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ANNOUNCING

Tasha Lewis Joins FSAD

by Madeline Miles



The Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design is pleased to introduce Tasha Lewis as an Apparel Management faculty member. She comes to Cornell from Ryerson University in Toronto where she was an Assistant Professor. Moving to Ithaca

is, in fact, a homecoming for Tasha who received her Ph.D. in Apparel Design from Cornell University. Her undergraduate degree is in Spanish and her Master’s degree is in Textile and Consumer Science, both from Ohio State University.

Prof. Lewis is interested in how emerging technology impacts the apparel supply chain. Her research includes information about digital technologies and social media, and how these relate to design and product development. She also is interested in branding and marketing. In the coming months, Tasha will teach two classes: Apparel Production and Sourcing and Global Fashion Management; she is also working on developing a class that examines sustainability and social responsibility in the fashion industry.

When teaching, Prof. Lewis has several goals for her students. She wants them to understand the global scope of the textile and apparel industry, and how big of an impact it has on our everyday lives. She also encourages her students to think critically about ways to improve the industry.

When she is not teaching, her interests range from playing Wii, to travelling, to learning all she can about history (if she wasn’t in fashion, she states she would have loved to be an Egyptologist). She is delighted to join FSAD, and we are delighted to welcome her aboard.



Cornell Fashion Collective Show – An Insider’s View

by Madeline Miles

To some, the 28th annual Cornell Fashion Collective (CFC) Show is a typical *Project Runway* experience where the tallest of Cornelians walk down a runway to the beat of some “artistic” tune, while wearing pieces that the viewers might deem a little too unusual to actually succeed in the consumer market. To others, the CFC show is known as the largest student run event on campus — a fashion show held every year since 1984 and a showcase for nearly 300 designs. The designers themselves are elusive, and the only time they are seen during the spring semester is through the large glass windows of the Human Ecology building.

But to those involved in the designing and organizing, the fashion show is much more. It is a chance to work outside of class to create the pieces that you have always wanted to make and to attempt to perfect your own design process. For the designers, the creation process starts with inspiration and sketching. Inspiration comes from anywhere – from ballet to children’s books to athletics (in my case). Our fellow students, our professors and ourselves then scrutinize these sketches until we have a clear understanding of the what, how, and why of creating a garment.

When the time for thinking is over, we make muslin samples of each of our pieces. After countless fittings with our models, we perfect our patterns and begin working with final fabric. At Cornell, we are lucky enough to have countless opportunities to learn and incorporate new techniques. Students use the laser-cutter, digital printing, surface design, fiber labs, professors’ advice and (obviously) sewing machines to perfectly interpret the original design. During the final days before the show, the studio – though looking demolished – is never empty. Designers and even some parents and professors work until the wee hours of the morning to finish collections, stitching in time to music blasting from portable speakers.

The first time the designers are able to see the stage – this year designed and partially built by architecture students to reflect the architecture of Barton itself – is the day before the show during set up. The morning of the show, we hold a dress rehearsal, running through the entire show and working with our models. When we return for the show, it is a rush to get models into outfits, hair and makeup. But when your models appear wearing your designs and walking to the beat of a song that you chose, somehow it is all worth it.

When it is all over, and family and friends have offered bouquets and said their goodbyes, the members of CFC stay behind to take down the stage and return Barton Hall to its previous state. After all, today’s fashions don’t last forever, and next year’s show is already being planned.

To learn more about the show and the designers involved see these articles by the Cornell Daily Sun:

<http://cornellsun.com/section/arts/content/2012/05/01/any-person-any-fashion>;

<http://www.cornellsun.com/section/arts/content/2012/05/02/inside-out-final-glance-cornell-fashion>

Pictures and video are available here:

http://galleries.daveburbankphotography.com/Other/Cornell-Fashion-Collective/22739449_Tc6NbC#!i=1823695545&k=nqZZMmQ; <http://www.michaelgracemartin.com/main/?p=1201>;

<http://cornellsun.com/content/videos/28th-annual-cornell-fashion-collective-fashion-show>;

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfjzvMt_xrg

Or visit the official website of the Cornell Fashion Collective:

http://www.cornellfashioncollective.com/main#!__main



ENGAGING YOUTH

NYS Fair – SIGN UP

by Charlotte Coffman

Each year, FSAD joins the NYS 4-H Office in sponsoring county associations in their efforts to engage fairgoers in hands-on activities at the NYS Fair. This year, we will provide \$75 to 12 counties, one county each rotation in these four programs: Fabric/Flight Connection, Simple Gifts, In-Touch Science, and Plants & Textiles. If you have questions about which activities are appropriate or need help locating supplies, contact Charlotte Coffman, cwc4@cornell.edu. To reserve your favorite activity, open the NYS Fair staff and volunteer page <<http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/events/Pages/StateFair-InfoforStaff.aspx>>. Scroll down to *Hands-on Activity Booths* where you will see a chart (list of offerings), an online registration and evaluation forms. See you at the fair!



Feathered Inspirations

by Charlotte Coffman

Teens from across New York gathered April 13-14 at the fairgrounds in Syracuse for the State Teen Action Representative Retreat (STARR), a weekend of trying new things, participating in discussions, and spending time together. I offered a workshop on Feather Finery, based on the theme of feathered dinosaurs borrowed from 4-H partner the Museum of the Earth. Participants reviewed the new findings related to feathered dinosaurs, learned to match the visual properties of feathers with their functional properties, and explored the use of feathers in clothing and clothing decoration.

Teens became acquainted with feather characteristics as they decorated a mask. They then designed a personal garment or accessory using a recycled item (such as a bag, hat, t-shirt or belt) as the base and adding faux feathers, harvested feathers, textured fabrics, leather, and other fibrous materials.



Teens enrolled in Feather Finery Workshop



Masks decorated by STARR participants



Handbag design inspired by feathered dinosaur image

Students Tour FSAD

by Charlotte Coffman

FSAD is pleased to host visiting students from across NY. On April 20, eighth grade students from Watkins Glen learned what high school courses they need in order to study fiber science, apparel design or apparel management. They experimented with a color collage activity, viewed a presentation on fashion design, and experienced the 3D body scanner.

CITIZEN U teens from Binghamton and Rochester toured the department on April 28. They viewed the teaching laboratories and studios, the costume exhibit, the testing facility, and the body scanner. They also attended the Cornell Fashion Collective runway show. CITIZEN U is part of the Children, Youth and Families At-Risk Program, Sustainable Community Projects.

Forty students from the Lansing Middle School visited on May 22. They examined samples of athletic wear, bulletproof vests, and protective coveralls as they learned about textile properties and garment design. They also experienced the 3D body scanner and explored the Cornell campus.



Watkins Glen students display collages



Watkins Glen students experience the 3D body scanner



CITIZEN U teens from Rochester



Lansing Middle School students in the 3D Body Scanner

CONCERNING CONSUMERS

Knitting Goes Public

by Madeline Miles

In the past few years, cities all over the globe have been hit by a wave of color and craftiness too big – and too beautiful – to take down. Statues have been targeted, trees have been fully covered, even bus seats and bike racks can't escape; and now there is a day devoted entirely to this madness. What is this mystery you ask? It is none other than the community experience of yarn bombing, and June 9, 2012 is none other than the second International Yarn Bombing Day.



Yes, it may seem like an oxymoron (after all, knitting is not the most ferocious of fiber arts) but the fad also commonly known as graffiti knitting or yarnstorming has most definitely blown up around the world. It is defined as a “type of graffiti or street art that employs colorful displays of knitted or crocheted cloth rather than paint or chalk.” And it has its benefits. Not only is it vastly more eco-friendly than spraying with spray paint, but also it is also much easier to remove – although officials don't seem to have much trouble with it and often keep it up for everyone to see.

Magda Sayeg is credited with starting the craze when in 2005 she knitted a cover for a stop sign outside her store in Houston. The first official yarn bombing day was held June 11, 2011 under the leadership of Joann Matvichuk in Alberta, Canada. It was her intention to bring the fast-growing art form of knitting not only to the rest of her community, but also the rest of the world.

Even in the Ithaca area, people are celebrating. On Yarn Bombing Day, the Central New York Fiber Artists and Producers are holding their Annual Fiber Festival to promote natural fibers and local fiber and textile producers. They are inviting all who wish to participate to knit six-12 inch squares that will be joined together to make a “yarn splash” at the Festival. Grab those knitting needles and join the fun!

Resources:

<http://yarnbombing.com/international-yarn-bombing-day>

<http://iybd.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Yarn-Bombing-Day-June-11th-2011/104441312968198>

EXPLORING FABRICS/FIBERS

Kapok

by Madeline Miles

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

The kapok tree grows 150 feet above the tropical rainforests of the world. Every 5-10 years, a five-petal flower is produced that turns into a large pod filled with brown seeds. Inside the pods, and surrounding the seeds, is a lightweight, lustrous, yellow-brown fiber. This fiber – also known as silk cotton – is quite remarkable because it is water repellent, resistant to rot, eight times lighter than cotton, five times more buoyant than cork, and able to support 30 times its own weight underwater. Still, its use is dying out.



Kapok tree, Philippines

The massive Kapok tree produces an enormous amount of seed in its many pods, but the 0.7-inch fiber that comes from these pods is hard to use. It is difficult to spin because it is so brittle, is highly flammable, and harvesting and separating of the fiber must be done by hand. To harvest the fiber, one must collect the pods when they fall or cut them down and be broken with mallets. Finally, one must remove the fiber and seeds by hand and stir them in a basket to separate them.



Once used by indigenous people of the Amazon to wrap around their poison darts, the fiber has found a much different use in modern society. Since it is so hard to spin, the kapok fiber is often used as insulation in sleeping bags, padding in pillows, mattresses, furniture, and teddy bears, and until the creation of plastics and foam rubber, was also used in flotation devices.

Resources:

<http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/kapok.htm>

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/kapok>

<http://stjohnbeachguide.com/Kapok.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kapok>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/311770/kapok>

BROWSING WEBSITES

EcoTextile <<http://ecotextile.com>>

by Madeline Miles

Environmental concerns make daily headlines, affect economic decisions, and are literally at the forefront of many people's lives. The textile industry is no exception — issues related to sustainability and environmental

impacts are under constant discussion. To join this conversation and to navigate environmental news specific to the textile industry logon to EcoTextile <<http://ecotextile.com>>. This website (also a magazine widely read by industry innovators) contains articles that range from announcements about new technology, to news about what companies are doing to promote environmental initiatives.

Sign up is free, and once registered, hundreds of news articles appear at your fingertips. To sign up, go to <http://ecotextile.com> and click on any article. Scroll to the bottom of the article and click on *register here now*. Complete a simple form and click *send*. After you sign in with your new username and password, you will have access to all the website has to offer.

In my own quest for information, I came across a particularly interesting article *Invista to Present Sustainable Denim*. I was excited to see that a company called Invista is working on creating sustainable denim for their Autumn/Winter 2013/14 global fabric collection. After you register with the Ecotextile website, you, too, can read the full article about denim at this link <<http://www.ecotextile.com/2012041311463/materials-production-news/invista-to-present-sustainable-denim.html>>

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