

**NOMINATION FOR  
Team Award  
Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Zeta Chapter - Texas**

Team: Fashion's from the Cotton Patch  
Contact: Sandy Fry  
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**Team Members Position and Dates of Extension Employment:**

Sandra Fry, CEA-FCS, Fort Bend County, November 2004 - present  
Past President, Alpha Zeta Chapter, 2007  
National ESP Professional Development Committee Member, 2007 - present  
Galaxy III Facilities Sub-Committee Member, 2007 - present  
Joe Mask, CEA-AgNR, Fort Bend County, June 2005 - present  
District 9 Co-Director, Alpha Zeta Chapter  
Marilyn Simmons, CEA-FCS, Galveston County - October 2002 - present  
President, Alpha Zeta Chapter  
Jacque Gerke, Administrative Assistant, Fort Bend County  
Mary Staff, Administrative Assistant, Fort Bend County  
American Sewing Guild (ASG) - Houston Chapter

**Outstanding Programmatic Accomplishments:**

Due to rapid urbanization, FCS and AgNR agents came together to plan a program promoting Agricultural Literacy and economic impact of cotton production. There has been a revival of the home sewing industry. "Fashions from the Cotton Patch" became the event to merge agriculture, youth and adults that would promote the home sewing industry, thus promoting the agriculture industry of cotton production. The goals of the program were multi-faceted: 1) Promote inter-disciplinary programs; 2) Promote the cotton industry; 3) Promote the home sewing industry through the involvement of youth and adults; and 4) Provide an outlet for youth and adult home sewers to exhibit their accomplishments

American Sewing Guild (ASG) - Houston Chapter was invited to partner with Texas AgriLife Extension Service agents in Fort Bend and Galveston Counties to plan, promote and implement the program. The program consisted of a fashion show, luncheon and power point program that would promote the cotton industry from field to fashion. The fashion show would target adults and youth in all counties within the ASG - Houston Chapter membership.

The planning group met three times to determine the rules for the fashion show and logistics for the implementation of the activity. Joe Mask, CEA-AgNR was responsible for developing a power point entitled "From Field to Fashion" that would be given during the luncheon. Joe was also responsible for the evaluation of the entire program.

The committee developed guidelines for the fashion show resulting in four divisions: adult, youth ages 10-13, youth ages 14-17, and professional. The divisions were further divided by classes: casual,

wearable art, and elegant dress. Entry forms and marketing fliers were developed with over 2000 being distributed throughout the nine county are designated for participation.

Family and Consumer Sciences agents and ASG - Houston chapter members contacted local fabric businesses for door prizes. Contributors included Painted Pony Quilt Shop, Cactus Quilts, Time Treasured Quilts, Little Stitches Sewing Center, Quilter's Cottage, Cotton Incorporated, and Beasley Farmer's Gin.

Awards included ribbons and rosettes that were purchased through donations from various agriculture entities and cotton producers including: Fort Bend Farm Bureau, Fairchild's Farmer's Coop Gin, Barta Gin Company (Damon), Prosperity Bank (East Bernard), Kunz Farms, and Czech Heritage Society of Texas.

Luncheon participants were given the opportunity to vote on their favorite garment and model. Through this voting system, a Viewer's Choice award was presented in each division. The Viewer's Choice awards were sponsored by ASG - Houston Chapter, Sulky, and Walmart. Tote bags were filled with sewing supplies for each of the division winners.

A grand prize was given through judges' choice to the youth division. The winner received a Janome sewing machine donated by the Janome Corporation. Revenue for the activity was generated through donations, sponsorships, entry fees, and luncheon fees.

There were 16 entries participating in the fashion show. The youth age divisions were 10-13 and 14-17. However, there was one entry under the age of 10 competing successfully in the fashion show. Entrants were judged on appearance and on construction quality.

Every person attending the luncheon received a goodie bag which included a variety of cotton related items. Beasley Farmer's Gin provided 2 oz. of cotton seed oil for each attendee. Cotton Incorporated provided lip balm and magnets. ASG - Houston Chapter provided pencils, velcro, and seam guides for the goodie bags.

During registration, participants and attendees had the opportunity to observe a spinning demonstration conducted by a local 4-H leader. This demonstration emphasized cotton's past and present production methods for yarn development. Present technology was presented through the power point "From Field to Fashions".

There were a total of 105 people in attendance at the "Fashions from the Cotton Patch" activity. Ninety per cent of the evaluations were returned. One hundred per cent of the respondents felt the fashion show and presentation were excellent to good. The committee has taken all comments into consideration while planning the 2008 "Fashions from the Cotton Patch". Comments included: it was nice to see young people interested in sewing; enjoyed the information presented in the power point; got to view garments made from cotton after learning about it.

**Support Statement:**

"Fashions from the Cotton Patch" is an excellent example of Extension teamwork. This multi-disciplinary effort involved numerous companies and organizations. The event designed to promote the cotton industry was so successful that it has been scheduled again for August 2009.