Four-Legged Fashion

Park Cities & Preservation Society Home Tour

Fashionistas Host the Young Designer Showcase

From Kalamazoo to Accessible Luxury Runway
The spring 2011 trimester at Wade College brought an array of bright, new, fashionable students and faculty, all excited about indulging in the experience of limitless possibilities and new careers. The MDSA Lecture Series this past spring was the icing on the cake of Wade College. The information was both fun and fashionable and left a positive impression on the students and faculty.

NBC’s THE FEAST shopping editor, Lisa Petty, who also holds the titles of writer and fashion journalist, began her presentation with a “day in the life...”. A normal day for Mrs. Petty consists of a 5:00am start time, intense web-site administration (www.thefeast.com (dallas shopping)), which includes producing three to five items of material and recording film and videos for the well-known blog. Lisa then stated that she makes it home around 6ish, eats a meal, and then it’s time to re-dress and head to the gala of the evening, of which Dallas has tons. I wondered, “with so many tasks to maintain in a day, what’s her secret to looking fabulous all day?” Mrs. Petty continued her presentation by giving advice in the field with four main points; blogging, freelance pitching, exploring your obsession, and frequency and exposure. Her frequency and exposure proposed “being a pest!” After her presentation, one of Wade College’s own, Billy Crawford, used the power of networking to land an internship with Mrs. Petty and has already contributed to an editorial. (http://www.thefeast.com/dallas/shopping/FEAST-SHOP-DFW-Dallas-Bridal-Boutiques-Make-Royal, Preparations-120865479.html)

The next guest speaker was the very fashionable Chuck Steelman, Public Relations Director at Neiman Marcus, and the key-note Speaker at FIT’s Dallas Career Day 2011 at the World Trade Center in April. Mr. Steelman dished out the upcoming spring 2011 fashion trends at Career Day to over 1,500 fashion-thirsty students from all over the United States. His presence at Wade College was felt in a more family-friendly way, an advantage of the Wade College experience. Mr. Steelman began by letting us into the fascinating story that is his life which started in Mobile, Alabama, with a degree in music and theatre. Mr. Steelman expressed that although he has a degree in theatre, the fashion world was calling his name. He worked for MGM in Las Vegas and shared the exciting events, accomplishments, and advice he learned. Mr. Steelman is a valued employee at Neiman Marcus; he alone is allowed to discuss the “business” of Neiman Marcus to the press. Mr. Steelman’s presentation ended with a discussion of his life experiences, school background and certain events that he holds annually. A quiz was given and the prize for correct answers was Marchesa eye liner samples from Neiman Marcus.

The Fashionistas Megan McGown attended Wade College, and presented the Young Designer Showcase competition sponsored by the Fashionistas. The Fashionistas’ mission is to be a champion of the fashion arts through exhibitions, scholarships and educational programs, positioning Dallas as a portal to the global fashion community. The Fashionistas are a non-profit organization that celebrates artists, entrepreneurs, and visionaries that make up the fashion industry. They showcase young and emerging designers through their bi-annual fashion shows and social media campaigns and provide educational programming with the “FASHION TALK” lecture series, which brings their patrons closer to cutting-edge and inspirational local and international fashion insiders. (http://facebook.com/thefashionistas)

One of the finalists for the Young Designer competition was our own Paige French who placed fourth in the competition.

Angelina Valencia’s presentation encouraged students to volunteer with the non-profit organization Attitudes and Attire. This organization dedicates itself to the growth and empowerment of women by helping them develop better social skills and preparing them for interviews and the work environment. For more information on how to get involved go to: www.attitudesandattire.org.

The final guest speaker was the well-known Terri Tomlinson, who previously spoke at Wade College and returned to grace us with her fashionable presence and promote the third annual Four-Legged: Fashion Canine Meets Couture event sponsored by Fashion Group International (www.fourleggedfashion.org). The proceeds from Four-Legged Fashion go toward no-kill animal rescue organizations. Wade students got the chance to act as volunteers for the front of house and backstage as dressers for the fashion show produced by Rhonda Sargent Chambers, also a lecture speaker at FIT’s Dallas Career Day 2011. The event was co-chaired by Wade College Vice-President of Education, John Conte, and sponsored by Wade College.

-Stansha Cole, MM

Wade College is a Dallas-based design and merchandising college. For additional information visit www.wadecollege.edu

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It’s not every day that a small-town girl, from Kalamazoo, Michigan, gets to be surrounded by designer clothes and vehicles that are more expensive than her house. Let me paint a little picture for you of how this magical day played out.

There were 10 of us from Wade College that were specifically selected to help with the Accessible Luxury event that evening. We started bright and early on our transformation of the Rolls-Royce/ Bentley/ Maserati showroom. Carts full of flowers, draping cloth, hardware, dresses, and accessories were specifically selected to help with the event and organization. The event was held to raise money for the children who attend Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, Texas.

The show was sectioned off into three different areas: The Maserati Man Cave, The Rolls-Royce Runway, and The Bentley Bubble Room. Guests were able to float from room to room at their leisure enjoying something different each time. The man cave was by far the most popular prior to and following the Runway show. The man cave consisted of a wall-to-wall open bar, a food service counter, and of course the ever so popular cigar girls. But once the clock struck eight, everyone's attention was directed towards the event of the evening, the Barney’s Fashion Show. As a Wade volunteer, I was given the task of dressing a model backstage during the show. I had to make sure she was picture perfect and flawless at all times before she left the tent. It was absolute, utter chaos backstage during the show, but we managed to pull through once again!

This experience was forever life changing. I was able to see many outstanding professionals at their best and the most important part... helping to support an amazing hospital. Accessible Luxury is a charity event that is held every year in hopes to raise money for the children who attend Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, Texas. This hospital already holds a dear place in my heart, so given the chance to help out again, there would be no doubt in my mind.

- Hope Ducharme, MM

FOUR-LEGGED FASHION

On May 20th 2011, at the Dallas Trade Mart, canine most definitely met couture during the Four-Legged Fashion Show. Four-Legged Fashion is an organization dedicated to helping dogs that are in need. The event was held to raise funds for dogs that are abandoned, sick and in need of homes and of course love! The event was sponsored by Wade College, Neiman Marcus, Fashion Group International, Tootsies, RSC Show Productions, Dallas World Trade Center, Kelly Williams Photography and many other great companies and organizations. The fashion show featured garments worn and walked down the runway by real-life dogs, and models; one of which was Wade Student, Frank Christon. The garments were made and donated by well-known designers and after the show, given to Four-Legged Fashion to be auctioned off in the silent auction, which also featured artwork by Wade’s very own Jason Reynaga and other great items as well. Emceeing for the evening was none other than KISS FM’s Kellie Rasberry, who was fabulous and of course hilarious! Some of the other attendees were Wade students, NBC’s The Feast’s Shopping Editor Lisa Petty, Neiman Marcus’s Chuck Steelman, and other dog-loving guests. Wade had a great number of volunteers at the event. We were given the opportunity to help out with the event, from setting up, running couture doggie wedding gowns and other funky-fabulous doggie fashions backstage for the runway, and assisting guests during the silent auction. All of us were so very thrilled to lend our hands in any way possible to such a fabulous event and organization. The event kept a very light hearted and fun mood the entire night. The guests were given doggie themed cocktails and unique goody bags that featured gifts for both the dogs and the owners. Guests and volunteers made memories to last a lifetime.

-Mariel Vela & Jannet Zavala, MM

ACCESSIBLE LUXURY RUNWAY


This was the perfect opportunity for us to put our new merchandising knowledge to good use. The runway show was sponsored by Neiman Marcus, Dallas World Trade Center, Kelly Williams Photography and other great companies and organizations. The show featured garments worn and walked down the runway by real-life dogs, and models; one of which was Wade Student, Frank Christon. The garments were made and donated by well-known designers and after the show, given to Four-Legged Fashion to be auctioned off in the silent auction, which also featured artwork by Wade’s very own Jason Reynaga and other great items as well. Emceeing for the evening was none other than KISS FM’s Kellie Rasberry, who was fabulous and of course hilarious! Some of the other attendees were Wade students, NBC’s The Feast’s Shopping Editor Lisa Petty, Neiman Marcus’s Chuck Steelman, and other dog-loving guests. Wade had a great number of volunteers at the event. We were given the opportunity to help out with the event, from setting up, running couture doggie wedding gowns and other funky-fabulous doggie fashions backstage for the runway, and assisting guests during the silent auction. All of us were so very thrilled to lend our hands in any way possible to such a fabulous event and organization. The event kept a very light hearted and fun mood the entire night. The guests were given doggie themed cocktails and unique goody bags that featured gifts for both the dogs and the owners. Guests and volunteers made memories to last a lifetime.

-Hope Ducharme, MM

WADE EXPERIENCE

Being a student at Wade College has been an ideal experience so far. I’ve had the chance to study and intern under industry professionals and learn the importance of networking. My most memorable internship opportunity was working with the owner of Turtletique to put the finishing touches on the store’s Spring Fling fashion show. Turtletique is a posh, Inwood Village women’s clothing boutique specializing in fashionable, high-end designer work attire and casual sportswear. The event commemorated the grand-reopening of the newly remodeled space and was produced by Marie Dean Public Relations in conjunction with Campbell Wagner Runway modeling agency.

I learned about the opportunity through Wade College. I initially applied for general volunteer work on the day of the show but was recommended to help with additional duties prior to the show.

While my internship with Turtletique was short, I learned a great deal of information and was allowed to illustrate my organizational, leadership and project management skills. I aided in picking the looks for the show and assisted with the organization of every piece from apparel to shoes. Before the show, I was in charge of typing the menu card that was given to each of the guests during the show to make sure everything ran smoothly. Once the remaining Wade volunteers arrived, I delegated particular responsibilities and gave final confirmations that everything was in order.

To my surprise, everyone was extremely impressed with my work during the show. The store owner gifted me generously and mentioned I should apply for her fall internship! In all, it was an invaluable experience and I learned a great amount about the fashion industry that I wouldn’t know today!

-Kenetria Smith, MM
This semester a representative from Clampitt Paper came and spoke to us about different types of paper. She informed the Graphic Design students on the weight and colors of paper that can be used when printing things like brochures, flyers, posters, business cards, catalogs, and much, much more. She passed out samples to the class and told us what different types of papers companies use to print and send out letters or flyers to their customers. She also showed us a short video of how paper was made. It was really interesting and all of us were sucked in from the beginning. We visited Clampitt Paper located in Dallas, Texas as a class a few weeks later and the representative walked us through the facilities showing us the process of sending out papers to companies and how companies ordered specific items. We got to watch a documentary over the paper-making industry which was quite interesting. It’s crazy to me that a tree can make materials that we write on. We all ended up buying 50 sheets of printing paper for 5 bucks, a deal no one could pass up. I plan on using Clampitt Paper for all of my projects in school and see many trips in the near future. I follow them on Facebook to stay current on upcoming tours and events. Like us on Facebook at Facebook.com/WadeOGD.

Let’s Talk Paper - Clampitt Paper

- Aaron Stowe, GD

Screen Printing 101

The screen printing seminar sounded really interesting when the idea was brought up during Typography class. I was disappointed at first to find out there was limited space and names had to be selected from a drawing to decide who would get a seat. I just thought to myself that I would sign up anyway, maybe I’d get lucky! The next day I saw on the Original Graphic Designers Facebook page (OGD) that I had made it to one of the spots on the list.

I was really excited and immediately began working on the stencil required for the process right away. Coming up with the design was the easiest step, but the hardest was actually selecting the parts of the design to cut in order to make the stencils. Once I got there, everyone was still perfecting their stencil so I sat down and finished up mine. The final process seemed easy enough after cleaning the screen. First was selecting the ink color then mixing in retarder to thin the ink. We used photo glue to spray the stencil and taped the stencil onto the screen. The paper was then selected and placed underneath the screen and ink was generously applied to the screen equally across the top. A squeegee was used to prepare the stencil by lightly spreading the ink from top to bottom with light pressure. The last step was repeated multiple times to create the screen print.

This was not all that easy because the pressure affected how the ink appeared on the paper and it took a couple of tries before I managed to get a good print of my design on the paper. It was a really fun experience for me and really awakened my creativity to explore working as a printmaking artist in the future.

-Jasmine Franklin , GD

Original Graphic Designers (OGD)

Not only is Wade College a school of fashion and merchandising, but it is also a school of graphic design. Wade has produced many astounding graphic designers in previous years, and presently the enrollment has risen. This is amazing because as Wade is growing to new levels, also the graphic department is soaring along with it. During the spring trimester, the graphic design students along with Danny Rix, Graphic Design Chairperson, came up with a clever idea. It was to begin an organization called OGD (Original Graphic Designers). The reason was to have an organization, where fellow graphics students could unite and combine ideas. The founding members are Nathan Rodela, Aaron Stowe, Ryan Thompson, Demarcus Bryant, Michael Cawthon, Kimberly Richards, Con Henderson, and Tiffany Schaffer. The members of OGD have many wonderful ideas on how to contribute to the continuous growth of the organization for years to come. Some events that were sponsored were touring Clampitt Paper, screen printing, and having guest speakers. OGD plans to have many other interesting events throughout the trimester; but in the meantime, OGD plans to design in a mixture of order and disorder.

- Kimberly Richards, GD

Graphic Design Portfolio

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Professional Portfolio Critique at Hawkeye marketing agency in Dallas, Texas, on May 12, 2011. As I approached the building, I became nervous as if I were one of the graphic designers presenting his portfolio. I felt as if I were going on a job interview. “This could very much become reality” was what I was telling myself as I entered into the lobby. I could just imagine what fellow graphic designers Nathan Rodela, Con Henderson, and Ryan Thompson were feeling when they arrived. Also in attendance to show support were Kimberly Richards and Aaron Stowe. Our very own Danny Rix was also in attendance as one of the panelists.

Before the presentation began, we were in for a treat as it started with a tour of the agency by Paul Mouer who is the Group Creative Director at Hawkeye. The employees were gone, but the building was full of life. It was a graphic designer’s dream. There were rooms with different themes such as a room filled with candy furniture and a room with walls plastered with Kool-Aid packages that were used for creative thinking. Each station that was occupied had the personal touch of the individual occupying them. What was really amazing was noticing the similarity in the thought process used at Hawkeye was the same as that of the process we practice at Wade College. It was clear that this is the life of which we were all in pursuit.

It was now time for the presentation. Presenters seemed very confident in their work. The panel in return gave great feedback to each of them. Onlookers made mental notes, as we prepared to face our destiny.

-Demarcus Bryant, GD
CREST EXPO 2011

On April 14, 2011 the Wade College students of interior design attended the grand opening of the new convention center in Irving, Texas with the CREST Expo Exhibit for 2011. The Expo was the first ever cross sector commercial real estate tradeshow that provided opportunity for networking and education. The Expo was an exciting event for the architectural and interior design world. There were over 170 exhibitors’ booths and over 25 classes available to all who attended. At this event they gave away door prizes, provided food and a ton of information, and gave resources related to commercial real estate. Although the exhibit focused on commercial design it was still very educational and intriguing for the interior design students whose focus may be more centered on residential design. The exhibit introduced us to materials and innovative concepts in building and allowed us to witness interior design in a different perspective in which we were familiar.

There were a wide range of exhibitors represented at the Expo that included the entire industry of commercial design and more, included were companies specializing in architecture and engineering, electrical and lighting, roofing and plumbing, concrete, stone and flooring, elevators and signs, office furniture and media, landscaping, building maintainance, recycling, and green materials. Attendees included sporting and arts exhibitors such as representatives from the Dallas Cowboys, Dallas Star Hockey Club, Dallas Summer Musicals, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Texas Motor Speedway, and the Texas Rangers Baseball Club. There were organizations of good will such as Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity and Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance/The Bridge, and also attendees from local colleges and universities in which Wade College happened to be included. Classes were available throughout the day for those who wanted more in-depth knowledge of the industries products, advancements, and market opportunities.

One of the exhibitors I was most impressed with was Multivista; they specialize in documenting every aspect of construction by photographing every layer of the building at different angles and locations as it is being built. The photographs and chat functions create an online floor plan which is a permanent record of the building that can be accessed at any aspect of the project. This technique allows you to pin point and locate problems that may arise during construction without actually going into the finished walls. It proves to be an efficient process saving builders time and money. I think it is a brilliant way to build!

Overall the day was full of excitement, information, and education. Everyone was friendly, ready to share and inform about their company, and willing to assist in any way they could. As a student the experience was amazing, the interaction was stimulating, and the resources I obtained were very informative. The exhibit even made me give the commercial side of design a second thought. I will never forget my experience at the CREST Expo 2011 and I look forward to attending again next year.

- Tasha Coleman, ID

PARK CITIES AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY HOME TOUR

The Park Cities and Preservation Society Home Tour took place on April 2, 2011. Bruce Barbour, the President and Tour Chairman of the Society, has lived in Park Cities almost 50 years. The 2011 Home Tour raises funds that are used to further the mission of preserving the historic, architectural, cultural and aesthetic legacy of Park Cities. The six homes featured were originally built between the 1920's and 1950's. These homes were recognized for their significance in the Park Cities by having been awarded a Historic Marker by Park Cities Historical Preservation Society. Although all the homes featured offered different designs, I was intrigued with the homes that added or took away from the original structure to add their own panache. I liked the Cape Cod cottage on Turtle Creek that offered a raised ceiling in the living room with exposed beams, not original to the structure. This home also offered new lighting, crown molding, and an exceptional view of the park through the large sash windows. I also favored the Adam Revival home on Windsor Lane that was remodeled to make the home more functional for their family’s lifestyle which embodied their collection of contemporary art and contemporary furniture. What sets this house apart from the others is the beautifully landscaped 1.47 acres which features a covered picnic structure designed by Charles S. Dilbeck. I thoroughly enjoyed the entire tour and I was able to incorporate what I have learned thus far in the interior design program at Wade College.

-Marian Powell, ID

INTERIOR DESIGN GUEST SPEAKER

Confident and classy, Emily Johnston stood before a small group of fifteen students in the Wade College Interior Design Lab. As she carefully laid out her fabric swatches, drawings, and flooring samples in front of her, she began to casually talk with a few neighboring students, explaining a few of the inspirations behind the patterns. She began her presentation with a short biography and introduction, allowing the class to know who she was—a graduate from the University of Oklahoma’s interior design program. As she spoke she captivated her audience with humor as she described many small problems she overcame while designing a few of the spaces.

She motivated her audience to explore pattern and color to enhance a space or even a project or garment design through her photographs of custom upholstered wingchairs. She surprised her audience with examples of strange requests clients had throughout the design process such as being asked to decorate a newborn baby’s nursery before she made it home from the hospital (while the mother was currently in labor). Emily Johnston did not speak to only the wish-to-be interior designers in the room but instead produced a presentation that was interesting yet informative for all students. She was fun and easygoing, and I personally loved having her as a speaker at our college.

-Laura Goynes, ID
LEARNING TO SEW

I’ll never forget it; finally, after teaching myself the basics of apparel design, I made my first outfit ten years ago. I made a red dress... a perfect size ten. I even bought a serger and finished the seams professionally. I was so proud of what I had accomplished that I had to show all of my neighbors who knew of this sewing mission I was taking. “That dress really looks like you purchased it from a fashion store,” a neighbor asked me. “Did you try it on?” a friend asked. I was so excited with how the finished style line and the details of the dress looked, I forgot to try it on. Well, when I tried that dress on and it would not slide down over my hips, I was so disappointed. “Don’t worry you’ll get it right on the next outfit you make” another friend said while giving me a hug.

I had already made a hefty investment in sewing equipment and books, so I ventured into other areas of sewing. I joined the American Sewing Guild (ASG) to keep hope alive; I thought it was the best thing for me to do at the time. I interacted with others who loved to sew at ASG group meetings when I had available time. I learned about quilting, paper piecing, appliqué, and thread painting to name a few. I also met many sewing professionals and others in the business of fiber arts.

My goal is to be able to produce fiber art within tailor-made garments. Understanding the process is a huge part of using all of the industry methods to create and design clothing. The challenge is to fit, design, alter and achieve the best styles for different body types. This was the reason I came to study at Wade College. I would like to be able to share, work, teach or assist a team or group of people interested in utilizing my approach using the new skills I have developed here at Wade. I now look forward to new experiences while I continue learning new technologies in the sewing industry. Thank you Wade College for giving me confidence and so much more than I expected.

-Cheryl Johnson, FD

FASHION DESIGN INTERNSHIP

Fashion design is a fast-paced career field that will stop for no one, but with the help of Wade College even a first trimester student can immerse themselves completely in this industry. The faculty is not just an average group of professors but an elite group of industry leaders who have chosen to share their knowledge with students. Labs are not just a space to work in but fully equipped studios with all the tools needed to create whatever your imagination can envision. I should know since I am a Wade College student in my second trimester. My name is Alegrando Morones and Wade College is not only my college but my gateway to my career success! From the very beginning of my career choice, Wade College has made the fashion industry not only accessible but has literally placed it at my feet. With amazing volunteer opportunities to exclusive events such as Accessible Luxury and incredible volunteer positions in the prestigious DIFFA Black Tie Affair, the best thing about Wade volunteer opportunities is that they present themselves frequently.

Wade College also has an amazing career services department that can help you find real industry internships. Thanks to career services recommending me, I was fortunate enough to receive an assistant designer internship with IMT Designs. I’m given the opportunity to practice what I have learned in school and apply my knowledge. I get to experience how to cater to the needs of different clients.

I look back at my first trimester and I see that to become a great fashion designer you must be a great fashion design student! With a 3.8 GPA, PTK induction, Vice-President of Education’s list, and an internship, I believe that Wade College has created a fashion haven for me. With the knowledge I have received and will continue receiving I plan to open my first men’s apparel company after graduation. When thinking about your Wade College career, remember that with dedication, anything is possible.

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-Alegrando Morones, FD

YOUNG DESIGNER SHOWCASE

The Fashionistas hosted an award ceremony for their student design competition, Young Designer Showcase. This fashion event designed to reward, support, motivate and inspire fashion design students was held on May 12, 2011, at South Side on Lamar.

Finalists in the competition presented three looks in a fashion presentation and were vying for scholarships from The Fashionistas Board Scholarship Fund.

Wade College student, Paige French, entered the competition and placed fourth in the event. Paige was in her second term at Wade College and competed with students from universities in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex, many of them seniors in college.

Her quirky style and affinity for bright colors made her trend board, “One Is Not Like the Other,” a memorable piece.

-The Fashionistas
“I am in the process of making a music demo featuring 8-9 cover songs and one original which was made by the producer himself. I work for AMG productions (local recording studios in Dallas, Grand Prairie and Arlington). Hopefully, making this demo will be sent out to other labels and I should gain some worthy exposure. Wade College has changed my life on a personal and professional level. I was the shyest girl when I started there and once I graduated I turned into a social bug.

Having amazing professors who taught me the proper knowledge to move forward into the fashion industry and related fields turned my personality on! I am grateful for it all and would not have picked any other college. My fellow colleagues were always supportive and helpful. Wonderful friendships were built and I became attached to Wade; it was my second home. I have learned many valuable lessons attending Wade including business, professionalism, even just enjoying life no matter what is thrown your way, and keeping a realistic and optimistic outlook on my life pulled me through many things! The education I received from Wade was remarkable.

I had many opportunities at hand that you would be crazy to pass up and maintaining the knowledge outside of class kept me on my toes, I would strongly recommend for those out there to give Wade College a try, what do you have to lose?”

- Ashley Brooks, MM

“I learned so much as a fashion design student at Wade. My teachers became my mentors while in college and have remained lifelong friends. They helped me find the raw talent I didn’t even know was in me. After college, I was offered a position in NYC for an accessories colleagues were always supportive and helpful. Wonderful friendships were built and I became attached to Wade; it was my second home. I have learned many valuable lessons attending Wade including business, professionalism, even just enjoying life no matter what is thrown your way, and keeping a realistic and optimistic outlook on my life pulled me through many things! The education I received from Wade was remarkable.

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- Ashley Brooks, MM

“As soon as I stepped out of my meeting with Julia Andelman, I realized Wade College was JUST for me. Not only did they make me feel like this was the perfect school for me, but they made me feel as if I would also have something to bring to the table for them. The fact that the majority of my teachers were still practicing what they preach made it very comforting knowing that they truly knew what they were talking about. While attending Wade, the teachers and faculty all helped build my confidence level up in myself and also taught me not to limit myself to only being good at one thing.

Wade College has changed my life on a personal and professional level. I was the shyest girl when I started there and once I graduated I turned into a social bug. I spent three amazing years in NYC before moving to Jacksonville, Florida, where I am currently creating my own label, ‘Dreams of Hazel’. The collection will launch in fall 2012 and can be found at www.ashlins.com. ‘Dreams of Hazel’ is a casual women’s sportswear line that is all about easy dressing with inspirations from New Mexico and Bohemian touches.”

- Ashley Garcia, FD

“Since graduation I have started my own business ‘Touch of Design’ and hold a full-time job during the day for an HVAC/ Plumbing Co. I had my first freelance remodeling project of a master bedroom three days after graduation. It was exciting and scary to put my knowledge into the project, but when the homeowner saw the finished project and gave me a hug and said ‘YES’ I knew everything was worth it. Since my first project, I have done four corner, street, and shopping center. I am now the Assistant Store Manager for The Aldo Groupe. My education at Wade College has better assisted me in my career in the retail world. The terminology and evaluation of the topics in each lecture course has been very significant in my success. Just a short time ago I started as a sales associate and have worked through every diva, devil, and damsel-in-distress out there. Keep it up prospective graduates; hard work leads to amazing benefits and satisfaction.”

- Billy Crawford, MM

“Wade College was the absolute best experience for me because it opened up so many doors that any other college couldn’t. It transformed me from a regular college student into a young professional. Words could not explain how grateful I am for all of the opportunities the faculty and staff provided for me not only while I was a current student but even now as an alumnus. Now I have a full time job as a production assistant at the Cheerleading Company. I cheered all four years of high school and even at the collegiate level, so combining my passion for fashion and cheerleading created the perfect job for me.”

- K.D. Harris, FD
“I moved to Dallas from Oklahoma because of Wade College. My experience there was more than I could have asked for. As a merchandise marketing student, I had so many career options; I struggled trying to figure out what exactly I wanted to do in the long run. Each professor I had taught the curriculum inside the classroom and encouraged me to learn outside the classroom. Wade gives students opportunities to work in the industry while attending school, which is the best thing a school could do for a student. As a full-time student and full-time employee, I was still able to experience working trade shows in Dallas, Las Vegas, and New York, along with volunteering for Jan Strimple as a backstage dresser, and assistant intern.

After graduating, I had the honor of being Jan Strimple’s assistant for two seasons, where I did everything from running errands, to casting and styling models for fashion shows, and managing interns backstage. With all the knowledge and opportunities I was given from my professors and Jan, I now work at The Campbell Agency in the print division with Nancy Campbell and Peter John. Here at the agency, I get to work on the other side of the industry sending models to castings, booking models for clients, reviewing him, and tons more. Without Wade College, and the guidance I received there, I would not have experienced all the things I have so far.”

-Kateri Zapp, MM

“Even as a mom, I always had an eye for color, design and textiles. I had previously dabbled in writing, decorating and viewed fashion design as a hobby, but I wanted to turn my interests into a dream job. Still, I wasn’t sure if I would fit in at a design college, but as soon as I started attending Wade, I felt at home. I found that creative birds of a feather flock together, in all shapes and colors.

The instructors are experts in their industry because they not only teach but also currently work in their field. Through their savvy instruction and dynamic learning environment, I quickly acquired competitive industry skills that I needed to succeed.

As I gained those skills, more knowledge, and personal attention through many hands-on experiences at Wade, I also gained more confidence. Wade also provided opportunities where I could apply for and land several amazing internships with key people in my industry. Those contacts and the many experiences from it have launched me years ahead in my career. Since graduation I have worked on photo shoots, been a lead stylist, and walked the red carpet to report on fashion events as a Dallas Fashion Examiner. I have had the opportunity to work with, meet and interview talented people in the fashion and television industry, including world famous supermodels Candice Swanepoel and Lily Aldridge, the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, team members from CBS channel 11, and many great Dallas icons. I am currently working on my dream of combining fashion with my writing. I just launched an online women’s magazine for moms at www.HappyVintageMom.com, and hope to make it a printed periodical someday soon. I hope you’ll come visit my site!

I am also working on a vintage-inspired resort line of modest clothing for women and moms. I could not have done any of this without God, my hubby, a great team of people, several friends, and all that I learned at Wade.

I love what I do and I loved my time at Wade. It gave me the knowledge, skills, experiences and confidence to press forward. It’s the best decision I have made in my career.”

-Rocio Wilde, FD

“Fashion stylist, model scout, creative director, buyer, visual merchandiser, and an entrepreneur are a few things I want to be. Why have one dream when you can have many? That’s exactly why Wade is perfect for me: it can help you become all you want to be and not limit your dreams. I transferred into Wade College from another design and merchandising program in Dallas. I felt like an odd ball at my last college for always wanting more and being too creative, but here it’s perfectly fine to want it all. Even before I started Wade I was fortunate enough to be offered an internship with Beau Bumpas Photography as an assistant and photo shoot stylist. This internship has taught me a lot and has given me the hands on experience that professionals in my industry get. It has really opened my eyes, and has refueled me with a motivation that feels like nobody can stop me. My main mission here is to inspire others, and let others know that you can do anything you want. You just have to go for it and not let rejection stop you. How would I describe a feeling this powerful and strong? Well, I simply call it the Wade Experience.”

-Juan Flores, MM