HES PRIDE POINTS

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

ANTHONY JAMES, Human Development and Family Studies graduate student, was elected President of the Association of Black and Professional Graduate Students at the University of Missouri.

Graham McCaulley, Human Development and Family Studies graduate student, was elected as the 2010-2011 MU Graduate Professional Council GPC Vice-President.

KAREN TOBIN, Architectural Studies senior, won first place in the Commercial Category of the Boardwalk 2011 Student Interior Design Competition at Maryville University in St. Louis.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

MU’S ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES’ INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM is listed as No. 4 in the nation among “Most Admired Graduate Programs” for 2011 because of its “distance education program and the number of alumni who are in well-placed academic programs,” according to DesignIntelligence magazine.

TEXTILE AND APPAREL MANAGEMENT is one of 13 U.S. Programs endorsed by the American Apparel Footwear Association. TAM was reaccredited in fall 2010.

TEXTILE AND APPAREL MANAGEMENT

Western Woman

TAM professor Laurel Wilson retires

Dressing “just right” often sparks feelings of confidence, individuality, and freedom. Not only is this true today, but it was also true for cowboys in the 1800s — yes, those rough and tumble, wild men of the great American West cared about fashion. Textile and Apparel Management professor Laurel Wilson embraces this notion as the guest curator for Dressed Just Right: An Evolution of Western Style from Function to Flamboyance, which is on display through this fall at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. “Western dress is known by familiar materials and details including embossed or fringed leather, felt hats, and silver and bead embellishment,” she explains. “Materials and patterns did not rise rapidly but developed over a 500-year period and were influenced by a number of cultures.”

Many items in Dressed Just Right came from MU’s 5,000-plus-piece Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection of which Wilson is the curator. She can talk in detail about each item, rattling off dates, materials and styles as if she’s recalling items in her own closet. Wilson’s favorite piece in the collection is a hand-woven quilt that was found between a mattress and springs in a historic house. She describes the find as “rare in the extreme.”

“Dr. Wilson brings a lot of heart to the TAM department,” says Ashley Hasty, who was Wilson’s teaching assistant for three years. “She was eager to share what she knew with everyone, and through multiple media, including the classroom, research manuscripts, and presentation. She always thought that knowledge should be shared – I think that is why she was so successful.”

In May, however, Wilson, now in her 27th year at MU, will roll her suitcase full of textiles into class for the last time. “I have other things I want to do while I’m young enough to do them,” the Kemper Award winner says of her upcoming retirement. She and her husband, Howard, recently purchased a canoe, which they want to enjoy with their Australian cattle dog, Tegan. “Being a part of the community is important,” says Wilson, who volunteers at the Boone County Museum and will participate in a program called “Forest Keepers.”

“I’ll have real mixed feelings about leaving; I really do love my work,” she says. “For years, my history and textile classes came to my house to weave mud rugs. I love that, but I’m looking forward to having something on my loom besides a mud rug warp.”