Textile projects designed to help the aging

Students in the course Textiles, Apparel, and Innovation designed winter boots that improve circulation and a jacket with built-in headphones for people in wheelchairs, among other products to improve the lives of senior citizens and disabled people. The course is taught by JUAN HINESTROZA, assistant professor of fiber science & apparel design. To help the students develop their concepts, local senior citizens and people with disabilities attended classes throughout the semester. This year’s projects are so impressive that some of the design teams have filed invention disclosures, the first step to applying for a patent.

Ashdown earns Distinguished Scholar Award

SUSAN ASHDOWN, the Helen G. Canoyer Professor of Apparel Design, received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Textile Apparel Association (ITAA) in October 2009. The award is presented to a faculty member who has contributed outstanding scholarship to the field of textiles and apparel. As part of the honor, Ashdown delivered a lecture at the annual ITAA meeting titled “Technology in Research and Teaching: Exploring Novel Landscapes,” a discussion of her scholarly work with the 3D body scanner and of the issues surrounding new technologies in teaching and research.

Nutrition professor wins USDA teaching award

DAVID LEVITSKY, professor of nutrition and psychology, earned a 2009 Excellence in College and University Teaching Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He received the award, given for “effective and innovative pedagogy evidenced by successive years of sustained, meritorious, and exceptional teaching,” at the annual meeting of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities in Washington, D.C., held in November 2009. Since arriving at Cornell in 1968, Levitsky has taught thousands of undergraduates and graduate students about the principles of food intake, weight loss and gain, and nutrition. His popular introductory course, Nutrition, Health, and Society, has about 600 students.

D.C. schools chancellor Michelle Rhee discusses education reform

MICHELLE RHEE ARTS ’92, chancellor of the Washington, D.C., public schools system, returned to campus to discuss her plans to reform one of the nation’s most troubled districts. The talk was sponsored by the Iscol Family Program for Leadership Development in Public Service, which is housed in the College. During her visit, Rhee also met with Human Ecology students to discuss education policy.

Bensadoun named honorary professor of French university

ANDRÉ BENSADOUN, Cornell professor emeritus of nutritional sciences, was named an honorary professor at the National Polytechnic Institute of Toulouse, France, for his lifetime accomplishments, which include more than 100 academic papers, most pertaining to plasma lipoproteins, lipases, and their receptors. Thirty-two graduate students have completed their training in his laboratory. Recently, Bensadoun and Dr. Stephen Young in the cardiology department at the University of California–Los Angeles identified a new receptor for lipoprotein lipase, an enzyme responsible for the degradation of triglycerides in the blood. Defective expression of this receptor causes high blood levels of triglycerides in mice and humans.