



NEWS

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FIT ANNOUNCES FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE JEWELRY DESIGN SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORED BY THE TIFFANY & CO. FOUNDATION

Yukiko Kawata of Japan has been selected as the first recipient of a one-year Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) scholarship to major in Jewelry Design. The Tiffany & Co. Foundation sponsors the scholarship, which is awarded to a new full-time student who is a citizen of Japan and meets FIT's established language, academic, and portfolio criteria.

Ms. Kawata will begin her studies in fall 2005. She was selected through a review process conducted by renowned members of the jewelry industry, including designers Michael Bondanza and Jose Hess. Mr. Bondanza has won numerous international awards for his creative use of platinum. Mr. Hess fashions contemporary diamond jewelry and is a master goldsmith and gemologist. The scholarship covers tuition, room and board, books, supplies, and transportation expenses.

"We are delighted to announce Ms. Kawata as the winner of the Jewelry Design Scholarship sponsored by The Tiffany & Co. Foundation," said Michael Coan, chairperson of FIT's Jewelry Design Department. "Her professors have praised her highly and recommended her without reservations for this prestigious award."

The FIT Jewelry Design Scholarship is the latest initiative in a longstanding relationship between FIT and Tiffany & Co. In 1990, Tiffany established the Elsa Peretti Endowed Scholarship at FIT, in honor of the designer's 15th anniversary with the company. In 2001, Tiffany celebrated Peretti's 25th anniversary at the company by establishing the Elsa Peretti Endowed Professorship at FIT with a grant of \$750,000, the largest charitable contribution ever made by Tiffany. Professor Coan was named the first recipient of the professorship in May 2004.

FIT offers both one- and two-year programs in Jewelry Design leading to an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. In both programs, students receive training in a core curriculum that familiarizes them with the design, construction, and creation of jewelry; the techniques of jewelry rendering and principles of casting methods; the study of gems; and how jewelry design trends reflect contemporary society. Graduates are prepared for careers as designers, jewelers, and executives in the manufacture of fine or costume jewelry.

Since its inception in 1837, Tiffany & Co. has been guided by the belief that a successful company has a responsibility to the greater community. Established in 2000, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation broadens the scope of the company's giving by providing grants to nonprofit organizations dedicated to arts education and preservation and environmental conservation. www.tiffanyandcofoundation.org

FIT is a college of art and design, business and technology of the State University of New York (SUNY). It offers more than 30 programs leading to the AAS, BFA, BS, MA, and MPS degrees. Last year, *The Unofficial, Unbiased Guide to the 328 Most Interesting Colleges*, issued by Kaplan, listed FIT, saying "FIT gives you elite Seventh Avenue connections and conservatory-type training at a public school price."