Spring 2016

A Magazine Spring 2016

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The Fashion School
What makes each of us unique is how we portray ourselves to the world. Part of that uniqueness comes from the way we let our individuality shine. Fashion always has been one of my favorite ways to express myself, and I hope the same for you.

This issue marks A magazine’s fifth anniversary edition, and we couldn’t be happier to share it with you. My staff and I worked to provide you — our dedicated reader — with a publication that not only shows Kent State’s uniqueness in fashion, but also captures the students and their stories in the pages. There is something for everyone.

From daring to be different by perfecting your bold lip to taking your style to the next level, A magazine has got you covered with excellence in journalism and photography.

Figure out how to dress the new casual on page 24 and learn about the latest on lifestyle trends on page 33. Shape up your look with our men’s grooming tips on page 12. Be sure to take a peek at our Fashion through Time piece while taking a tour through Kent State’s past.

Thank you for picking up A magazine. You won’t be disappointed.

XO,

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special thanks
Kent Silk Mill Apartments
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ONZIE black track mesh legging, $63
One Love Yoga and Boutique

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A magazine

Students at Kent State University produce A magazine, which covers fashion, beauty and culture, once each academic year. No part of A magazine may be reprinted without permission. Readers are encouraged to send comments to:

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The Senior Honors Thesis/Project is an independent research, creative or applied project completed under the direction of a faculty member. Students who work closely with faculty though the process have unique advantages in demonstrating their scholarly commitment.
FASHION FORWARD

A. The Giving Keys/Los Angeles necklace, $45
   Graclyane Boutique
B. Pyrite necklace, $18
   One Love Yoga and Boutique
C. Arrowhead earrings, $28
   The Gardener of Bath
D. Quartz Crystal earrings, $16
   One Love Yoga and Boutique
E. Wooden tree statue, $110
   The Gardener of Bath
F. Alex and Ani Unexpected Miracles necklace, $38
   Graclyane Boutique
A Focus on Fair Trade

Fair trade jewelry contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions not only to the producers of the goods but also to the international partnerships created.

These accessories look more natural and raw compared to other jewelry. They tend to be made of seeds, nuts, glass, metal or stones.

(Left to Right)
Brighton Mercer ring, $40
Gracylane Boutique
Mosaic Band ring, $6
One Love Yoga and Boutique
Labradorite Pebble ring, $60
The Gardener of Bath
Fluorite Slab coaster, $24
The Gardener of Bath

(Left to Right)
(Mid)
Bourbon and Boweties bracelet, gray $38
Gracylane Boutique
Bourbon and Boweties bracelets, white and pink $30, The Gardener of Bath
Alex and Ani Quill Feather bracelet, $58
Gracylane Boutique
Mima & Oly Brass and Copper with Rectangles bracelet, $24.99
Carnaby Street Style

(Top)
Monroe necklace, $72
The Gardener of Bath
Suave Cuff, $68
The Gardener of Bath
Rudraksha Lapis necklace, $21
One Love Yoga and Boutique

(Bottom)
Don’t let the weather put a damper on your wardrobe. Look stylish with outerwear appropriate for every season.

**Warmest**

A. Hooded Artic parka in red, $100, Abercrombie & Fitch

B. Wool-blend Bouclet coat in dark gray mélange, $119, H&M

C. Wool-blend jacket in dark blue, $59.99, H&M

D. Feaux Shearling Biker jacket, $70.95, Hollister

E. Aeo Long parka in dark maple, $97.46, American Eagle Outfitters

F. Hooded quilted jacket in black, $65, Topshop

**Warmer**

G. Classic unlined parka in khaki, $115, Topshop

H. Side - zip quilted coat in black, $39.99, Mango

I. Imitation Suede coat, $69.99, H&M

**Warm**

A. Hooded Artic parka in red, $100

B. Wool-blend Bouclet coat in dark gray mélange, $119, H&M

C. Wool-blend jacket in dark blue, $59.99, H&M

D. Feaux Shearling Biker jacket, $70.95, Hollister

E. Aeo Long parka in dark maple, $97.46

F. Hooded quilted jacket in black, $65, Topshop

G. Classic unlined parka in khaki, $115, Topshop

H. Side - zip quilted coat in black, $39.99, Mango

I. Imitation Suede coat, $69.99, H&M
A. Padded parka in beige, $129, H&M
B. Wool-blend duffel coat in dark blue, $129, H&M
C. Wool-blend peacoat in black, $129, H&M
D. Long Pilot jacket, $69, H&M
E. Quilted Pilot jacket, $69, H&M
F. Barbour Hatton Quilted jacket in bark, $210, Tuckernuck
G. Hooded jacket in dark blue, $59.99, H&M
H. Your Neighbors Devon Quilted Bomber jacket, $89, Urban Outfitters
I. Denim jacket, $49.99, H&M
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www.COLLEGETOWNKENT.COM
Forget the classic red lip. It's time to be bold and daring. Play up your lips with a twist by using eye shadow as lipstick.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GINA DESIMONE
Get the look

NYX Cosmetics, Primal Colors Pressed Pigments Face Powder in hot yellow

Wet n Wild, Art in the Streets trio palette in blue, green, and orange

NYX Cosmetics, Jumbo Eye Pencil in Milk
1. Apply a white eye pencil or creamy white eye shadow to lips.
2. Using an eye shadow brush, smooth a generous amount of shadow onto each lip for a matte look.
3. Add a little gloss for instant shine.
The most important part of a man’s daily routine involves grooming, and with a little extra help, shaving can become a whole lot easier.

Innovative approaches are dominating the massive men’s grooming industry. Monthly delivery services are perfect for the man on the go. You are never without blades or shaving cream.

For starters, try Harry’s razors, which are manufactured with German design. The handles are crafted with a lightweight zinc alloy or aluminum and fits in your hand perfectly.

The Truman Set, $15, Harry's Razors
Dress to Impress

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM FORRESTER

It’s time to take your style to the next level. Spice up your wardrobe with these looks that will take you from class, to drinks and everywhere in between.
(Left)
Patagonia Down vest in blue and red, $179
Patagonia Fezzman shirt in underwater blue, $69
PrAna Bronson Khaki pant, $70
Wild Earth Outfitters
Buks by Walkover Fitzgerald in dark brown, $99
Kent Central Gateway Footwear

(Right)
Patagonia M'SGI woodsmen pant, $69
Northface Nov GRDN Lyons zip fleece, $90
Wild Earth Outfitters
Saucony Jazz Lowpro sneaker in tan and off-white, $60
Kent Central Gateway Footwear

To this

Go from this...
A magazine caught up with three design students who have infused their global experiences into their fashion designs.

BY CHRISTINA GODFREY
Delaney Sullivan, Dana Palumbo and Neva Sutrisno are world travelers. Collectively, they’ve walked the streets at night in Paris, marveled at the richness of London’s many historical landmarks and even experienced America with a fresh pair of eyes.

To them, traveling opened the mind to experiencing life in a different way, but it may have started a lot closer to home.

Sullivan, a California native, says just moving to Ohio completely changed the way she viewed the seasons and her closet.

“In California, the only winter clothing I owned was for snowboarding and sports,” Sullivan says. “I thought wearing boots was something people only did in the movies, and I owned maybe two shirts that had long sleeves.”

This past summer, she took on a more harrowing task than the Ohio winter: Sullivan spent some time exploring France while she began the Madame Grès Couture Techniques program, giving her the chance to participate in several couture shows, such as Alexandre Vauthier and Tony Ward.

“It was incredibly stressful and crazy but also so amazing to be able to be backstage and experience it all firsthand,” Sullivan says.

At these shows, Sullivan performed a lot of miscellaneous tasks, but one of the most memorable was getting to dress the models backstage.

The experience allowed Sullivan to take in the differences of another culture and mix it into her own design aesthetic and personal style.

“Everywhere I walked I was just pulling new things from [my] surroundings to be inspired by,” Sullivan says. “The gold curling spires of a gate, the details in paintings and sculptures in museums, the fashions of people on the street and extravagant displays in store windows; my senses were inundated… it was almost impossible to take it all in.”

Since returning, Sullivan says she hopes to take the inspiration from her trip to design future garments.

Sullivan’s passport won’t be collecting dust anytime soon; she hopes to live on every continent (minus Antarctica) to experience not only what life has to offer but also to return to her ancestral roots.

When her grandmother was 12 years old, she immigrated with her family to the U.S. from Germany at the beginning of World War II. Sullivan says being a second-generation American inspired her to continue to discover the unfamiliar and become absorbed in another culture.

“Everywhere I walked I was just pulling new things from [my] surroundings to be inspired by,” Sullivan says. “The gold curling spires of a gate, the details in paintings and sculptures in museums, the fashions of people on the street and extravagant displays in store windows; my senses were inundated… it was almost impossible to take it all in.”

S
omeone who shares that sentiment is Dana Palumbo, a fashion design-turned-merchandising student, who also traveled to Paris this past summer.

Palumbo says being in France gave her a better appreciation for creating a personal “uniform” of quality basics in neutral colors and easy shapes, resulting in a major closet purge.

“I believe traveling and experiencing new things is something everyone should do at some point in their life,” Sullivan says. “You can read hundreds of books about the world, but you only truly understand when you go and see for yourself.”

“I wouldn’t say Parisians are very trendy… For them, it’s more so having and maintaining a classic sort of [wardrobe] — you can’t put a timeframe on French style,” Palumbo says.

This is a common thread seen through Palumbo’s design aesthetic too — pieces heavily influenced by structure, muted tones and flattering silhouettes for all body types.

“I tend to be immediately drawn to neutrals; I really don’t like color,” Palumbo says. “I did a piece last year for draping [class] and… basically it had a low V, tight waistline and puffed out from that.”

Palumbo adds she “love[s] a good V-neck,” and this particular neckline is another design choice she favors.

Palumbo feels she’s perfected the “work and play” wardrobe with versatile clothing options while also taking cues from her travels, the position she holds in the Greek life community and even her own dad’s business attire.

“Having to go to a lot of formal events [for Greek life], my style is more so inspired by business wear,” Palumbo says.
“You can read hundreds of books about the world, but you only truly understand when you go and see for yourself.”

Although Palumbo takes more direction from American designers, Russia is a place she hopes to visit. She became inspired after seeing Russian fashion designer Yulia Yanina show her collection during Paris Haute Couture Fashion Week.

“The things that she did were very traditional — a lot of embroidery, a lot of lace — but it was very interesting,” Palumbo says. “I thought she had one of the most beautiful collections of couture week.”

Although Sullivan and Palumbo’s jet setting is impressive, Neva Sutrisno has traveled the farthest from home. Sutrisno is from Indonesia and says she has “always been a city girl.”

“I grew up and lived all my life in Jakarta, the capital city, which is so busy, kind of like New York in the U.S.,” Sutrisno says. “I would travel to the suburbs or the mountains and the beaches, basically to the places that foreigners know Indonesia for. I lived such a laid-back life.”

That type of slow pace never applied to her travel plans, though. Through her mother’s job, Sutrisno had the opportunity to take many trips as a child, traveling to several countries in Asia, Australia and Europe. Currently she’s taking classes at Kent State’s New York City Studio and plans to participate in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University exchange program this spring.

“Traveling as a child has been really fun and exciting. However, actually living somewhere for around a month or more is really eye-opening,” Sutrisno says because it has allowed her to experience a different lifestyle and make friends with the “natives.”

Getting to know the community means also getting a feel for their street style. As an artist and all around fashion lover, Sutrisno says she never loses her core personal sense of style but admits her clothes change a bit to adapt to the style of the place she’s in at the time.

When it’s time to come back home, these places never stray too far from her mind.

“As I visit and leave these places, I will always bring a piece of their art [back] with me to inspire me then and even later in the future,” Sutrisno says.

And inversely, Indonesia, although she says is known for batik (a dyeing technique using beeswax) has inspired the tone of her aesthetic in other ways.

Sutrisno says her garments reflect the traditional values she grew up with while strategically showcasing areas of a woman’s body that wouldn’t normally be considered “sexy.”

“I think a huge part of [my design] is not so much the actual shapes or fabrication,” Sutrisno says. “However, I do think I design garments that are somewhat conservative, in that it’s never showing too much skin.”

Sutrisno says the most important thing she’s learned is it’s fine not to agree with everything in a certain culture, but by welcoming the differences of every place it will actually teach you a lot about your own survival.

Sullivan, Palumbo and Sutrisno show no matter the destination, the ability to seek inspiration, embrace the differences of a culture and rely wholeheartedly on one’s own instincts is everything travel is about.
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Behind the Business

Five Kent State students and alumni have used their creativity, motivation and love for design to turn their passions into thriving businesses.

BY KELSEY DRUMM
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BENJAMIN BARTLING

flight 4 the cure

K

rista Jordan lost her father, Timothy Jordan, to leukemia when she was 3 years old.

As Jordan got older, she began to think of ways that she could raise money for cancer research. She was passionate about cancer research and talented at sewing and knitting, which she says she learned from spending time with her grandmother.

She created her business, Flight 4 the Cure, in 2012 as a class project, but it has since become as real as ever.

“My dad was the motivating force to start this, and the passion behind opening the whole thing,” Jordan says.

She named her business Flight 4 the Cure because she always called her dad her guardian angel, which is where the angel wing symbol of her business comes from. Jordan wanted the angel wing to connect with cancer research, and so she mixed flight with the angel wings and cancer research.

Jordan, now a junior entrepreneurship major at Kent State, says she receives help with operating Flight 4 the Cure from her friends. She met Brittney Zivcsak, a communications studies major and Ava Mancing, an entrepreneurship major while at school.

Together, they work to craft and sell handmade single and double-wrap cowls, rope scarves, headscarves, thick fabric scarves and knit headbands.

Ten percent of the Flight 4 the Cure proceeds go to the University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center in Cleveland. The women also take products to cancer centers and hospitals around Northeast Ohio.

Jordan recently released a custom-design line for patients, survivors and people who have lost a loved one because of cancer. She is able to customize the items, but the customers help design them.

“I lost a close friend of mine, Ashly Correa, and she helped me redesign our product line in the past,” Jordan says. “She loved it, so she became my inspiration and motivation to tell others’ stories other than my dad’s story.”

Jordan says the custom line is where that motivation became much more than her own story.

Flight 4 the Cure products are currently available online and in 20 retail locations including yoga studios and boutiques in Northeast Ohio.

Jordan plans to expand Flight 4 the Cure all over the United States once she finishes her new product line.

Jordan says she’s excited to see what stores join Flight 4 the Cure’s mission.

The Flight 4 the Cure website ships to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Find her online at flight4thecure.com

Krista Jordan of Flight 4 the Cure
Raheem Brooks began his clothing business Know Cool Clothing in May 2013.

Know Cool Clothing began when one of Brooks’ friends wanted to open a clothing line but didn’t have a graphic designer to design clothing. Brooks agreed to help design clothing for Know Cool Clothing, but his friend discontinued his part of the business after a year, which left Brooks to run it himself.

Brooks sells a unisex line of comfortable, urban, modern clothes made of mostly cotton and polyester blends. He sells T-shirts, tank tops, hats, crewnecks and hoodies through his online store, which are inspired by Pharrell Williams and Kanye West.

“The inspiration for the brand is behind the people,” Brooks says.

‘Know’ is short for Knowledge, and ‘Cool’ stands for Collectively Overcoming Obstacles of Life.

“We are all God’s angels, and we are all trying to overcome obstacles that life has instore for us,” Brooks says. “Collectively, we should all uplift each other because we are [like] a family. My logo, the Angel, wears shades to block all fears and haters in her way.”

Brooks plans to pace himself and his investment, all while drawing awareness to people about his brand as he’s the only person who runs the company.

“I still have some goals I’m trying to reach as far as the clothing line. I’m definitely thankful for what I have now,” Brooks says. “I felt like that we’re all here to uplift one another and reach each other dreams.”

Brooks says he loves seeing people wear his clothing because it’s a big community effort.

He plans on continuing to grow and improve his work in hopes to have his clothing line featured in urban skate stores such as PacSun. Selling out his clothing line and having musical artists support his clothing line is also on his list of future goals.
April Huth has turned her passion for fashion and combined it with yoga to create her downtown Kent storefront business One Love Yoga and Boutique.

Huth graduated from Kent State with a fashion merchandising major and marketing minor in 2011. She says she always wanted to open a boutique as a buyer to sell apparel.

She and her father, Tim Huth, are certified yoga instructors, which played a vital role in opening One Love together.

A developer for College Town Kent — the new development of retail, dining, residential and office spaces — asked her about opening a storefront. Huth and her father had already talked about opening a yoga studio. A boutique was something April was interested in, so she attached it to the new yoga studio.

“We named it One Love because we wanted to incorporate mindfulness in yoga and the boutique through carrying all sustainable products,” Huth says about her store name.

“We also wanted it to signify that it is a community and that we are all ‘one love,’ so One Love seemed like the best name for us.”

Huth also credits the Bob Marley tune, “One Love,” for inspiring the name of the store because she and others practice yoga class wearing their eco-friendly outfits.

One Love offers multiple types of yoga classes for all skill levels, Huth said. Their yoga classes differ from other studios because their 12 yoga instructors are trained with different backgrounds and perspectives.

“I love fashion, but I also love teaching yoga because it comes from a place of no judgment,” Huth says. “It’s really cool that I have the opportunity to combine both of these ideas in one by creating a sustainable, eco-friendly and mindful store.”

Along with yoga sessions, the boutique sells recycled, fair trade and American-made casual clothing, as well as yoga attire. All products are eco-friendly or made in the United States.

Huth says fair trade is important to her because it provides people from other countries with jobs, which overall helps the world.

“I think when someone shops here they feel good about what they purchase because we research the items that people will feel good about when they buy it,” Huth says.

Find them online at oneloveyogaboutique.liveeditaurora.com
Jason Bacher and Brian Buirge are co-founders of humorous design advice blog that also features an online store of drinkware, framed art, apparel and prints.

The idea began in 2010 when Bacher taught his first class as an instructor in Adobe Creative Suite at Kent State that taught students how to use Adobe Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator.

The class discussed the principles of design, which helped Bacher come up with an idea to sell his graphic designs because they are based around what he was teaching.

Bacher says he became frustrated when his students were unable to understand the context of his answers, yet they continued to ask him advanced questions.

“They were trying to run before they could walk,” Bacher says in regard to his frustrations with his students’ questions.

Bacher could tell the students the answers to these questions, but the students wouldn’t understand the advanced graphic design knowledge behind the answer.

He took his frustrations with students’ questions to Buirge, who had been teaching at the university for one semester longer than Bacher, and agreed that a coffee session at Starbucks was in order.

The duo began to brainstorm how Bacher could potentially answer his students’ questions in a way that stuck in their minds.

It was in that moment that they created Good F***ing Design Advice or GFDA to give advice and answers to everything design. The name amused his class, and the website allowed design advice to become more widespread. It has become the signature trademark of their business.

“We had no intention of launching a store or company in the beginning,” Bacher says. “The purpose was to give people a good laugh.”

Their website sells products that give advice specifically about design, but Buirge believes people receive advice constantly throughout their lives, so he included phrases of life advice on most of his products.

GFDA sells T-shirts that say phrases such as “Work f***ing harder,” and mugs that say, “Fail, fail, and f***ing fail again.”

The owners say the business will continue to expand in the direction the audience wants whether it’s new graphic designs on coffee mugs or products other than mugs and T-shirts.

Find them online at: goodf***ingdesignadvice.com

(*All letters are included in their website. We’ll let you fill in the blanks.*)
Athleisure has become larger than a trend — it is now part of a lifestyle for many and has become a staple among many people’s wardrobes. Gone are the days of the T-shirt and leggings ensemble or gym shorts and tanks. The emphasis has now been put into function, form and cool details, perfect for a class to gym look or work to play.

A magazine has put together affordable and stylish ways for you to rock athleisure and stay ahead of the times.

photographs by gina desimone
Columbia black long-sleeve top, $45
Wild Earth Outfitters
4 - RTH ‘black perfection’ yoga pants, $74
One Love Yoga and Boutique
ONZIE medium black triangle bra, $46
One Love Yoga and Boutique

(Right)
Columbia black long-sleeve top, $45
Wild Earth Outfitters

4 - RTH ‘Black Perfection’ yoga pants, $74
One Love Yoga and Boutique

Alternative Eco black ‘Feel Free’ tank, $42
ONZIE black track mesh legging, $63
One Love Yoga and Boutique
Alternative Eco gray ‘Wrap It Up’ cardigan, $50
Tparty black/white alligator dye thermal pant, $40
One Love Boutique and Clothing

(Right)
Columbia black long-sleeve top, $45
Patagonia stonewash men’s ‘Better Sweater’ vest, $99
Wild Earth Outfitters

4 - RTH ‘Black Perfection’ yoga pants, $74
One Love Boutique and Clothing
Columbia My Terry Tory dress, $99
Wild Earth Outfitters
ONZIE metallic gray knot back tank, $35
Tparty black - layered fringe skirt, $44

(Right)
NUX black/white grace tank, $47
Everly navy dot overlap skirt, $25

All from One Love Boutique and Clothing
Smart Snacking

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GINA DESIMONE

College can be a time of high-stress and uncertainty. With everything going on, it’s important to make time for yourself and body. We’ve put together fun ways such as energy bites to ensure you keep yourself #1.
Refuel Smoothie Bowl

INGREDIENTS
1 ½ cups frozen fruit mix of choice
1 ¼ fresh banana
2 tablespoons peanut butter
1/2 cup water
3-4 ice cubes

TOPPINGS
Granola
Banana
Strawberries
Chia Seeds
Kiwi

DIRECTIONS
Mix ingredients in a blender until smooth. Add more water if too thick. Choose desired toppings. Enjoy!
Roasted Chickpeas

15-oz. can chickpeas, drained
Olive oil spray
1/8 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. chili pepper powder
1/4 tsp. ground cumin
1/4 tsp. paprika
1/4 tsp. ground coriander
1/4 tsp. garlic powder

Bake drained chickpeas at 375 degrees for 35-45 minutes or until golden brown and crunchy on the inside.

Combine all spices in a bowl. Remove chickpeas from oven and spray with olive oil. Immediately toss with spices.

Lemon & Blueberry Energy Bites

8 oz. dried blueberries
2-3 drops of lemon juice
1 cup oats
1/4 cup slivered almonds
1/4 cup flax seed
2 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons peanut butter (optional)

Combine ingredients in blender to create a paste. Roll paste into tablespoon sized balls.
Get Fit!

BY PAYTON MOORE

Everyone’s heard it one way or another — getting active releases happy endorphins. Some choose to stay active for aesthetics, to relax to keep their energy high throughout the day. Whatever your reason, you’re going to need some tunes to get moving. This playlist will initiate a super-charged workout whether you’re new to the gym or a seasoned athlete.

1. Follow the Beat - Tropkillaz ft. Buku
2. Secrets (Future House Mix) - Tiësto & KSHMR ft. Vassy
3. The Anthem - GRiZ ft. Mike Avery
4. M$’s - A$AP Rocky ft. Lil Wayne
5. Bunnydance - Oliver Heldens
7. Bad Girls - M.I.A.
8. Tic Tac Toe - Logic
9. HyperParadise Flume (Remix) - Hermitude
10. Pusher - Sleepy Tom ft. Anna Lunoe

SWIMMING
It’s a no-brainer pools are amazing for relaxing and cooling off in the sun. Swimming is often used in rehabilitation work, as it is easy on the joints. It may be trickier to learn how to master the butterfly, but sticking to typical strokes like the breaststroke and backstroke are just as beneficial to raising your heart rate.

CYCLING
This exercise sustains a high heart rate while constantly working the lower body. Cycling can also relax the mind — not every workout has to be up a grueling 3-mile hill. Grab a bike, some friends and have a short ride around town keeping a consistent pace and stopping for water breaks.

YOGA
For a workout that stretches muscles, calms the mind and improves balance, try yoga. Yoga is a smart option for college students because of its ability to knock two birds out with one stone: connect yourself with your thoughts and your movements.
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When some think of the fashion industry, they imagine glamorous women strutting down runways dressed in elegant creations. Or men working behind the scenes to build a photo shoot set and fashion designers drawing sketches of the next big thing.

Not everyone sees the fashion industry in the same light, though.

Three students enrolled in Kent State’s Fashion School are working hard in a changing industry to reach their goals and aspirations, despite some roadblocks along the way.

Emonte Wimbush is a former fashion merchandising major who has since switched to public relations. When it came to getting involved in fashion organizations within the school, he says “it was a disappointment.”

He struggled to find a place among the different groups and faces in the Fashion School. Because of this, Wimbush decided it was time for him to make a change. That change would come with the arrival of The Classic Gentlemen’s Club — a new organization on campus that promotes men’s fashion, both locally and globally.

Originally, The Classic Gentlemen’s club was to go alongside the current fashion school organizations — Modista and the Fashion Student Organization, FSO.

When Wimbush presented the idea to J.R. Campbell, the director of the School of Fashion Design and Merchandising, the idea was not supported in the way he had hoped.
Campbell said he applauds Wimbush for “trying to create something that would create more energy or interest for male students who have an interest in fashion.” However, after Campbell talked with Wimbush he thought Wimbush was already involved in a lot of activities to take on creating and running another organization.

“I was coming at my advice for him more from a point of view supporting him individually, not responding directly per se as though it were good or bad,” Campbell says. “Either case, it was more about what I felt like was the best advice for him personally given my understanding of his interest.”

Campbell says he believes students should not get involved in a wide variety of activities, like organizations, if they want to be successful in whatever degree they are pursuing.

Wimbush decided to turn to the Center for Student Involvement in order to pursue his goals. He had to meet university requirements, which included finding four interested peers and an adviser.

“I started the organization basically to get the heterosexual male taken seriously when it comes to putting on fashion shows, doing social events, being a fashion designer and being a fashion stylist,” Wimbush says.

Wimbush said he hopes the start of his organization will change the perspective people have of men in the fashion industry so they too can be taken seriously when it comes to having an idea or holding a position within the program and beyond.

As of fall 2015, The Classic Gentleman’s Club had 10 active members who were working on establishing the group to make it a well-known organization on campus.

This spring semester, the club plans to put on a fashion show and host an event for students to receive awards for their style.

“This [The Classic Gentlemen’s Club] will benefit the school because there’s no other organization on Kent’s campus offering an outlet for males in fashion,” Wimbush says. “I feel like this is going to be something big where they [males] can come and have their outlet where they can’t get it from somewhere else other than a school project.”

Wimbush discovered his passion for the fashion industry comes from being creative and thinking outside of the norm.

Growing up, Wimbush says he was seen as the “weird kid” and seen as ‘different’ by other people. He faced bullying from others assuming he was gay because of the way he dressed and the people he hung out with.

Being bullied and judged at a younger age played a big role in who Wimbush is as a person today.

“I don’t think I would have had the determination and the strength to think I can succeed if I didn’t hear so many people say ‘you can’t do it, you are this, you are that,’ ” Wimbush says. “Proving people wrong is one of the main things I’ve done to help myself succeed.”

Wimbush says fashion is a creative outlet and to evolve within the fashion industry, one must step outside of the boundaries and norms ones see. To do so, one must make their own rules and create their own trends.
New York’s 2015 Fashion Week did just that. Models of all shapes, sizes, cultural backgrounds, genders, sexual orientations and colors stormed the runways.

The trend #NYFW4ALL meant exactly what it said — New York Fashion Week was, and is for all. This year’s fashion week showcased the industry moving in a new direction toward becoming more accepting and diverse.

At a professional level, the fashion industry has begun to change and has started including models of all types.

Jamie Brewer is a model with Down syndrome and became the first model with Down syndrome to walk at New York Fashion Week.

This change has brought to attention different concerns people have within the fashion community. Now that the industry is allowing more changes and diversity, others are hoping to push the boundaries of some of the limits set for them within the industry.

Joseph Martin, is concerned about the lack of focus in men’s fashion compared to women’s. He said he believes the fashion industry and fashion schools focus predominately on women’s wear.

“In my fashion visuals class they [professors] always made us do women’s wear. We could never do men’s wear,” the sophomore fashion merchandising major says. “Since I’m a guy, I always wanted to do men’s wear just because that’s what I like and what I focus on.”

Despite asking professors in the class for permission to design men’s wear, his request, along with other students’ requests, was turned down.

Fashion visuals professor Kim Hahn says students are not allowed to create men’s wear in the class because it is a freshmen introductory class with more than 300 students.

Due to large class, professors prefer students to create women’s wear because the class is in conjunction with a fashion trend class.

“Women’s wear is focused on more than men’s wear because the trends change at a faster pace,” Hahn says.

It’s also easier for the professors to grade each student’s project on the same criteria. If they were to allow both men’s wear and women’s wear, the grading criteria would not have the same consistency.

According to Hahn, as you move through the required courses in the school, it becomes more flexible for students to design the clothes they want.

However, as each generation rises up trends in the fashion industry adapt to the public’s needs.

“With society and everything changing nowadays, it seems that guys are becoming more likely to shop for themselves,” Martin says. “I feel like in the past it was mostly women doing shopping, which is why the fashion program would be focused on women. It does seem like everything’s changing and men are becoming more predominant in the shopping field and therefore the fashion field.”

While the industry has become more diverse, some feel the industry has not become diverse enough.
Quierston Byers, a junior fashion merchandising major, has dreamed of working in the fashion industry since she was 11 years old. Growing up, she says it was easy to get discouraged by what she saw in the media.

“There are a really low number of models who are not white with blond hair,” Byers says. “It’s hard to be a sixth grade girl who wants to be in fashion, then you watch fashion shows and you don’t see anybody who looks like you.”

She says the Kent State fashion program also lacks diversity.

The two prominent organizations within the Fashion School are FSO and Modista. Each organization has its own executive board to represent the organization as a whole.

“Put in more diverse people on boards,” Byers says. “If we could just have boards that are more diverse, we could probably get ideas of diversity in there, instead of a group of like-minded people where you’re not going to have any different ideas.”

Byers believes students struggle to get involved within the Fashion School because there is a limited amount of organizations for them to pick from.

She says students fear not fitting into the organizations offered because they don’t all look or dress the same. Byers says she feels as if she dresses more preppy than some of the students in the organization who seem to wear brand named clothes or have as she describes a “cool kid style.”

“More than anything, the biggest struggle is realizing what fashion truly is because when you get here you think it’s high fashion. It’s a label, but really, fashion is different for each person,” Byers says. “You think, ‘I don’t fit into whatever the trend is,’ and that’s OK. Overcome the idea that you have to fit a mold because there is no mold. It’s different for every person.”

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*40 did not report their ethnicity. Source: Kent State RPIE Institutional Research
They say history repeats itself. Fashion is no exception. We rounded up photos that captured the spirit of Kent State and created eight modern day-inspired looks that reflect on the hip, groovy and fun times through the decades.

**1950s**

Midi shirt dress, saddle shoes, yellow dress shirt, khaki pants, blue / a Goodwill Boutique /
1960s

Blue sweater and plaid pants, blue / a Goodwill Boutique / Ruffle socks, Topshop

(Right) Blanket wrap, Steve Madden
Black long sleeve T-shirt, H&M
Bellbottom jeans, H&M
Varsity jacket, H&M
White T-shirt, models' own
Jeans, models' own
White blouse, white overalls, Forever 21
Varsity T-shirt, thrifted
Jeans, models’ own
Vans sneakers, models’ own
1990s

White T-shirt, models’ own
Yellow corduroy pinafore dress, Zara
Converse sneakers, Converse
Socks, models’ own
Burgundy one-shoulder top, The Limited
Leather shorts, H&M
Combat boots, models’ own
Navy off-the-shoulder top, JCPenney
Jeans, models’ own
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