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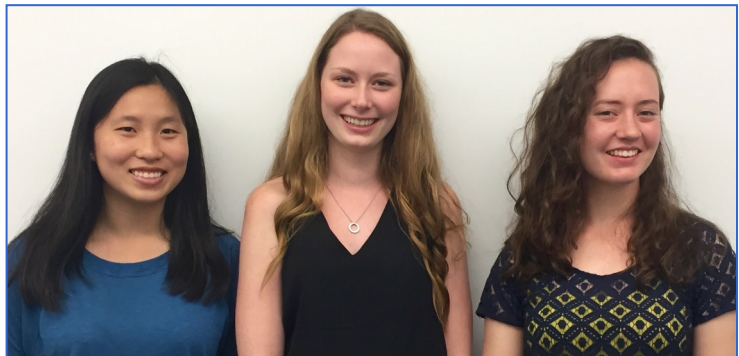
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ANNOUNCING

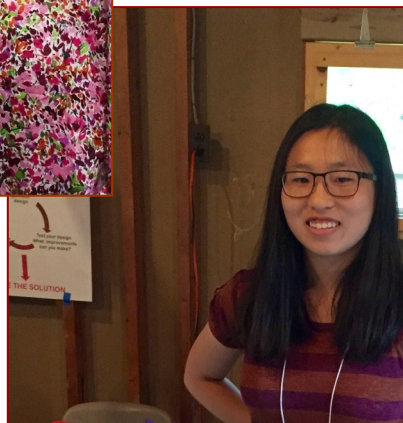
Thanks to the 2015 Summer Interns by Charlotte Coffman



From left to right: Frenda Yip, Chloe Collins, Ainslie Cullen.

The vibe started in the Extension Workroom on the second floor of the Human Ecology Building on June 1 as three summer interns, Ainslie Cullen, Chloe Collins, and Frenda Yip, reported for work. The buzz and the supplies soon overflowed into the hallway and into other work spaces as they tested activities, created webpages, filmed and edited videos, assembled teaching kits, cut fabrics, stuffed dress forms, designed posters, soldered battery packs, worked with the laser cutter, collected evaluation data, and tackled all the other tasks required to deliver three summer camps for Style Engineers, formerly Smart Clothing, Smart Girls — Engineering via Apparel Design.

Ainslie Cullen and Frenda Yip were recruited as part of the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in support of existing NSF projects such as Style Engineers. Ainslie studies Architecture and Frenda is a Human Biology, Health and Society major. They were joined by Chloe Collins, the Cornell Cooperative Extension/College of Human Ecology 2015 summer intern. She is a rising sophomore in the Department of Design & Environmental Analysis. All three applied their special skills to the program and all led experiential activities at two of the three camps. Their enthusiasm, hard work, and flexibility were critical to the program's success.



Fall 2015 Outings for Textile Enthusiasts

by Beth Davis

Pack up the family for one last summer road trip. Combine a museum visit with a fall conference. Replenish your fabric stash on the way to a football game. Check out the autumn colors along scenic highways -- and at the quilt show. Whatever your purpose or excuse, try to enjoy at least one of these interesting textile events.



Annual Events

September

Aug. 14-Sept. 13. Water Mill, NY. 29th Annual Quilt Show & Sale. *quilts, raffle* <http://www.watermillmuseum.org/>

Sept. 19-20. Hemlock, NY. Genesee Valley Handspinners Guild. 21st Annual Finger Lakes Fiber Festival. *speakers, workshops, vendors*, <http://www.gvhg.org>

Sept. 25-27. Manhattan, NY. Annual Fall International Quilt Festival. *quilts, speakers, workshops, vendors, tours* <http://www.allianceforamericanquilts.org/>

Sept. 26-27. Greenwich, NY. Southern Adirondack Fiber Festival. *demos, exhibits, vendors, raffle, sheep* <http://www.akdfiber.com/>

October

Oct. 3-4. Dryden, NY. Tompkins County Quilt Guild 2015 Quilt Show. *quilts, vendors, raffle*. <http://www.tcgg.org/>

Oct. 9-12. Ithaca, NY. Finger Lakes Lace Guild, 35th Annual Ithaca Lace Day & Conference. *speakers, workshops, vendors* <http://www.fingerlakeslaceguild.org/>

Oct. 10. Brooklyn, NY. Kings County Fiber Festival. *exhibits, demos, vendors*.

Oct. 10-11. Poughkeepsie, NY. Dutchess Heritage Quilt Show XVII. *quilts, speakers, vendors, raffle*. <http://www.dhquiltshow.org>

Oct. 10-11. Plattsburgh, NY. Champlain Valley Quilt Guild, Quilt Show XV. *exhibit, demos, vendors, raffle* <https://sites.google.com/site/cvqgnewyork/quilt-show-2015>

Oct. 17-18. Rhinebeck, NY. New York State Sheep and Wool Festival. *speakers, workshops, vendors, demos, exhibits, sheep* <http://www.sheepandwool.com/>

November

Nov. 6-8. Lockport, NY. Kenan Quilters' Guild Annual Quilt Show. *quilts, demos, vendors, appraisals, auction*. <http://www.kenanquiltersguild.org/>

Museum Exhibits

June 2-Nov. 14. New York, NY. Museum at FIT. "Global Fashion Capitals."

Sept. 12, 2015-June 19, 2016. New York, NY. Metropolitan Museum of Art. "Chinese Textiles: Eight Centuries of Textiles from the Met Collection."

Sept. 18-Dec. 5. New York, NY. Museum at FIT. "Fashion Underground: The World of Susanne Bartsch."

Dec. 2015-May 2016. New York, NY. Museum at FIT. "Denim: Fashion's Frontier."

ENGAGING YOUTH

Fabrications Online

by Charlotte Coffman



The activities from the Fabrications project are now on the FSAD youth website.

You may recall that this project is about fabric structure. By making small items such as a trivet, bracelet or keychain, youth will better understand how different textiles are made and why one structure is stronger, more flexible, or in some way preferable to another structure. The project teaches seven techniques: braiding, Ghiordes knot, wrapping, twining, plain weave, twill weave and satin weave. It also encourages creativity and collaborative design as young people may work individually or as a team to create a wall hanging that contains all of the fabric structures that they practice in this project. Download activity instructions from the [FSAD Youth website](#) or from [eCommons](#).

Style Engineers Goes to Camp by Charlotte Coffman

Style Engineers is the final stage of the National Science Foundation project, Smart Clothing Smart Girls — Engineering via Apparel. It began in the summer of 2012 with a small pilot program for 10 middle school girls. During the summers of 2013 and 2014, the revised and expanded program was conducted on campus. In this final year, the goal was to take the program to the participants so that all involved could experience how the program might transition to more informal educational settings. Thus, Style Engineers camps were held at 4-H Camp Wyomoco, Varysburg, NY; 4-H Camp Bristol Hills, Canandaigua, NY; and at the Girls Inc/YWCA camp, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY.



The Cornell Style Engineers Team gives a huge shout out to the 52 middle school girls who fearlessly conquered the 2015 design challenge, the 5 returning girls who demonstrated their leadership skills, and the 17 adult leaders who supported the program with their time, expertise and good humor. *THANKS SO MUCH – A JOB WELL DONE!*

For a quick overview of the camps and to share in the fun, scroll through the photos below.

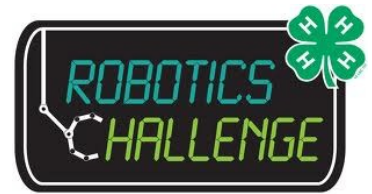


Note: This project is funded by the National Science Foundation.



Robotics Includes FSAD Challenges at the NYS Fair

*by Roger Ort



What happens when you mix a robotics whizz with a clothing specialist? You have a team ready to accept the 2015 NYS Fair 4-H Robotics Challenge! Participating youth will build and program an NXT/EV3 robot that will successfully hang a hanger on a clothes rack, walk the runway in costume, spin a lever to make rope, move a felted sheep to a shearing pen, place dyes in the correct vat, push the foot pedal of a sewing machine, and much more! Read all about it on the NYS 4-H Robotics page <http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/about%20us/Pages/4-HRobotics.aspx> More details are being released daily including our first ever video! And remember that each registered team will receive in the mail a felted sheep and 3D coat hanger. Don't miss out!

*Roger Ort is a 4-H Program Educator and Consumer Horticulture Program Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County. He is also the NYS 4-H Program Specialist in Robotics.

EXPLORING FABRICS/FIBERS

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

What Country is Home to the Panama Hat?

by Madeline Miles



Chances are you've seen a Panama hat at some point in your life. You may have heard that this hat can be packed tightly into a suitcase without losing its shape. You may know that it is lightweight, breathable and perfect for protection against the tropical sun. But, do you know what material is used and where it is made? Hint: It may not be what you think. This debonair head covering is made from the fan-shaped leaves of the toquilla plant, a monocot that reaches 5-8 ft in height. Many folks think toquilla is a palm, but they are mistaken. It is a member of the Cyclanthaceae family and its scientific name is *Carludovica palmate*.

Now, about the country of origin. . .though one might assume that the Panama hat is produced in Panama, that is not the case. The toquilla plant and the Panama hat are both native to Ecuador where the majority of these hats have been produced for over 400 years. So, why the misnomer? Several theories exist but the most common is that these hats were exported to Panama for international distribution and, later, for sale to those crossing the Panama isthmus on their way to the California Gold Rush.

To make the hats, young toquilla fronds are cut and split into fine strands. The strands are boiled in water until they are flexible, bleached and dried in the shade. They are then manipulated by hand plaiting to form a hat, starting at the crown and working through the body to the brim. The hats are shaped on a wooden mold, ironed, and blocked. Sweat bands are sewn inside the hat and decorative bands are attached to the outside. The fineness and quantity of the fronds as well as the quality of the interlacing determines the quality and price of the hat. Hats made from toquilla in Ecuador sell for \$US 25 to \$25,000.

If you are fortunate enough to own a Panama hat, treat it with care and respect. Do not expose it to rain or water as the toquilla straw can be weakened and water strained. Do not leave it in the sun for long periods as that will dry the fibers and make them brittle. If your Panama hat becomes soiled, rub it lightly with a dry cloth, but if that is not successful, try cleaning it gently with a moist facial or baby wipe.

Without a doubt, the Ecuadorian toquilla hat is a unique item.. It is on the UNESCO intangible Cultural Heritage List. Experts predict, however, that it will disappear within 20 years. Young Ecuadoreans do not find hat making profitable and prefer to work abroad, while the Chinese flood the market with similar hats made from cheaper materials that sell for \$US 8-10.

Resources:

_____. Fashion Trends from Ecuador: The Panama Hat Story, Botany Global Issues, McGraw Hill. 2000. < http://www.mhhe.com/biosci/pae/botany/botany_map/articles/article_18.html>

Oliver, Christian. Panama Hats: Made in Ecuador, Undercut by China. Reuters. February 5, 2007.

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