



CELEBRATING

1000

years

HOME ECONOMICS
& HUMAN ECOLOGY



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL,
LIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Home Economics & Human Ecology THROUGH THE DECADES

We are delighted in this year's Annual Report to recognize those whose century of work and study in the field of Home Economics/Human Ecology at the U of A, over the decades and continuing today, has been instrumental in enhancing everyday life.

The Department of Household Economics was established in the Faculty of Arts and Science in 1918, ten years after the University opened its doors in 1908. Mabel Patrick was the Department's first lecturer. She became Director of the School of Household Economics in 1928 and held the role until 1956. In 1976 the School of Household Economics became the Faculty of Home Economics, with Dr. Elizabeth Empey appointed as Dean. The Faculty included three departments at that time: Clothing & Textiles, Family Studies, and Foods and Nutrition.



1918

*Fashions of the Time. Girls playing softball.
Photo courtesy of the University of Alberta
archives accession number 78-3-41*



1929

*Home Ec. students and staff. Miss Shaver,
Mildred Paskins, Miss McIntyre, Mrs. I.K. Hale,
Miss Brown, Ada Luet, Lil Milne, Margaret
McFarlane, Edweena McCaffary, Kathleen
Howes. Photo courtesy of the University of
Alberta archives accession number 78-3-55.*

Cover Photo: Edith Catherine McKinnon, first graduate in 1921. Photo courtesy of the University of Alberta archives accession number 78-3-46.

In 1993, the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry and the Faculty of Home Economics were merged. The Departments of Clothing & Textiles and Family Studies stayed together to form the Department of Human Ecology. The Department of Foods & Nutrition joined Food Science to eventually become the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, all within the newly named Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics.

The Faculty name changed once more in 2007 to become the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences.



Dr. Sherry Ann Chapman

2018 Empey Lecture

The annual Empey Lecture is delivered in honour of Dr. Elizabeth Empey, former Dean of Home Economics (1960–1976). The 2018 Lecture theme was easily selected—to reflect upon 100 years of Home Economics and Human Ecology education at the U of A. The speaker selection was equally straightforward, given our topic. Dr. Sherry Ann Chapman, as a Human Ecology PhD alumna, Professional Human Ecologist (PHEc), history lover and adjunct professor in the department, was deemed to be an excellent fit. She presented an overview of the culture, social movements, values and attitudes, impacting the study of Home Economics/Human Ecology across the decades and into the future. In doing so, she reminded us too, of notable contributions from past faculty members and alumni in her talk entitled “Stories of Enhancing Everyday Life: 100 Years of Home Economics and Human Ecology at the U of A.”

A large audience of about 200 was in attendance and other faculty and friends gathered across the province to view the livestreamed event in Calgary, Red Deer, Olds, Medicine Hat and Grand Prairie. The Lecture can be viewed online at https://youtu.be/AtxhTC2J_Hc



1945

Biochemistry Class. Mildred Logman, Gwen Caverhill, Bonnie Young, Alice Poohkay, Marion Finn. Photo courtesy of the University of Alberta archives accession number 78-3-61.



1968

Dr. Empey and Mrs. Duggan-Cook. Dr. Empey served as Dean from 1960–1976. Photo courtesy of University of Alberta archives accession number 78-3-29.



1977

Home Economics Ring Ceremony. Photo courtesy of the University of Alberta archives accession number 82-74-17.

Fashion: History, Design, Sustainability

Dr. Anne Bissonnette's scholarly accomplishments were recognized and disseminated in many ways over the past year. In December, she received the Faculty of ALES Ed and Peggy Tyrchniewicz Award for Innovation in Teaching. In May, the prestigious journal *Dress* published her article "Victorian Tea Gowns: A Case of High Fashion Experimentation".

At the Costume Society of America (CSA) conference Dr. Bissonnette presented "Untangling 1790s Fashion: Citizen Science at Play", a topic related to her SSHRC research. While in the area, she conducted field research at Mount Vernon to measure George and Martha Washington's clothing.

She also designed and constructed garments for juried competitions at the International Textiles and Apparel Association (ITAA) conference in Florida and for the CSA National Symposium in Williamsburg, Virginia (See photos). At the CSA meeting, she delivered three talks, one on the 2017 graduate student exhibition, "Misfits: Bodies, Dress and Sustainability," from which her garment designs emerged, a second on 1778 fashion plates, and another on a ca. 1796 Canadian portrait that comprises part of her SSHRC research.

Dr. Bissonnette generated local interest in her role as Curator of the Anne Lambert Clothing & Textiles Collection as a result of a feature in the July 2018 issue of Edmonton's *Avenue Magazine*.

Juried design entries for the CSA conference (top and middle) and the ITAA conference (bottom) by Dr. Anne Bissonnette.



Combating Stereotypes, Promoting Abilities

Dr. Megan Strickfaden's research focuses on promoting the abilities of persons with disabilities and older adults through human-centred design. In the past year she has had many successes including: receiving a research and teaching fellowship in Art+Design from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, receiving the University of Alberta Great Supervisor Award and being promoted to full Professor (as of July 2018). Along with work at the Cambridge Workshop on Universal Access and Assistive Technology, and leading the 6th annual ALTER doctoral school "Caring for disAbility" in Lille France, Dr. Strickfaden presented 9 papers, published 3 book chapters and 2 journal articles in 2017-18.

Dr. Strickfaden (rt) with Prof Joyce Thomas at U of Illinois



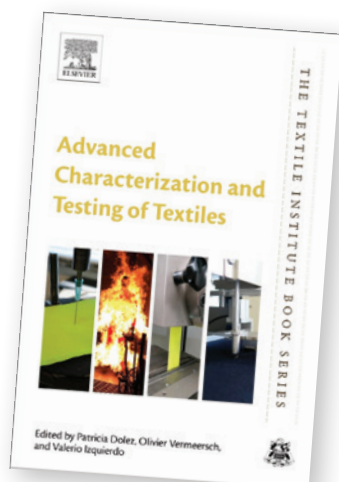
Exploring the Design Process

Over the past year, Dr. Arlene Oak delivered several presentations on the ethnographic research findings resulting from her work on the "Thinking While Doing" SSHRC Partnership Grant. This work explores how people work together to design and construct innovative buildings. Presentations were given at the Humanities Computing Conference (U of A), the Association for Collegiate Schools of Architecture conference in Detroit, the Structures for Inclusion Conference in Portland, the Association of Architectural Educators conference in Oxford, UK, and the Society for the Social Studies of Science in Boston. In addition, the paper "Cracking open co-creation: Categories, stories and values in a collaborative design process", was published in *Design Studies*, and the article "Building consensus: Design media and multimodality in architecture education" was published in *Discourse & Society*.

New Book on Advanced Characterization and Testing of Textiles

Dr. Patricia Dolez, our recently hired faculty member in textile science, is coeditor of the book *Advanced Characterization and Testing of Textiles*. This book (Elsevier, September 2017) introduces the principles of advanced characterization and testing in use in the textile industry.

Textiles are tested in order to assess product quality, measure performance, and ensure regulatory compliance. The increased variety of end uses and performance requirements associated with technical textiles has led to new developments in testing methods. The book is intended to be used both as a textbook for students and as a resource for the industry and academia.



New Zealand Sabbatical

Dr. Rachel McQueen recently completed her sabbatical at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. She spent eight months as a visiting researcher at Otago's Centre for Materials Science and Technology (CMAST). Dr. McQueen's primary research area is investigating the mechanisms for how odour compounds, particularly those present in underarm sweat, are retained by textile fibres. While at Otago she developed a method whereby extracts of odour compounds could be taken from textiles so that a comparison between how various odorants are released and retained by different textile fibres can be made.

International Textile Science Interns

Hugo Breton and Merieme Boutaib are two international trainees who did their end-of-engineering-program internship under the supervision of Dr. Dolez in winter 2018. Hugo comes from ENSISA, a textile engineering school in Mulhouse, France and worked on test methods for electrical arc rating of protective fabrics. Merieme studied at ESITH, a textile engineering school in Casablanca, Morocco. She completed a 4-month internship to work on the development of a textile cooling device.

Reflecting on her experiences here, Merieme comments, "This internship was my first experience in Canada... I really enjoyed being part of the team, and I am grateful to have one of the greatest supervisors here... It is the most insightful experience that I ever had."

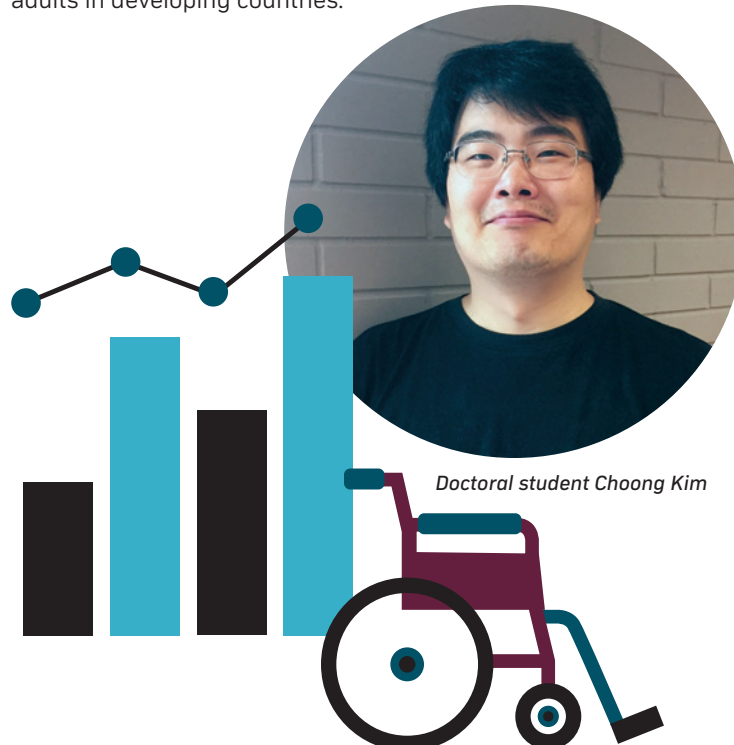


Hugo Breton, Dr. Patricia Dolez, Merieme Boutaib

WHO Student Internship in Japan

In fall 2017 Human Ecology doctoral student, Choong Kim, won a highly competitive seven week internship at the World Health Organization (WHO) Centre for Health Development in Kobe, Japan. Choong worked on a WHO-OECD research project to produce globally comparable data on inequalities in disability prevalence among older adults and the effects on economic and health systems. His work involved identifying publicly available data sets on aging and health; harmonizing datasets in preparation for analysis; performing a quality check on the analytic results; and helping to interpret results. WHO Kobe senior international scholars shared with him the latest knowledge about global interventions that have been implemented to address health deficits and disparities among older adults.

Choong comments that this internship helped him move toward his career goal of joining an international think tank and to recommit to doing research that helps improve the health conditions of older adults in developing countries.



Doctoral student Choong Kim

Contributing to National Carers Day 2018

Every year the first Tuesday of April is National Carers Day, an opportunity to raise awareness among Canadians about the outstanding contribution carers make to our nation. A partnership among the Department's Research on Aging Policies and Practices Program (RAPP), the AGE-WELL National Centres of Excellence program, Carers Canada (formally known as Canadian Caregiver Coalition), and HUDDOL (an online caregiver support community) agreed on the theme *Connecting Carers* for 2018. RAPP researchers Dr. Janet Fast and Dr. Megan Strickfaden helped develop educational materials and a social media campaign on "Health Connections and Social Connections" and the role of technology in facilitating these connections. (See <http://www.carerscanada.ca/awareness/>).

Using carers' own stories, a series of videos was also produced to illustrate the importance of getting connected to other carers, and health and social services. These videos can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2xxtNxsEiw> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMp-hYNkxYI>.

Dr. Janet Fast



Family Functioning in Chinese Families

Dr. Deanna Williamson and Tina Watchman, project coordinator, will present “Family Functioning in Chinese Families in Canada: Doing and Undoing Culture,” at the 2018 National Council on Family Relations. The presentation highlights some findings about the everyday processes engaged in by Chinese families who participated in Dr. Williamson’s SSHRC-funded study on family functioning of contemporary families with young children. Findings show that Chinese participant families’ lives were dominated by their children’s needs for care, household responsibilities, and paid work demands. While everyday processes such as communication, fulfilling roles and responsibilities, and drawing boundaries, are consistent with those identified in established family functioning models, the ways in which Chinese families enacted the processes differed in some respects. Most notable was the influence of culture as they attempted to “bridge” Chinese and Canadian/Western cultures. Many participants favoured the latter in relation to parenting, communication, and notions of nuclear family, while simultaneously they emphasized the maintenance of aspects of Chinese culture such as mutual support and care, and Chinese language, food, customs, and celebrations. Given the ethnocultural diversity of families in Canada, findings about how Chinese families do and undo Canadian/Western and Chinese cultures can be used to improve the cultural relevance of programs and policies aimed at enhancing family functioning.

Sabbatical Travels

Dr. Rhonda Breitzkreuz recently returned from a sabbatical in the Department of Social Sciences at Swinburne University in Melbourne, Australia. While there, she conducted research on child care policy in Canada and Australia, and also took part in an international conference panel on the topic of “Child Care Flexibility at the Crossroads” at the Australian Social Policy Conference in Sydney.

Travelling to the Collegio Carlo Alberto at the University of Turin, Italy and the Department of Social Policy, Social Work, and Social Justice at University College Dublin, Ireland, Dr. Breitzkreuz spoke about her SSHRC-funded research project, “Are mothers opting-out? Exploring underemployment among mothers with preschool children.” This research examines why women in Canada, while having exceptional educational attainment and above average employment rates compared to women in other developed countries, continue to have lower employment rates and lower earnings than their male counterparts.

Navigating Family Relationships

Dr. Matt Johnson and Dr. Adam Galovan, received a SSHRC Insight Grant for research aimed at exploring one central question: How can vibrant family ties with intimate partners, children, and parents be achieved throughout life? This project draws on an unprecedented source of data, the German Family Panel (pairfam) for studying individual characteristics, relationship dynamics, and contextual factors that contribute to building family relationships over time. Dr. Johnson received a Mercator Fellowship through the German Research Foundation that will allow him to spend the year working in Germany with the pairfam research team while on sabbatical in 2018–2019.



GRADUATE STUDIES

Promoting positive parent-child relationships

Master's student Natasha Weber's community-based research examined how Parent-Child Mother Goose (PCMG), a parenting program hosted by Fort Saskatchewan Families First Society (FSFFS), promotes positive parent-child relationships. The research focused on exploring parent-child relationships through attachment theory and selected factors that contribute to positive parenting approaches (parental self-efficacy and emotion regulation). While previous research on the PCMG program had identified many positive impacts on children's development, the literature had yet to quantitatively explore emotion regulation as an outcome of the program.

The study design used qualitative data gathered from current and past facilitators and quantitative data from pre- and post-test questionnaires filled out by program participants. Overall, the study concluded that the PCMG program facilitates learning that promotes positive parent-child relationships, increases parents' confidence and emotion regulation skills, and develops social support systems for parents. A focus group participant recalled a parent telling her that she "sings more and yells less" because of the program—powerful evidence of the program's impact.

This study adds to the existing literature on parenting programs, facilitation techniques, and attachment measurements. As this was a community-based research project, the results will also inform planning, program improvement and funding for the FSFFS.

Natasha extends thanks to her graduate supervisors, Dr. Pushpanjali Dashora and Dr. Berna Skrypnik, and to Heather Boonstra, the Executive Director of FSFFS and Kim Heatherington, the program coordinator. She expressed that it was a true pleasure to work with the FSFFS as they committed time, expertise, and a great amount of enthusiasm and heart to this research project. We congratulate her on her convocation in November 2017.



Graduate Program

Graduate Student Awards 2017

Andrew Magnaye PhD
Doris Badir Graduate Research Fellowship

Josee Chartrand MA
EDQG Founders Graduate Scholarship

Mariko Wakefield MSc
Betty Crown Graduate Scholarship in Textiles & Clothing

Vanessa Zembal MA
Graduate Student Travel Award FGSR

Leidy Zuluaga MSc
Duggan Memorial Scholarship FGSR

Congratulations 2017–18 Convocants!

NOVEMBER 2017

- ♥ **Laurel Sakaluk-Moody** PhD
- ♥ **Rebecca Horne** MSc(TB)
Family Ecology and Practice
- ♥ **Ropafadzo Mamutse** MSc(CB)
Family Ecology and Practice
- ♥ **Janet Nahirniak** MSc(CB)
Aging
- ♥ **Yara Saegh** MA(CB)
Material Culture
- ♥ **Natasha Weber** MSc(TB)
Family Ecology and Practice
- ♥ **Wayne Williams** MA(CB)
Material Culture

JUNE 2018

- ♥ **Nicole Furtak** PhD
- ♥ **Farzan Gholamreza** PhD
- ♥ **Mohammed Abdul-Bari** MSc(TB)
Textiles and Clothing
- ♥ **Anna Chudyk** MSc(CB)
Aging
- ♥ **Meghan Furler** MA(CB)
Material Culture
- ♥ **Linda-Marie Johnson** MA(TB)
Material Culture
- ♥ **Kiranpreet Lalli** MSc(CB)
Family Ecology & Practice

TB - Thesis based program CB - Course based program

Undergraduate Programs

NEWS AND AWARDS

Rhodes Scholar

Mackenzie Martin, a graduate of the combined Human Ecology BSc/BEd degree program, and who also pursued a certificate from the U of A's Peter Lougheed Leadership College, has been awarded a 2018 Rhodes Scholarship. As such, Mackenzie will be in rare company—each year, a class of only 100 Rhodes scholars is chosen from countries around the world, 11 from Canada. Her scholarly focus on both teen parents and their children and on older adults reflects a broader interest in exploring well-being across the life course—a focus of her Human Ecology studies. In Fall 2018 Mackenzie will pursue a master of science in evidence-based social intervention and policy evaluation at the University of Oxford, with a career in academia as her goal.



Roger S. Smith Undergraduate Research Awards

Two Human Ecology undergraduate students, Jocelyn Hebert and Stephanie Gariepy, are the 2018 recipients of Roger S. Smith Research awards, each valued at \$5000. The award aims to cultivate research partnerships between undergraduates and faculty and provides funding for research-based activity over the summer. Jocelyn is working on part of Dr. Adam Galovan's larger Couple Well-Being Project to help in the coding of qualitative comments made by study respondents when asked to describe "a specific couple that you know whose relationship is significantly better than most." This will aid in identifying meaningful themes believed to be integral to vibrant, rich relationships.

Stephanie Gariepy is working with Collection's Manager Vlada Blinova on a project related to Indigenous cultural artifacts in the Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection. Our many traditional garments as well as fashion items inspired by native culture need to be properly inventoried and researched. The proposed project will contribute to a continuing effort to improve the Collection's database and public website. This could encourage conversations about issues of cultural appropriation and material objects as evidence of human behaviour, technology development, and cultural influences.



New BSc in Fashion Business Management

The Faculty of ALES and the Alberta School of Business are excited to announce the approval of a new Bachelor of Science degree in Fashion Business Management. The program is unique in Western Canada and is aimed at meeting the goals of students who aspire to work in the modern, business-focused global fashion industry. Graduates of this program will learn the analytical and management tools, leadership skills, and ethical values required of fashion business professionals. The first cohort of students will begin in Fall 2018. (As this program is not available for direct entry, students are encouraged to apply to spend their first year in the BSc in Human Ecology, Clothing, Textiles & Material Culture major and then apply to transfer to the Fashion Business Management program for their second year).



Practicum Program

Kathryn Chandler Retires

Best wishes are extended to Kathryn Chandler who will be retiring from the Department of Human Ecology in August 2018. Kathryn's entire academic career has been at the U of A, beginning with obtaining her BSc degree in Home Economics (Class of 1980), and a Master's degree in 1983. She was a sessional instructor in the Clothing and Textiles area for many years until her full-time appointment to the department in 2005. Though the Practicum program is now in its 44th year, Kathryn's full-time attention to it as Practicum Coordinator meant that dedicated research could be done to seek improvements and to establish long-term relationships with community partners. As a respected and award-winning educator, and much-loved student mentor, Kathryn has made a difference in students' lives. Evidence of this can be seen on the Faculty's Teaching Wall of Fame—her name is there 18 times in its 20 year history and she was a recipient of the University's William Hardy Alexander Award for Undergraduate Teaching in 2007. In reflecting on her work in Human Ecology, Kathryn describes the recent approval of the BSc. in Fashion Business Management as one of her most satisfying accomplishments. It was a long-time goal and she is excited about the first new cohort coming into the program this fall. Kathryn's retirement plans are still evolving but more travel is high on her priority list. Dr. Sherry Ann Chapman will be taking over the Coordinator's position when she joins the Department in August 2018.



Kathryn Chandler

Focus on Sustainability

Two recent graduates from the Clothing, Textiles & Material Culture major in Human Ecology, Lauren Degenstein and Michele Fowler, credit their recent practicum experiences in expanding their passion for and knowledge of how to achieve sustainability in the global textile and apparel industry.

In spring 2018, Lauren had a unique opportunity to travel to Wellington, New Zealand to complete her practicum at The Formary. Founded in 2008, to address the abundance of textile waste ending up in landfills each year, The Formary transforms surplus fibres into value-added products. Its goal is to divert landfill waste and to build circular supply chains. She noted the benefits of working at a small firm which enabled her attendance at customer meetings, public education presentations, and project meetings. This provided insight into the need for a systems approach to textile waste, with everyone working towards change at different levels of government and in different stages of industry. Lauren plans to use the knowledge gained from her practicum to actively research similar approaches to textile waste in Canada.

Michele Fowler's practicum placement was at Unbelts, a global, certified Benefit Corporation in Edmonton, founded by designer Claire Theaker-Brown in 2012. Michele's work there involved promotion of Fashion Revolution Week Canada 2018. Fashion Revolution is a global movement that originated in the UK in recognition of the 2013 Rana Plaza factory collapse in Bangladesh. Joining over 90 countries that participate in the movement, Theaker-Brown was assigned Canada's 2018 Country Coordinator role. Michele's project was to organize the annual Change of Clothes event for Fashion Revolution Week in Edmonton. It was set up as a one-stop "non-shop" in a local community hall and included a clothing swap, and up-cycling, mending, and donation stations to encourage consumers to reduce textile waste.



Michele Fowler, bottom left, and Lauren Degenstein, far right with fellow Human Ecology Students



Left to right: Elizabeth Richards, Anne Lambert and husband David Howatt.

Anne Lambert Clothing & Textiles Collection

Established in 1972, the Clothing & Textiles Collection has been renamed in honour of Anne Lambert to recognize her role in its creation and development. It is the largest and most significant collection of its kind held by a Canadian university. To celebrate the renaming, a reception was held at the Faculty Club in November with Anne, her family, and more than one hundred friends and colleagues. An official plaque in the lobby of the Human Ecology Building reminds visitors of the indelible impression Anne made on scores of students and colleagues who credit her as their mentor and inspiration for studying textiles and dress history.

Muriel Shortreed



Generous donor funds Lab Renovation

Muriel Shortreed (class of '45) is a remarkable donor to four endowed scholarship funds at the U of A that she has established as well as to the Anne Lambert Clothing & Textiles Collection. Throughout her 33-year career as a home economics instructor at Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, and as a long-time member of the Alberta Home Economics Association and the Alberta Teachers' Association, Muriel has supported students and education as a teacher and a philanthropist.

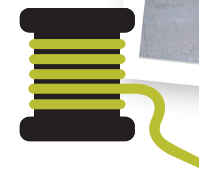
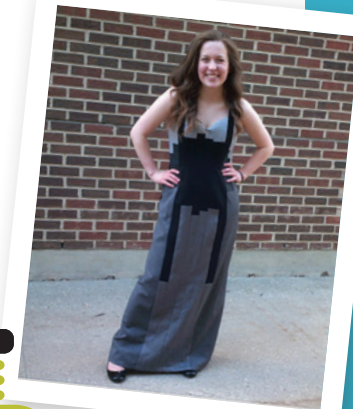
In early 2018 we were delighted to learn that Muriel has chosen to also fund the entire renovation of Human Ecology's Apparel Design Lab; the space will be renamed in her honour. It is a most welcome gift! The project is targeted to begin in spring 2019.

Exhibit: "re-Vision and re-Turn"

The challenge for 4th year Human Ecology apparel design students was to remake used clothing into something new. The project criteria required use of at least 40% upcycled materials, which may have included favourite garments from the past or hidden gems from Goodwill. An added incentive for this class included eligibility for a \$1000 design award sponsored by Montreal fabric firm Télio. Student Quinn Falconer was awarded the prize for her city skyline-inspired gown.

The students' garments are now on display in an exhibit named "re-Vision and re-Turn" in the Human Ecology building until October 20, 2018.

Quinn Falconer, 2018 Télio design award winner.



Chair's Message

A century of Home Economics/Human Ecology degree programs at U of A is a significant milestone that we are proud to celebrate! That we are one of the longest standing programs on campus speaks to the ongoing relevance of our work that has long enhanced people's everyday lives. Our longevity would not be possible without the inspiring vision and steadfast commitment of academic leaders and faculty members in the Household Economics, Home Economics, and Human Ecology units over our history. I'd like to thank our predecessors for the path they forged and the foundation they laid as we build on their legacy of high quality education and research programs. We acknowledge too, our alumni's contributions over the past 100 years. Alumni have engaged in diverse careers within government, industry, and non-profit sectors, enhancing people's quality of life at home, at work, and in the community. Through application of the knowledge and skills developed in their undergraduate and graduate programs, they underscore the value of the work we do in Human Ecology. Our century long presence at U of A gives us much to celebrate! Please join the celebrations by being part of the Human Ecology Signature Quilt project and we hope you are able to attend the Centennial Celebration dinner on Sept. 21, 2018.



Dr. Deanna Williamson
*Department Chair,
Human Ecology*

Centennial Celebration Wind-Up

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION DINNER FACULTY CLUB | SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

All Home Economics and Human Ecology alumni and their guests are invited to celebrate the centennial of our program and enjoy an evening of camaraderie and memories with fellow alumni. You can register to attend at <https://www.ualberta.ca/alumni/events/alumni-weekend/all-events>

Human Ecology Signature Quilt

Initiated and designed by Vlada Blinova and sewn by staff and volunteers, this fund-raising project allows alumni, faculty and staff to mark their connections with the Department by creating quilt squares with their signatures. Funds collected will be used to support the creation of an endowed textile conservator position. For more information, click <https://www.ualberta.ca/human-ecology/human-ecology-centennial/signature-quilt>. View the Signature Quilt and donor list at the Centennial Alumni dinner on September 21, 2018.

*Vlada Blinova with
Centennial Quilt*

