If you've looked into the Goodwills recently you might notice something missing. Gem sweaters, those bejeweled angoras your grandma wears on Christmas, are surprisingly out of stock. And somehow, all of those bedazzled beauties have incorporated themselves in Ames' closets, regardless of the owner's gender or age. Behind all of this gem hoopla stands Leslie Hall, a recent web celebrity who owns a full gallery of lost gemmed sweaters and can beat box with the best wearing gold lame pants.

Leslie Hall's first television appearance on "Unscrewed" with Martin Sargent provides valuable insight to her inspirations. She started her web career by finding gem sweaters and creating an online gallery, then at gemsweater.com, to display the beauties she found at local Goodwills. Her reason for creating such a gallery? She laughingly tells Martin Sargent during her first television appearance that she needed help getting dates.

The Homecoming dance for her senior year at Ames High was fast approaching, so she created a campaign for homecoming queen, using her ingenuity to start the campaign. The sweaters and her campaign helped provide her with possibilities. And after viewing her sweater gallery, who couldn't love Leslie? She gives names for all of her sweaters, providing the artistic viewer with a chance to see the sweater for what it could be. She shows Martin her favorite of the bunch, a blue number entitled Blue Bunnies Lane. And it seems that her sweater skills extend further than just finding the lost and misplaced sweaters. As the show comes to a close, Leslie presents Martin with an "Unscrewed" bejeweled sweater in white. She shyly accepts Sargent's thanks, and tells him that Boone, her current boyfriend, and herself created it.
After her inspired break into the cardigan galleries, Leslie came to the realization that her gold spandex pants worn in nearly every image of the online gallery were much admired by her fans. "65% of the comments on my sweaters were about my gold pants" she tells Martin. In order to further spread her love of gold spandex, Leslie decided to create a hip hop band and wear the spandex for all her shows and videos. Her gold lame pants were a wild success. In fact, one of her first breaks involved a short song, thanking her mother “for making me gold pants, ones I can dance in and make romance in.” A newer song, Gold Pants Lullaby, in great detail describes Leslie Hall's gold lame muse. Currently finished with her third album, Leslie played a show in Ames on the 17th of January at the M shop. People who thought to buy tickets at the door were generally out of luck due to her popularity in the Ames community. And it isn’t just Ames that has gold pants and bedazzled sweater fever. Chicago’s show over Christmas break also sold out well in advance of the date.

Since 2006, Leslie has made several television appearances and created a webcast tv show entitled “Ring My Bell.” All of these videos are available on youtube under Leslie’s own profile. “Ring My Bell” was an online streaming of Leslie taking calls from fans. Her fast paced talking and random quick subject changes show the sweater pioneer’s quirky personality. She even practices for one of her shows, spinning on a two by four held by two friends, while discussing a topic via speakerphone. Its no wonder she remains so popular with groups of all ages.

What’s next for Leslie Hall? Her website indicates she may be starting a tv show for Ames public television. She has begun making spandex pants for sale, buyable at shows, online, or in some retail centers. Her website, lesliehall.com, shows her proudly displaying a beanie babies collection, along with providing a variety of links to different aspects of her career. Wherever she decides to take her career next, you can be sure Leslie Hall will remain a household name in Ames, Iowa. 

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www.lesliehall.com