

## Edward the Great

One of the greatest benefits of working at UNT is being able to collaborate with scholars and professionals from various disciplines. Having an expansive knowledge of history, an understanding of world cultures, and an experience of library science are just some of components of knowledge that help the Texas Fashion Collection flourish in its mission.

Edward Hoyenski works as Library Associate in the Rare Book room in Willis Library. He has a love of history, an appreciation for antiquities and thirst for learning. He is meticulous and thorough in his endeavors. I am certain that the qualities that he brings to his work make him a valuable contributor to his field. The Texas Fashion Collection is fortunate that Edward also has a passion for fashion, so much so that he donates his time in the summer, on weekends, and after a day's work to volunteer in the collection. The TFC has had many volunteers in the past, and many employees, and without the contributions of all of these persons the TFC could not operate. Edward has brought something more, something spectacular, and something that sets his contribution apart.

Edward had a vision of bringing his experience of cataloging and organization from his Library Science background and applying that to the Texas Fashion Collection while in the process of inventorying the entire collection of over 15,000 items. With the help of Ken Weber, an expert in vintage fashion, he reorganized and meticulously alphabetized the hanging storage of the TFC, which is the main resource of the collection. He moved the more valuable and couture pieces to the top racks and organized the raising of the racks so that the pieces on top would be more protected. When he found out that the TFC did not have enough money left in the budget to afford to pay for the moving of the racks, he found a qualified person to volunteer for the job. When he saw the scope of the undertaking of inventory he inspired students, friends, and even his mother to come in on their free time and volunteer. Volunteers often need a lot of supervision as they are unfamiliar with the operation of the collection. Edward has taken the time to learn about the operating procedures and unique conservation requirements, and he organizes the work of each of his volunteers accordingly and efficiently.

There are different words that are used for different levels of monetary giving, such as donor, contributor, sponsor, or partner. Each of these words uniquely expresses the level of giving. What Edward has unconditionally given to the TFC in his time and effort puts him at the level of a partner. This is not just because if we added up all that he has contributed over the years to a dollar amount it would be equal to that of a partner, but that he himself actually manifested what he gave. The manifestation of his vision has transcended the collection, inspired its users and those that care for it, made it more beautiful, more user friendly and more secure. The staff of the TFC cannot alone give Edward the appreciation he deserves so we ask that he be recognized with this award.