2011-2012 The Warnaco Group, Inc. Scholarships
TWO ITM MAJORS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

ITM is proud to announce that the Warnaco Scholarship Selection Committee has chosen Larissa Zemke and Colette Young as recipients of the 2011-2012 The Warnaco Group, Inc. Scholarships. The judges were impressed with the successful scholarship recipients’ professionalism, leadership potential in the field of fashion, and service to the global community.

The program is especially thankful to Warnaco and its dedicated employees for providing extra funding to ensure that this and future years’ selection would cover FIT’s increased tuition.

Larissa was selected primarily for her outstanding academic performance, extensive international experience in global sourcing and production, and broad spectrum of volunteering activities. In demonstrating Larissa’s outstanding capabilities, one of her professors cited in his reference letter Larissa’s corporate social responsibility paper consisting of seventeen pages, seventy-seven footnotes, and content “substantial enough for submission in a graduate program.”

Larissa multi-lingual, speaking English, German, French, Arabic, Slovak, and Spanish, and has a multi-cultural background, having lived in six countries and continued her career in three of them. She took a foundation course, specializing in fashion and textiles, and attended a workshop in art and design in London as well as worked for Mumbai-headquartered Milaaya Embroideries and Ralph Lauren in Paris, Liska in Vienna, as well as Saks Fifth Ave., Bloomingdales, DZ Group, and Southpaw International: Vintage Clothing and Textiles in New York. Her experiences range from assisting in transactions involving high end designers like Givenchy, Chloe, Lanvin, and Sonia Rykiel, researching trends and suppliers, prospecting clients, and organizing store openings to assisting executives in promoting their garments and textiles.

Throughout her international education and career, Larissa engaged in volunteer activities, such as designing textile prints for Ann Yee, assisting in Intertek’s Ethical Sourcing Forum and well as USA-ITA’s conference, serving as the International Trade Student Association’s (ITSA) FIT Students Association (FITSA) representative, providing expertise as a French tutor at FIT’s Academic Skills Tutoring Center, organizing the flea market in her capacity as Fundraising Officer of the FIT Snow Club, assisting to organize and the Fusion Fashion Show: FIT vs. Parsons, exhibiting textile/surface designs in the Graduate Student Art Show at the Museum of FIT, competing in a half-marathon in Spartanburg as a member of the FIT Cross-Country Team, participating in Fight Hunger: Walk the World in Slovakia, and many more.

Over the long-term Larissa hopes to run her own company, which would combine her knowledge of textiles, fashion, embroidery, and design with her business acumen. Larissa and her siblings have different areas of interest: design, political science, economics, and engineering. It is her hope to one day collaborate and merge their expertise in these diverse disciplines. In the meantime, she aspires to learn the best practices from established enterprises, build a strong network of contacts, and enrich her background with additional technical and management skills.
Furthermore, Larissa plans to utilize her textile and design background to consult for non-for-profit, sustainable projects to empower people in developing countries.

**Colette** is currently a co-founder and owner of a clothing retailer and eCommerce site called L’Colette Boutique, which is targeted to young contemporary women. To launch the business in her early teens, she successfully conducted market research, prepared the business plans, negotiated with the contractors and vendors, and obtained financing through the Small Business Administration. Naturally skilled in entrepreneurship, Colette began her career in business when she was six years old, making jewelry and feathered headpieces and selling them to friends for a profit. As a result of her enterprising skills, she received two different entrepreneurial scholarships from Andrew McKelvey, the founder and former chief executive officer of Monster.com and National Federation of Independent Business.

Known for her ability to multi-task, Colette is also a wholesale intern at Prada, analyzing sales reports, market week and assisting in showroom merchandising. In addition, she interned at Firstmark Capital, a venture capital firm specializing in technology, where she was responsible for all sourcing activities pertaining to fashion and online retailing.

In her application for the scholarship, Colette outlined her deep interest in creating new enterprises, as well as her interest in luxury. Interviewed in The Today Show last year, Colette was recognized for her skills in this field and she believes that her manager, with whom she discussed potential opportunities, at Prada would consider her an innovator.

A multi-talented student, who speaks Korean, Japanese, and Italian, in addition to English, she wishes to combine her business acumen with her passion for being a catalyst for positive change. She cited The End of Poverty, which was written by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of Columbia University’s Earth Institute, as one of her favorite books, which influenced her thoughts on this.

As a result, Colette is now a highly valued volunteer of St. Francis of Assisi, where she spends time helping the homeless and offering missionary relief. She is also a member of New York University’s Net Impact Group, whose mission is to inspire, educate, and equip individuals to “use the power of business to create a more socially and environmentally sustainable world.” Her own Coco Zaza pop-up shops, which are concept-based businesses operated to sell pashmina scarves during peak holiday seasons in Oklahoma have been set up to donate fifteen per cent of sales to micro-finance, education, disaster relief causes, and food donations domestically and internationally. Colette also spoke at the United Nations last year with the view to achieving human rights in developing countries. In addition, she is a member of seven other humanitarian organizations.

We hope that you will all join us in congratulating Larissa and Colette for their well-deserved recognition.