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Welcome Beth Davis 1

Elizabeth Davis has joined the Department of Textiles & Apparel for the academic year of 1999-2000. She will work mainly with the In-Touch Science Program, coordinating workshops across the US. If time permits, she will also assist with the Key Volunteer Leader Retreat (May, 2000) and the satellite training for A Style of Your Own (June, 2000). On the job less than a month, Beth has already made appearances at workshops in Grand Island, NY, and Pittsburgh, PA.

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Beth has a B. A. in Anthropology from the University of Maryland and did work toward an M.A. in Costume Studies at the University of Washington. She has taught classes in textile science, costume history, and apparel design. She also worked in the Costume and Textile Study Center (now a division of the Henry Art Gallery) at the University of Washington.

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Beth has organized workshops for private businesses and fund raising projects in the community. She brings strong organizational skills, a sincere interest in youth education, and a willingness to collaborate. We are pleased to have her in the department.

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The 16th Annual Cornell Design League Show is scheduled for April 15 on the Cornell campus. Mark your calendars now and watch for additional news next semester. The Cornell Design League was formed to give Cornell students with apparel interests a chance to express their creativity outside the classroom by producing a fashion show every spring. In the past, prospective students, 4-H club members, and others have enjoyed attending this event. Check out their webpage for photos from the 1999 show:

http://www.msc.cornell.edu/~sachse/fashion_99/

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More Flair at the Fair

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

The last issue of TXA News thanked the counties who promoted The Fabric/Flight Connection through their interactive exhibits in the Youth Building at the NYS Fair.

Delaware County was inadvertently omitted from that list. With this photo, we express our apologies and our thanks for a wonderful display. As you can see, Astronaut Eileen Collins visited their booth, enjoying the rocket display and the hands-on activities. Many thanks to Kathy Sherwood and Jim Rice for photos and to Kevin Colton of Seneca County who helped persuade Astronaut Collins to stop by the Youth Building.

Credit - Delaware County 4-H

Quick Patterns for Recycling Garments

Do you have a pattern for converting an old shirt into a child's smock? Have you figured out an easy way to make bookbags out of old jeans? Are you willing to share your ideas? At the state conference of the New York Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators in Grand Island, several persons with responsibility for youth programs in clothing and textiles expressed an interest in collecting patterns for recycling garments. TXA does not have current publications on this topic, so I agreed to compile whatever is sent to me and distribute the packet at the Key Volunteer Leader Retreat in May. Send patterns and instructions for converting unused clothing into useful items to: Charlotte Coffman, Cornell University, MVR 239, Ithaca, NY 14853-4401.

The Season for Sequins

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

Going. Going. Gone. Marilyn Monroe's sequined dress recently sold for more than a million dollars. Although your holiday attire may not fetch that amount, it may still be an important part of your wardrobe.

Sequins are small shiny iridescent disks of metal or plastic applied to garments in a decorative design or over the entire surface. They are often used for evening dresses, dancewear, and performance costumes for skating and gymnastics.

Sequins are sold in many colors, several sizes, and cup or flat shapes. They may be sewn or glued onto the garment fabric. An internet search revealed many vendors; some even promised iron-on sequins.

Care problems with sequins are common. Although Ms. Monroe's sequins were probably hand-sewn, adhesives secure the sequins in most yardage and ready-to-wear garments. If the adhesive softens or dissolves during cleaning, the sequins will detach. Some sequins curl or become distorted when exposed to drying and steam finishing that are a normal part of drycleaning.

Metallic or colored coatings may be removed when the garment is immersed in a drycleaning solvent. The result may be a dulled appearance, change in color, or complete loss of color. The problem may be evident after only one cleaning or it may be progressive so that it is only noticeable after several cleanings.

Consumer Guide

- Read the care label before purchasing fabric or garments with sequins.
- Retain all receipts.
- Carefully follow care label instructions.
- Remind drycleaners to test the garment before cleaning.
- Seek payment or a replacement garment from the manufacturer if the garment can not withstand the cleaning method given on the care label.

Resources:

1. Calasibetta, C. M. Dictionary of Fashion, Fairchild Books, NY, NY. 1998.
2. International Fabricare Institute. Problems with Sequins, Clothes Care Gazette, Silver Spring, MD. May, 1999.
3. International Fabricare Institute. Color Loss and Curling of Sequins, Fabricare News, TABS 167, Silver Spring, MD. 1991.

Apparel Industry Outreach Update

FRAN KOZEN

Apparel Industry Outreach is compiling a new resource titled *Student Internships are Good Business: Win-Win Strategies for Their Development*. The guide describes the advantages of student interns to apparel firms. It considers benefits for both the firm and the student as it steers apparel firms through the process of identifying potential interns and planning and evaluating the internship experience.

Internship programs are developed by firms to introduce students to their organization and operations. Interns get an inside view of the various career paths available within the firm and the industry. Firms often structure internship programs like training for entry-level manager, offering a combination of training sessions, attendance at management meetings, limited on-the-job experiences, and special project assignments. Student interns work for a limited period of time with a firm in a carefully monitored work experience designed to contribute to the student's education. In most cases, interns receive academic credit for the opportunity to explore career paths and establish important contacts in a field.

For industry, interns are a great way to work with a potential employee without making a long-term commitment. Interns are often highly motivated young people with fresh ideas and perspectives. Having an intern is an ideal means of completing a special project that might not fit into any one else's schedule. Internships are a cost-effective recruiting tool for future professionals, as often an internship leads to full time employment once the student finishes school.

While this guide is being written for the apparel industry, its message would be applicable to other industries as well. It will be available in January either on the World Wide Web or as a printed document available from Apparel Industry Outreach for the cost of printing and binding.

Sensitivity to Latex Gloves

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

In the late 80's, the use of protective gloves skyrocketed in response to the increasing awareness of HIV and the hepatitis virus. An estimated 5.6 million American health care workers use more than seven billion pairs of gloves each year. Food workers add to that number. The result is widespread sensitivity to latex, a natural rubber.

Allergic reactions range from red, swollen, and itchy skin to difficulty breathing and life-threatening shock. The extent of the reaction depends on many factors including the duration of exposure, genetic susceptibility, and the use of powder to make the gloves slide on more easily.

Researchers report that cornstarch powder exacerbates the latex risk because the powder absorbs latex proteins and emits them in dust as people don and doff the gloves. Powdered latex gloves are the hand protection of choice for the majority of US surgeons. This means that patients, too, are at risk, especially those who have had multiple surgeries.

Several consumer groups are calling for a ban on powdered gloves; others want all latex products removed from health care facilities. As early as 1971, the Food and Drug Administration advised surgeons to wash their hands after putting on gloves to remove excess powder. In 1997, manufacturers were ordered to label all latex-containing medical products with an allergy warning. The FDA has now published a draft Latex Medical Gloves Guidance Manual, which indicates safe levels of glove powder and natural latex protein. The agency is also proposing reclassification of surgeon's gloves and patient exam gloves into class II medical devices to assure increased control over materials.

If you suffer from sensitivity to latex or are interested in the issue, try the website Latex Allergy Links:

<http://members.tripod.com/latexallergylinks/index.html>

It provides links to a variety of references such as news articles, medical journals, and glove manufacturers.

The tallest player in the NBA is Gheorghe Muresan at 7' 7". His basketball uniform has 3,526 square inches of fabric.

–USA Weekend, October 1-3, 1999

Gathering Resources

Textile Information from the ACS

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

The American Chemical Society (ACS) might not be the first place you would look for information on textiles and clothing, but perhaps it should be. The Society promotes chemistry education at many levels through a wide range of publications, activities, and services. Many of those are textile-related—and most are available to you.

For example, *Wonder Science*, a quarterly magazine that provides hands-on science activities for elementary school teachers and students, has featured issues and articles on detergents, plastics, polymers, fibers, fabrics, and dyes. It is available in English and Spanish.

The October 1999 issue of *Chem Matters*, a quarterly magazine for first-year chemistry students in high school, has three textile-related articles. "The Absorbing Story of the Thirsty Polymer" explains how diapers work and "As a Matter of Fact" tells why Teflon is so strong. "Fabric of Steel" focuses on the strength of Kevlar, an aramid fiber used in bulletproof vests, aircraft, and brake linings.

A pair of jeans greets visitors to the ACS Education webpage with this question, "What do these have to do with the Nobel Prize in Chemistry?" The answer: In 1905 Adolf von Baeyer won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing a process to produce indigo (the blue dye in jeans) synthetically. Shortly after this discovery, the supply of indigo rose dramatically and its price fell just as dramatically; hence the billions of blue jeans worn today.

Faculty and students from TXA shared this information with the public when they demonstrated indigo-dyeing at "Chemistry at the Mall," an ACS-sponsored event to celebrate National Chemistry Week (November 7-13).

For a full description of ACS offerings, visit their website:

WWW: <http://www.acs.org/education>

or request *Science Teaching Resources* from:

American Chemical Society

Education Division, 1155 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20036,

Tel: 800-209-0423 or 304-725-7050

Fax: 800-20-0064 or 304-728-2171

E-mail: education@acs.org

Browsing Websites

Whole Cloth: Discovering Science and Technology through American Textile History

<http://www.si.edu/lemelson/centerpieces/>

[whole_cloth/index.html](http://www.si.edu/lemelson/centerpieces/whole_cloth/index.html)

This new web site is actually a semester or year-long curriculum. It examines the history of textiles in terms of technological advances and social change. The curriculum is composed of eight independent units, but only three are currently available.

•Unit 2: Early Industrialization.

•Unit 3: True Colors (dyes)

•Unit 7: Synthetic Fibers

Designed to aid highschool students, this website is also useful for middle-school teachers and college undergraduates. It is maintained by the Smithsonian Institution's Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.

EXTENSION FACULTY AND STAFF

Phone E-mail

Charlotte Coffman 255-2009 cwc4@cornell.edu

-Textiles and Apparel, Youth and Safety Issues

Katie DiTella 255-1943 kld20@cornell.edu

-Water Quality, Septic Systems, Home*A*Syst

Fran Kozen 255-0465 fhk2@cornell.edu

-Textiles and Apparel, Industry Outreach

Ann Lemley 255-3151 atl2@cornell.edu

-Department Chair, Water Quality, DEL

Suzanne Loker 255-6204 sl135@cornell.edu

-Textiles and Apparel, Industry Outreach

Elizabeth Davis 255-3196 ed55@cornell.edu

-Youth Programs, Workshop coordinator

Paula Smith 255-3196 pjs15@cornell.edu

-TXA News Production Manager

-TXA Loan Library txa@cce.cornell.edu

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