

**ROBERTA “BOBBI” SMITH**  
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## **EDUCATION**

**Post Baccalaureate, North Carolina State University.** Commenced graduate studies toward Certificate in Apparel Technology January, 1990.

**Philadelphia University.** Completed course of Study in Industry Fashion Methods, 2000 to 2004.

**B.S., Ohio University,** Athens, Ohio. Textiles and Clothing Major with specialization in Fashion Merchandising. June 1990. Honors graduate.

**A.S., Community College of Allegheny County,** Retailing. June 1986. Honors graduate.

## **Teaching Experience:**

- **October 2007-** Started teaching in the Extended Day Program of Wilmington Christian School in Hockessin, DE
- **September 2007-** Started teaching in the Extended Day Program at Wilmington Friends School in Wilmington DE
- **September 2007-** Organized several days during the coming year with the Chesapeake Girl Scout Council for Brownies and Girl Scouts to complete sewing related badges
- **June 2007-** Fascination in Fabrics features “Get Creative and Sew” Summer Day Camps for kids 6 years old to 17 years old
- **March 2007** - One of featured teachers and exhibitor’s for “Piece of Mind” Quilt Day. Lecture/Demo on Thread Painting and Embellishment. Workshop on Crazy Quilting.
- **March 2007-** Guest speaker for an EGA chapter in Wilmington Delaware. Lecture/Trunk Show on ways to embellish your projects to make them your own.
- **June 2006-** Fascination in Fabrics features “Get Creative and Sew” Summer Day Camps for kids 6 years old to 17 years old.
- **March 2006-** One of featured teachers and exhibitor’s for “Piece of Mind” Quilt Day. Lecture/Demo in Heirloom Quilting and Thread Painting. Workshop in Introduction to Machine Quilting featuring heart sampler designed for workshop.
- **August 2005-** Became a member of the faculty of The Darlington Arts Center. Teaching sewing classes for children ages 5 through 12. Spring 2006 quilting classes added for adults
- **June 2005-** Purchased Viking sewing machines to start a traveling sewing school. Classes taught at home and in schools and private homes. Also able to do sewing birthday parties for clients.
- **January 2005-** Contracted to teach sewing to children from ages 5 to 13 in Tower Hill School’s Extended Day Program in Wilmington, DE. Program doubled in size from 2005 to 2006 school year.
- **October 2004-** Assisted Carol Ahles at Houston Quilt Market in Houston, Texas
- **September 2003-** Contracted with New Castle County to teach a variety of sewing techniques at several of their locations
- **June 2003-** Organized a three day event in conjunction with Byrne Sewing Center featuring Lezette Thomason, designer and owner of Children’s Corner patterns. Assistant for Lezette during her seminar.
- **March 2003-** Hired by Stony Brook Sew and Vac to teach and consult in developing educational curriculum. Developed kid’s curriculum for store and summer camps for the Lawrenceville, Hamilton, and Wilmington stores. Taught classes in educating the consumer about Viking sewing machines, sergers, notions, feet, and embroidery techniques. Taught serger classes, heirloom classes,

home dec classes, kids classes, embroidery clubs, Martha Pullen Gift of the Month Club, Foot Club, and new technique classes

- **February 2002 to 2005-** Teaching Assistant at Martha Pullen School of Art and Fashion. Assisted at February 2003 Carol Ahles, July 2003 Kids School, and February 2004 Carol Ahles, Sue Pennington Stewart and Claudia Newton, July 2005 Kids School.
- **November 2002-** Featured Speaker Latisha Penn Doll Club on fabric restoration.
- **September 2002-** Taught Serger Nightgown class for New Jersey ASG Chapter.
- **June 2002-** Martha Pullen 4 Day School Kent State University. Assistant for Kathy McMakin in Heirloom Serger Techniques.
- **May 2002-** Featured speaker. Topic was Exquisite Extras for Children's Clothes by Lezette Thomason with Children's Corner trunk show for SAGA's Conestoga Stitchers Chapter.
- **April 2002-** Commentator for ASG's Philadelphia Chapter Annual Fashion Show.
- **April 2002-** A Featured teacher at ASG's Princeton Chapter Annual Luncheon. Taught Lace Shaping, a licensed Husqvarna class.
- **March 2002-** Featured speaker at Newtown Square Newcomer's Club on the topic of "Heirloom Sewing in Today's World".
- **February 2002-** Taught Heirloom Nightshirt, Philadelphia ASG Neighborhood Chapter.
- **October 2001-** Taught a "Baby Bonnet" licensed Martha Pullen Husqvarna class to Philadelphia ASG neighborhood chapter.
- **July 2000 to 2005-** Developed and taught Heirloom sewing curriculum at Loder's Viking Sewing Center in Wilmington, Delaware. Taught Martha Pullen's Gift of the Month, quilting and heirloom serging programs.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**August 2007-** Joined "**Hot Mama Gowns**" as a designer and pattern maker.

**June-August 2007-** Contracted with several clients of Taylor's Bridal Boutique to build bodices on their strapless wedding dresses for religious reasons.

**October 2006** Stitcher and Wardrober for "**Carmen**" Opera Delaware

**August 2006** Cutter and Stitcher for "**Billie Lee's Washington**" Wilmington Historical Society

**March 2006** Wardrobe for Delaware Theatre Company "The Syringa Tree"

**March 2006** Wardrobe and stitcher for Opera Delaware "Pirates of Penzance"

**1993-Present Owner, Fascination in Fabrics.** Started up and grew a home-based business involving sales of fabrics, laces, patterns, notions, and books for heirloom, children, doll and smocking sewers. Speciality sewing of traditional christening gowns made from family heirlooms such as wedding dresses. Currently building a clientele of private clients that understand quality of workmanship and want beautiful heirlooms that will be passed from generation to generation. Teaching a wide variety of sewing topics to students ranging in age from 4 to 75+

**January 2005** – Decided to diversify and add the sewing of soft home furnishings to Fascination in Fabrics as needed due to increased requests of clientele that demand high quality and need a workroom to sew pillows, cushions, window treatment and other decorator projects.

**1970-1993 Professional Seamstress.** Created and developed a successful home business for alterations.

**1999-2006** **Part-time Stock Associate**, Lane Bryant, Wilmington, DE. Responsible for organization of backroom and stock for store.

**1998-2000** **Office Assistant**, 1838 Investment Advisors, Radnor, PA. Organized and maintained client files and light switchboard duties.

**1994** **Phipps Conservatory**, Pittsburgh, PA. Designed costumes for topiary bunnies for the Peter Rabbit Exhibit.

**1993** **Textile Restoration Volunteer**, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. Engaged to restore a Neapolitan Presepio, a Nativity scene from the 1750's. Remade angels' costumes.

**1993** **Seamstress and Wardrober**, *Breathing Lessons*, Signboard Post Productions.

**1991** **Seamstress and Wardrobe Prep & Maintenance**, *Lorenzo's Oil*, Kennedy Miller Productions.

**1991** **Set Design Assistant**, Children's Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. Helped to build Halloween sets.

**1990-2008** **Dresser and/or Seamstress** for major Broadway shows touring Pittsburgh, PA and Wilmington, DE.

Cats	Dr. Dolittle
Le Mes	Titanic
Show Boat	Swing
Peter Pan	Music Man
King and I	Chess
Ms. Saigon	Civil War
Phantom of the Opera	Blast
1776	Scrooge
Oklahoma	Stars on Ice
Big River	The Syringa Tree
Thoroughly Modern Millie	Chicago
Hairspray	Joseph
Rent	Mama Mia
Producers	Movin' Out

**1990-1991** **Full-time Stock Associate**, The Limited. Monroeville, Pa. Responsible for organization of backroom and stock for store. Supervision of part-time employees.

**1990** **Costumer**, Saltworks production of *Narnia*.

**1998-1999** **Stitcher**, Pittsburgh Public Theatre and Pittsburgh Opera.

**1988-1990** **Wardrober**, Avner (1990); Debbie Gibson, DeCisare/Engler (1989); *Pirates of Penzance*, Pittsburgh Savoyards (1988).

**1989** **Assistant to the Designer**, Pittsburgh Public Theatre. Pittsburgh, Pa. Researched period requirements of costumes. Helped design and create each character's costume.

**1987-1989** **Regional Assistant**, Waldenkids, Monroeville Mall. Monroeville, Pa. Disseminated information to twenty-eight Store Managers, four District Managers and Home Office Personnel. Transferred merchandise, planned regional meetings, ordered supplies, made reservations and handled customer complaints. Opened the store as one of the original employees functioning as a Sales Associate. Responsible for designing all major window displays and in-store promotions.

**1985-1986** **Display Designer**, World of Values. North Huntingdon, Pa. Design, coordination and construction of all major displays.

**1984-1985** **Librarian**, American International School of Capetown, Capetown, South Africa. Founded the library, secured funds, acquired and organized books and managed daily operations.

**1970-1979** **Retail and Retail Management**, in a variety of retail establishments

## **HONORS**

Merit Scholarship award, Boyce Campus, 1983, Dean's List.  
Member Phi Theta Kappa - National Junior College Fraternity  
1986 Membership in "Who's Who in American Junior Colleges"  
Kappa Omicron Nu - Honor Fraternity, Home Economics

## **VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Past Board Member- Teacher Liason- Darlington Art Center Boothwyn, PA  
Board Member-Smocking Arts Guild of America -Regional I Representative  
Former Pittsburgh Ballet Guild Board Member- Pittsburgh, PA  
Civic Light Opera Guild- Pittsburgh, PA  
Phipps Conservatory- Pittsburgh, PA  
Pittsburgh Public Theatre  
Pittsburgh Children's Museum  
Carnegie Museum of Art- Pittsburgh, PA  
Philadelphia Chapter of American Sewing Guild Board Member and Chapter Librarian  
Girl Scouts of Southwestern PA – Leader Brownies through Girl Scouts  
Girl Scouts of Eastern PA  
Girl Scouts of Chesapeake Bay- De and MD

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

Licensed Martha Pullen Husqvarna Teacher, August 2000. Second certification October 2002.  
Certified Sewing Instructor, Home Sewing Association and America Sewing Guild, July 2001.  
Industry Fashion Methods, Philadelphia University, June 2004

2/7/2008