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GV Graduate's Talent Earns Her A Trip To China

By Eileen Shomo

Kendra Beitzel, 19, a sophomore at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City, won a trip to China, where she represented her school and her country at the Tiandu City Cup Competition. Kendra won her all-expense-paid trip to Hangzouk, China, over 30 other entries from her school for her fabric design "Psychedelic Paisley."

Kendra, a 2006 graduate of Garnet Valley High School, was very excited about the trip, as it was her first time out of the country.

The theme of the competition was "Silk Tourism," Kendra said, and the designs had to be able to reproduce on silk.

Her original design on paper was sent on ahead for judging at the competition, which featured entries from all over the world.

"I'm really excited about the trip," Kendra said a few days before her departure on Oct. 23. "It's a trip I know I'll never forget."

In Hangzouk, Kendra said she, along with the other contestants will visit various exhibits, tour the facilities of six silk fabric manufacturers and visit some fabric mills.

"Hopefully, there will be some time to do some sightseeing," she said. "We will be visiting West Lake Temple, a very ancient temple, in Hang-zouk, I am told."

Kendra said she hopes above all else, to be able to visit the Great Wall of China.

"Even though it's very 'touristy' now, it's a must-see, I'm told," she said. "I've heard also that the scenery where we will be is great."

Kendra said she hopes she will be able to do some shopping in China for handbags, shoes and clothes.

"I also want to bring back some fabric, which I hope to use to make a jacket," she said. "I'm hoping I will be able to get some silk scraps for quilting at the mills we visit."

Kendra reproduced her design as a surprise Mother's Day present for her mother, Jody, who used the fabric as a backing for a quilt she made.

The quilt is on display in the Quilter's Corner in the Olde Ridge Village Shoppes on Route 202 where Mrs. Beitzel works with the backing pinned back for all to see.

Kendra, who said she wouldn't believe she won a trip to China until she actually gets there, will have a lot to report to FIT and her family when she returns.

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