Note from the Curator

Happy New Year! The Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection celebrated 50 years of collecting this year, with many exciting events both large and small. We began with an opening event, Secrets of the Collection, in the home of Kee and Diana Groshong, and ended with the final It’s a Wrap event at the home of Alfredo Martin and Beau Aero. In between were unique exhibits, travel, and many opportunities to learn about dress. It was very gratifying to see so many friends at our events and to also have the collection used to support all aspects of our mission.

I am also pleased to announce that we met our anniversary year goal of $100,000 in the endowment. Thank-you to all who supported us this past year through donations of all types. And, thank-you to Nicole Johnston, who has developed exhibits, maintained the collection, and communicated with donors. We now look forward to new exhibits and opportunities. Please visit our final anniversary exhibit, Wearing 1967, in Gwynn Hall, and stay tuned for our summer exhibit, opening in early June. I hope to see you there!
60s Savitar Style in the MU Student Center highlighted student fashions plucked from the pages of MU’s 1960s Savitar yearbooks!

Fashion bloomed once again at the Museum of Art and Archaeology! 1960s floral-themed garments were displayed alongside TAM student digitally printed floral designs inspired by Mizzou Botanic Gardens.

The exhibition Fashioning a Collection: 50 Years, 50 Objects at the State Historical Society of Missouri highlighted over 50 objects celebrating the variety and mission of the collection: education, research and exhibition. To enhance the exhibition, a website was created linking select objects with additional videos, images and web activities. View the exhibition catalog and more artifact images online: http://tam.missouri.edu/MHCTC/collection50.html.

Over 70 guests attended the opening reception in March, including many Friends and donors. MU students also toured the exhibition for projects in TAM, Fine Arts, and Journalism spring courses, as did over 20 docents from the Museum of Art and Archaeology.
The MHCTC revealed examples of design piracy in its collections, including how one American “fashion stylist” smuggled copied designs out of France, and how originals and knock offs by designers such as Mary McFadden, Charles James, Davidow, and more, played a part in this controversial big business!

On June 22nd, over twenty guests enjoyed a presentation by MHCTC Curator Jean Parsons who discussed her book Knock It Off! A History of Design Piracy in the US Women’s Ready-to-Wear Apparel Industry co-authored with Sara B. Marcketti of Iowa State University. The book is a history of the United States apparel industry as it developed its own unique design voice and the story of how the controversial practice of design copying and adaptation formed a basis for industry growth.


The MHCTC and other members of MU’s Material Culture Studies Group collaborated this fall to offer its first Honors College tutorial titled Get Real, Go Places! Let Objects Take You There. The 8-week 1-hour course introduced freshman and sophomore Honors students to the University’s unique material culture resources. Students received a sneak peek at the MHCTC’s 50th anniversary exhibition Wearing 1967, examining and researching a selection of exhibit artifacts before viewing the summer exhibit Originate, Adapt, Copy and touring the Josephine Margaret Holik Conservatory.
Mizzou Alumni Magazine featured nineteen Mizzou-related artifacts from collection holdings in its Fall 2017 issue which reached over 300,000 Mizzou alumni!
The last anniversary exhibition highlighted 1967 and period garments in relation to the year’s turbulent events. An additional Wearing 1967 pop-up exhibit in Gwynn Lounge featured period music and additional 1960s artifacts not currently on display. MU students from Dr. Ashley Woodson’s College of Education LTC 4534 course completed a course assignment based on exhibition artifacts. Explore over 50 additional garments, period images, and video and music links on the exhibition timeline: http://tam.missouri.edu/MHCTC/exhibit_1967.html. See samples from the timeline below.
Over 170 guests browsed exhibits and activities at the Museum of Art and Archaeology’s third annual National Museum Day! This year the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection’s Sketch-A-Dress activity highlighted the collection’s 50th anniversary by providing guests the opportunity to illustrate and color period garments including a 1960s paper dress and wool mod ensemble by Pierre Cardin (gift of Haverfield.)

The Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection exhibited artifacts in the Museum of Anthropology’s newly opened exhibition gallery as part of International Archaeology Day. This year’s event highlighted MHCTC acquisitions including traditional, hand-woven clothing from Chile and Guatemala. Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser and Kate McKenzie from the Columbia Weavers and Spinners Guild demonstrated traditional hand methods of textile production, including back strap weaving, spinning, and needle felting.

The Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection wrapped up its 50th anniversary year with a one-of-a-kind celebration at the home of Alfredo Martin and Beau Aero! Collection artifacts, including one of the first donations to the collection, a 1920s sequin gown (third image above), were displayed alongside clothing designs from Textile and Apparel Management students who modelled the designs as part of the evening’s festivities. See more images online: http://tam.missouri.edu/MHCTC/exhibit_wrap.html
The MHCTC accepted a record-breaking *153 artifacts into collection holdings in 2017!* Below is a small sampling of our new gifts! Learn how you can help preserve these and other artifacts on page 11.

- **1900s-10s Straw and Silk Velvet Hat**
  Gift of H. Jones

- **1931-32 MU Wool Beanie**
  Gift of D. Rees

- **Early 20th Century Beaded Purse**
  Gift of D. Rees

- **Harper’s Bazar Fashions 1867-1898**
  Gift of M. Applegate

- **1900s-10s Children’s Leather Shoes**
  Gift of R. Brownlee

- **1920s Crepe and Lace Dress**
  Gift of J. Gaston

- **1980s Dress by Victor Costa**
  Gift of V. Ott

- **1944-45 Women’s Wool U.S. Military Uniform**
  Gift of A. Weiss

- **1941 Silk Satin Wedding Gown**
  Gift of J. Schade

- **1980s Men’s Nylon Jacket**
  Gift of J. Holmes

- **2017 NEP Eclipse Cotton T-Shirt**
  Gift of Ha-Brookshire

- **1960s Guatemalan Mayan Cotton Huipil**
  Gift of L. Suprenant for Dr. Anne LaBastille
Over 20 Museum of Art and Archaeology docents toured the Collection’s 50th anniversary exhibition in May!

Students in Catherine Armbrust’s Fine Arts class analyzed text from the 50th anniversary exhibition as part of a class project.

In November MHCTC staff toured the Army ROTC military collection and gallery in Crowder Hall with Lieutenant Colonel Gary Kerr.


Jennifer Ouellette (HES ’94) New York milliner, and Juror in MU’s second annual Undergraduate Visual Art and Design Showcase, spoke to the TAM 3520 class. Nicole Johnston, Collection Manager and member of the VAD Showcase committee, hosted Jennifer during her visit to Columbia.

Over 100 students in TAM 3520 selected and researched artifacts from the 50th anniversary exhibition for their own exhibition proposals.

Collection artifacts were utilized by TAM graduate students Angela Uriyo and Sunhyung Cho while researching adaptive clothing. Research was also used for Sun’s 2017 thesis titled Developing Baseline Design Criteria for People with Lower Body Mobility Impairments Using Inclusive Design.

20 students in TAM 2200 Science of Textiles utilized collection artifacts as part of an extra credit project.

MHCTC Curator Jean Parsons co-authored, In-vest-ed Meaning: Gender ambiguity in costume collections with TAM alumna Dr. Katie Baker Jones, a chapter in an upcoming book. Dr. Parsons also co-authored with Sara Marcketti (Iowa State) Knock It Off! A History of Design Piracy in the US Women’s Ready-to-Wear Apparel Industry which was favorably reviewed in the Costume Society of America’s Dress Volume 43, Number 2, 2017.

MU Creative Writing student Kayla Thompson researched the Collection’s past exhibits in Ellis Library as well as garments of former Missouri First Lady Betty Cooper Hearnes for a Library Sciences Archives course.

As part of TAM’s first online fashion history course, taught by Collection Manager Nicole Johnston, students learned how the words ‘text’ and ‘textile’ illustrated the use of weaving as a metaphor for writing in Greek and Latin literary texts. Other relationships between writing, printing and dress were explored in three videos produced by MU’s Special Collections and Rare Books: Part 1: Early Civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Ancient Greece/Rome; Part 2: Medieval Fashions; Part 3: Printing Press: 15th to 18th Centuries. Videos may be found online: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1MHwLS0mMCVstxTZ5mgZvQxjcCq-WYNN.
IN APPRECIATION

Laurel Wilson curated the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection for over 20 years. In that time, she has donated over 88 items to the MHCTC and in 2002 created the Missouri Historical Costume and Textile Collection Endowment from a matched $10,000 Kemper Award For Excellence in Teaching received as faculty in the Department of Textile and Apparel Management at the University of Missouri. Today, the endowment contains $100,000 and continues to grow through annual contributions. In appreciation of her dedication to the MHCTC, a few of her own personal artifact donations have been included below.

Silk Dress (1960s)
This silk party dress was hand made by Laurel’s mother for her Senior Ball in Deer Lodge, Montana and was the first silk garment in Laurel’s wardrobe.

Quilted Jacket (1991)
Inspired by the abstract designs of haute couture designer Koos Van Den Akker, Laurel constructed this quilted jacket in a class taught by Pam Gainor at Silks and More (now Appletree Quilting) in Columbia, Missouri in 1991.

Hand Sewn Cotton Dress (1979)
Laurel created this hand sewn Afghani-inspired dress utilizing her grandmother’s Batik Indian tablecloth and Peruvian beads acquired during her own time in the Peace Corps.

IN MEMORIAM

Kitty Dickerson (March 3, 1940 – January 15, 2017) Former TAM Department Chair Kitty Dickerson continued her support of the MHCTC during and after her years at Mizzou. Between 1997 and 2014 Kitty donated over 60 items to the MHCTC, including those featured below. Images: A) Kitty wearing black and gold sequined bodice (1980s); B) Kitty wearing home sewn maternity dress (1960s); C) HES Home Economics cotton t-shirt (1980s); D) Kitty wearing multi-colored acrylic sweater (1980s)
FASHION IS CHANGE. WE COLLECT CHANGE.

King Louis XIV of France once said, “Fashion is the mirror of history.” The Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection agrees and seeks to record and preserve that history through clothing and textile artifacts reflective of changing times. The MHCTC actively seeks men’s, women’s and children’s apparel and accessories and select household textiles with Missouri and University-related provenance, as well as those by notable past and present designers, manufacturers and retailers with strong documentable history.

The MHCTC NEEDS AND WISHES LIST includes but is not limited to the following: 19th century men’s dress; American Civil War military uniform (1861-65); 1900s-10s men’s suiting; 1940s zoot suit; late 1930s-50s junior dresses from the St. Louis market; 1970s men’s platform shoes. If you are interested in donating clothing or textile artifacts to the MHCTC, please contact Collection Manager Nicole Johnston at johnstonnr@missouri.edu or (573) 884-5001. Please do not send artifacts without prior consultation; the safety of unsolicited objects cannot be guaranteed.

TIMELY RESPONSE COLLECTING

The MHCTC also collects objects from major moments in more recent decades. As part of this timely response, the MHCTC currently seeks a 2015 University of Missouri Concerned Student 1950 t-shirt, a 2016 pink pussy hat and a 2016 red “Make America Great Again” baseball cap similar to those pictured above. If you own examples of any of these items and would be interested in having it preserved for future generations, please contact Collection Manager Nicole Johnston at johnstonnr@missouri.edu or (573) 884-5001.
MISSOURI HISTORICAL COSTUME AND TEXTILE COLLECTION ENDOWMENT

Each of the collection’s 6,000 artifacts as well as new acquisitions must be properly preserved for future generations. Contributions to the MISSOURI HISTORICAL COSTUME AND TEXTILE COLLECTION ENDOWMENT enable continued educational and exhibition programming as well as maintenance of appropriate collection management and preservation standards in climate-controlled facilities.

Examples of what your gift may support include:

- $30 (one archival textile storage box)
- $65 (50 hangers)
- $145 (one roll acid free archival tissue)
- $1,000 (one Ethafoam conservation form)

Partner in this endeavor by giving to the MHCTC Endowment as part of the COLLEGE OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES: https://mizzougivedirect.missouri.edu/Item.aspx?item_id=61 or contact the HES Office of Advancement at (573) 882-5142 or HESdevelopment@missouri.edu.