

ROBERTA “BOBBI” SMITH

www.fascinationinfabrics.com

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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.

Seton Hill University, Studies towards BS degree in Textile and Clothing

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

April 2013 – Wardrober and stitcher for OperaDelaware’s production of Macbeth

September 2011- Constructed 18 party dresses for the Wilmington Ballet’s production of “**The Nutcracker**”

October 2010 became President of SAGA, the Smocking Arts Guild of America. SAGA is a national and international Organization of roughly 2,000 members. Their mission is to”preserve and foster the art of smocking and related needlework for future generations through education, service, communication, and quality of workmanship. Started on the board as a regional representative for 2 years, then became Vice President, President –Elect, and now president

September 2010 Stitcher for OperaDelaware’s Production of “**La Traviata**”. Pat of a team of cutters, stitchers, and drapers constructing 19- 18th Century gowns for the leads and the ensemble.

May 2009- Certified as a Girl Scout facilitator and Journey Champion in Girl Scouts of Eastern PA

March 2008- 2012 Worked with “**Hot Mama Gowns**” to design a hospital gown for nursing mothers. Perfected sizing and graded from XS - XXL. Manufacture gowns as needed for clients orders on her website. Continued to work with the client to design new items to meet demands of her clients until 2012.

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**”

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

2001-2002 Designed a website for Fascination in fabrics and went live in 2001 on the internet. Added classic children’s line of fabrics and patterns to the site along with heirloom fabrics, laces, patterns, and notions.

2000-Present Teach all facets of Family Consumer Science and Economics to adults and children utilizing my degree in Clothing and Textiles, Martha Pullen Licensed Viking Heirloom Instructor and Trained Sewing Educator

- 2013 “Get Creative and Sew” Camps held at Tower Hill
- 2012 Brought “Get creative and Sew” Camps to Tower Hill Summer camp Program
- 2011 – 2012 Brought “Get Creative and Sew” Camps to Sanford Summer Camp program in Hockessin, DE
- 2005 –Present Travel and teach in Extended Day programs for private schools in the Wilmington DE and PA area. Schools include Wilmington Friends, Wilmington Christian School, Tower Hill, and Ursuline Academy.
- June 2007- 2010 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.
- March 2006 Purchased 4 new Viking machines to accommodate increased enrollment and interest in traveling school.
- 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
- 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 to 2004. 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 Present. 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.

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. In 2000 added teaching adults and children the joys of sewing and the needlearts to business. Continue to diversify to keep up with the demands in the Consumer Science and Economics field.

1970-Present 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-Present Dresser and/or Seamstress for major Broadway shows touring Pittsburgh, PA(Local 787) and Wilmington, DE (Local 284). Some shows that have been worked:

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
The Color Purple	Rent
Rockettes	Chorus Line
Xanadu	Legally Blonde
Blast	LaCage
South Pacific	Beauty and the Beast
Pippin	Dream Girls

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| | Memphis | Hooray for Hollywood |
| | Anything Goes | Shrek |
| | Flashdance | Grease |
| | Dreamgirls | Memphis |
| 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 <i>Narnia</i> . | |
| 1998-1999 | Stitcher , Pittsburgh Public Theatre and Pittsburgh Opera. | |
| 1988-1990 | Wardrober , Avner (1990); Debbie Gibson, DeCisare/Engler (1989); <i>Pirates of Penzance</i> , Pittsburgh Savoyards (1988). | |
| 1989 | Assistant to the Designer , World Premiere of “ Fences ” by August Wilson at Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Public Theatre. 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. | |
| 1977-1978 | Sales Associate- The Bon Idaho Falls Idaho Children’s department | |
| 1973-1976 | Manager- Waldencard Shop Newport News, VA | |
| 1970 – 1971 | Full Time Associate Kaufmann’s Department Store in Pittsburgh Pa. Yard Goods Department | |

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 President – Smocking Arts Guild of America- 2010 - 2011
 Past Board Member- Teacher Liason- Darlington Art Center Boothwyn, PA
 Board Member-Smocking Arts Guild of America -Regional I Representative
 Board Member-Smocking Arts Guild of America – Vice President
 Board Member-Smocking Arts Guild of America – President Elect
 Trustee – Local 284 2007 - Present
 Former Pittsburgh Ballet Guild Board Member
 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
Girl Scout Facilitator

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
Girl Scout Facilitator, Girl Scouts of Eastern PA, May 2010

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Sewing Guild
Smocking Arts Guild of America (SAGA)