STUDENT NEWS

NATIONAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The National Student of the Year Award is offered annually by The Textile Institute Southern Australia section (TISA) to students that are studying in the Textile field of either Technology or Design.

Students are nominated by many of the fashion & textile institutes within Australia. RMIT had four out of eleven finalists.

Aaron Fluck – Advanced Diploma of Applied Fashion Design & Technology
Amy Carr Bottomley – Bachelor of Art (Textile Design)
Elnaz Ashayeri – Bachelor of Applied Science (Textile Technology)
Penny Gale – Diploma of Textile Design and Development

The 2009 National Student of the Year Award was awarded to Penny Gale from the Diploma of Textile Design and Development.

Penny is a very professional and self-assured person with the potential to be a great advocate for the Textile Institute and the industry in general. Penny has a high level of maturity and has already gained some experience of public speaking as course spokesman and as Student Representative. Penny is currently working as a textile designer on a part-time basis and hopes to set up her own studio in the future.

HUNDREDS FLOCK TO FLOCK

Peacock-feathered, high-heeled shoes, a sheepskin-style tapestry rug complete with sheep’s skull, avant-garde millinery adorned with Japanese foliage and, of course, flocks – of birds and butterflies – on all manner of fabrics, prints and furnishings.

These are just some of the works featured in Flock, this year’s fashion and textile exhibition from RMIT Union Arts.

More than 300 people attended the opening night of Flock at First Site Gallery. Union Arts Creative Arts Officer, Jodie Lawson, opened the exhibition congratulating students on the beauty and intricacy of their works.

"The rather wonderful result is that you have the work of a first-year student at the beginning of their tertiary career right next to a piece by a recent graduate who’s now working in the industry and a professional in their own right."

Part of the 2010 L’Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival Cultural Program, Flock features works from more than 50 student exhibitors across a wide range of RMIT programs.
The show includes work by students from Bachelor of Arts (Textile Design), the Diploma of Textile Design and Development, Diploma of Applied Fashion Design & Technology, Certificate IV in Footwear, Bachelor of Design (Fashion), Bachelor of Industrial Design, and Bachelor of Art.

For more information visit http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=8i7aicfmoybyz

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Out with the old, in with the... new(ish)
As part of our campaign for Sustainability Awareness on campus, the Clothing Exchange stopped by at Brunswick on March 3rd for a bit of communal wardrobe swapping. The Student Union funded the event and drinks and nibbles for a lightning quick lunch time event.

Students were invited to bring some old items from their wardrobes to exchange with other students and even a few staff members got in on the act. All participants were happy with their new second hand swaps and one student even managed to get an internship with Clothing Exchange out of it.

STAFF NEWS

Welcome aboard, Geraldine
The School of Fashion and Textiles welcomes Geraldine Van Lint into the new role of Technical Support Officer (Laboratories). Geraldine will provide technical support to staff and students in the 'Industry Training and Research' and 'Dye laboratories' located in building 512.

Geraldine has held a number of key positions throughout her career including those of Textile Chemist for Bayer, and both Product Manager and Technical Sales Representative for Yorkshire Australia Ltd (Industrial Chemicals).

This is an important role for the School and will assist in the achievement of our commercial, research and industry related goals.

Research

Clean Team Debugs Smelly Car Seats
CHITOSAN, a processed form of the chitin derived from the outer shells of crustaceans, may be the answer to enhancing fabrics used in cars so they stay odour-free for longer.

Dr Rajiv Padhye, discipline head, higher education at RMIT University's school of fashion and textiles, and doctoral student Saniyat Islam are working on a project to improve the material used to upholster car seats.

Chitosan can be used to create films that bind or seal surfaces,
which gives it wide application in industries including photographics, cosmetics and food.

It also has anti-microbial properties. This makes it ideal for use in surgical dressings and sutures, but for the purpose of Padhye’s research, the anti-microbial quality helps kill the bacteria that cause bad odours.

He and Islam added strawberry oil and chitosan to 100 per cent polyester woven automotive fabric, with excellent results.

Ahead are more laboratory tests, followed by working with car manufacturers and industrial-scale trials that could run for six to twelve months.

According to Padyhe, using fabrics modified with chitosan and perfume would not necessarily boost car prices. “Chitosan is not that expensive, it’s just adding value,” he says.

He hopes to go on improving car fabrics. "We are also looking at how stains could be repelled; perhaps a nano-coating of something with the lotus leaf effect, that repels liquid. The only thing is we want to make sure that by adding it in we don’t lose the anti-smell and anti-microbial effect."

Jill Rowbotham, The Australian March 17, 2010

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

IFFTI Conference, Taiwan
The International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institutes (IFFTI) annual research conference was held at Fu Jen University. All the major Fashion Technology Institutes are members of IFFTI. The Conference theme was “Fashion: Sustainability and Creativity.” The School had ten peer reviewed papers accepted for presentation at the Conference. Textile Design lecturer Ms Emma Lynas, received an IFFTI Junior faculty award for her paper “Textiles, Connection and Meaning. The School’s fashion director Ms Tina Guglielmino is the Deputy Chair of IFFTI.

Events for your Calendar

• Public Lecture by Linnemore Nefdt (AMFI) and Paula Rogers (TFIA)
"Fashion’s Futures: Changing Currents and Forecasting the Future of Supply Chain Management".
Wednesday 14 April, 2010
6pm at RMIT Brunswick Campus,
Building 514, Level 2, Auditorium
RSVP essential by 9 April:
fatima.abdallah@rmit.edu.au

• Presentation by Professor Jennifer Craik
Designing Women: The transformation of dress codes for women in politics’
Monday, 3rd May 2010
4pm -6pm at RMIT Brunswick Campus, Bldg 514, Level 1 room 2 & 2C
RSVP essential by 28th April:
fatima.abdallah@rmit.edu.au

• “Art 4 Design Exhibition”
An exhibition of student work from the Diploma and Advance Diploma of Textile Design and Development
Opening: Thursday, 8th April, 2pm
Exhibition Dates: 8-20 April, 10am - 7pm
RMIT Brunswick, Bldg 514, Atrium