

Dear Dean Van Alfen,



If one was to conduct a survey around the UC Davis campus asking students how they feel about their major, it would be a rarity to hear the words "**I love my major.**" I, among so many of my peers in the Textiles and Clothing department, can whole heartedly say that we love our department. My roommate who is in the College of Biological Sciences has said that she has never been in a class less than 250 students. She doesn't know any of her professors and only knows a minute percentage of the students in the Biology department. The department of Textiles and Clothing has a unique bond between faculty and students like no other program.

At the end of this past school year my roommate, who is also a Textiles and Clothing major, and I decided that we were going to put on an event for our department to become even closer than we were already. We hosted the event "Tea Time for Texties" for the entire department at the beginning of October. We had no doubt in our minds that we would have a nothing less than a great turnout and another chance to connect outside the lecture halls. **I love my major.** As we were planning this event, we ran into many friends that remarked how truly awesome it was that our department can have such an event. On a side note, it made it extra hard for when we heard about the thoughts of the hasty decision to close our department as we are so tight knit as a group.

**Textiles and Clothing was the absolute reason that I chose to come to UC Davis.** Both my parents are UC Davis graduates, my brother studied here for undergraduate work and is continuing his graduate studies here, and numerous uncles, aunts and cousins have attended our university. Although we have a family legacy of attending UC Davis, it had no impact on where I chose to go to college. I had many other wonderful universities I could choose from but there wasn't another university that had a program like Textiles and Clothing. There is no other program at UC Davis that I would be as happy in, let alone in the whole UC system.

I'm also a tour guide for our UC Davis campus. In the past week as I gave my tours to students who are applying for the upcoming year; we pass Everson Hall which is where we hang our banner about the potential closure of our major. Every single time I get many questions about this situation, mostly from concerned parents. It is difficult for me to have to explain the situation to potential students while I am also telling them about all the wonderful things about UC Davis. Although I try to steer away from the conversations about this topic with my tourists, it alerts parents and they start to question if their child's chosen department would close if they attend UC Davis.

Larger is not always better. Being able to have such close relations to our entire department is priceless- especially at an institution of 31,000 students. We learn together, work together, and grow together. We may be small but the department of Textiles and Clothing is doing excellent research and really prepares students to go into job positions or graduate programs that they are passionate about. **I urge you and your deciding committee to rethink the closure of the Textiles and Clothing department.**

One of the major issues that my peers and I have thought about in the past couple of weeks, regarding the closure of the Textiles and Clothing department, is that a result of this decision would depreciate the value of our degree. After all the years and hard work we have spent on obtaining these degrees, a significant value will be stripped away from it. The closure of the Textiles and Clothing will dramatically affect all the futures of past and present students in our department, as well as the future students who will not be able to immerse themselves in Textiles and Clothing studies. **If the closure does follow through, I cannot whole heartedly say that I love UC Davis anymore, but I will always say that I love the Textiles and Clothing department.**

Sincerely,

**Christine Ang**

**Dear Dean Neal Van Alfen,**



I just wanted to express my heartfelt disappointment over the suggestion of closing down the Textile and Clothing Department. As a third year, my personal experience within the program has not only surpassed my expectations but has also given me a chance to get to know all my advisors, professors and peers within the program as well. As a freshmen, I was hesitant in accepting Davis as my own. My first choice had been the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and had my own parents allowed me to accept my invitation, I would not have been able to see the brilliance and personality that Davis's Textile and Clothing Department had to offer. Starting out as a freshmen, Joan Chandler welcomed and almost immediately started me out with my 4 year plan so that I would stay on track. Although overwhelmed, I was absolutely grateful for a head start on knowing what to do as my peers in other majors had no idea what classes to take, who to talk to, and how they should pick their classes. I take pride in the fact that the program is so organized and available to me at any time, whether it was by immediate e-mail, phone, or walk in.

Within the years, the department made sure to have events, career discovery classes, internships, and so much more to keep us up to date. They've encouraged us to volunteer and have guided our way to developing connections and influenced us in ways to expand our network and applying what we learned in our classes to actual events. (i.e. CSI Fiber Analysis, Tie Dyeing, etc). Starting out as a volunteer myself, I was not only welcomed but encouraged to act on event planning and coordinating some events as well. From being a volunteer to having an active role as the peer advisor for this department has shown how well the faculty has opened and allowed for students, like myself, to gain experience and expand within the program itself.

I definitely feel that suggesting the closure of our department, mainly because of our size and demographics, has sent us a damaging message. Closing the department does nothing but make us feel inadequate as each and every one of us are dedicated and passionate about what we study. I was and hopefully will still be proud to know that Davis is the only one to have this department. Although we are a small program, we have grown with each other individually and as a family. By taking it away, I feel that it doesn't allow us to show our full potential during the rest of the school year and when we graduate. It hurts to know that while we do have the ability to graduate with this program, that there is a huge chance that we won't be able to come back as alumni and show appreciation to those who have helped us grow. Personally, I want to be able to come back and talk to future undergraduates and express to them that they weren't the only ones who had to fight to show what this program is made of. That even now, we have to show our peers about the quality not the quantity of our passion and love we have for this department and program. the Textile and Clothing Department has been our family since the time we start as freshmen to this very moment and I sincerely hope that future students will be able to say the same.

Sincerely,

**Van Nguyen**

**Dear Dean Van Alfen,**



My name is Molly Wismer and I am a second year Textiles & Clothing Marketing student, and I just wanted to quickly voice my thoughts on this department. When I first came to UC Davis, I was unaware of this hidden gem. As a freshman, I took a the Career Discovery Group seminar with a fashion emphasis, and this is when I discovered my perfect major, as well as other students in that class. I can honestly say every faculty person in the TxC department I have met truly has each individual student's best interest in mind and care so much about what they are doing and who they are doing it for. The guidance I requested went above and beyond my expectations and the transition into the major was seamless. This is much more than I can say about other departments I have talked to, where I felt like I was simply nothing in my struggle to find a major which fits me. My professors are amazing. They are incredibly knowledgeable and experienced that I enjoy going to office hours just to talk and hear about their journeys, which they gladly comply with. I look up to them and truly enjoy my classes. The people in the TxC department are a unique group to find on campus who deserve so much more.

The curriculum is one of the most encompassing of all the majors. While the required GE's are designed to give a student a touch of everything in their education, many students view it as a chore to get done. In this major, the carefully selected classes I need to take are relevant to my future so fulfilling my GE's is something I need not think about, I just simply enjoy the wide range of classes while challenging both sides of my intellect, physical science and social science as well as demonstrating my creativity. The alumni produced from this major are well-rounded and brilliant, to say the least. They are completely qualified for attaining jobs and life beyond college, and I am very impressed where many of them are now and I know I can attain that as well after graduation from UC Davis Textiles. The students in Textiles are a committed and determined group of young adults, exhibiting every one of our capabilities in our extensive schooling. In reality, not many other majors include such depth. It is not something worth losing.

This is definitely not a narrow major. It actually implies distinctive advantage to an applicant to make them stand out when interviewing for a job, and it generates a vast array of opportunities to carry on after college such as business school. Many other small majors do not produce nearly as many options. While it may seem like so few students are participating, I think that is false representation because like myself, many people I talk to are not aware of this program but immediately take interest and intend to at least make it their minor. I am confident representation would grow exponentially if there was more publicity. This is the only program of its kind in the UC system, and that is something we should proudly show off. Our unique department is widely recognized and respected worldwide. For myself and many others, it allows me to attend an esteemed university while following my dreams. I could have gone to a fashion school, but I knew I was worth more than that and deserved to attend a valued university. I ended up at UC Davis for a reason, and I am so thankful that I did and discovered the TxC department my first quarter of freshman year. It has added so much to my college experience, I dread the thought of where I would be otherwise.

I hope with all my heart the support of the Textiles community make an impact, because we do not deserve a department closure. It would be a huge detriment the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences as well as UC Davis. This program is another distinguishing factor of UC Davis from other universities, just as important as the viticulture department or design. Every area of this department is highly developed and remarkable, it would be a devastating loss and a damaging message. Thank you so much, Dean Van Alfen, for taking the time to read my letter.

Best Regards,

**Molly Wismer**

**Dear Neal Van Alfen,**



It has recently come to my attention that the UC Davis Textiles and Clothing department is in need of resources to ensure the future of the major. I am writing this letter to share with you the wonderful experience I had as a TXC undergraduate and how the interdisciplinary aspects of the program have prepared me for life since my graduation.

When I began my studies as a UC Davis Textiles and Clothing major I was not thrilled with the fact that I had to take chemistry, physics and rigorous applied textiles science classes. Not having much of a science background, these classes were, at first, very difficult for me. However, I soon became inspired by the wonderful lectures and applications for such topics. Still, my grades in these areas were not fantastic, so I decided to take advantage of the office hours of my professors (despite my general intimidation). Upon visiting my professors, I soon came to realize, regardless of their world renown success, they were fun down to earth people- they made me want to put in the hours of studying it took to succeed and made learning and understanding the physical sciences fun and worthwhile.

As an undergraduate I had the pleasure of working under Dr. Sun and Dr. Kaiser in the TXC Muses program where an interdisciplinary approach was taken to examine the medical textiles industry, namely the use of re usable medical textile products vs. the use of non biodegradable disposable textiles. While working on Muses, I was able to hone my analytical skills examining interviews under Dr. Kaiser, while dissecting data related to the textile science field for Dr. Sun. It was extremely rewarding to tie together all that I had learned into one project and see how the overlapping of different disciplines made for a stronger understanding of an issue and subsequently a stronger argument. While I was working on Muses I had come to find out my team had won the National IFAI safety and protective functional clothing design competition for a project we had submitted earlier that year. After our TXC 171 class presentation of our project, our team was encouraged by our instructors, Joan Chandler and Dr. Hsieh, to submit our design for competition. Dr. Hsieh met with us many times outside of her normal office hours to provide the guidance necessary to produce a winning project. As department chair, I am sure she was very busy, yet she found the time to meet and work with us. She was genuinely excited about our project.

Since my graduation last winter I have written a high school science and math curriculum for the USS Hornet Naval Ship Museum. The purpose of the curriculum is to apply concepts, mostly physics and calculus, to the overall workings of the ship, to help students gain a tangible understanding of otherwise abstract concepts. I was invited to write the curriculum because my contact at the museum knew about my background at UC Davis. I never would have dreamed that my experience as a UC Davis Textiles undergraduate would have lead to a contract in the physical science education field.

I hope this letter impresses upon you the impact that the Textiles and Clothing program has had on my professional life. Further, I hope that this excellent program receives the funding it deserves to sustain a long future educating and enriching students.

Sincerely,

**Maureen Dougherty**

**Dear Neal Van Alfen,**



I have been informed of the recent recommendation to close the business office for Textiles and Clothing, and am concerned about the implications for the future funding needs to maintain the excellence of this major.

I wish to encourage you to commit to this wonderful department's future strength. My experience as a graduate from 1974 with a BS in Textile Science has informed my entire career and life path ever since. My major at the time had a Consumer emphasis, vs. the science based degree. With my degree I went on after graduation to manage retail stores in Sacramento and the Bay area. Several years after, I came back to Davis to the now defunct Wingers Department Store, where I managed the staff, merchandising, and purchasing for 3 departments: Jewelry, House wares, and Lingerie.. My next position, after 7 years, was as a wholesale rep for Ocean Pacific for the entire Northern California region and Reno. These were all great jobs, and built on education begun in my class work at UC Davis in the Textiles and Clothing program.

Once I started my family, I scaled my career work back and helped the owner open and run the first Children's recycle store in Davis, and after that a shoe shop. As my family (and I gosh darn it!) grew older, I began to explore textile arts and found my full time, rest of my life passion.

I am currently a successful textile artist here in Davis. My art work is sold through The Artery in Davis, and 4 other stores around the US. Our previous Chancellor, Dr. Vanderhoef, took my work with him to give as gifts of appreciation in his travels on behalf of UCD. He chooses my work BECAUSE I was a graduate of our UC Davis Textiles and Clothing major. I have had my textile art works shown in many art gallery shows around Northern California and one in Australia.

I can't quote any statistics on how many graduates work within their degree fields, however I believe you would find a large number from the Textiles department who do. Please consider that this department is putting educated people out into the world with the possibility of a lifetime of contribution that started with their Textile and Clothing degree, just like me. This department deserves nurturing.

Thank you for listening.

**Connie Taxiera**