

Refresh Your Style

Jennifer Coltrain, 44, a Raleigh paralegal, wrote in email, "I'm not sure I have any style to refresh, a true sign that I definitely need help. I haven't lost the baby weight, and while I used to enjoy shopping and fashion, I basically dress to cover myself up and that's it." Sounds like a distress call.

Hair and makeup

Jennifer loses the blah for a style that frames her face and makes her eyes stand out. Her color was evened out with richer shades of blond. Foundation, blush, eye shadow and lip color add polish to her look and highlight her pretty features.

Mommy on the go

Here's a go-to outfit that's just as quick to put on as jeans and tee, but it looks polished and confident. The Alex Marie navy print dress, \$129, with cap sleeves and a slight A-line shape, gives Jennifer a defined waist. The complementary bright blue of the cardigan, Investments, \$17.95, makes it an outfit. Jennifer experiments with color with the red Jessica Simpson flats, \$59.99, and orange Antonio Melani handbag, \$199. More accessories add style and panache: Kenneth Cole semiprecious stone necklace, \$28.80, and cherry red beaded bracelet, \$20.

Before

Jennifer goes for the plainest look possible, she admits, often a white long-sleeved tee, darker pants like these jeans and flip-flops. The look doesn't communicate that she's smart and educated and likes to have fun. It's functional, but not fun. And she says her preschool daughter has asked why she doesn't have "styles."

Styled and written by **Sheon Wilson**, sheonwilson@aol.com

Photos by **Juli Leonard**

Clothing from **Dillard's** at University Mall, 201 S. Estes Drive, Chapel Hill

Makeup by **Debra Goodyear** and hairstyling by **Dawn Carrington** at Glam Lounge, 722 N. West St., Raleigh

Go to www.newsobserver.com/style and click on "Refresh Your Style" to see an interactive feature with past makeovers.

Snake that's a fake

By **MELISSA MAGSAYSAY**
Los Angeles Times

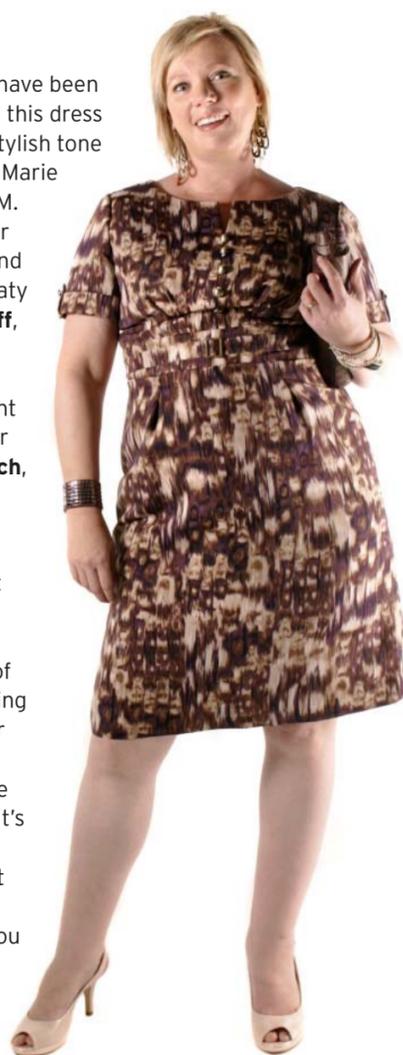
Exotic animal prints are so ubiquitous this fall that it wouldn't be surprising if Post-it started making cheetah-print sticky notes or Starbucks began to offer limited-edition cup sleeves done in a fierce leopard.

Colorful '60s-style snake-skin boots appeared on the Prada fall-winter 2011 runway, and since then the print has been showing up on all sorts of things.

For a casual pop of reptile print, a T-shirt from Sass & Bide (\$190 at Net-a-porter.com) is an easy way to spice up the usual jeans and tee combo.

For something sportier, Keds has done its classic canvas oxfords in a graphic black-and-white snake motif (\$40 at Keds.com).

Don't forget your gadgets. A snake-print leather iPad case from Michael Kors (\$130 at Net-a-porter.com) makes a statement while protecting techie toys.



Mommy on a date

Jennifer and her husband have been overdue for a getaway, and this dress would set a feminine and stylish tone for dinner and drinks. Alex Marie ikat print dress, \$139. The M. Haskell goldtone chandelier earrings, \$14.40, are fun and glamorous, and the chocolaty bronze Natasha stretch cuff, \$38, adds shine. The Alex Marie peep toe slingbacks, \$24.49, are in the so-current nude tone and elongate her legs. The Kate Landry clutch, \$27.50, looks elegant.

The reaction: Jennifer just needed a little encouragement. She bought a jeans outfit and three pairs of shoes on our shopping trip. She loves her hair, and says the color is just what she had been hoping for. "It's surprising, although it sounds kind of obvious, but putting on nice-looking clothes really does make you feel better about yourself," Jennifer said. Beauty, and brains, too.

THIS SEASON, HOLIDAY MAGIC REACHES NEW HEIGHTS.

PROGRESS ENERGY PRESENTS
A NEW PRODUCTION OF

The Nutcracker

WITH NEW MAGIC SPONSORED BY WRAL-TV

ONLY 3 WEEKS AWAY, GET YOUR TICKETS NOW.

FOX 50 **WRAL.com** **Carolina Ballet**
Robert Weiss, Artistic Director

DPAC | DEC 10-11 | DPACNC.COM | 919-680-2787
RALEIGH MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM | DEC 16-24 | 919-719-0900
CAROLINABALLET.COM

SHOW SPONSOR
Coastal Federal Credit Union

Cinderella

RLT's annual holiday musical the whole family will enjoy!

Dec 9-18

Raleigh Little Theatre 919-821-3111
raleighlittletheatre.org

CITY OF RALEIGH ARTS COMMISSION, CITY OF RALEIGH, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, PROGRESS ENERGY, EMPIRE PROPERTIES

GREAT TOYS, GAMES & PUZZLES!

THE "teach me" STORE

Gifts That Make a Difference!

3520 Spring Forest Rd. (close to Capital Blvd.)
M-F 10-7, Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5 • 872-2747

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

MAHLER'S FOURTH SYMPHONY
FRI/SAT, DEC 2-3, 2011 | 8PM
Meymandi Concert Hall, Raleigh

Grant Llewellyn, Music Director
Brian Reagin, violin
Christina Pier, soprano

Tickets Start at just \$18
Secure Your Seats Today!

NEW YEAR'S IN VIENNA
DEC 31, 2011 | RALEIGH

PASSPORT TO HUNGARY
JAN 12, 2012 | CHAPEL HILL
JAN 13-14, 2012 | RALEIGH

ncsymphony.org 919.733.2750
ticketmaster.com 800.745.3000

Sponsored By
Progress Energy
AA American Airlines
DukeMedicine