Message from Keith Cowlishaw, Head of School

As the academic year draws to a close; our students prepare for their year end assessment and we can start to showcase some of the outstanding work/projects undertaken by the School this year including awards students and staff have received from their peers. This newsletter highlights some of these awards and captures the excellence of the programs here at the School of Fashion and Textiles.

AWARDS

Victorian Training Awards

‘The Social Studio’, which supports the creative efforts of young people from Melbourne’s refugee community who have undertaken training in clothing production have been awarded the $10,000 Victorian Small Business of the Year at the Victorian Training Awards.

Warwick Fabrics’ 2010 Dreamweaver Award

The annual Dreamweaver Design Award is a woven textiles competition sponsored by Warwick Fabrics for current design students and graduates to showcase their talents on the world stage.

Three finalists: Mariam Qazag, John Brooks and Carla Grbac, all from RMIT’s Textile Design TAFE programs, were selected to work with the Warwick design team before having their fabric commercially woven. The woven designs were then manufactured for use as an upholstery fabric.

Congratulations to Mariam Qazag who won the Warwick Fabrics’ 2010 Dreamweaver Award. Mariam, an Advanced Diploma in Textile Design and Development student at the School will travel with the Warwick team to Belgium in 2011 to experience the world’s largest upholstery exhibition, MoOd (formally called Decosit).

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fashion and Textiles Graduate Exhibition at the Octagonal Lounge, Moonee Valley Racecourse
  • VIP Industry Launch
    23 November 2010
    6pm – 9pm
  • General Entrance
    24 November 2010
    9am – 3pm
  • Celebration with Family & Friends
    24 November 2010
    6pm – 9pm

Student Jessica Hughes, a school-based apprentice was also recognised at the Awards ceremony. Jessica is studying her Certificate III in Clothing Production at RMIT whilst completing Year 12.

Winner Mariam Qazag (second from left) with fellow finalists John Brooks and Carla Grbac joined by Weave Teacher, Rachel Halton (right).

Social Studio founder, Grace McQuilten (second from right), with two student designers and the award presenter.

Mr Kent Williamson, Industry Manager from the School of Fashion and Textiles and his team have worked closely with this venture since its launch in December 2009. Fashion and Textiles teacher, Ms Anna Loughnane has been delivering on site training at the Collingwood site since the project’s inception.
**RMIT Fashion Student wins TISA Grand Prize**

The annual Textile Institute Southern Australian (TISA) Awards showcase presented over 20 finalists from educational institutes across Australia providing unique recruitment and promotional opportunities.

Jacinta Demetriou, a third year Bachelor of Applied Science (Fashion Technology) student from the School of Fashion and Textiles was awarded the grand prize of four weeks tuition and accommodation at the Paris American Academy.

**MoreArt Public Art Show**

Congratulations to Diploma of Studio Textiles and Design student Saffron Lily Gordon who won First Prize in the ‘MoreArt Public Art Show’ – a Moreland City council public art event – for her work ‘Don’t Fence Me In’. The art work is installed on the Upfield Bike Path near Anstey Station.

Also, Diploma of Studio Textiles and Design student Melanie Boermans received a Highly Commended Award for her work ‘Spring’ which can be viewed from inside Building 516 at the Brunswick campus.

**Footwear Student Finalist in Avante Garde Design Award**

Jing Jang, currently completing her Certificate IV in Custom Made Footwear was selected as one of the finalists in the Avante Garde Gallery design competition.

Jing’s designs are heavily influenced by cosmopolitan living and modern lifestyle.

**Young Essentials Project (YEP) 2010**

Now in its 11th year, the Young Essentials Project (YEP) is an important element of the Fashion and Textile Merchandising program. YEP was initiated to provide merchandising students from RMIT’s Brunswick campus with the opportunity to work to a commercial brief for key Australian fashion retailers.

The winning team for Target, SCHICKI MICKI, with Murray Chenery, General Manager – Marketing, Target.
This year’s industry partners were Country Road, Sportsgirl and Target.

The Road, the winning team for Country Road, with Kerrin Schuppan, Head Designer, Country Road.

This year’s successful event showcased RMIT’s Fashion and Textiles Merchandising students to the fashion industry. The event, held in October at Jason Coleman’s Ministry of Dance, had approximately 400 family, VIP and staff attend the official announcement of the winning teams – congratulations to all the winners.

The winning Sportsgirl team, Sleepwear, with Paul Casey, Buying Manager, Sportsgirl

Research

The School’s research profile continues to grow this year with active projects in sportswear, defence, protective apparel, cycling wear and electronic textiles commissioned by industry clients. Senior researcher, Dr. Lijing Wang was successful in securing an ARC Linkage grant partnership in conjunction with the School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering - ‘Fibre Sized Energy Generators and Storage in Multi-Functional Fabrics’.

The School’s publications and research completions in 2010 remains at a high level.

RMIT Public Lecture Series

The School of Fashion and Textiles, in partnership with TFIA, held the first public evening lecture on sustainability – ‘Leading Global Retailers – Working in Fibre Sustainability’.

The lecture gave an insight into how progressive fashion retailers are increasingly developing their corporate policies around people, planet and profit. Speakers at the successful event included members from TFIA, the Merino Company and INSTYLE. The School’s next public lecture will be held on 1st December.

Sustainability

As the year draws to a close, it is useful to reflect on the work undertaken by the sustainability team. The team is made up of volunteers from the School’s staff who were keen to develop some sustainability initiatives across the Brunswick campus.

These initiatives were:

- Assess the potential for energy reduction programs which included a co-generation plant. Analysis showed Brunswick campus has a low energy use and co-generation could not be justified on economic grounds.
- Assess water usage and develop strategies to minimise water use. Again, quite low usage and best approach is to continue to encourage careful use of water.
- Introduce double sided photocopying across the campus. The aim is to have all copies set for double sided and be implemented in 2011 with introduction of new copiers.
Establishment of a cycling group in conjunction with students and the Student Union. This is slowly gathering momentum with a series of events and identifying cyclist’s future needs (showers, covered areas etc).

Active engagement with University Sustainability Committee

Establish printer cartridge recycling.

This year’s work has highlighted the need to balance sustainability initiative with cost and the overall benefit to the campus.

‘Pedal Pushers’

The newly formed 'Pedal Pushers' group held a series of bicycle maintenance workshops on campus. Huw from Commuter Cycles shared his top tips on keeping bikes in optimum working condition.

Participants learnt how to repair punctures, tighten gear cables and adjust brakes amongst other useful tips. If you missed out this semester, keep an eye out early next year. A big thanks to Zero Carbon Moreland for sponsoring the workshops.

Alumni

The School of Fashion and Textiles would like to hear from graduates who would like to stay in touch with other RMIT graduates, alumni and network with other professionals.

Alumni networks can be as small or large as you like. Some networks meet for formal events including seminars with industry leaders.

The Alumni Relations Office will answer your questions about registering, academic transcripts, and degree verification or simply staying in touch. To register with the Alumni Office visit:

www.rmit.edu.au/fashiontextiles/alumni

Email: alumni@rmit.edu.au or phone +61 3 9925 5222.