

2007 ITAA Fellow – Molly Eckman



Dr. Eckman currently holds the position of Professor in the Department of Design and Merchandising. She is an inspiration and mentor for her students and for members of our industry. She is a graduate of University of Maryland and has been at Colorado State University since she completed her Ph.D. in 1992. Dr. Eckman has been a member of ITAA for over 22 years and has held an elected office or contributed other services for 15 of those years, including the role of our President. Her various contributions to ITAA also include Selection, Nominating, Search, and Membership Committees to name a few. Dr. Eckman has exhibited a wide range of talents for our organization as a visionary, researcher, and moderator; and provided international awareness and organizational and executive skills.

Dr. Eckman's international work has included numerous invitations including as an external examiner at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and as a lecturer in Scotland, Spain, and Puerto Rico. Her global impact has extended to ITAA through the following examples:

- A fully funded Fulbright-Hays group project totaling \$83,000 entitled "Fabric of Indian Life" which provided her and numerous peers access to research and discovery in India this past year.
- An International Study given by the Sara Douglas Fellowship partnered with ITAA for the "Analysis of Turkey's textile and apparel industry."
- A presenter at the Korean Society of Clothing and Textiles/ ITAA Joint World Conference in 2001.

Dr. Eckman was also awarded grants for research through the USDA and the U.S. Department of Education International Development Studies project. These opportunities have taken her from Eurasia, to South East Asia and Central America.

Dr. Eckman's scholarship has focused on consumer decision making, international markets, and ethnic consumers. She has published over 60 works including award winning papers. Her grantsmanship has exceeded \$400,000. and she serves as the Scientific Excellence Advisor for the National Textile Center.

These outstanding contributions to our field do not even touch on Dr. Eckman's excellence in providing education, advising, and mentoring of over 400 undergraduate students and 20 graduate degrees during her professional career. She has been a constant figure in our field of education for the past 30 years. Dr. Eckman retired from Colorado State University in 2013 and continues to enjoy collaborating with colleagues on her research.