2016 ITAA Fellow – Susan Ashdown

Dr. Susan Ashdown is the Helen G. Canoyer Professor in the Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design, the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University. She joined the faculty at Cornell University in 1991 and initiated a research program in the sizing and fit of apparel, after obtaining her doctoral degree at the University of Minnesota. In the year 2000, she acquired an alumna-funded 3D body scanner. Since this time her research group has continually expanded the ways in which 3D scan technology can be used in apparel research, and has achieved international renown. Dr. Ashdown's research focus in the area of technical apparel design has encompassed issues in sizing and fit of clothing, patternmaking, automated custom fit, the judging of apparel fit in research and industry settings, virtual fit, understanding body shape variation, anthropometry of the active body, mass customization, and functional apparel design. She is currently investigating the use of half scale dress forms developed from body scans as a tool to increase design creativity in academia and in the apparel industry.

Over her 30 year career teaching and conducting research in the field of apparel design Dr. Ashdown has authored and co-authored over 65 peer-reviewed research papers and book chapters, and has edited a book through Woodhead Publishing, *Sizing in clothing: Developing effective sizing systems for ready-to-wear clothing*. She and her research group have made 70 refereed presentations at international conferences, and she has presented over 40 invited lectures all over the world, in Mexico, Canada, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, mainland China, Brazil, South Africa, Vietnam, and in the United States. She has given seminars for many corporate and governmental entities ranging from the International Space Center in Houston, Texas to Land's End to Nike. She is a recipient of various awards including the 2009 Distinguished Scholar for ITAA. She has mentored 16 graduate students including five Ph.D. students. Of these students, eight are now teaching apparel, six at major research institutions. Among the many undergraduate classes she has taught, her favorite class, Fashion Draping, taught 21 times, has introduced 344 undergraduate students to creative patternmaking in a hands-on intensive introduction to the interactions among woven fabrics, garment shapes, and the body. Dr. Ashdown is also committed to teaching the next generation of clothing engineers, in her leadership in the development of the NSF funded project that can be seen at the website StyleEngineers.org. This initiative is designed to introduce middle school girls to STEM topics through their interest in fashion.