We all recycle plastic, paper, glass, metals and aluminum. But have you ever thought of recycling old buttons and using them to decorate calendars? Or how about making a dress out of soda can pops? This is recycled fashion.

Lorraine Mellor, chair of the fashion department, explained that recycled fashion can be made from raw materials that were previously used in some other product, clothing or otherwise, or materials that might be considered waste in some other context. An outdated item can easily be updated into something new and wearable.

“The recycling of clothing has been going on for centuries, from hand-me-downs for children and servants, to the anti-establishment fashion statements of the hippies, to the chic used clothing and vintage boutiques that are so popular today,” said Mellor.

The theme of this year’s fashion showcase “Refashioned,” recycled fashion is a popular topic among fashion students. Mellor’s impetus for the fashion showcase is “to make a statement of the importance of protecting the environment and to make people aware of the amazing amount of commercial eco-friendly fashion products that are now available.”

During the spring semester, senior students were challenged with researching and creating a product that is friendly to the environment. “The idea is to get students to express themselves in the creation of a fashion product, while thinking about the aesthetics, functionality and environmental impact of what they are creating,” said Mellor.

Liz Polley ’07, a theatre and fashion major, created a line of dresses called “Garbage Goes Glam.” Using dresses from the 1980s, Polley turned them into dresses she would wear today. “My inspirations for this line came from 1950s fashion icons such as Grace Kelly, Marilyn Monroe and Audrey Hepburn,” she said. Polley collected dresses without spending any money, which was her way of recycling fashion.

Emma Scholl ’07 used her fashion design, communications and history majors as inspiration for her designs. (continued on page 3)

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~ Loraine Mellor, chair, fashion department
A Day in the Life of a Fashion Major

by Melynda Silva ’08 and Amanda Smith ’08

So, your roommate is a fashion major? Secretly, you’ve been wondering what exactly she does all day long. While you are studying furiously for organic chemistry, she is coloring in long-legged models on foam core.

Later, as you dash to a chemistry review session in the library, she is engrossed in a fashion magazine with www.style.com pulled up on her laptop.

Are you still puzzled at what she’s doing? Can you even get a degree in magazine reading? We’re here to shed some light on a typical day in the life of a fashion major at Albright.

8 a.m. Up early getting dressed. With all of the fashion knowledge crammed inside this head, rolling out of bed in pajamas isn’t usually an option.

8:45 a.m. Before running into fashion history class, pick up a Jake’s Java coffee to make it through until lunch.

10:50 a.m. One runway show, three decades of fashion and a slide show presentation later, it’s time for a general studies class.

12:20 p.m. Stomach’s rumbling. Time for a trek to the cafeteria for a little substance. Alas, there’s only 20 minutes until internship at Firefly on Penn Ave. Guess it’s grilled cheese and soup, to go!

1:05 p.m. Unpacking, pricing and displaying Schilling toys. For the next five hours: fix displays, assist customers with Zutano baby clothes and finish cleaning store before dinner.

6:30 p.m. Outlining the next fashion history chapter and then moving on to magazines to find samples of bodices for draping class on Friday, an article on the BMI index/model debate and an inspiration for a designer piece.

8 p.m. Research ready-to-wear and couture spring ’08 collections for style and color discussion tomorrow. Who knew the 1920s and the color green were making a comeback? Debate fabrics and colors for dress in draping class.

10 p.m. Type internship journal and gather information for study abroad in Italy this summer. So excited! Are four classes in four weeks too much? E-mail Doreen Burdalski, fashion adviser, to discuss.

11:15 p.m. Create a marketing plan for internship. Get dates, analyze customers, pick plan. Is this idea even going to work?

12:30 a.m. Sketch appropriate skirt for draping class. Pencil or A-line skirt? Will a patterned fabric conflict with ruching or go better with a two-dart pencil skirt? Jersey or knit fabric? So many decisions, keep sketching.

2 a.m. Finally time to go to sleep. After all, there is a 9 a.m. draping class tomorrow. Jake’s Java is going to carry this girl through the four hours of class without pinning one finger to the form.

Classes for fashion majors don’t stop on Fridays either. While we may be exhausted by the end of the week, everyday is a class for us. We observe people, places and things. We’re inspired and intrigued by everything that we see and hear, new and old, calm and crazy.
The amazing trends for this spring do not have to cost an arm and a leg. You can still get the great looks of the celebrities without paying the outrageous costs.

Target has started GO: International. GO gives young designers who are making it big in high fashion a chance to design special low-priced collections for the store’s junior department. The collections of such designers as Luella Bartley, Behnaz Sarafpour and Proenza Schouler are offered for limited times. Their low-priced designs are similar to the aesthetic of their more expensive designs but are made with less costly material and a more relaxed look.

Proenza Schouler, the design team currently featured at Target, is well-known for its striking bustier design in its high-end dresses and tops. The Bustier Dress at Neiman Marcus goes for $1,350! Luckily, the designing duo made a very similar silk bustier top for Target for just $49.99.

Some of the prominent trends for the spring season are shown in high-priced designs in Vogue and Harper’s Bazaar. Color trends include jewel tones, white and metallic for accessories. A Gucci deep purple A-line mini-dress shown in the March 2007 Harper’s Bazaar is priced at $3,385. But at Old Navy, jewel toned and white dresses start at $24.50. A sapphire blue and white patterned A-line dress goes for $29.50. A Louis Vuitton white blazer goes for $2,579 while a very similar one at Express is priced at $118.

Another spring trend is metallic bags. A very affordable silver clutch at New York & Company costs $9.99 and looks just as good as a silver metallic Lanvin python clutch that sells for $2,833.

Wedges are the shoe trend of the season. Christian Louboutin black wedges at Saks Fifth Avenue are $310 while New York & Company black wedges are on sale for $9.99.

Celebrity styles for less can be found at www.lik.com. You can click on a celebrity of your choice and find less expensive look-a-likes of his/her accessories, such as bags, shoes and jewelry.

Any style from a celebrity’s wardrobe or the amazing designs in fashion magazines can be found for a fraction of the price of their high-end counterparts. With a little effort, your bargain shopping can result in high fashion style and no one will know the difference!

(ReFashioned continued from page 1)

Scholl has costumed a play featuring three women that takes place in the 1800s. Two of the women are upper-class, while the third is a servant. She said, “I wanted the dresses for the high-class women to be very gaudy with some kind of beading on them.” Taking creative license with her choice of materials, Scholl met the challenge of being eco-friendly by using a fabric that was previously an American Indian wall hanging.

Abbey Reames ’07, a fashion design and merchandising major, decided to design clothing made out of vintage fabrics that were once window treatments, blankets and bedding. Reames’ line ranges from casual to active wear. Of the experience, Reames said, “It is really cool how anything recycled can be turned into something else, like Coca-Cola tabs into dresses, and billboards into bags.”

The students researched the environmental issues and came to the conclusion that waste in the United States is a big issue. Fortunately, there are many businesses springing up that only use recycled materials. The senior seminar class contacted local businesses and invited them to display their recycled products at “ReFashioned.”

“I feel like this concept really unifies people,” Reames said. “I have learned that one person’s trash is truly another’s treasure.”
The New Black
Fashion Forecast for Fall 2007
by Amanda Liptock ’09

We have all had those mornings: Your hair isn’t doing anything right. You’re feeling kind of bloated from getting a little too happy at happy hour last night and when you get to class, you realize your outfit totally clashes. Getting dressed in the dark was probably not the best idea.

Don’t sweat it! This year’s fall fashion trends have come to the rescue. New York’s Fashion Week in February featured styles from sequins to feathers to 80s to a Russian revolutionary twist. Harriet Mays and Amy Loarocca from www.nymag.com give us the biggest trends that we can expect this fall.

Say goodbye to bed head. Hats are in this fall! Whether it’s wide-brimmed or pulled low, a fedora or a top hat, hats were featured in designer’s collections such as Marc Jacobs, Vera Wang, Donna Karen and Michael Korrs.

One thing that wasn’t featured on the runway: skinny jeans. Even though we spent all season trying to squeeze into them perfectly, push them aside for fall because big pants are in. Michael Korrs and Proenza Schouler featured slouchy menswear-style pants and Narisco Rodriguez showed off his slick stovepipes.

Believe it or not, fall 2007 allows for clashing. Black and navy, which has been a “fashion no-no” forever, were paired in Derek Lam’s fall collection featuring a black belt on a navy dress. Who would dare?

Other trends to look for this coming fall are platforms with traditional shapes, such as pumps and sandals, fluffy feathers on evening gowns, zippers on just about everything, lots of sequins and vibrant colors.

So what did we learn from fall ‘07’s fashions? Wear a hat to cure a bad hair day. Be daring and clash. And, stand tall in those 4½ inch heels (even if you’re already 5’7”).

Describe your style in three words or less. Casual, colorful with a lot of denim

What is your favorite trend in America?
Hoodies

What is your favorite trend in Switzerland?
A lot of girls wear colorful dresses with leggings underneath.

What do you think is the most unique thing about your style?
My passion for fashion jewelry. I love hunting for unique pieces to combine with a simple outfit.

Explain your thought process when selecting an outfit.
I don’t really go through a process when choosing an outfit. I guess I go with my mood and with what’s clean.

Name three of your favorite things in your closet.
My brown leather jacket, Ray Ban sunglasses and a white summer skirt.

What is the biggest difference between fashions in the United States and Switzerland?
We don’t dress as casual and sporty as people do here.

-interview by Lauren Conner ’10