

NEW SPACE and NEW NAME for MATERIALS TESTING LAB

Jefferson's technical facilities for research, development and testing of new fabrics may be unsurpassed in higher education: **Grundy Materials Evaluation Laboratory** has been assessing new and newly combined materials for more than 40 years. This year, it will have a new name and a new home. Thanks to the support of noted textile design alumnus Jeff Bruner '73, the **Jeff Bruner Materials Characterization Laboratory** will open in the state-of-the-art Kay and Harold Ronson Health and Applied Science Center this spring.

The Lab's main mission remains the same: to offer experiential learning, introducing students to technology and processes for evaluating materials. It has also been a problem-solving workhorse for industry and government agencies, with the capacity to assess myriad factors, including friction, wicking, strength, weight, high-compression capacity and abrasion/snagging resistance.

"One of our more complex studies was the seven-years-long War Fighters' Apparel project," explains Janet Brady, MS, associate professor of materials technology and the Lab's faculty director. "To perform full functional testing of potential military garments—notably, to evaluate comfort and material strength and durability—we formed multidisciplinary teams, including computational analysts, computational chemists, psychologists and human-factor specialists, textile engineers and garment-development experts. DoD adopted many of the garment-design details that we recommended." ■