# Melanie Carrico Selected creative Associate Professor, UNCG work and work of my students

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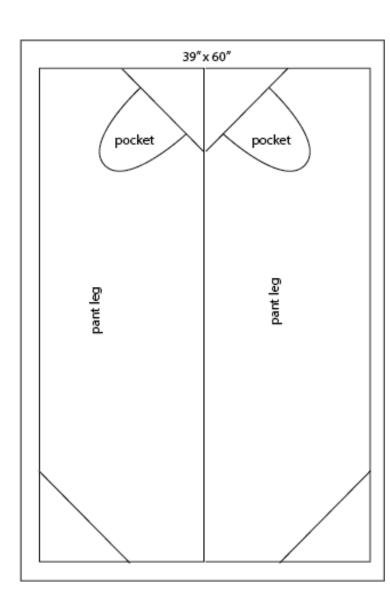


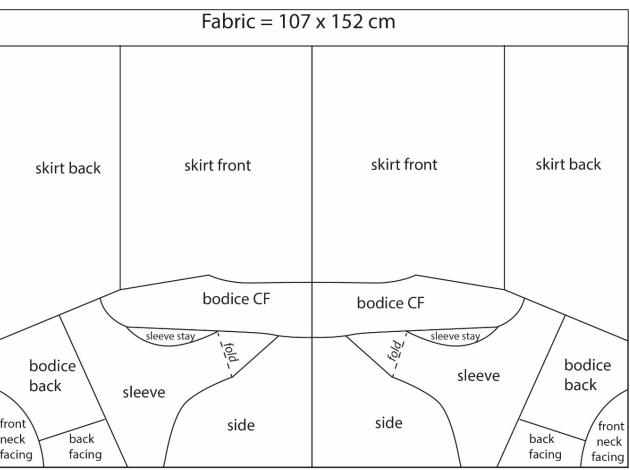
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#### Select ZERO-WASTE DESIGNS

My practice-led research has focused on zero-waste pattern cutting techniques for several years. I enjoy it for two primary reasons: first, as a creative challenge that simultaneously employs the designer and patternmaker within me, and second, to contribute to solutions for sustainably creating apparel. Consumer acceptance of designs is critical for success in the marketplace, and research has shown that consumers prefer zero-waste garments that are "typical" aesthetically over those that are atypical, even when considering the zero-waste concept behind the designs. To that end, my work demonstrates that a zero-waste pattern can yield apparel with a typical silhouette and style. Such an undertaking is an increased challenge to the designer / patternmaker since all the fabric must be utilized in a way that does not alter the style or silhouette beyond typicality.

Zero-waste slides are in reverse chronological order.





## Lots of Dots - gradable zero-waste plus size dress, 2023

The purpose of this design was to validate the CZWBG method for grading zero-waste in a plus sized garment.

VStitcher was used for prototyping and validating sizes across the range. All the fabric was digitally printed for consistency of drape and color.









\*\*Winner of the ITAA Technology Award for Design in 2023.



Pattern layout 54.25 x 41 inches



## Leave No Trace: zero-waste convertible hiking pants and jacket, 2022

Shown at ITAA 2022

Building on previous work with five other design scholars, this piece further validates the CZWBG method for grading zero-waste garments.

Designed in Vstitcher. Size 4

#### Amethyst Evolution: zerowaste athleticwear for multiple sizes, 2021

Shown at ITAA 2021

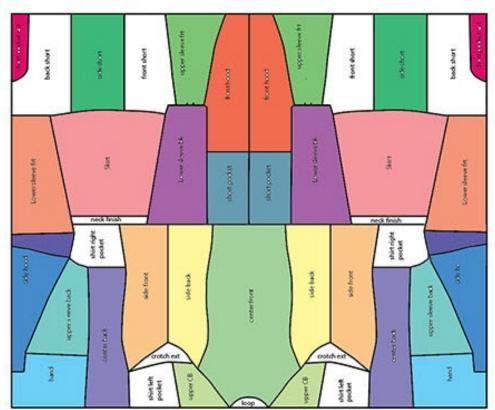
Working with five other design scholars who also made zero-waste garments using inserted bands for sizing, we documented our processes and shared the results in an article published in *Sustainability*.





Designed in VStitcher







## Gradable zero-waste skirt and blouse, 2020

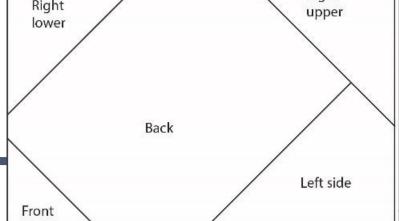
This outfit builds on previous work using strategically placed trims or bands of fabric to alter the sizing of a zero-waste garment.

VStitcher was used for prototyping and validating sizing.

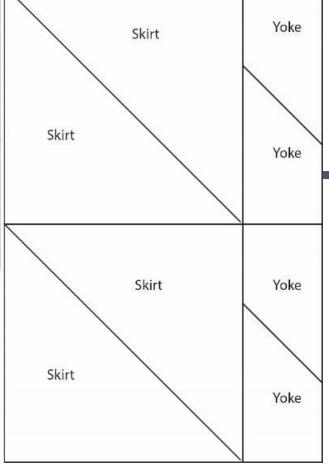




Size medium to left. Above are virtual skirts, sizes small and large.



Top layout above 35.5" x 26" Skirt layout to the right 29" x 43.5"





RIGHT: Zero-what?
2018
BELOW: Black and
White Bias Mix Up,

2011





CB CF SB Keeper strap strap

CB CF SF SB Keeper strap strap

CB CF SF SB SB Strap

CB SF SB STrap

Top reworked from 2011 and shown with zero-waste skirt at ITAA in 2018.

Shown as to the left with zero-waste pants at ASDP in 2011.
That also resulted in published
Threads Magazine article *Bias Pants* in 2013

#### Boho blouse and Denim skirt

Zero-waste designs, 2015

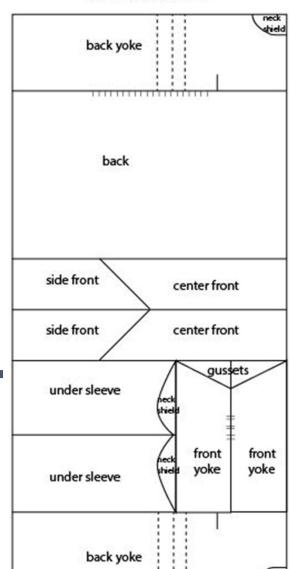
Shown at AAFCS in 2016. Blouse was also the subject of a presentation at the Second Creative Cut Symposium in the U.K. This was the beginning of my investigation into sizing zero-waste garments by using strategically inserted bands of trim or fabric.







Fabric = 152 cm x 76 cm





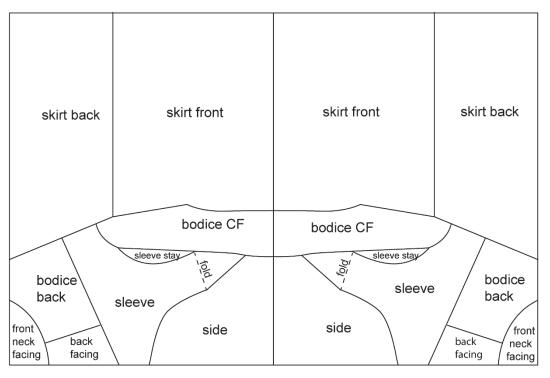
#### Little Black PARTY dress

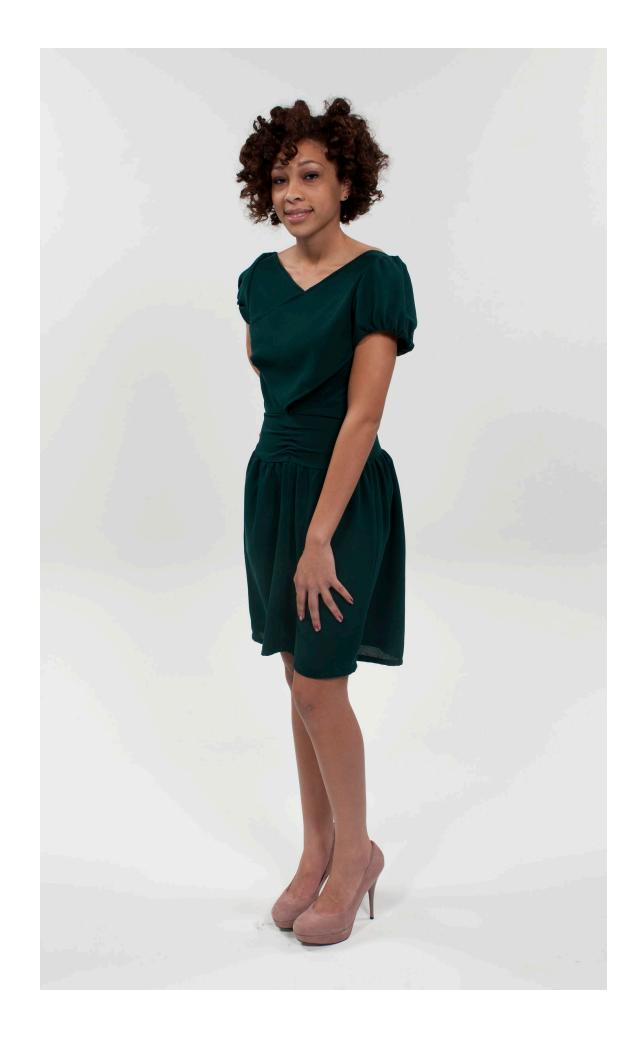
Zero-waste design, 2012

Shown at The Little Black Dress Event and ITAA in 2012 and at the Goldstein Museum of Design in 2013



Fabric =  $107 \times 152 \text{ cm}$ 

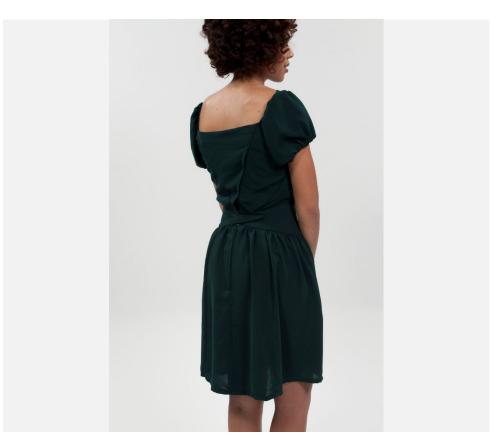




### DREAM dress

Zero-waste design, 2011

Shown at ASDP 2011 and ITAA 2012



#### Bat-wing Denim Dress, 2019

Shown at ITAA 2019

Designed in VStitcher

and pieces were laser cut

The result of a project with other design scholars to explore the use of varied technologies in the creative design process. Each designer used the same fabric (denim) with the challenge of utilizing one or more methods of digital technology in the design and creation of an original garment.

An additional criteria for the designs was that no seams could match those of a traditional dress form.

Two refereed presentations resulted from this project.











#### Maternal Dress, 2018

Shown at ITAA and at Downtown Gallery, Indiana University in 2019

About motherhood, this dress is part confession, part commentary.

The plaid effect is created by overlapping lines of handwritten text on layers of silk organza.

The text includes personal thoughts on my roles as wife and mother juxtaposed against statements reflecting society's expectations for women in those roles.

### Spiral dresses

I use these dresses to show students the difference in drape between two transparent silk fabrics. They are also useful when discussing bias cuts as an example of sewing on the straight grain while draping on the bias.







Sprial Dress 571, 2007, Silk organza Shown at ITAA and PACC 2007

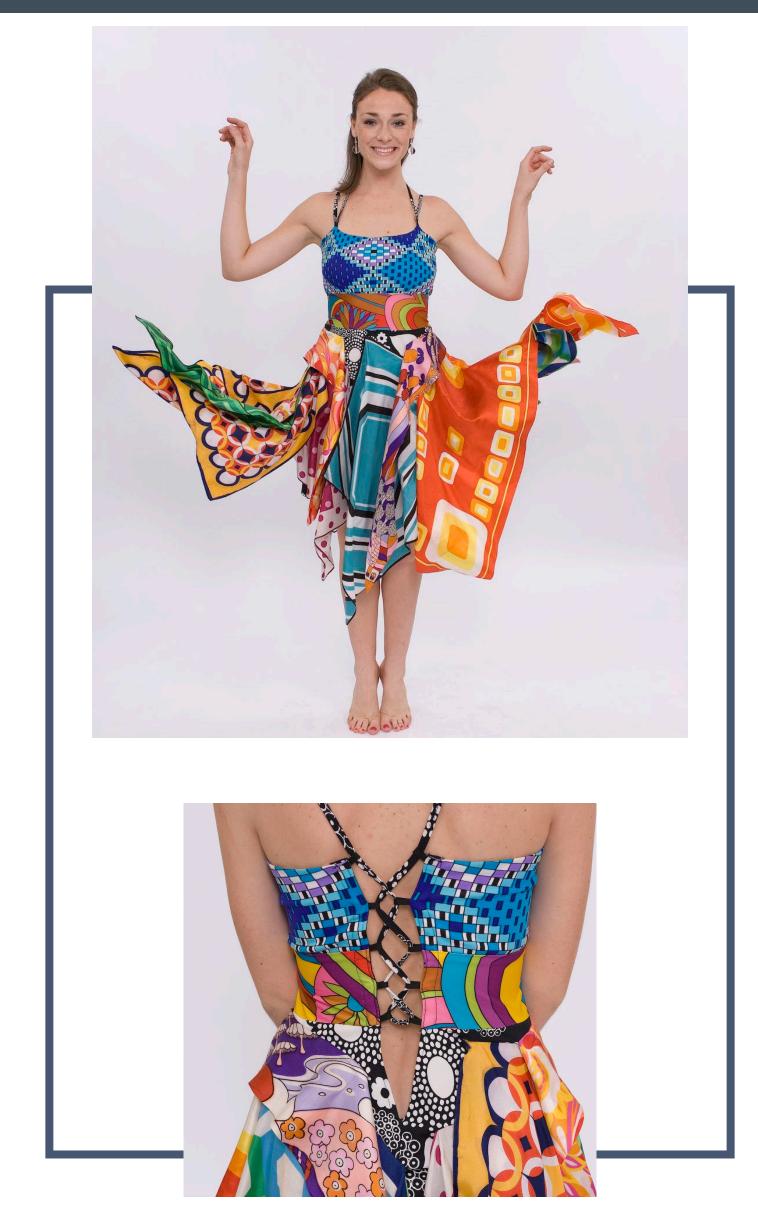
Spiral Dress 581, In constrast 2008, Silk chiffon Shown at ITAA and ASDP 2008

Mixed materials









**STUDENT WORK** 

upcycled / recycled designs







zero-waste designs











STUDENT WORK

designs using VStitcher 3D

visualization software



for the "Big Hair Ball"
gala fundraiser for
the Guild for Family
Services of the Piedmont









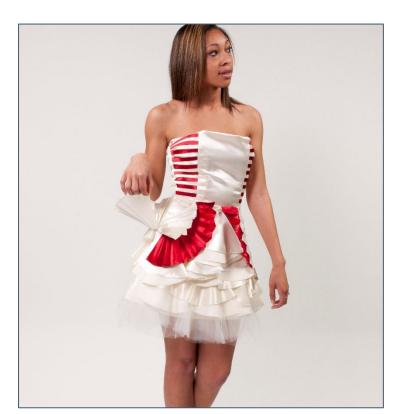


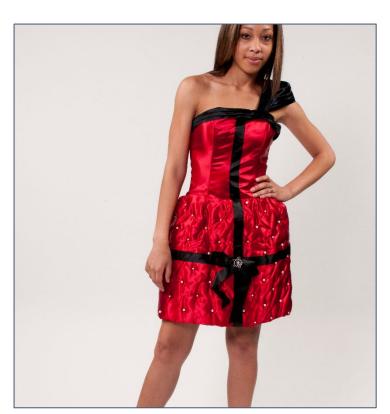


for the "Big Hair Ball"
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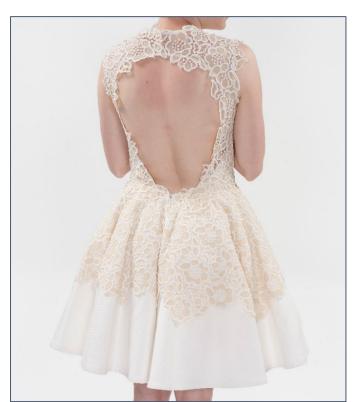


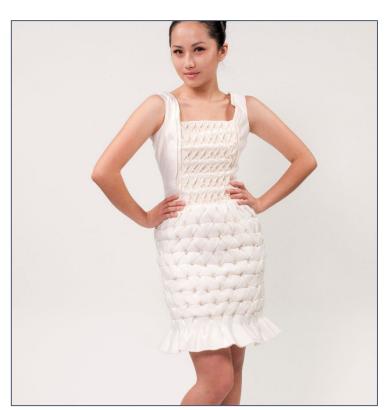




Student designs from a variety of assignments over the years.









From APD 244, a beginning fashion drawing course. There is no drawing pre-requisite for the class.

















#### TEXTILE DESIGNS

Two students' work from
APD 441, a class where
students design repeating
patterns using Adobe
Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop,
and Lectra's Kaledo.



