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## Student-driven fashion show to grace the runway

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*NI Features Writer*

It's not easy putting together a fashion show. Some people know this fact from watching the reality series "Project Runway."

Paralleling the show – minus the tears – the University of Northern Iowa will be putting on a fashion show consisting of student-created designs on April 8 at 8 p.m. in Lang Hall Auditorium.

Erin Dixon, Brittany Lester and Erin Landt, seniors in the textile and apparel program, are co-directors for this year's show titled "Style Perspectives."

"I have been part of this student-run activity for 14 years," said Annette Lynch, advisor for the fashion show and associate professor of design, textiles, gerontology and family studies. "The planning for the show this year has been going extremely smooth. It is well organized, and the students are very responsive."

Lynch added that without student response, there would be no show.

The design show is completely student-based.

The show is run by the fashion promotion class; students are models, directors and, of course, students submit fashion designs.

One may wonder who chooses what designs go to the show.



Deliberations began this year with 89 wishful participants entering their pieces in a juried show.

This year a UNI alumna who has been in the fashion field came back to evaluate the submitted pieces.

Heather Schoeman is the alumna judge this year. The critiquing of the works was based on the students' creativity, construction and presence of the design.

Schoeman selected 66 out of the 89 entries for the show.

Having Schoeman select the pieces gave the co-directors a little bit less work, but the women still have a lot of responsibility finding music, training and fitting models and creating stage props.

"We are doing something completely different with the stage from years past by including props," Lester said. "We will have large sheets of metal and mirrors staggered around the stage. This will give our models different points to enter (the stage) from, along with adding to this year's theme of viewing the designs from different angles and perspectives."

There will be four different sections to the show. The first is "First Impressions," featuring clothes one could wear in public any day.

The second section is named "Shattered," showcasing club wear and wearable art.

An example of some of the wearable art can be seen in underclassmen's work. One piece created from a basketball became a matching top and skirt.

From there the show will move on to "Polished Reflections," which is evening wear, and then to the final section, "Mirrored Images," containing for the first time, students' lines of clothing.

"Everyone is pretty excited about the lines," Dixon said. "This is the first year we've had the opportunity to create our own lines, and it has been really cool to see where people's inspiration comes from to create them."

Dixon was kind enough to give a sneak peak of the line she created.

"My line is called 'Bit and Pieces,'" she said. "It is inspired by quilting, so all my dresses in the line are created from black and white scraps of different material."

This year's fashion show is open and free to the public.

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