

Note of Appreciation for the 2016 ITAA Fellow Award

Susan P. Ashdown, Helen G. Canoyer Professor, Cornell University

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the honor of being selected as a Fellow of the International Textile and Apparel Association. Thank you all who participated in the writing of letters, the review, and the selection process. A special thanks to Lynn Boorady, my graduate student from – well, let's just say a while ago – and now my good colleague and friend, for nominating me. As I start my second-to-last year at Cornell, and look back on the amazing work done by the Cornell Body Scan Research Group, I can think of very little that I have done myself. Maybe a word here, and suggestion there – but the work has been that of my good colleagues and Co-PI's, the great project managers through the years, the many visitors from all over the world who have graced our lab, and the fantastic graduate students and undergraduates who have shared their own vision and been guided by ours. I wish I could list you all, but you know who you are. There is nothing done in this world, in my opinion, by any one person. It is the combination of different passions that result in the creation of worthy results, whether this is in research or creative work. When it works well, this is not any better expressed than in a university setting where colleagues interact – those with more or less experience, more or less knowledge, more or less passion, and more or less ability to do the hard work. I am so grateful that my career has been in a place where sharing is more prevalent than claiming 'ownership'; where ideas may not be agreed with but are respected; where the work is more important than the individual. It has also been a place with the guidance of many mentors, the friendship of colleagues, and with solid and meaningful support from alumni donors, from my university, my college, and my department. I have enjoyed my career more than I can express. Thank you all who participated with me. I look forward in the next two years to passing the torch, and hope to leave a place where another can take their own direction to build on the work of the Cornell Body Scan Research Group!