Outstanding Graduate of the Year

Benjamin Touchette, Central Michigan University, is AATCC’s 2011 Outstanding College Graduate of the Year. He received a plaque and US$1,000 in recognition of this achievement. Graduating seniors from each AATCC student chapter may be nominated for the award by their advisors.

Touchette’s advisor, Usha Chowdhary says, “Ben is an exceptional student who is self-motivated, extremely well-organized, a true leader, and brilliant. He is very mature for his age. His sincerity, willingness to learn, quick grasp of complicated matters, and desire to try new things impress me the most about him. He steps out of the box and has taken advantage of study abroad program organized by the department in Paris, involvement with the fashion show organized by the students’ organization, and much more to broaden his horizons beyond the classroom setting. Despite being President of three student organizations, he has maintained a respectable grade point average of 3.84 on a four point scale. He is a forward thinker who has planned his career far ahead in time. I rank him in top 5% of the thousands of students that I have taught since 1975.”

For more about Touchette and other students receiving AATCC recognition within their chapters, see the June 7 and June 21 issues of AATCC News.

Foundation Awards
$13,000+

The AATCC Foundation awards thousands of dollars in grants and prizes each year. The Gavin Family Scholarship winner, Color Solutions International scholar, and six recipients of Metro scholarships were recently announced.

Rachel Anderson, North Carolina State University Anderson was awarded the US$5,000 Charles E. Gavin III Family Scholarship based on her leadership, financial need, academic record, and work experience. She is studying Textile Engineering with a minor in Industrial and Systems Engineering. Though she started as a Computer Engineering student, Anderson realized that she “was more interested in using computers than making them.” She says, “I have since realized how broad a field Textiles is, and have found a specific niche within the Textile Engineering discipline that feels almost as if it was created for me.” Anderson hopes to use her skills to model and optimize outsourcing and response to fluctuations in demand within the textile industry.

Professor Melissa PasquiniI praises Anderson’s work ethic and intellect. “The types of questions that she asks both during and outside of class indicated that she not only comprehended the information, but that she was applying, analyzing, and synthesizing the material.

Amanda Grisham, Oregon State University Amanda Grisham was awarded the 2011 Color Solutions International Textile & Apparel Design Scholarship. Grisham recently completed her junior year as an Apparel Design & Merchandise Management major. She is also pursuing a minor in Business & Entrepreneurship.

Grisham says her career goal is to “create garments that are functional, practical, and beautiful.” Advisor Brigitte Clover says Grisham has already sought out “opportunities to better prepare herself for her future career”—including joining AATCC as a student and attending a regional meeting of the Association.

The US$2,500 Color Solutions International scholarship is awarded annually to a student studying textile or apparel design.

Elizabeth Hogan, University of Rhode Island Lisa Hogan considers the Textile Marketing program a great opportunity to pursue her interests in marketing without being a full-time business student. She also plans to complete a minor in Art.

Jill Austin, University of Rhode Island Austin is studying Textile Merchandising and Design, with a minor in Art History. She says she is obtaining fundamental business skills and studying “all aspects of fashion,” but designing clothes has been her passion since she was 10 years old. Austin plans to attend graduate school after completing her degree and hopes someday to show a collection at New York’s Fashion week.

Dana DeBoer, University of Rhode Island DeBoer is pursuing a BS in Textiles, Marketing & Design. Her minor is in Fine Art. DeBoer created her own fashion magazine and currently interns for a fashion blog. She hopes to pursue a career with a major fashion publication.

Amanda Steele, University of Rhode Island Amanda Steele has a goal of working in the military textile industry. She says, “Innovations in textiles can provide a huge advantage to the men and women fighting for America; keeping these men and women safe at battle means a great deal to me.” She is studying textile science in hopes of being one of the innovators in the industry.

Sanja Josiah, University of Rhode Island As a Textile Merchandising & Design major, Josiah is eager to share her creativity. She explains that fashion is three-dimensional art—“taking a drawing from a sheet of paper and giving it shape and angles, making it realistic, bringing it to life.” Josiah plans to return to her home country of Liberia to build a fashion design school.

Elina Franco, University of Rhode Island Elina Franco plans to translate her major in Fashion Merchandising and minor in Business into a career as a buyer for a major retailer. She says, “No matter what, I know I will be successful in my career because when I want to achieve something, I do not give up.”

Poster Competition
Fosters Innovation

The AATCC Materials Research Poster Competition promotes product development from a materials perspective. Congratulations to the winners!

Industrial/Technical/Sports Materials
1st Place: An Investigative Study: Heat Dissipation in Firefighter Suits by Juliana Nymeyer, Denise Beldis, and Michael Chargualaf of North Carolina State University
2nd Place: Zorb Golf...When Technology Meets Fashion by Jessica Salazar of Texas State University

Medical/Biomedical/Protective Materials and Devices
1st Place: Citric Acid Crosslinked Ecliptopus ZnI Fibers for Biomedical Applications by Quruan Jiang and Wei Li of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2nd Place: Fabrication of Hollow Nanoparticles from Corn Storage Protein Zein for Potential Biomedical Applications by Helen Xu and Yue Zhang of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Functional/Smart/Nano Materials
1st Place: Zinc Oxide/Nylon & Plasma-Assisted Ecliptopus Fibers for Warfare Protective Applications by Narendranar Vittal, Joshua Nowak, Rupesh Navalwaha, and Michael Sieber of North Carolina State University
2nd Place: Fluorescent Surface Coatings for Aerospace Composite Damage Detection by Ryan Toth of the University of Washington

The September/October issue of AATCC Review will include photos of each winning entry. Complete posters may also be viewed online. Details of the 2012 competition will be posted shortly.

Correction
The winning paper in the 2011 Herman and Myrtle Goldstein Student Paper Competition was co-authored by Jinlin Zhang and Priscilla Tan.