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ANNOUNCING

2012 Summer Intern

by Charlotte Coffman

FSAD welcomed Emily Zerishnek '14, a biology and society major, as the 2012 CHE/CCE summer intern working on the project, *Engaging Target Audiences in the Development and Testing of Educational Resources*. The broad idea was to connect the user with the researcher/educator so that the research findings/educational programs are truly relevant.

Emily worked with research and extension faculty on two projects: 1) personal protective equipment (coveralls) for agricultural workers and 2) experiential activities for youth K-12. In the coverall project, Emily administered questionnaires,



conducted focus groups, and worked with both the subjects and the investigator to understand the comfort parameters of the coveralls and the durability of the material. In the youth project, Emily instructed 4-H volunteers and camp staff on how to use our teaching kits, and interacted with youth and leaders in the delivery of other science and design workshops.

To learn more about Emily's experience, read her blog at <http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccsummerinterns2012/author/eez9/> and view the video of her final presentation at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqtzE9068Yc&feature=youtu.be>

Botanical Fashion Show

by Charlotte Coffman

Several years ago, I collaborated with Marcia Eames Sheavly, Department of Horticulture, to develop a youth program, Plants & Textiles — A Legacy of Technology. The program taught youth to make traditional tools that they used to process plants into textiles such as mats, paper, rope and baskets, and then challenged them to explore how those fibrous products are made today. You can still download those activities at <http://blogs.cornell.edu/garden/get-activities/signature-projects/plants-and-textiles/> and borrow some of the teaching supplies by contacting me at cwc4@cornell.edu.

On October 15 of this year, however, Marcia and three of her Art of Horticulture students carried the plants-to-textiles theme one step further. They created a botanical fashion show. . .and I had the fun of observing and applauding. Shiela Gordon-Smith '14, wore her interpretation of the Queen Mother outfit made from a diversity of evergreens, seeds, grass, and maple leaves. Jasmine LaCoursiere '14, captured the essence of innocence and springtime with her wedding dress fashioned from bleached oak leaves, mosses, grass leaves, and seedheads. Eva Johnson '15, used colonial dress as social commentary on the 18th century labor practices used in the traditional plantation crops of tobacco, bananas, cotton and coffee.



During the semester, the Art of Horticulture students explore some of the ways that plants are used in art. The plants may be the subject of art (botanical illustration, floral designs, etc.), the plants themselves may be seen as art (topiary, bonsai, etc.), or the plants may provide a product that is used to make art (indigo dye, construction materials, etc.). Students identify a topic of interest that they study in depth in order to create a tangible final project. This year was the first Art of Horticulture fashion show produced by class members, but it was such a hit that I predict we will see more botanical runway projects in the future.

To read more about this event, check out these websites:

Students Create Botanical Fashion, Cornell Chronicle Online:

<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Oct12/BotanicalFashion.html>, Botanical Fashion Show, YouTube

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1HI743Xj6w>>, Art of Horticulture, <<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/art/>>



Update: National Association of Family & Consumer Science – New York Affiliate

by Charlotte Coffman



National Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Annual Session

Five NY members attended the national meeting in Columbus, OH. We participated in regional meetings, officer trainings, and a wide array of workshops and tours. I particularly enjoyed the visit to the Crow Barn, the headquarters of famed quilter Nancy Crow. Nancy and her family gave us an overview of how they developed their business and led us through the quilting and dyeing workshops that were in-progress. Congratulations to the regional and national award winners and bouquets of gratitude to Theresa Mayhew who has served as the Northeast Regional Director for the past two years.

New York State Unified Family and Consumer Sciences Conference

The NEAFCS-NYA contributed to the success of the New York State Unified Family and Consumer Sciences Conference in Albany, NY, in October. We organized four presentations, managed the silent auction, arranged a book signing, and provided table decorations. Congratulations to state award winners: 1) Annemarie Stephens, CCE – Orange County, who was recognized for her work with the ESNY Nutrition Program, and 2) Charlotte Coffman who received the Carolyn O Boegly Outstanding Leadership Award.

2013 Officers

The slate of officers for 2013 include:

President – Shawn Smith	Vice President for Professional Development – Barbara Henza
President Elect – Denyse Variano	Vice President for Public Affairs – Cynthia Walsh
Past President – Charlotte Coffman	Vice President for Member Resources – Theresa Mayhew
Secretary – Carol Fisher	Vice President for Awards & Recognition – Diane Whitten
Treasurer – Linda Law-Saunders	Vice President for Fundraising – Felisha Chandler

ENGAGING YOUTH

What's New for 2013?

by Charlotte Coffman

From Cornell to Careers in Fiber Science & Apparel Design

Every year, representatives from FSAD participate in career exploration events at schools and welcome visiting students on campus. We provide a snapshot of departmental research, describe an array of related careers, and engage the students in some type of hands-on activity. This past November, I spoke with two groups of students at the DeWitt Middle School, Ithaca, NY where they experimented with stretchy fabrics, investigated bulletproof vests, and used half-size dress forms to practice designing and draping garments. I will travel to Fabius-Pompey Middle/High School in January to present a similar program.



What's New for 2013? (continued)

Fabrications

FSAD student Madeline Miles '14 has completed work on Fabrications, a teaching kit that will be available in the spring of 2013. The kit includes instructions and samples for seven activities in which young people make an item (such as a key chain or trivet) by using the fabric structures of braiding, knotting, wrapping, twining, and weaving. They then combine these techniques to design and create a wall hanging. This program will be available to counties in two ways: 1) a workshop at STARR (April 13, 2013) and 2) pilot testing during the spring and summer. Watch for details later.



Cornell Fashion Collective Fashion Show

Plan ahead to bring a group of young people to Cornell for the annual Cornell Fashion Collective Show on April 27 (usually 7pm) at Barton Hall. Tickets are not yet available but will go on sale in the spring semester. Keep an eye on this website for general info and online purchasing, http://www.cornellfashioncollective.com/main#!__main

The Fashion Studio – Cornell Summer College

For the first time, FSAD is offering *Visual Thinking and Fashion Design*, a three week summer course. Although the class is open to others, it is specifically designed for high school students who have completed their junior or senior years and wish to explore this career field. Participants pay regular tuition rates and receive 3 hours of college credit. Course dates are July 14 - August 3, 2013. **Registration deadline is May 3, 2013.** For complete information, see <http://www.sce.cornell.edu/sc/programs/index.php?v=185&s=Overview>



Activewear Alert

Good news! The NYS 4-H Foundation will fund a new FSAD project *Active Youth; Activewear; Active Learning* for 2013. The project will engage 4-Hers in science, technology, engineering, and design through explorations of high performance sports gear and fitness apparel. Thanks to Broome and Cortland counties for agreeing to assist in the development and assessment of the program. Other 4-H clubs might want to participate through *The Activewear Advantage*, a Focus for Teens Career Explorations course, or through daytrips to campus over the summer and fall. Watch for future announcements.

What's New for 2013? (continued)

Smart Clothing; Smart Girls Engineering via Apparel Design

FSAD has received funding from the National Science Foundation for a 3-year educational project entitled Smart Clothing; Smart Girls. The intention is to test whether middle-school aged girls can be attracted to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and information and communication technology (ICT) through fashion design and the study of smart clothing, functional garments that sense and respond to a variety of stimuli (heat, light, movement, etc.).



Feedback from last summer's pilot project will inform the agenda for this summer's program. Participation in 2013 will be limited to 10 4-Hers from Livingston, Ontario, and Wyoming counties and 10 Girls Inc. members from Syracuse, NY, but the intention is to extend the project to a larger audience in Year 3.



EXPLORING FABRICS/FIBERS

This is the fourth in a series of short articles about interesting but little known textile fibers.

Sensible Sisal

by Madeline Miles

Sisal, even without considering its useful fibers, is a distinctive plant. It has spear-shaped leaves that grow outward from a central point. These leaves are of a gray to dark green color and are inflexible and plump. The flowers are generally yellow and have a disagreeable odor. The plant itself can grow up to 3 feet tall and is considered the most important of the leaf fiber group. These plants have a lifespan of about 7 to 10 years and are able to produce up to 250 leaves for commercial fiber production. Each of these leaves will gift the world with around 1000 fibers.



To harvest the fibers, the plant is cut after 2-3 years, then at 6-12 month intervals following that. The fibers are extracted by decortication. This process begins with rollers crushing the leaf between them. The pulp that results from this action is then scraped from the fiber. Finally, the fiber is washed and dried. It may either be dried mechanically or naturally. The final fiber is cream colored, very coarse, and is 40-50 inches in length.



Once only grown in Central America, the sisal plant is now also found in East Africa, Brazil, Mexico, and China. Sisal fibers are used in cordage, matting, rugs, millinery, and brushes. Generally, in East Africa, the plant is grown on estates and considered superior in quality to those smaller providers in Brazil. Brazil's sisal fiber is used more for agricultural twines and domestic craft paper. Because this fiber is strong, durable, elastic, has an affinity for certain dyes, and is resistant to salt water deterioration, it is used a lot for marine, shipping, agricultural, and general industrial needs. It is routinely split into three

Sensible Sisal (continued)

grades: paper, cordage, and carpet. Sisal fiber, though relatively unknown to the general population, does command a substantial price premium on the world market. Brazil is the largest producer with about 125,000 tons a year. World wide, more than 275,000 tons are produced per year – that’s more than 550 million pounds!

Resources:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/546658/sisal>

<http://www.sisal.ws/page1/page2/page2.html>

<http://www.sisal.ws/page6/page7/page7.html>

RECALLING TRADITIONS

Eye-pleasing Peplums

by Madeline Miles

Using clothing to place extra emphasis on the hips may seem undesirable to most women. This season, however, extra emphasis is just what women want. To achieve this goal, designers are reinventing the peplum. A peplum is an extension of the bodice that ends below the waistline and is often pleated or flared. It may be cut as part of the bodice or it may be added as an extra piece of fabric that is joined to the bodice. And, yes, it is indeed used to emphasize curves – making the waist look smaller and the hips fuller.

During the course of history, the peplum has made several appearances. Its origin, though a bit obscure, may be traced back to Ancient Greece where both men and women wore a garment called a *peplos*. The rectangular *peplos* was wrapped loosely around the body and draped over a waist tie at the hips to create the look of separate garments on the top and bottom. During the Renaissance, a more structured peplum, attached to the bottom of the bodice and resembling a short skirt¹, was found on garments worn by both men and women.



In the mid-1860s, the peplum was revived to create the ideal hourglass figure that was prominently featured in the fashion magazines of the era⁴. Peplums appeared on women’s jacket bodices and flared over the hips in order to accommodate their hoop skirts. The peplum disappeared at the turn of the century, but was reintroduced in the 1940’s when Christian Dior launched his “New Look” series, which put the peplum at the waist². During these war years, women dressed more masculine due to fabric rationing and the fact that women were doing physical labor while the men were away in military service. The peplum was a simple way to add some Parisian excess to the blandness of the war fashion. Curves were also important during this time, since they implied a woman’s good health². The New Look carried the peplum through the 1950s, after which its popularity declined until the 1980s when it was updated with neon and other disco detailing. Now, 30 years later, the peplum is a trendy structural component contributing to the architectural form of modern garments. The peplum trend is expected to last through the autumn/winter 2012 season, and be seen on dresses, jackets, and shirts in all price points.



Resources

1 - History: <http://gchicnotes.com/2012/02/28/fashion-never-fades-the-peplum-trend/>

2 – History: <http://www.vogue-world.org/the-history-and-the-present-situation-of-peplum-skirt.html>

3 – History: <http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Peplum+returns...from+Ancient+Greece.-a0282396490>

4 – Definition: <http://brainz.org/what-is-a-peplum/>

5 – Current: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304636404577295382863476136.html>

6 – Visual Timeline: <http://tribeofmannequins.wordpress.com/tag/originating-in-the-19th-century/>

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