**Staff News**

**Sylvia Walsh, ISS Fellow.**

Applied Fashion Design and Technology teacher Sylvia Walsh was awarded an ISS (International Specialised Skills Institute) grant in 2008. Sylvia’s ISS project was to report on Australian Fashion Directions through interviews conducted with experts at fashion centres of excellence in New York, London, Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds and Milan.

Whilst undertaking this project, Sylvia gained valuable information and saw a new perspective on where we stand in Australia in terms of fashion education, talent incubation and fast fashion trends. “The whole experience has been exhilarating and fascinating but also hard work, particularly in putting together a final report encapsulating key factors from the mountain of information I brought back to Australia”. Sylvia said.

To find out more about ISS Fellowship awards email issi.ceo@pacific.net.au

**International News**

Grant Emerson travels to the India and Vietnam

Program Director, Bachelor Applied Science Grant Emerson, recently visited India and Vietnam in February.

Whilst in India, Grant visited Institutes of Apparel Management (IAM) and reviewed the current arrangement with student exchange for the Diploma of Fashion & Textiles Merchandising program. Patrici

**New Staff**

The School of Fashion & Textiles welcomes Patricia Brien as a Teacher in the Advanced Diploma & Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology specializing in Sustainability.

Prior to starting with the School, Patricia lived in Europe where she lectured in fashion culture(s) at the Amsterdam Fashion Institute for six and a half years.

Before AMFI she worked as a freelance fashion/lifestyle journalist and has written for View Textiles and Selvage recently and earlier she wrote in Paris for several publications including View on Colour, Elle (Aust), Harper's Bazaar (Aust) and was Paris correspondent for Oyster magazine for two years. Patricia also worked for one year on the English Desk at the French TV - Reseau France Outre-Mer - as a broadcast journalist before her move to the Netherlands in 2002.

Patricia is passionate about shifting the fashion industry to a greener model and we welcome her to RMIT School of Fashion and Textiles.

**Dates for your Diary:**

Open Day - 9th August 2009
graduates from the IAM Merchandising Diploma will commence studies in the RMIT Bachelor of Applied Science (Fashion & Textiles Merchandising) degree at Brunswick in 2010. Further discussion are taking place to engage in teacher exchanges and industry study tours to Australia.

Grant visited RMIT’s twin campus in Ho Chi Minh City-Vietnam, where discussion were held RMIT Vietnam staff and local industry partners to organise a work integrated learning project. Six students will visit Vietnam and will agree on an Industry brief and conduct preliminary research in reviewing the local industry partners on and offshore operations. RMIT Vietnam will coordinate relevant industry guest speakers that will cover:

1. The Vietnamese Fashion & Textiles Industry
2. Supply Chain Management
3. The Vietnamese retail environment
4. Cultural Differences

"This is a great opportunity for our students to experience Industry related work experience in an international context" said Grant Emerson

Feedback received from the group include;
- Consideration of students needs by Schools and Teachers
- Impressive Colour Displays
- Very good student work
- VET/HE is very well organised
- Strong links between Industry and University
- Multi-cultural in both students and teaching staff
- Always clear aims and objectives in teaching
- Up-to-date technology and skills
- Relaxed teaching atmosphere in classes
- Democratic; students treated as equals
- Teachers stimulate creativity
- Class sizes in China 30 students

The delegates concluded their visit by attending a traditional Australian BBQ in Building 94 followed by Karaoke.

Program Profile

Program:
Advanced Diploma of Fashion and Textiles Merchandising

The Advanced Diploma of Fashion and Textiles Merchandising (which includes Certificate IV and Diploma) prepares graduates with skills and knowledge for a career in fashion merchandising and product development. The program has a strong focus on marketing, product development, supply chain, computer aided design and computer aided manufacturing, retail buying and planning.

Chinese Delegates visit RMIT School of Fashion and Textiles

A group of 23 Chinese VET Teachers visited the School of Fashion and Textiles on 17th February 2009 to be introduced to the VET Training System and how it is applies at RMIT. During their visit, delegates were given a tour of the School of Fashion and Textiles resources and facilities as well as opportunity of classroom observations of VET Teaching Practice.
Throughout the two-year duration of the program, students participate and take an active role in industry projects. Australian Fashion and Retail enterprises such as Target, Country Road, Sportsgirl, Gorman and Calibre have been the key stakeholders in the collaboration. Managers from these companies brief students with real life projects. Through working in teams, students not only practise what they have learnt but also acquire graduate capabilities such as problem solving, working in teams, using technology, and managing projects. The standard of students’ work has been highly acclaimed by industry.

**Pathways:** Graduates of the diploma who have been successful in gaining a place in the Bachelor of Applied Science (Fashion and Textiles Merchandising) gain exemption of two years, leaving an additional one year to complete the degree.

**Career Prospects:** Graduates work in a diverse range of areas within the textile, clothing and fashion industries. Employment prospects include product developers, assistant buyers, sales representatives, range coordinators, store managers, service assistants, visual merchandisers, marketing, design assistants, quality assurance officers, and production assistants. Through its strong links with industry, RMIT is able to provide assistance to graduates to achieve employment.

**Work Integrated Learning within the program**

The Young Essential Project (YEP) is a work-integrated learning (WIL) project for students studying the Advance Diploma of Merchandising and Product Development at the School of Fashion & Textiles at RMIT’s Brunswick campus.

It is a collaboration between RMIT and industry partners such as Target, Country Road, Sportsgirl, and Calibre. Managers from industry partners brief our students on product and business information relating to their companies. Based on the briefings, students conduct extensive market research. With the guidance and support from teachers and managers from industry partners, students develop the design brief. Their learning culminates in the final presentation of their products to the national ‘retail buying’ managers from the industry partners.

**STUDENT NEWS**

Student Exhibition receives praise from local council

RMIT Studio Textiles and Screen Print Design Graduate Exhibition in 2008 titled “Unfold” displayed at the Counihan Gallery received positive feedback from Cr Alice Pryor of the Moreland City Council. Cr Pryor reported that the Exhibition “attracted above average visitor numbers to the gallery and that the gallery staff received very positive feedback about the Show.”