

# The DALLAS POST

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## Dr. Collini does life-changing surgery on children in Ecuador

By REBECCA BRIA  
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When Dr. Francis Collini, MD, FACS, and his medical team showed up at Naval Hospital in Guayaquil, Ecuador, they found nearly 300 children waiting for them and all had only one thing in mind—a life-transforming surgery.

Because of the large turnout, the volunteers were forced to sort through the children and decide who would benefit the most from an operation. Medical screenings were performed on each child to ensure they were healthy enough for surgery and, by the end of the day, a little over 50 patients were chosen for free surgery during the week.

Dr. Collini of the Renaissance Center in Shavertown and his team visited Ecuador in June to help underprivileged children with disfiguring birth defects and injuries. Their trip was sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Collini's Back Mountain-based charity Community Cares for Kids, which makes the annual visit to

**"The smiles of the children and the tears of relief of the parents make it all worth it."**

Dr. Collini

Ecuador possible.

"The smiles of the children and the tears of relief of the parents make it all worth it," said Dr. Collini in a press release when the group returned home.

During the trip, about 55 surgeries were performed on poor children, some of which were very complex and lasted more than four hours. Three ear deformations, cleft lips and palates, burn scars and hand reconstructions were corrected. Cases of hemangioma (a blood vessel tumor on the face) and cephalocele (a cyst on the scalp that has communication with the brain) were also corrected.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Francis Collini of the Renaissance Center in Shavertown and several volunteer medical personnel visited Ecuador in June and performed more than 50 life-transforming surgeries on children with birth defects.

## A winning design?

### Former resident's bridal gown entry is finalist

By REBECCA BRIA  
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Jillian Krakosky was accepted to the Pennsylvania Governor's School of Excellence for Visual Arts in the summer of 2002. She was just a junior in high school who wanted to keep her options open, so she was majoring in ceramics and minoring in theater. But those summer classes changed her forever.

"That summer, I was handed a white umbrella to use as a black canvas," said Krakosky. "I decided to paint a fashion figure on each panel. At that moment, I knew I was meant to be a designer."

Krakosky, 22, formerly of Dallas, is one of five finalists in the Contrex Natural Mineral Water Bridal Design Competition.

Contrex Natural Mineral Water partnered with retailer Kleinfeld Bridal and New York Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) to support student bridal designers. Each finalist constructed an original, water-themed wedding gown and presented it to a panel of judges on July 25. The panel judged on creativity, originality, wearability, demonstrated technical skills, and professionalism. They consisted of representatives from Contrex, the Kleinfeld Bridal own-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Twenty-two year old Jillian Krakosky, formerly of Dallas, is a finalist in the Contrex Natural Mineral Water Bridal Design Competition.

ers, high-end bridal designers Michelle and Henry Roth, and fashion editors from BRIDES, ModernBride, and Martha Stewart Weddings.

The winner will be announced September 26 at Kleinfeld Bridal in New York City, will receive \$5,000 from Contrex and earn bridal industry recognition.

"I'd spend every night at FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology) until they'd kick me out," said Krakosky. "I'm so excited. I think this is one of the best opportunities

I've ever had."

A 2003 graduate of Dallas High School, the aspiring fashion designer relocated to New York City after high school to attend FIT. She has completed an internship at David Rodriguez in New York City in which she assisted with the making of Carrie Underwood's gown for the 40th annual Country Music Awards.

Over the years, Krakosky has received a variety of awards for her work. While at FIT, she was a recipient of the John Bakel (of Ralph Lauren) Critic Award for Art Specialization.

Before college, Krakosky was awarded the Rossetti Art Exhibit-David Berkowitch Memorial Award and Senior Art Scholarship, Dallas' Outstanding Scholastic Achievement in Art, WVIA-TV's Artist of the Week, and the Cider Painters of America: Mertie Larish Award, Scholarship, Excellence in Miniature Art, and League Award for Artistry.

Comprised of about a half dozen high-end fabrics, Krakosky's wedding gown entry features 12,000 hand-sewn white Swarovski crystals. Because the gown had to be centered on water, Krakosky used sunlight on water as her inspiration. The overall construction of the dress mimics a water droplet. Krakosky feels the dress reflects the seasons; the colors reveal the spring and summer and the arrangement of the crystals also look like icicles, challenging her to create something different, unique and wearable.

The arts have always been a love of Krakosky's. Both her mother and grandmother are artists and Krakosky learned from them. She also took professional art lessons from Sue Hand of Dallas.

"I think in order to be a successful designer, you need to be an artist and

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Jess Lincoln holds up a peacock egg for inspection. She's hoping to sell her 26 birds.



This is one of the 26 peacocks Jess Lincoln is hoping to sell.

## Do you 'wanna' get a peacock?

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
For The Dallas Post

You can buy a peacock egg from Jess Lincoln in Harding but she'll be quick to tell you that you can't get the birds to sit and hatch them for you.

"Too many generations of people taking their eggs from them," she said. "They don't know they are supposed to sit on them."

Lincoln knows all about these curious and beautiful creatures because has hatched most of the 26 birds she

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## MEET THE DALLAS FOOTBALL TEAM



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Andrew Ondish, Derek Martin, Fred Mihal and Nick Lombard are quarterbacks of the Dallas Dallas High School football team. For a story and more photos on Media Night, please turn to page 13.



The front side of the wedding gown Jillian Krakosky designed reveals the intricate beading from her inspiration of sunlight on water.

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