HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2009.

2008 saw a number of significant achievements that should position the school well for the challenge of 2009. Among those achievements were the IFFTI conference in March, refurbishment of CAD facilities and our Textile Design and Research studios, introduction of Master of Fashion and Textiles (coursework), Young Essential Project with Target and development of an MOU with our Industry partner Pacific Brand.

2009 will be a challenging year as the School will be seeking to broaden its international connection through increased student mobility and collaborative projects. Our offshore program will be strengthened and the School will be delivering an industry workplace learning project in Vietnam. We will also be preparing for the restructuring of the Vocational Training market in 2010 and at the same time increasing our investment in our Research capabilities through people and equipment.

Our planned activity for 2009 will be made even more challenging due to the difficult economic environment. As the year progresses we will endeavour to report our progress through these newsletters.

SHORT COURSES for 2009

RMIT University’s School of Fashion and Textiles offers a comprehensive range of short courses catering for personal and professional needs.

Short course programs for 2009 focus on fashion, textiles, footwear & accessories, CAD/CAM, folio presentation and global trading.

Short course programs can also be customised and delivered on your premises if need be. Contact Jack Roosenboom at jack.roosenboom@rmit.edu.au for details.

In 2009, two distinct series of Workshop programs will be conducted in Melbourne and Sydney. The “Product Knowledge Workshops in Textiles” and "Global Trading in Fashion and Apparel" programs have been developed in response to industry demand for skills and knowledge related to the global trade in textiles and fashion.

For more information please contact the Short Courses Unit at nicholas.maggio@rmit.edu.au or visit http://www.rmit.edu.au/textiledesigncentre/shortcourses
NEW STAFF JOINING THE SCHOOL OF FASHION & TEXTILES

The School has employed the following new staff members in 2009.

Antida Liistro - Academic Administration Coordinator

Antida has come to the School of Fashion and Textiles from the College of Business at RMIT. Antida’s expertise is in customer Service, Student Administration and RMIT systems including Syllabus+, STS, RPO, Class Scheduling. Antida will be responsible for the coordination and scheduling of room bookings on Syllabus+, Marketing, PR activities, Internet/Intranet and providing support in Academic Administration.

Dr Lijing Wang - Senior Lecturer/Research Bachelor Applied Science

Lijing recently joined the School of Fashion and Textiles with an impressive and strong research record after working at Deakin University for nine years as a senior research fellow at Centre for Material and Fibre Innovation, and research academic at School of Engineering and Technology. Lijing will be lecturing our third year degree students as well as play a major role in research for the School of Fashion and Textiles.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Brandix

Twelve students from the Schools’ offshore partner Brandix (Sri Lanka) travelled to Melbourne to receive their Bachelor of Applied Science (Textile Technology) award at the University graduation ceremony at Telstra dome in December. The Brandix/RMIT Textile Technology program has been in place for five years and over 50 students have now completed the program.

Staff Travels

In 2008 staff from the School have travelled overseas to strengthen our International network in Asia, Europe and USA. The March and April newsletter will include an overview of this networking activity that includes:

- Robyn Lyons travel to UK & France
- Trudie Orchard trip to Hong Kong
- Mandy Penton attends ITAA Conference in America
- Arnold Andrew’s presentation at the ITAA Conference, America
- Jodie Stephen’s study tour of Vietnam
- Rachel explores Jacquard Weaving in Florence

Collaborative work with International Business

The Bachelor applied Science (Merchandising) program will be working with Zone Clothing in the Ho Chi Minh City on a collaborative work place project involving a student group. This project will
allow students to gain real work experience in a different cultural environment.

**STUDENT NEWS**

Saniyet Islam received a scholarship from the Australian Wool Education Trust to undertake studies for his Doctorate under the supervision of Dr Rajiv Padhye.

Saniyet research will be centred upon "Application of Nanotechnology for Wool and Wool Blends in Medical Textiles Utilizing Biopolymers".

The School also congratulates the 470 students who successfully completed their program in 2008 and 187 of these student received their awards at Telstra Dome in December 2008.

**Research Update**

4 students completed their research studies in 2008. We congratulate Nasar Momin on receiving his doctorate in Textiles.

The new research facility in Studio 20 is now available and the new technical equipment (Mannequins, Santori, Plasma coating) will be commissioned throughout 2009.

**Program Profile**

**Program:** Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology

The Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology is a two year full time fashion design and production program designed for those who want to work in the fashion design and production area of the fashion industry. This program provides an advanced level of training in areas such as patternmaking, fashion design and prototype development. Students who complete the Diploma can undertake the Advanced Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology for a further year.

**Pathways:** Graduates of the Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology who have been successful in gaining a place in the Bachelor of Applied Science (Fashion Technology) gain an exemption of two years, leaving an additional one year to complete the degree. Graduates of the Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology who have been successful in gaining a place in the Bachelor of Design (Fashion) will be eligible to apply for an exemption of one year, leaving an additional three years to complete the degree.

**Career Prospects:** Graduates completing the diploma have a range of possible career pathways and may be employed as assistant patternmakers, graders, supervisors, quality control officers, quality assurance officers, assistant production controllers, illustrators or small business operators. After several years experience, they may also work as head designers or product developers.

For more information visit http://www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c5202