# Legwear Fashions Textiles





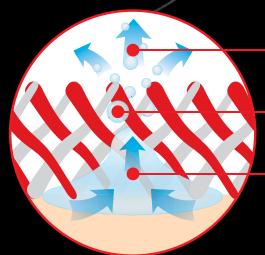
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- **3.** Moisture vapor exits the surface.
- 2. Moisture vapor is "pushed and pulled" through the fibers.
- **1.PrimaLoft Yarn** pulls the moisture away from the source.



# Legwear Fashions Textiles

The only monthly publication that offers
News About The Industry, From The Industry, For The Industry.

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# legislative column

by PAUL FOGLEMAN, Director, Hosiery Governmental Affairs Council



With the end of the Democratic presidential primary this month, partisan politics has heated up. But in the General Assembly, legislators seem to be more inclined to put the interests of the state above parties.

In the House, the \$21.3 billion budget was adopted with a bipartisan vote. Some 39 Republicans joined the Democratic majority to approve the spending plan. Only 12 hard core Republicans voted against "the Democrats" budget, even if specific programs benefited their home districts.

The House budget went to the Senate the first week of the month. Leaders in that Chamber indicated they wanted more money directed to education – specifically more than the 2.5 percent salary increases for teachers. Gov. Mike Easley had proposed a 7 percent increase. House leaders were hearing from hometown business leaders who are struggling to give minor salary increases in a declining economy.

The Senate is expected to send a version back to the House in time for a conference and adjournment by the second week of July. If so, the short session may indeed be a short session – literally. for Obama with 12 percent of GOP undecided. Libertarians were not included in the poll.

••••

The U.S. Senate race in North Carolina is shaping up as a battle between a Washington insider – incumbent Elizabeth Dole – and a state senator who has helped develop the state budget over the past six years – Kay Hagen.

As the insider, Sen. Dole has been able to tap Washington sources for major contributions. Not to be outdone, Sen. Hagan has held functions in the Capitol to boost her coffers. She also has used her contacts in the Greensboro and Triad area to raise funds from business leaders, including manufacturers.

Polls show Senator Dole leading, but Hagan is within striking distance. McCain's race in North Carolina will indicate how well Dole runs, veteran political observers are saying.

••••

### Mid-June polls indicated the state may be taking on a blue tint for Democrats. Several polls show Sen. John McCain leading Sen. Barack Obama by only 2 percentage points – 47 to 45.

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Red, blue or purple. Over the past three decades, in presidential races North Carolina has been a red state, safe for Republicans. Jimmy Carter was the last Democratic president to carry North Carolina, thanks in part to former U.S. Senator Jesse Helms.

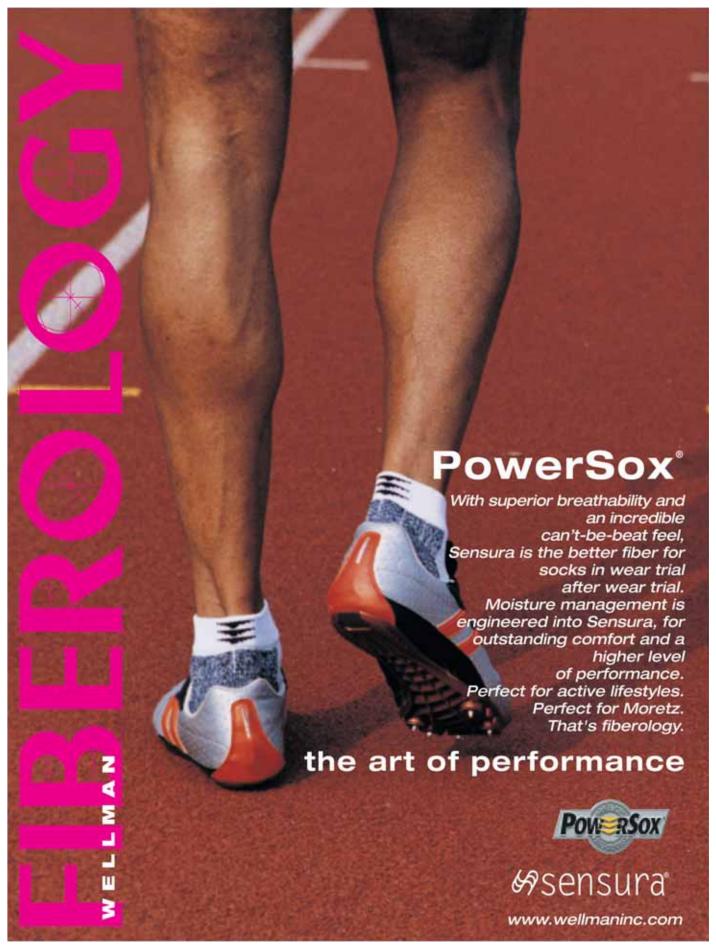
But mid-June polls indicated the state may be taking on a blue tint for Democrats. Several polls show Sen. John McCain leading Sen. Barack Obama by only 2 percentage points – 47 to 45. Right now, with the race within the margin of error, North Carolina could be colored purple.

McCain is leading among men, 44 to 42 percent, and with a similar lead among women. Obama is leading among independents and Democrats. Six percent of Republicans indicated they will vote

The Charlotte duo seeking to claim the top elected positions in North Carolina are running diverse campaigns.

Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory is showing up in polls almost even with Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue in the race for governor. McCrory's name recognition in the western Piedmont area of the state is an advantage.

Former State Senator Robert Pittinger is running behind Democratic Senator Walter Dalton of Rutherford County. Dalton is benefiting from support from his Senate colleagues across the state, including President Pro Tem Marc Basnight and Finance Chair David Hoyle, longtime supporter of the Textile Technology Center and the Hosiery Technology Center. They also are supporting Perdue.



# **Hosiery Technology Center Acquires Automated Testing Equipment**



by Carol Bracewell, Trends Staff Writer

To accommodate the significant expansion of lab services, the Hosiery Technology Center at the Center for Emerging Manufacturing Solutions has recently purchased two state-of-the-art pieces of automated testing equipment used for antimicrobial efficacy testing.

The Autoplate 4000 and Q-Count machines are used for testing methods AATCC-100 and ASTM E2149. They were purchased from Spiral Biotech. The equipment will benefit the center's clients by reducing possible operator errors. It will increase repeatability and dramatically affect throughput by reducing turn around time.

"The new equipment has been purchased to position the center for future growth in testing and product development," Dan St. Louis, director of the Hosiery Technology Center concludes.

> In 2007, approximately one half of the center's revenue activities were driven by retailers, including industry prototyping and testing. In 2008, the trend is expected to continue.

The Autoplate 4000 is an automatic spiral plater. It improves testing accuracy and repeatability by increasing the number of samples the center can test in one day. The spiral plater uses a defined amount of bacteria and dispenses it on an agar plate in a very precise and uniform pattern. It allows for up to five plates of the sample to be processed at one time.

The automated spiral plating process begins with a cleaning cycle utilizing bleach to disinfect the equipment. Followed by two washes of sterile distilled water, it then takes up the

sample. The agar plate is placed on the turntable. The spiral plater dispenses a known amount of bacterial solution in a pre-determined pattern on the plate. The agar plates are then placed in the incubator for 24 hours, or specified period of time to allow for colony growth.

The samples are then examined on the new Q-Count. The Q-Count is an automatic bacterial colony counter which speeds up the time to enumerate the plates and provides high accuracy, as well as traceable data collection. It takes a digital picture of the plate, counts the bacteria, calculates the colony forming units per milliliter (cfu/ml) and archives the information in a database that is FDA/GLP-compliant (Food and Drug Administration/Good Laboratory Practices).

Strains of bacteria tested in the lab include Staphylococcus aureus (ATCC 6538), Klebsiella pneumonial (ATCC 4352), Pseudomonas aeruginosa (ATCC 27853) and Escherichia coli (ATCC 14948).

Testing procedures are performed for several business sectors. These include retailers requesting proof of product performance and stated properties, yarn and fiber manufacturers testing percentage of additives needed for desired effectiveness and testing for development of new fibers. The new equipment will provide an automated way to document the cultures.

"Currently most of what we test are finished goods. They are either sent in by the manufacturer who needs to prove to the retailer that his product does what he claims or it is the retailer who needs to verify the manufacturer's claim," says Maria Curry, antimicrobial testing lab manager for the Hosiery Technology Center.

"The new equipment has been purchased to position the center for future growth in testing and product development," Dan St. Louis, director of the Hosiery Technology Center concludes.

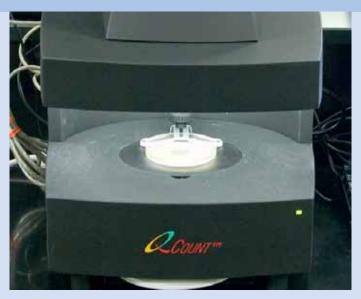


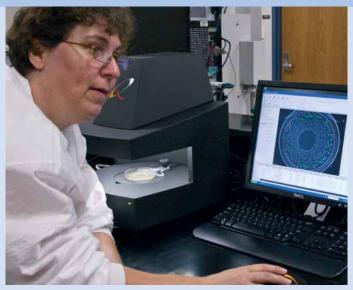






Maria Curry demonstrates the Autoplate 4000. The automatic spiral plater uses a defined amount of bacteria and dispenses it on an agar plate in a very precise and uniform pattern (**above left**). The agar plates are then placed in an incubator for 24 hours, or a specified period of time. The plate (**above right**) shows bacterial growth after incubation. Below, Curry uses the Q-Count to take a digital picture of the plate. The machine counts the bacteria, calculates the colony forming units and archives the information in an FDA-GLP-compliant database.





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# Glenn Mauser Co. Thrives On Innovation, Leadership

The owner of Glenn Mauser Co. Inc. has a threepoint formula for business success in the 21st century:

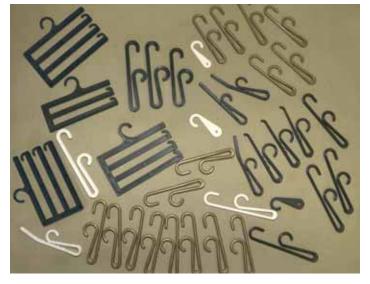
Do something bigger and better than your competitor; be more productive; and be an innovator.

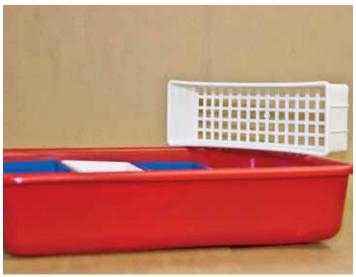
This commitment has served the company, which recently observed its 25th anniversary, well over the years. Over the years, scores of hosiery and textiles manufacturers have turned to the Mauser Co., as marketing strategies and technologies have driven change

Glenn Mauser is an example of an executive who sees challenges as opportunities. Those opportunities lie in a range of industries – textiles, hosiery, electronics, retail, and foodservice. His energy has resulted in significant company growth: from two machines and a 2,000 square foot facility in 1983 to a facility with 20,000 square feet and equipment ranging from 50 to 500 tons. The operations are highly automated.

Mauser, like his customers, has had to deal with globalization. He has seen companies close their doors or turn to offshore sources. Some of the companies lost in

Above: Hangers for socks are part of the core business for Mauser. Center: Over 25 years Mauser has pursued diverse markets, including trays and containers for healthcare and other segments. Below: Creels for the textiles companies available in various sizes.







the change were operated by close friends. But innovation has kept the Glenn Mauser Co. moving forward.

For hosiery clients, the company maintains an inventory of 13 styles of plastic hangers in customized colors. His innovation has resulted in revenue from plastic handles on grocery carts, to creels for yarn spinning frames. His prototyping has produced products for healthcare and electronics firms.

"We're always looking for new and innovative things we can do for customers and help them raise the bar. We see our job as helping them compete in the world market," Mauser says.

Mauser also is doing his part to promote sustainable strategies. Recycling of materials picked up from large textiles customers has been a practice for years. Hosiery hangers are sustainable products, responding to demands of retailers.

Mauser has been active over the years in the industry trade association, the Society of Plastic Engineers. He says he has benefited greatly from creative concepts that he has picked up at conferences and networking.

Mauser's roots run deep in the region that traditionally has been fueled by hosiery and textiles manufacturing. He is a native of Catawba County, which once was the home to 60 hosiery companies. Mauser received his undergraduate degree from Lenoir-Rhyne College and received his education degree from Appalachian State University. He taught school before entering industry.

# **History Channel Program Puts Spotlight On Hosiery**

America's hosiery industry will be featured on the History Channel, a popular cable television show. The show is scheduled to air on July 14.

Dan St. Louis, director of the Hosiery Technology Center and its parent organization the Center for Emerging Manufacturing Solutions, (CEMS) assisted the television producers in the production of the show, which will be featured under "Modern Marvels."

The film also links hosiery and the N.C. textiles industry and includes segments shot at the Textiles Technology Center in Belmont, N.C. as well as the HTC in Hickory, N.C. Additional segments were filmed at Textile Clothing and Technology Center in Cary, N.C. and at the Kayser-Roth Hosiery manufacturing facilities in Asheboro, N.C.

The show brings together the hosiery and textiles research team, St. Louis said. "It's good to see us portrayed in a positive light," he added.

The outline for the program was developed at Inform Inc. and traces the earliest leg and foot garments, along with early manufacturing tools. Viewers will see the new technologies and products coming from North Carolina companies.



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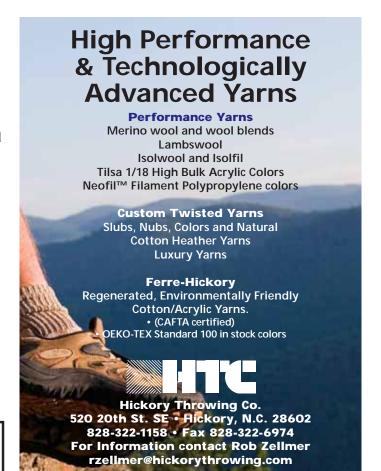
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# Plastic Packaging Embraces Sustainability Movement

#### 51 Years As Trendsetting Supplier for Hosiery, Textiles

by Paul Fogleman, Trends Editor

Now in its 51st year, Plastic Packaging Inc. has thrived by staying ahead of the curve. The company has invested consistently in new technology. It has pursued new markets.

Today, the operation has embraced the "green" movement and is supplying national companies with biodegradable packing. Sustainability is a term fully understood by management and its sales force.

T. Cass Ballenger, former U.S. congressman and founder of Plastic Packaging Inc. still serves as chairman of the board. He and his family are the leading stockholders with employees owning a sizable share under the ESOP program. And he maintains an office and daily schedule at the Hickory, N.C. headquarters.

With annual sales in excess of \$48 million, the company employs over 200 persons in plants in Forest City N.C., Aberdeen N.C. and Hickory. They are shipping millions of bags and labels to customers across the

United States.

During the 25 years, hosiery and textiles companies represented the core of the business. Now customers come from providers of healthcare, household goods, industrial products, foodservice and entertainment segments.

Hosiery customers are still part of the equation. But volume shipments are packages for cough drops, covers for pillows, and private label goods for major retailers. Increasingly, they are carrying the biodegradable seal. According to Ballenger, the green movement is growing like "a house on fire."

As the end product is earth-friendly, so is the manufacturing process at Plastic Packaging. Plastic waste is collected weekly – estimated by Ballenger as a trailer-load – for recycling. The leftover ink is piped to a kiln where it is heated. Alcohol from the process is saved for re-use. The remaining "sludge" about 3,500 gallons every three weeks – is sold for firing up kilns at brick manufacturing sites.

Dominating the manufacturing plant at Plastic Packaging is a three-



Chairman and Founder T. Cass Ballenger shows a sample of biodegradable packaging representing the "green" capabilities of the company.



Computerized technology drives the manufacturing operations. Ink is fed directly from barrels to the presses, with color mixtures determined by computers.



Used ink is piped to this holding container where it is processed for recycling. Some 3,500 gallons of alcohol "sludge" is sold every three weeks for firing brick kilns.



A three-story press dominates a manufacturing area where tens of millions of packages are produced daily.

story 10-color press representing an investment of \$2.5 million. Now being assembled in the plant is laminating equipment that can apply three layers in one pass.

By investing in new technologies, Plastic Packaging has been able to fend off foreign competition. Millions of products are shipped out within 24 hours of receiving orders from veteran customers. Quick turnaround. Just-in-time. Supply chain strategies. These are every day terms at Plastic Packaging.

Ballenger acknowledges that being green costs more. Yet, it is a movement that will continue to maintain legs and grow, he predicts, "Politics will make it happen."

As the new generation of consumers becomes more concerned about preserving the earth and its resources, more companies are participating in the sustainability dialogue. Plastic Packaging again is at the head of the curve.



Keeping abreast of technology has determined the success of Plastic Packaging. Recycling of waste has enhanced the bottom line.

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The Hosiery Technology Center at the new Center for Emerging Manufacturing Solutions (CEMS) is supporting companies with research and development, testing and sourcing, marketing and sales. From production to retailing, the center is engaged in supply chain services. That includes training and lean manufacturing strategies.

The path to a successful future depends on open-minded management. We're here to help management open new doors in a smaller world.



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### **Packaging Goes Green**

by Charlene Carpenter, Trends Assistant Editor

As consumer demand for green products continues to grow, retailers are looking to manufacturers to fill that need. Not only do retailers want products made sustainably; they want them packaged sustainably. Packaging companies are stepping up to the plate with sustainable alternatives.

A leader in the sustainable packaging arena is Graphic Printing Services, Inc. of Greensboro, N.C. The company, which makes a variety of adhesive label and folding cartons for the hosiery and apparel industries, not only produces sustainable packaging, it has invested in making its manufacturing operations environmentally friendly.

"Sustainability is good business," says a company brochure. "Dealing responsibly with your company's footprint will not only reduce risk, but can enhance your brand if you walk the walk and know how to talk about it."

Manufacturers of sock hangars also are stepping into the sustainable packaging arena with hangers that are 100 percent biodegradable. Both Allen Field and Conover Plastics are making



additive that does not have a footprint and it is the best solution I am aware of."

The Conover, N.C. manufacturer also has made hangers from biodegradable

president of the Farmingdale, N.Y. company. The hangers should be available for the hosiery industry this fall, he said.

"Sustainability is good business," ... "Dealing responsibly with your company's footprint will not only reduce risk, but can enhance your brand if you walk the walk and know how to talk about it."

Graphic Printing Services, Inc.

sustainable hangers

Sal Hazboun, president of Conover Plastics, says his company is manufacturing hangers that are 100 percent biodegradable by putting an additive in the plastic it uses that makes the plastic biodegradable.

"The outcome would be water, CO<sub>2</sub> and biomass," explains Hazboun. "It is an

corn-based PLA but has backed off from that product because its footprint has a higher environmental impact, says Hazboun.

Hanger manufacturer Allen Field is in the process of redesigning its hangers so they can be made with a 100 percent biodegradable material made from glucose, according to Andrew Franzone,

#### **Certified Sustainability**

Graphic Printing Services, Inc. offers its customers an opportunity to show their customers they are good environmental citizens by using packaging that carries FSC certification. The company, which is one of about 15 printers in North Carolina that are FSC certified, sought

(continued on page 14)

## **Industry Briefs**

#### NanoHorizons Joins Indo Poly For New Polyester Product

NanoHorizons Inc., a leader in the creation of nanoscale performance additives for textiles and medical products, and Indo Poly Ltd. of Thailand have entered into a partnership to produce polyester yarns with permanent antimicrobial properties.

The yarns will be marketed to the textiles industry under Indo Poly's Ambs® Pro and Ambs® Active brands.

NanoHorizons will supply its nanoscale silver antimicrobial additives to Indo Poly which will incorporate them into textured and fully-drawn polyester yarns. The announcement said that NanoHorizons's advanced antimicrobial additives will be integrated into the Ambs polyester fiber, bonding at the molecular level and "resulting in yarns and fabrics that provide permanent antimicrobial protection and anti-odor performance.

#### SYFA Summer Conference Continues Sustainability Topic

The Synthetic Yarn and Fiber Association summer conference will continue to explore the theme "Sustainable is Attainable" July 31-August 2.

The gathering will be at the North Myrtle Beach Hilton and will include speakers from Wal-Mart, Coca Cola, Unifi, O'Mara Inc., PCI Fibers, and other companies.

The success of the winter conference in Charlotte enabled SYFA to expand its program, association leaders announced.

#### Ruday New Wellman CEO

Wellman Inc. has announced that Mark Ruday has been appointed Chief Executive Officer and a director of the company. Ruday has been with the company since 1991 when he began his career there as a financial analyst at the Palmetto plant.

He has served as Chief Operating Officer since January and before then was Vice President of Operations.

# Packaging Companies Go Green ......from page 13

the certification in response to customer demand for sustainable products.

"Sustainability is very important to our customers," explains President Bryan Hall. "They have asked us to support them by offering sustainable packaging and print solutions. Our customers include many of the top name brands on the market, and they want to be environmentally responsible corporate citizens. Therefore, Graphic Printing Services, Inc. has placed a priority on offering sustainability solutions to the customers that desire it."

The FSC certification ensures the end user, through independent audits, that the paper used in the packaging comes from well-managed forests and is manufactured by companies that adhere to strict environmental and socioeconomic standards. The FSC chain of custody audits and inspects each step of the paper production from the forest management all the way to the final printed item.

Graphic Printing Services, Inc. manufactures folding cartons and inserts and label packaging that utilizes FSC and Rain Forest Alliance substrates. Companies and landowners that participate in the Rain Forest Alliance meet rigorous standards that conserve biodiversity and provide sustainable livelihoods. The Rainforest Alliance logo is recognized throughout the world as an indicator of a product's environmental responsibility.

"Substrates (paper along with other wood products) come from FSC certified, sustainable forests," explains Hall. "The FSC standards represent the world's strongest system for guiding sustainable forest management. These standards have been applied in over 57 countries around the world and are endorsed by every major environmental group. In order to maintain certification, the chain of custody, or COC, records must be kept to the point where specific trees are earmarked for paper manufacturing and the replanted saplings replaced at specific times.

"As far as we know, Graphic Printing Services, Inc. is the only FSC certified printer in the Carolinas that offers label printing, folding cartons and commercial printing," adds Hall.

The company also has undertaken a number of sustainable initiatives to make its manufacturing processes environmentally friendly. It invested in a custom paper recycling system that recycles 100 percent of its scrap and waste paper. When possible, the company uses inks that are made of agricultural – based oils such as soybean, linseed, canola and rapeseed.

"Our paper recycling incentives are another example of how we responsibly manage resources," says Hall. "In 2007, we recycled over 700 tons. This effort saved 12,000 trees, 5 million gallons of water, 1400 barrels of oil, and 3 million kilowatts of energy which would be used to power approximately 300 homes for one year. Our newer presses are engineered to consume less energy and minimize chemical use. We recycle 100% of our aluminum printing plates and corrugated boxes. We implemented computer-to-plate technology to eliminate the use of film and the related chemistry. We're also utilizing energy conversation procedures throughout our plant and offices. We've even partnered with our janitorial service to use biodegradable cleaning solutions."



#### 2008 Editorial Calendar

JULY

**TEXTILES AND HUMAN RESOURCES:** Developing and keeping an efficient workforce still remains a problem for the industry. Downsizing and closings in the past have hurt recruiting efforts and some companies report the problem is critical. What lies on the horizon and services that can help human resource programs are covered. Seamless apparel will be featured as the fashion article.

#### **A**UGUST

**NEXT RENAISSANCE:** In the 1970s and 1980s the industry experienced a new awakening, led by young executives entering the family business. They helped the industry become brand marketers and establish new strategies for reaching out to retailers. Is a new generation of executives ready to carry companies to new markets, global and within the U.S.? Profiles of new leaders.

#### SEPTEMBER

**INDUSTRY CLUSTERS:** North Carolina and the Fort Payne, Alabama area are examples of industry clusters. Hosiery manufacturing spawned companies that supply them. The same is the case with textile operations. These clusters have given manufacturers a competitive advantage. But are those clusters still working as a support mechanism? Where are the missing links in the 21st century economy?

#### **O**CTOBER

**RETAILING:** Is it true that Chinese consumers want products with a made-in-the-USA label? Are global retailers a market for U.S. manufacturers? How much business is going to online marketers? What is solidifying relations with U.S. retailers? Brands? Features and news stories cover trends. Holiday shipments are included.

#### November

#### **TECHNOLOGY CENTERS AND THEIR MISSION:**

The technology centers in Hickory, Asheboro and Belmont, North Carolina, have adjusted to the changing needs of their clients – the manufacturers. Research and development and prototyping of new products remain priorities, along with market support. Roles also have encompassed other industries that interface with textiles and hosiery.

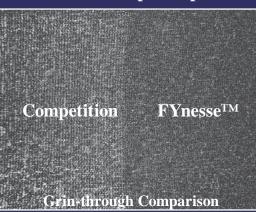
#### DECEMBER

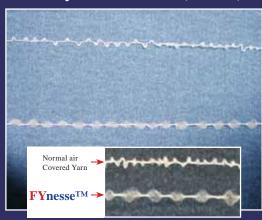
**NEW LEADERSHIP:** The 2008 elections have brought changes to U.S. government and the halls in state legislatures. We will profile some of the new faces and offer some insight into the issues they will embrace that could affect manufacturers. Universal health insurance could be one. More doors open for organized labor could be another.

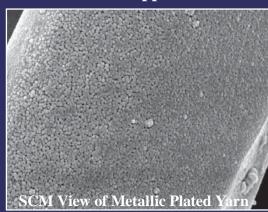


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