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RED ANTS PANTS

For **Sarah Calhoun '01**, fury proved to be the mother of invention.

Following graduation from Gettysburg College with a major in environmental studies, Calhoun went on to instruct wilderness courses for Outward Bound. Later she became a trail crew leader for the Student Conservation Association. The work was great, she said, but "it's just infuriating to be stopping all the time to pull your pants up when you're doing manual labor."

After five years of tugging at her pants, Calhoun decided to make her own. What she wanted was a work pant that would both fit a woman's figure and withstand the physical demands of outdoor work.

Calhoun started out by reinforcing the knees of jeans and other pants she bought. Then, after a chance meeting in a Bozeman, Mont. coffee shop with a man who worked in design and production for the clothing and gear company Patagonia, she decided to create and sell her own pants. "Meeting the Patagonia designer was definitely fateful," she said.

Calhoun spent about two years getting her business, *Red Ants Pants*, up and running before she began taking sales orders. In October 2006 she opened the doors of her Main Street shop in White Sulphur Springs, Mont., which doubles as her home. And today she is selling pants to people across the country.

With an inventory of some 2,100 pairs of pants that are restocked quarterly, *Red Ants Pants* continues to grow. For women, the attraction is durable pants that come in two shapes — straight and curvy. The company also offers 70 different combinations of sizes by waist and inseam so women get what fits them best. "Putting on these pants was a religious experience," reads one very satisfied testimonial.

Calhoun noted that the critical thinking skills she learned at Gettysburg College definitely helped get her company started. In addition, she said that her extensive involvement in GRAB (Gettysburg Recreational Adventure Board) and the Center for Public Service provided her with "skills like community organizing, group management, and conflict resolution — skills not usually taught in the classroom. My experiences as a GRAB facilitator were truly the ones that taught me the most about myself and what I was capable of accomplishing."

Calhoun can be reached at sarah@redantspants.com. Her website is www.redantspants.com.



Sarah Calhoun '01

—Devan Grote '11