

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RADICISPANDEXCORP. ANNOUNCES  
WINNINGSTUDENT DESIGNS FOR  
2008“STRETCH TO THE FUTURE” DESIGN COMPETITION  
WITHTHEFASHIONSCHOOLOFKENTSTATEUNIVERSITY**

*mARCBOWWER FETED AS HonorEE designer Judge*

**New York, NY, May 23, 2008** --- RADICISPANDEX CORPORATION held a reception on May 20 to celebrate the winning designs of its 2008 “Stretch to the Future” Design Competition, held with the junior class design students of The Fashion School of Kent State University. Staged at the Italian Trade Commission on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, the event gathered professionals from fashion, textiles and intimate apparel to honor designer Marc Bouwer, who served as this year’s Stretch to the Future honoree judge. The event also marked the first-ever participation of lingerie trade group The Underfashion Club (UFC) as sponsor of the newly reinstated Lingerie Award category.

Following welcoming remarks from Giovanni Mafodda, Senior Deputy Trade Commissioner of The Italian Trade Commission, and RadiciSpandex Corp. CEO Marty Moran, the 2008 Stretch to the Future crystal award was presented to Mr. Bouwer by Luciano Radici, Regional Director, Americas, for The Radici Group, the parent company of RadiciSpandex Corp.

Dr. Elizabeth Rhodes, director of The Fashion School of Kent State University, thanked RadiciSpandex for its continued partnership with the Kent students on the annual competition, described to attendees the multifaceted services available at the school and accepted the Lingerie Award from UFC President Barry Ross on behalf of Kent student winner Sydney Sustarsic, who could not travel from Ohio to attend the ceremony due to unexpected illness. Sustarsic won the lingerie category with a two-piece intimates design using fabrics donated by Milliken & Company and Startex.

Mr. Moran then presented scholarship awards to Jenni Smas and Andrew Spargo, the Grand Prize/Eveningwear winner and Swimwear winner, respectively. Smas took the Grand Prize and Eveningwear honors for her floor-length gown designed in stretch fabrics from Milliken & Company while Spargo won in the swimwear category with his one-piece suit and cover up constructed with black fabrics from Darlington Fabrics and Sextet Fabrics.

This year’s winners were selected from a field of 18 students who competed with garments designed in stretch fabrics containing RadiciSpandex fiber donated by Brookwood Companies, Charbert Fabrics, Darlington Fabrics, Guilford Performance Textiles, McMurray Fabrics, Milliken & Company, Sextet Fabrics, Startex and Symphony Fabrics. In addition to Mr. Bouwer and RadiciSpandex Corp. Marketing Manager for Fashion Apparel Kim Hall, the diverse judging panel included Deborah Batcha, VP, Merchandising, L’Oréal; Virginia Borland, New York Correspondent, *Textile World*; David Burnett, VP, Merchandising, InGear Swimwear; Howard Ellis, VP, Symphony Fabrics; Kristin Kramer, Senior VP, Bra Launch and Product Development, Victoria’s Secret; Camila Perez, Swimwear Designer, Leonisa; Danielle Potito, Associate Fashion Editor, *Life & Style Weekly*; Norman Szychter, Raw Materials Manager, The Limited; Claudia Velasquez Olarte, Lingerie Designer, Leonisa; and David Wolfe, Creative Director for The Doneger Group.

Created in 1999, the annual Stretch to the Future Design Scholarship Competition inspires the creative development of design students while educating them about the technical aspects of garment construction using fashion fabrics containing a highly technical fiber such as RadiciSpandex. Each year, RadiciSpandex Corp. invites a well-known designer to head up the Stretch to the Future judging panel of apparel industry experts. Previous recipients of this honor include Betsey Johnson, John Varvatos, Nicole Miller and Carmen Marc Valvo.

#### **About Kent State University**

Since its founding as a teacher-training school in 1910, Kent State has become an engine for economic, cultural and workforce development in the region and beyond as one of the premiere Ohio colleges. The university also has earned acclaim for applying new knowledge to address the needs of the communities it serves and society as a whole through a vast array of continuing education courses and much more. In addition to its campus in Kent, OH, The Fashion School, Kent State University has two outpost studios --- one in Florence, Italy, and the recently opened New York City garment district location. Fashion students have the opportunity to study abroad or in New York City for one semester in either studio.

#### **About The Underfashion Club**

A not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, the Underfashion Club was established in 1958 to provide intimate apparel industry leaders with a forum to exchange information and ideas, a platform to discuss industry needs and problems, and a way of establishing the intimate apparel market as a vital aspect of the fashion industry.

#### **About RadiciSpandex Corp.**

Based in Gastonia, NC, RadiciSpandex Corp. is a U.S. subsidiary of The Radici Group, a \$1.5 billion Italian entity with over 4,100 employees at 38 production units in 15 countries worldwide. The Radici Group is today one of the most active Italian chemical groups on an international level whose diversified business activities focus on chemicals, plastics, fibers, textiles and auxiliary activities. Synthetic fibers (nylon, polyester, polypropylene spunbond nonwovens and spandex/elastane) are the core activity of the group with the main fields of application being: apparel, home furnishings, automotive and sports as well as cutting-edge materials for technical uses. For more information on RadiciSpandex and The Radici Group, visit [www.radiciSpandex.com](http://www.radiciSpandex.com) and [www.radicigroup.com](http://www.radicigroup.com).

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**EDITORS: HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTOGRAPHY OF RADICI EXECUTIVES  
AT THE EVENT IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.**

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