

# Wool Winners 2019

Beautifully constructed garments display  
the potential of a natural fiber

BY ERICA REDFERN

**T**he annual Make It With Wool (MIWW) competition is dedicated to encouraging sewing and knitting enthusiasts to explore the beauty and versatility of wool fabrics and yarns. It is sponsored by the American Wool Council, the American Sheep Industry, and American Sheep Industry Women. All garments must be created using fabric or yarn composed of at least 60 percent wool or specialty fibers such as alpaca, mohair, and cashmere. Contestants compete in age groups: Those age 12 and younger compete as preteens, 13- to 16-year-olds compete as juniors, 17- to 24-year-olds as seniors, and those 25 and older as adults. The garments are judged not only on the quality of sewing, but also on the garment or ensemble's appropriateness to the contestant's lifestyle and the creativity used in working with wool materials. Make It With Wool begins with state-level competition, the winners proceeding to the national judging round. *Threads* features works by six of the winners of the 2019 national competition on the following pages.

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*Erica Redfern is Threads' assistant editor.*





*Wool coatings in a range of textures were prominent in this year's competition.*





*Fall leaf appliques complement an autumnal color scheme. A coordinating hat and necklace complete the ensemble.*



## Adult Winner

### Charlene Colon

*Farmville, North Carolina*

Charlene's ensemble is a loose-fitting, fully lined coat, trousers with a fly-front zipper, and a semifitted top with high collar and full-length sleeves. The coat fabric is a wool and mohair blend handwoven by Linda Kubik of Ritzville, Washington. Charlene chose to use Neue Mode 23396, a belted coat pattern. The coat is underlined with silk organza to support the loosely woven fabric. The two-piece sleeves are embellished with machine-embroidered autumn leaf appliques and felted wool acorns. The tailored trousers are made from Italian denim-look wool suiting, following Burda Style 6889. They are partially lined and have a hand-picked, fly-front zipper and slanted side pockets. The semifitted top, adapted from Lekala 5981, is sewn in a camel-colored double-knit wool from Austria, which complements Charlene's fall color story. The top features a self-drafted neck band and long sleeves with tuck detail, accented with antique copper buttons. The necklace is hand-spun wool and mohair yarn, knitted into an I-cord that supports machine-embroidered appliques, felted wool beads, and acorns with antique copper accents. The coordinating hat, adapted from the ElseWhen Rosabelle Cloche pattern, features a trimmed sheepskin accent band.

Charlene began sewing and entered MIWW when she was 16, winning the National Junior Division in 1970. She holds bachelor's degrees in Home Economics Education and Health Care Management. She served in the United States Navy for 21 years and retired as a lieutenant commander, Medical Service Corps.



## Senior Winner

### Renata Goossen

Potwin, Kansas

For this ensemble, Renata wanted to incorporate her favorite styles, colors, and techniques while stretching her skill set. She was inspired by the Kate Spade design house's classic yet modern look. Her ensemble consists of a coat, blouse, and skirt. The coat is created from Burda Style 6462 with plush wool coating and lined with silk charmeuse. It features notched lapels and welt pockets and ends at the midcalf. Renata used Vogue 8772 for the blouse, and chose a tropical-weight wool shirting in soft gold. The bow neckline detail is cut on the bias for flexibility. Renata used French seams in the garment body and a Hong Kong armscye finish for a neat interior. The skirt is BurdaStyle.com Ruffle Flap Skirt 09/2017, sewn from wool flannel and lined with silk charmeuse. The straight skirt features ruffles sewn into the waistband for a faux pocket flap look. The covered walking slit adds to comfort and ease of mobility.

Renata has been sewing for 15 years. This entry marks her 11th year participating in the MIWW competition. She studies horticulture production at Kansas State University and works in the university theater costume shop. Her mother and grandmother started her on her sewing journey. She relies on them for advice and opinions on every personal project she sews.



*The bow neckline detail adds vintage charm and pops nicely against the classic coat.*



## Senior 1st Runner-up and Senior Construction Winner

Emily Waldron

Hamilton, Ohio



*The wrap top has 700-plus glass beads knitted into its lace edges, and the fitted skirt has an inset flounce at the center back.*



Emily's ensemble includes a skirt and a hand-knitted camisole and wrap top. The self-drafted, fitted skirt is made from Pendleton Eco-Wise fabric, which is manufactured to reduce its environmental footprint. The pattern was based on two dresses Emily had previously made, with added style details. It features a quarter-circle flounce inset at the back to add fun, dramatic flair. The raised waist is supported on the inside by a corset-style waistband that keeps the waist from crumpling, sliding down, or straining at the seams when she bends. The skirt is lined with ivory polyester lining that coordinates with the wrap top and camisole. The close-fitting camisole was knit with Nerd Girl Yarns' "Foxy," a double-knitting-weight wool/silk blend yarn, from a self-designed pattern with a lace border at the hem. Elastic cord running through the straps reinforces the wool's natural elastic properties and keeps the straps from stretching. The wrap top is a modified version of Emily's Phase Three shawl pattern, which is published on Ravelry.com. The knitted lace features more than 700 glass beads incorporated into the lower sections. An I-cord edge and mother-of-pearl button converts the shawl into a wrap top. She used Nerd Girl Yarns' "Heart You," a superwash fingering-weight merino wool yarn.

Emily got her sewing start when she was 8 years old and her mother enrolled her in a 4-H sewing program. Now that she is 21, she is too old to compete in 4-H, but she still sews whenever she can. She has participated in the MIWW competition for the last four years.



## Junior Winner

### Kevina Clear

Niles, Michigan

To stay warm and stylish, Kevina made a winter coat and dress ensemble. The two-toned coat is based on McCall's 7025, which she chose for its bold silhouette. Both coating fabrics are cashmere. She needle-felted leaves and flowers in shades of brown, tan, cream, and green, to coordinate with the plaid dress fabric. This was her first time needle-felting, and she enjoyed it. In the pattern, the collar is worn as a stand-up collar, but she prefers wearing it folded down. The coat features side-seam and patch pockets. All the seams on the upper half are hand-topstitched. The coat is lined with burgundy polyester lining. Kevina loved the slim look of McCall's 8676, an out-of-print dress pattern from 1967, which she made in a lightweight Pendleton wool. The irregular plaid was a challenge to match, but she managed it with careful layout planning. After she sewed the bodice to the skirt, she realized the dress was too large for her. She was able to take it in at the sides, but it was still too large in the back. So, she extended the darts to the neckline, creating princess darts that fit her shape better.

Kevina has been sewing since she was 5 years old, when she designed and sewed a quilt. She enjoys making interesting and beautiful things. This was her fifth time competing in the MIWW competition.



*The bold plaid fabric ties together the coat and felting colors.*



*Needle-felted flowers and vines adorn the pockets and center front of the coat.*



## Fashion/Apparel Design Winner

### Hannah Drumm

Waco, Texas

Hannah's MIWW ensemble is based on Little Red Riding Hood. In her design concept, Little Red Riding Hood has grown up and exchanged her cape for a coat but kept her trademark red hood. The coat is made from wool herringbone and the dress, not pictured, is in natural white wool. Hannah drafted the garments with Gerber Pattern Design Software. The coat features trumpet sleeves, a fitted curved waistline, and a flared skirt. She incorporated princess seams to give the coat better shaping, and added pleats to the hood to emphasize it, a connection to her design inspiration.

Hannah is a senior at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and began sewing at the start of her college career. After completing this ensemble in fall 2018, she continued her fairy tale-inspired designing for her senior collection in spring 2019. Titled "The Last Wish," her collection featured five formal dresses inspired by characters from the musical *Into the Woods*.



*Inspired by Little Red Riding Hood, this coat combines function and flair.*





## Machine Embroidery Award Winner

### Mia Suhrbier

Winlock, Washington

A windy college campus is the perfect place to wear Mia's machine-embroidered jacket and jeans-style pants. The jacket body is made from a handwoven wool/mohair blend by weaver Linda Kubik, while the sleeves, undercollar, and front facings are made from Pendleton wool coating. Mia used Vogue 8933 and embroidered a repeating geometric motif on the large right collar flap in colors that complement the jacket fabric. The pants are sewn from Angela Wolf's AW4200 pattern in lightweight Pendleton wool twill to mimic denim. They include classic jeans detailing: a fly-front zipper and contrast topstitching. The back pockets are embroidered with a circular design echoing the coat's embroidery, to tie the ensemble together.

Mia has been entering the MIWW competition since age 8. She has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. In fall 2019, she started a master's degree program in civil and environmental engineering at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington.



*A machine embroidery motif  
adorns the pants' back pockets.*

*Machine  
embroidery  
on the jacket's  
lapel brings  
out the fabric's  
color variation.*

Photos: Mike Yamin.