

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RADICISPANDEXCORP. ANNOUNCES  
WINNINGSTUDENT DESIGNS FOR  
2009“STRETCH TO THE FUTURE” DESIGN COMPETITION  
WITHTHEFASHIONSCHOOLOFKENTSTATEUNIVERSITY**

*VENACAVA DESIGNERS LISA MAYOCK AND SOPHIE  
BUHAI serve as Honoree Designer Judges*



From left: Swimwear winner Chelsea Paskvan, Sophie Buhai, Lisa Mayock, Grand Prize Winner Alexandria Kakoules and Eveningwear winner Jenna Weickert

**Gastonia, NC, April 29, 2009** --- **RADICISPANDEX CORPORATION** has announced the five winners of the 2009 “Stretch to the Future” Scholarship Design Competition held with the junior class design students of The Fashion School of Kent State University. Staged at Kent’s Manhattan design studio on April 24, the judging session also feted designers Lisa Mayock and Sophie Buhai, founders of the popular contemporary womenswear label Vena Cava, as this year’s honoree judges leading a diverse panel of apparel industry experts. The respected charitable organization The Underfashion Club (UFC) returned for a second year as sponsor of the contest’s lingerie award.

After opening remarks from Kent State University Fashion School instructor Paula Dancie, RadiciSpandex Corp. Marketing Manager Kim Hall presented Mayock and Buhai with the 2009 Stretch to the Future honoree awards and the young design duo expressed their appreciation for being recognized as role models for Kent's design students. The judging panel then selected scholarship winners in the categories of eveningwear, activewear, swimwear, lingerie and a Grand Prize Overall.

Alexandria Kakoules, 21, of Canton, OH, won the Grand Prize for her one-piece swimsuit constructed in fabrics donated by Darlington Fabrics. Activewear award winner Christine Barbas created her three-piece design consisting of a zip-up vest, a long-sleeve top and leggings using fabrics from Darlington, Gehring Textiles, Paul Gottlieb and Sextet Fabrics. Chelsea Paskvan won the swimwear category for her swimsuit and cover-up designed in fabrics from Sextet. Brittney Sampsel took the lingerie honors for a bustier and panty featuring Sextet and Cyberknit fabrics while Jenna Weickert won the eveningwear category with her gown designed in black stretch fabric from Darlington.

This year's winners were selected from a field of 30 students, nearly double the previous year's entrants. The students competed with garments designed in stretch fabrics containing RadiciSpandex RadElast® spandex donated by Brookwood Companies, Darlington Fabrics, Gehring Textiles, McMurray Fabrics, Paul Gottlieb, Sextet Fabrics, Starensier, and Symphony Fabrics.

In addition to Mayock and Buhai, the judging panelists included RadiciSpandex Corp. Marketing Manager Kim Hall, Don Allen, VP, design, Warners; Jade Frampton, market editor, *Elle Magazine*; Roslyn Harte, president, Lances Harte; Maria Hinchcliff, director of raw materials development and R&D, Maidenform; Helen Mears, design director, Wacoal America; Brian Meck, general manager, Fessler USA, Lesley Pfitzenmayer, textiles design manager, Amoena; Barbara Randall, director of The Fashion Center; and Barbara Ross, president, Sextet Fabrics.

Created in 1999, the "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 RadElast® by RadiciSpandex. Each year, RadiciSpandex 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, Dana Buchman, Nicole Miller, Nanette Lepore, Carmen Marc Valvo and Marc Bouwer, among others.

### **About Vena Cava**

Brooklyn-based designers Lisa Mayock and Sophie Buhai have been designing together since their graduation from Parsons School of Design in the Spring of 2003. Their inspirations come from their own vintage collections, found objects, and art history. The classic silhouettes reflect a timeless design that appears to a mentality rather than an age. Unique, hand drawn prints are Vena Cava's signature. The feeling of wearing a piece by Vena Cava is much like the feeling of wearing a special family heirloom. Throughout their five years in business, Vena Cava has been awarded many honors and accolades, including: Ecco Domani Emerging Designer Award (2006), UPS Young Designer Award (2006), and nomination for the Vogue/CFDA Fashion Fund Award

(2007 and 2008). Vena Cava was awarded the Vogue/CFDA Fashion Fund runner-up prize in 2008.

### **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, Kent State University's fashion school, which was founded in 1983, 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. and RadiciGroup**

Based in Gastonia, NC, RadiciSpandex Corp., maker of RadElast® spandex fiber, is a U.S. subsidiary of RadiciGroup, an international fibers conglomerate. With 3,700 employees worldwide and 2008 consolidated sales of EUR 957 million, RadiciGroup is one of Italy's leading chemicals multinationals, a diversified group specializing in chemicals, plastics and synthetic fibres. One of the Group's key strengths is the synergistic vertical integration of its polyamide production chain. Attention to our customers' requirements, the desire to foresee their needs, to supply them with quality, made-to-measure products, as well as continuous innovation, research, development, and the constant expansion of our product range. These are RadiciGroup's winning strategies. RadiciGroup products are exported all over the world and are widely used in applications such as apparel, sports, furnishings, automotive, electric/electronics and household appliances. 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 FROM THE JUDGING SESSION IS  
AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.**

#### **Contact:**

Fineberg Publicity Inc  
276 Fifth Ave, Room 701  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 686-7820

Edgar Trinidad, [edgar@finebergpublicity.com](mailto:edgar@finebergpublicity.com)

Erica Fineberg, [erica@finebergpublicity.com](mailto:erica@finebergpublicity.com)