

Recent Highlights



TCD is very happy to welcome Assistant Professor Young Ha, who joined the merchandising faculty in August 2006. Dr. Ha received her PhD from Ohio State University in March 2006. Her masters program work was also completed at OSU, and she holds a B.A. in Textiles and Clothing from Hanyang University in Seoul, Korea. Dr. Ha's dissertation title is The influence of online visual merchandising on consumer emotions: Moderating role of consumer involvement. Dr. Ha is recipient of the Sara Douglas Fellowship for Professional Promise from the International Textiles and Apparel Association, and she received the Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award from the Department of Consumer Sciences at OSU. Dr. Ha joins the department at a moment of significant undergraduate student numbers growth. The Fall 2006 semester saw undergraduate enrollment in the department jump to 240 from 201 the previous academic year..

Dr. Nancy Miller traveled to Beijing, China June 23-30 at the invitation of Beijing University of Clothing Technology. She spoke with faculty about merchandising course development and university expectations for teaching, research, service, and outreach. Dr. Hu, director of the BUCT - Exception Institute of Traditional Costume, is shown in the photo explaining the variety of needlework from China's fifty-six ethnic groups. Dr. Yu from the School of Fashion at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada is a former graduate student of Dr. Miller's and helped with translations.



TCD students traveled to Italy and France in May for the biennial TCD Study Tour, under the direction of Profs. Barbara Trout and Wendy Weiss. Highlights included visits to the House of Pucci; the Como region, known for its silk industry, where students toured a textile factory and concept store; the newest Dolce and Gabanna store as well as the Viktor and Rolf "upside down" store concept, both in Milan. Highlights in Paris included the Lady and the Unicorn Tapestries; Sainte Chapelle, a marvel of medieval architecture and stained glass windows; the Louvre; and the Yves Saint Laurent archives. There was also a cutting edge exhibition on the history of runway shows at the Musee Galleria, and in Lyon students also toured yet another outstanding exhibition focused on the House of Leonard.



Scott Kuhlman, a native Nebraskan and President and founder, with his wife Susan, of Kuhlman's men's and women's apparel based in Minneapolis, MN, visited TCD during the Spring 2006 semester at the invitation of Senior Lecturer Carol Easley (shown here with Kuhlman). Kuhlman spoke with merchandising and design students in several courses including Apparel Analysis, taught by Easley. The Kuhlman's 54th store opened in Lincoln at South Pointe Pavilion in early May 2006. Sourcing fabrics primarily in Italy, the Kuhlman's have sought a profile for their sportswear that is European in styling, with an emphasis on lively color and fresh combinations that highlight a youthful and relaxed attitude. The Kuhlman's will be joining other industry professionals this Fall when TCD's newly-organized Professional Advisory Council convenes on campus in late November. Funded in part by a Teaching and Learning Initiative Grant sponsored by the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the PAC will contribute external perspectives and industry experience to TCD's continuing efforts to maintain excellence in its curricular and program offerings.



A group of TCD students and faculty attended the Dallas International Fashion Group Career Day on Friday April 7 and walked away with a host of awards including \$1,200. in scholarships. Design major Cassidy Vineyard won first place for her mod collection, and outcome of TXCD 416 Advanced Apparel Design. It will go to the Texas State Fair as first place winner in the Texas Natural Fibers Promotion. Sophomore Ellie Kirke won first place in the Diffa jacket competition with a piece from TXCD 216 Apparel Design by Flat Pattern. Lindsey Moser and Stacy Anderson won second place in the Theatrical/Experimental design category for a team project they created in TXCD 491 Advanced Apparel and Textile Design. Drs. Trout and McLeod, who accompanied the students, report that UN-L's success in the previous Dallas Career Day raised the bar significantly and that was evident in the competition's entries, especially in the story board category. Their success again this year indicates that TCD students continue to set the standard and are already looking forward to next year's competition.

Dr. Yiqi Yang and his team are focusing their research on developing biofibers to increase the value of agricultural products and byproducts. This work will help to establish a more sustainable and environmentally responsible textile and materials industry. Patents are pending on their work developing biofibers from cornhusk, wheat protein and rice straw. In the last six months, the team's work has led to publication of three refereed journal articles, and several more have been accepted for upcoming publication. Their work on fibers from rice straw and chicken feathers will be featured by the American Chemical Society at its 232nd National Meeting & Exposition. This research has generated new external funding totaling \$183,000 in the last six months, from the U.S. Department of Energy through the Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research, the Nebraska Soybean Board, the Nebraska Wheat Board, and Archer Daniels Midland Company. *Picture above is Digvijay Nama (M.S. Textile Science) presenting his research on PLA at the 2006 Corn Utilization and Technology Conference, Dallas, Texas, June 5-7, 2006.*



Prof. Michael James' work in quilts was featured in two major solo exhibitions during the 2005-2006 academic year. A retrospective overview of his work from 1977 to the present made up "Questioning Convention: The Studio Quilts of Michael James" at the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, Massachusetts from Sept. 10, 2005 through January 2, 2007. In January 2007, the Racine Art Museum in Racine, Wisconsin opened "Material Response: Michael James at RAM," an exhibition that was nearly two years in the making and that included both earlier James work from the 1970s through 1990s, along with new work James created in response to specific objects in the collections at RAM, as well as their new museum building itself. The show was highlighted in the pages of American Craft Magazine's June/July 2006 issue, in a feature story by Madison, Wisconsin-based writer and curator Jody Clowes.

Dept. Chair and Professor Michael James traveled to Elba, Italy in May 2006 on the occasion of a solo exhibition featuring 13 of his quilts, hosted by Elba Patchwork and the Italian Quilt Association on the occasion of the second Elba Patchwork Festival. James, shown here being interviewed by a team from RAE Uno, one of Italy's main television networks for its morning broadcast "Una mattina," also participated as a jury member in a quilt design competition that drew entries from throughout Italy. During his visit, James had numerous opportunities to share news of UN-L's International Quilt Study Center, a focus of much interest abroad now that construction of its new home on East Campus is underway.





Sixteen young women from five states (Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Arkansas) attended the annual 4-H Big Red Fashion Design Camp in June lead by Dr. Diane Vigna. The focus of this year's camp was re-cycled denim. Each day of the week-long camp, new challenges were given to the young designers, and they wore their finished products (2 completed garments each) on the runway in a fashion show on the final day.



The photos are of Kate McKay (13) from Mission Hills, Kansas, both "before" and "after". Kate bleached her garments until they were practically white, and then made a big shirt with funky buttons from the dress and jacket.

Dr. Patricia Crews was inducted to the Nebraska Quilter's Hall of Fame at the Nebraska State Quilt Guild's annual meeting in Kearney. The award is bestowed in recognition of "lifetime achievement and significant contributions to the heritage of quilts and quilting in the state of Nebraska."



The International Quilt Study Center's collection grew to more than 2000 quilts and related textiles during the last twelve months. Highlights of acquisitions during 2005-2006 include a group of rallis made in the Thar Desert region on the border of Pakistan and India, Norwegian and Welsh quilts, and French whitework pieces dating from the early 1700's. New contemporary works were also added, including examples from Lynn Setterington, Mary Fogg, Ruth McDowell and Barbara Watler. All the quilts will soon move to their new home at 33rd and Holdrege: construction is underway on the new center and museum. Opening is anticipated in



early 2008. The new facility will provide expanded study opportunities and make additional, larger exhibitions possible throughout the year. The new, privately funded, position of Communications Coordinator was filled by Maureen Ose who will be working to build national and international awareness of the program and the new museum.



Prof. Wendy Weiss' work is represented in Fall 2006 in "Space of Change," an exhibition about "liminal spaces," pockets of time during which things/people transform from what they were into what they are going to become. Working with her collaborator Jay Kreimer, Weiss's sculpture for the invitational exhibition combines animated figures shrouded in handwoven fabric that will be suspended in the gallery space. The ideas for the fabric design are in part inspired by examination of historic fabrics from the manuscript and swatch book collection at Winterthur Museum and Library in Delaware, where Weiss

spent part of a faculty development leave in 2004. The exhibition takes place at the District of Columbia Art Center in Washington, DC and is part of a curatorial initiative funded by the Andy Warhol Foundation. Curated by Claire Huschle, Margaret Boozer and Anne Surak, the show features the work of three other artists in addition to Weiss and Kreimer.

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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

Carol Easley

Dr. Nancy Miller

Dr. Young Ha

Dr. Shirley Niemeyer

Martha Horvay

Dr. Barbara Trout

Prof. Michael James, Chair

Dr. Diane Vigna

Dr. Rita Kean

Dr. Yiqi Yang

Dr. Harriet McLeod

Dr. Patricia Crews, Director, International Quilt Study Center

Prof. Wendy Weiss, Director, Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery

New video
available

The April 2006 runway show
highlight video is available at
<http://cehs.unl.edu/tcd>

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