science was awarded funding from UNL's Academy of Distinguished Teachers and the Teaching Council to build entrepreneurship modules and case studies of Nebraska entrepreneurs. Outcomes from the grant work will enhance students' learning of self-employment opportunities relative to their majors. Nancy's total grant dollars requested from external agencies in 2005 came to \$997,000.

Dr. Diane Vigna developed the new 4-H curriculum, Quilt Quest which has been adopted for use by over 90% of Nebraska counties and by Minnesota and New York State 4-H departments in its first six months. A new department will be added for Quilt Quest at the 2006 Nebraska State Fair.





Visiting lecturer Judy James gave a talk on her work as part of the SOFA 2005 lecture series (Sculpture, Objects and Functional Art) at Navy Pier, Chicago in late October. James was part of a five-artist panel sponsored by Friends of Fiber Art International. Her work was exhibited at SOFA by Snyderman-Works Gallery of Philadelphia. *Left: "Folio" by Judy James at Snyderman-Works booth at SOFA Chicago, 2005.*

Dr. Patricia Crews was selected to be the 2005 International Textiles and Apparel Association (ITAA) Distinguished Scholar. This honor is given in recognition of her outstanding record of scholarly contributions to the field of textiles and apparel and professional commitment to ITAA. Dr. Crews delivered the keynote presentation at the ITAA annual meeting in Washington, DC in November.



The outstanding quilt collection of the International Quilt Study Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has added a number of important acquisitions this year. Thanks to generous support from benefactors Robert and Ardis James, the IQSC has acquired stellar examples of both historic and contemporary art quilts. The James also provided support that allowed the IQSC to hire long-time supporter Sara Dillow of Fremont, as the new Acquisitions Coordinator. With Dillow's guidance,

the IQSC has added the one-of-a-kind Kathryn Berenson Collection of historic French quilts and textiles, two new Baltimore Album quilts that epitomize the elaborate appliqué style of the mid-1800s and fifteen studio art quilts made by renowned artists including Pauline Burbidge and Jan Myers-Newbury. The IQSC permanent collection now numbers more than 1800 quilts – you can see them on the IQSC searchable database on our web site at <http://www.quiltstudy.org/search/index.html> *Left: Ophelia's Dream*

Dr. Harriet McLeod has partnered with the Educational Psychology Department to offer a three-week study tour to Ghana, W. Africa. Students have informal classes in the arts, religion, politics, grooming traditions, food preparations, etc. They have daily contact with their host families and participate in a service learning project. They also travel to major areas of Ghana to observe the cultural systems in different regions of the country.



Dr. McLeod teaches classes that examine how clothing and appearance help us understand human behavior. This international study tour provides her and the students with opportunities for acquiring new perspectives for problem solving and investigating cross-cultural strengths.

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The Department of Textiles, Clothing and Design creates, disseminates and applies knowledge about textile and apparel products, their development, design, distribution, performance and consumption for the global community.

We accomplish our mission with an integrative approach based on scientific, aesthetic and historic frameworks. Teaching, research/creative and extension/outreach programs enable our department members, students and constituents to participate constructively and innovatively in the public and private domains. (April 2005)

Department Faculty

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Martha Horvay

Michael James, Chair

Dr. Rita Kean

Dr. Harriet McLeod

Dr. Nancy Miller

Dr. Shirley Niemeyer

Dr. Barbara Trout

Dr. Diane Vigna

Wendy Weiss

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