

College Avenue

Colorado State | Volume 9: Issue 7 April 2014

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to
reality
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Letters to the editor

As the magazine produced by CSU students for the CSU and Fort Collins community, we would like to extend an invitation to our readers to submit letters to the editor ranging from 50 to 150 words with your feedback on the magazine. This is your magazine, and we would like to know what you think of the content, design or anything else. All letters to the editor must be typed in a word document and attached to an e-mail, which should be sent to collegeavenue@collegian.com.

Mission statement

College Avenue is a magazine produced and operated by CSU students. Our mission is to serve the CSU and Fort Collins community with engaging and informative coverage of relevant topics. Our staff is dedicated to providing balanced and accurate reporting as well as visually stimulating design and photographic elements. We also seek to provide an outlet for entertainment with the opportunity for audience interaction and feedback. Above all, we strive to maintain journalistic integrity through professional excellence.

College Avenue is a magazine produced and operated by CSU students intended as a public forum.

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College Avenue Magazine
CSU Lory Student Center Box 13
Fort Collins, CO 80523
(970) 491-1687
collegeavenue@collegian.com

College Avenue Staff

Editor in Chief

Logan Martinez

Managing Editor

Ricki Watkins

Features Editor

Amanda Zetah

Photo Editor

Anne-Marie Kottenstette

Copy Editor

Kelsey Contouris

Digital Editor

Josephine Bush

Senior Reporter

Nicole Leicht

Senior Photographer

Lauren Martin

Reporters

Nicole Beale

Marissa Isgreen

Hannah Woolums

Alexa Phillips

Kelsey Shroyer

Devin O'Brien

Sydney Izienicki

Photographers

Anne-Marie Kottenstette

Lauren Martin

Joe Tiner

Megan Rakoczy

Designers

Whitney Hackbarth

Alison Bleser

Nicole Wagner

Jessica Hayes

Adviser

Neill Woelk



From me to you for the last time

College Avenue Magazine has held my heart for the past four years. From late nights in the newsroom as a doe-eyed freshman reporter to training my replacement in the past few weeks, I have forgotten what life is without this publication. I would say I am sentimental about leaving, but this last semester of school has drained me of any wish of staying I may have had. However, I will miss catching people peeking through the latest College Avenue in lecture halls, pulling them out so they are on top of the rack for people to pick up, laughing hysterically in the newsroom with colleagues and trips to conferences with amazing people.

While I have to say goodbye, you do not, CSU. You get to look forward to an amazing new year of publications that will come to you at the hands of my incredibly talented colleague, Ricki Watkins.

Now that I have gotten through the sappy stuff, I hope you turn the pages and find yourself in amazement like I have by the talent of the student fashion designers in our cover story on page 11. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Verretta Andersen and must say, I will be watching for her designs to pop up on the Fashion Week runway. Also, enjoy unconventional plays on page 18, CSU's very own version of "Pitch Perfect" on page 20 or some examples of weird fashion trends on page 4.

Yours,

Logan Martinez, Editor in Chief

Weird Trends

The Top 5 Trends We Should **Bring Back** and **Leave Behind**

By Nicole Leicht
College Avenue Magazine

Bring it on Back:

- 1) **Scrunchies:** Scrunchies are fantastic; I don't care what anyone says. Before you completely write me off for this fashion faux pas, let me explain. They are kink-proof wonders that come in every color and pattern imaginable. Think of them as your new go-to accessory — add some flair to your hair or try them out as statement bracelets.
- 2) **Fanny Packs:** Another questionable choice, I know. But, with a little fashionable revamp, these bad boys could make a strong comeback. Tell me you wouldn't love to have a miniature purse conveniently attached to you. It's foolproof — no more accidentally forgetting it somewhere, and everything is always right within reach. Convinced yet?
- 3) **Leotards/Bodysuits:** They are like one-piece wonders. Don't knock it till you try it. It's a simple solution to the endless search for Friday night's outfit. Slip one of these on and throw a skirt on over it and you are set. Not ready to commit? Check out the tons of new style variations on the classic leo, and I swear you will find something that suites you.

Leave it Behind:

- 1) **Overalls:** I am legitimately concerned that these are making a comeback. No good can come from an oversized denim onesie. Enough said.
- 2) **Parachute Pants:** These are quite possibly one of the most unflattering items of clothing known to mankind. It could be their slight resemblance to a child's diaper or just their general ill fit, but whatever it is, these pants should stay in the past.
- 3) **Crocs:** They had their glory days — keyword: had. We should have been wary of these plastic slippers when the rumors that they were edible started. Their odd punch hole-adorned design makes them a definite statement piece, just not the statement you want to make.



Photo By | Nicole Leicht

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Old Town Square



Photo: Gabrielle Pellegrino Stylist: Kim Cilli-Turner

Keith Carradine:

Actor who starred in everything from “Cowboys and Aliens” to “Deadwood” to “Dexter.” He won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe and was nominated for a Grammy for “Nashville.” Carradine studied theater arts for one semester at CSU before dropping out to pursue his career dreams.

Leslie Jones:

Comedian who started off doing comedy festivals like Aspen Comedy Festival and Just For Laughs Montreal Comedy Festival. She then created her own comedy special “Problem Child” and is now writing on staff for “Saturday Night Live.” Jones transferred to CSU to join the basketball team. Her comedic career kicked off when the Collegian voted her the funniest person on campus.

John Amos:

Actor known for “One Life to Live,” “Good Times,” “Roots,” “The A Team” and “Die Hard 2.” Amos graduated from CSU with a degree in sociology; he also played on the football team.

Dominique Dunne:

Actress famous for her lead role in the original horror film “Poltergeist,” that grossed \$70 million in 1982. She was later strangled and killed by her former boyfriend during the filming of the original TV show “V.” Dunne only attended CSU for one year before dropping out.



Collegian Staff Photo

CSU graduates **Patricia Reimann** and **Lauren Hanna** and senior dance major **Angela Wood** are cheerleaders for the Denver Broncos.

Famous Artists from CSU

By **Jessica Fish**
College Avenue Magazine

Baxter Black:

Poet considered the “Cowboy Poet.” He has published more than a dozen books of his work, hosts radio programs, contributes to National Public Radio and writes a newspaper column. He is married but refuses to own technology like cell phones or television. Black attended CSU to study veterinary medicine.

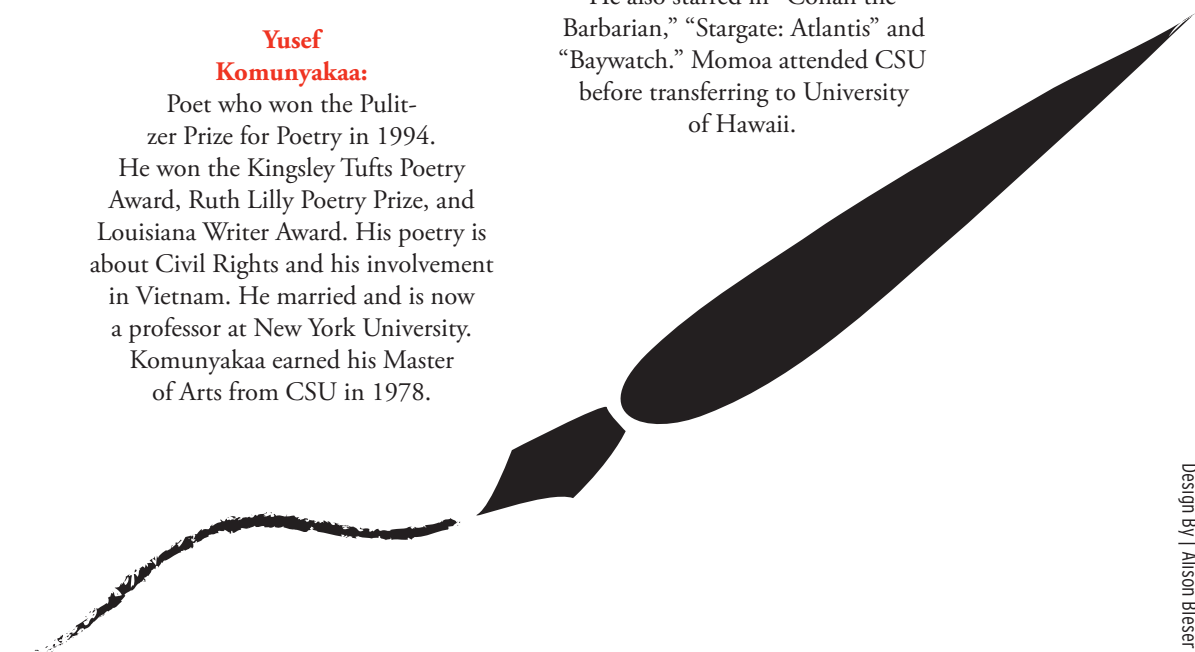
Jason Momoa:

Actor recently known for playing Khal Drogo in the HBO series “Game of Thrones.” He also starred in “Conan the Barbarian,” “Stargate: Atlantis” and “Baywatch.” Momoa attended CSU before transferring to University of Hawaii.

Yusef

Komunyakaa:

Poet who won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1994. He won the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, and Louisiana Writer Award. His poetry is about Civil Rights and his involvement in Vietnam. He married and is now a professor at New York University. Komunyakaa earned his Master of Arts from CSU in 1978.





Comic Book Day in Old Town

By Devin O'Brien
College Avenue Magazine

**Editor's note: This article covers Comic Book Day 2013*

The faces in the line vary. Some are college students, sporting hipster beards and T-shirts, others include a mom or dad with their children. Serving this crowd are shop owners Susan and John Bonner. Susan helps her white-bearded husband behind a desk whose wall is filled with various comics. Original issues of well-known titles like “Batman” and cult favorites like “Cerebus the Aardvark” are layered on the wall, creating more shades of color than a Crayon box. Standing guard over these old comics are various figurines of heroes throughout time.

While John is busy with record keeping and helping customers track down certain copies of a comic, Susan mans the cash register.

In the line, one mother and her son get their turn at the cashier's desk, where the free comics are kept.

“Do you still have any of the free comic books?” the mother asks.

Susan said, “Yeah, we have a few.”

It's the first Saturday in May, also known as Free

Comic Book Day, and a special day for Halley's Comics. Old Town Fort Collins is full of college students and families shopping and dining at the myriad of stores, but today is a special day for the shop at 322 Walnut St.

The holiday, in which participating comic book stores give out select free comic books on the first Saturday in May, began in 2002. Various comic imprints, such as DC and Dark Horse, may provide special issues of a series like “Superman” for the event.

In the small anterior of Halley's Comics, the line of people stretches from the cashier's desk almost to the entrance. Those waiting stand near a row of black shelves filled with comics and trimmed at the top with blue Christmas lights. These lights snake from the rack of single issues to the arch separating the shop's front and back, and over to where graphic novels rest on the opposite wall.

Susan asks the woman's son, small enough to not see over the collectable-filled glass counter, if he would like a “Smurfs” comic. The little boy says no. Susan tells the boy they have a “Sponge-Bob” comic, but the kid wants none of it. He wants an issue of Batman. Susan says they have one left. As Susan goes into the part of the desk

where the free comics are kept, the child asks if the action figures on the wall are free too. No, Susan says, those aren't for playing. Those are John's toys. Then the kid gets it, the last copy of the Free Comic Book Day Batman issue. Just in time, too; a little bit after he leaves with his mother, others will ask about it and be turned away.

As the mother and son head for the exit, various other customers go to and from the back part of the store. Starting behind a cardboard cutout of the Cryptkeeper of “Tales from the Crypt” fame, the rear of the shop is filled with multiple long boxes. Customers bend over these, walking their index and middle fingers across the tops of old comics in an effort to find back issues from up to thirty years ago.

At 3:27 p.m. comes a sign that Free Comic Book Day has been busy for the people at Halley's comics. Some come in to inquire about the free comic books. Susan responds by telling them they don't have many left.

Throughout the day's business which has John hurriedly moving through the shop, and despite all the coming and going people, the shop's resident cat is not perturbed. It sleeps belly out in the sun by the shop's one window, surrounded by plants in its own Garden of Eden.

Experience the Arts in Fort Collins

By Jessica Fish
College Avenue Magazine

There is something for everyone in this city. Whether you love music, dance, theater, photography or art, Fort Collins has opportunities this April for all ages to get involved. Now that we're coming into spring, it is the perfect time to do something creative.

Kites in the Park Festival

Bring your kite to Spring Canyon Community Park on April 27 for the seventh annual Kites in the Park Festival. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., people will come together and bring their kites to compete in Rokkaku Kite Fights and competitions. Kids can get their faces painted and make their own kites, and everyone can eat food and have a good time. The event is held to promote being green and to raise awareness of renewable energy sources like wind power. Better yet, it's free.

Learn How to Contra Dance

Every first, third and fifth Saturday of the month, Friends of Traditional Dance offers Contra Dance lessons at Club Tico in City Park. Participants can get a free lesson from 7-8 p.m. and then join in the dancing from 8-11 p.m. It is always done to live music (usually a Celtic band). Contra is a partner folk dance, performed since the 18th century. The group is also selling tickets to its formal ball, the Wild Asparagus Ball, which is held in Boulder on May 10 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. For more information visit www.fotd.org.

Explore the 3-D Dome Theater

After April 17, The Fort Collins Museum of Discovery is opening the OtterBox Digital Dome for an immersive 360-degree experience of art, music and film. Participants can choose between two different experiences: Crossing Worlds or The Sublime. Crossing Worlds is a visual tone poem in which nature and landscape photography is paired with modern instrumental music. The Sublime is a combination of three dance films focused on breakdancing and parkour with a background of upbeat dance music. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and costs between \$6 and \$9.50, depending on age. Members get into the museum free and students get discounts, but theater tickets are \$7 for nonmembers.

Visit the Lincoln Center

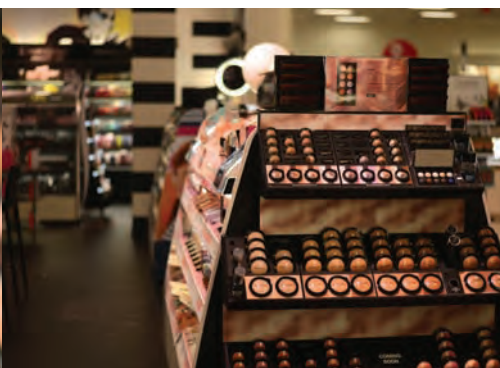
The Lincoln Center has a variety of events ranging from music performances to dance pieces, art exhibits to film showings, and operas to ballets and theater. Upcoming shows in April include performances by visiting Juilliard students, Snow White the Ballet, operas like "Arabella" and "Madama Butterfly," the Film Society of Lincoln Center's daily picks, music exhibits like "Portraits of Sound" and "Ladies and Gentlemen... The Beatles!" and classical and jazz performances.



Fresh faced

By Alexa Phillips
College Avenue Magazine

Spring is here, which means switching from dark, heavy makeup in favor of something lighter and brighter. Aimee Winemiller, a personal beauty advisor for Sephora Cosmetics, gives us insight on how to rock the spring's hottest makeup trends.



Photos By | Lauren Martin

Trend 1: Pantone Color of the Year: Radiant Orchid

A harmonious blend of fuchsia, purple and pink undertones, this color is very versatile and wearable in the forms of blush, lip color, eye shadow and nail polish.

“An easy way to incorporate the Radiant Orchid Color of the Year into your look is to lightly sweep it in a figure eight motion across your cheekbone; this will give you a natural glow and flush of color,” Winemiller advises.



Trend 2: Highlighting and Contouring

This particular trend has been hot on the red carpet this awards season, with many celebrities embracing this beauty method.

“For a natural, contoured look comparable to that of Kim Kardashian’s chiseled cheeks, you can use a matte bronzer or a foundation about three shades darker than you skin tone,” Winemiller suggests.

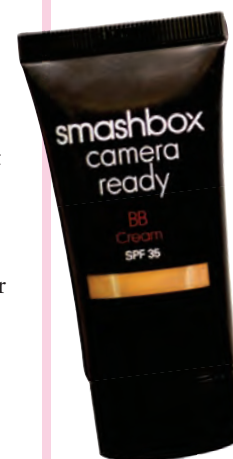
Apply the bronzing product to the hollows of your face or the areas you want to appear narrower, such as the bridge of your nose or jawline (an easy way to do this is to make a fish face, and the part where your cheeks appear concave is where you apply the product). As for highlighting, take a highlighting product, such as a shimmery powder or highlighting stick, and place a little bit on areas of your face that you want to draw attention to and brighten, such as the inner corners of your eyes, cupid’s bow or on the top of your cheekbones for a natural glow.

Trend 3: Apply SPF

An easy way to always ensure you are protected from harmful UV rays is to purchase a moisturizer with SPF and incorporate it into your morning beauty routine. Additionally, you can purchase a beauty balm (BB) or color correction (CC) cream.

“These are your ultimate multitaskers, giving you lightweight coverage, broad spectrum SPF protection, peptides and vitamin C,” Winemiller explains.

There is no need to wear heavy products when it’s warm outside; not only does it weigh down your skin, it also clogs your pores! This spring is all about looking fresh and natural, so the fewer products used, the better.





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from
inspiration
to **reality**

Meet the winners of the 2014 CSU Fashion Show for Best Collection, Best Construction, Most Creative and Most Marketable.

Best Collection: Verretta Andersen

By Ricki Watkins
College Avenue Magazine

When senior Verretta Andersen sat down to sketch clothing designs for her Apparel Design and Production capstone, her mind shot back to Vienna, Austria. To the steps of St. Stephen's Cathedral. In her travels around Europe last summer, Andersen had seen many cathedrals, but this one in particular had caught her eye. The cathedral's limestone walls had been stained black with soot and pollution over the years, giving it a dark and organic texture. Her pencil started moving and the sketches that emerged would eventually turn into a collection that would be named the "Best Overall Collection" at the Design and Merchandising Department's annual 2014 CSU Fashion Show.

Along with 24 other designers, Andersen presented her fashion collection to a sold-out auditorium and three high-profile judges on March 7, the show theme this year was "Rendering Reality."

"I was very impressed [with the fashion show]," said judge Stephanie Ohnmacht, a recent designer on "Project Runway: Under the Gunn." "The talent and production was spot on!"

But getting to that runway was not an easy process. At the beginning of the semester, students were first asked to sketch out possible looks. After receiving critique from fellow classmates, students narrowed down their ideas to what would culminate into four final looks (or more, if they so chose).

"The whole process of constructing the clothes wasn't necessarily make a decision and then make the garment, we kind of adjusted the idea as we went," Andersen said in a phone interview.

The process of actually constructing the clothes pushed many students to try new techniques, which Anderson said is her favorite part of the design process. For Andersen, this came in the form of fabric painting and dying as she tried to replicate the textures of the cathedral in her garments – a process that

was a little rocky at first.

"It was a little rough at the beginning — that is why the first garment is so important for problem solving and really starting a collection in a way that you like," Andersen said. "But, after I finished the first one, all the other ones went pretty smoothly."

Countless hours and many sleep-less nights later, Andersen had finished five different garments — she had effectively rendered her inspiration into reality.

"I loved seeing that process [idea into reality] in all of my classmates and just reliving how I just saw that cathedral and somehow I am here today with those garments and how that whole process went."

Andersen's reality immediately caught the eyes of the judges as her looks stormed the runway.

"She did a really nice job putting together a cohesive collection, whereas I think a lot of the other designers fell short in taking their inspiration and turning it into building a collection around that," said judge Tracy Bozarth, a CSU alumna and co-founder and fashion director of Dandizette Magazine. "Just the whole look and feel — it felt like a designer's collection."

Ohnmacht agreed, saying, "Verretta's work had all the things you look for in a great collection. It was eye catching, wearable, unique and well constructed."

Even Andersen's fellow classmates, felt her collection deserved the award.

"Verretta's collection was really good and I can't think of anyone better that could have won that award," said Phillip Miller, whose collection was awarded "Best Construction."

Verretta herself said she felt deeply honored that her designs were deemed the best collection at the fashion show.

"I put in countless hours and I worked as hard as I could, so it was a huge honor to be recognized for the work that I put in and the collection that I stood behind and was super

proud of and to see that everyone else could recognize that as well," she said.

Verretta attributes her award to her many years of sewing experience, dedication to impeccable construction and unique design aesthetic.

"I think my construction is something that sets me apart from people, but also, I think my preferences lean more towards darker things and not using color as much; I really like playing with textures and weird prints, which you can see in my collection," she said.

Currently on the job search for an internship in New York City, Andersen plans to graduate in Dec. 2014. She said she feels CSU has well prepared her to enter the fashion world.

"CSU was a super great decision for my career; I feel really prepared for going into my future, so I am really glad I came here," she said.

Following a love for fashion design that she developed in middle school, Andersen said she hopes to experience every facet of the fashion industry.

"I am really open-minded about what part of the fashion industry I will be working in; I think I need to go experience it more than I have to make that decision," she said. "I just want to be working in a job that is challenging, that is enjoyable and fast-paced. I want to see what opportunities I have and see where it takes me."

Eventually, Andersen said she hopes to open her own company – a dream she is putting in every effort to achieve. What advice does she have for others following their dreams?

"I think for me, I am still learning about what it takes to get where I want to be," Andersen said. "I struggle with nerves a lot, so the advice I would give to others, as well as myself, is: don't be afraid to take chances and really go for what you know you should go for even if you are terrified."



Photo courtesy of Verretta Andersen

"Don't be afraid to take chances and really go for what you know you should go for, even if you are terrified."

– Verretta Andersen, senior

Most Creative Melanie Cho

A lamp may not seem like an obvious source of inspiration for a fashion collection, but for senior Melanie Cho, it was exactly that, earning her collection the “Most Creative” award.

“Using the human form as a metaphor for light, I wanted to create lamps that would showcase the light of the wearer,” Cho said in an email interview.

With a simple color pallet, Cho focused her collection on texture, structure and geometric shapes in order to create shadow and depth in her pieces.

Currently interning as a textile designer at Le Studio Anthost in New York, Cho said winning this award has encouraged her to keep working toward her dreams.

“[This award] acted as a huge affirmation and encouragement to me as a designer,” Cho said. “Every artist should find meaning and beauty in their own works, but the fact that other people also took time to acknowledge my collection makes me believe that something I did must have translated well to the audience. That connection is what will keep me motivated to work harder.”

With a passion for illustration and art, Cho said she hopes to continue her career in New York, saying, “[I] would love to tell stories through my art and designs.”

Collection name: Lumiere

Favorite fashion designer: Yves Saint Laurent

Advice for aspiring fashion designers:

“Leave a toothbrush at Gifford.”



Photo courtesy of Melanie Cho



Photo courtesy of Phillip Miller

Best Construction Phillip Miller

To Phillip Miller, detailed and precise construction is the difference between a garment that looks homemade and one that is retail-ready—a mindset that won the recent graduate the award for “Best Construction.”

“If I were to pick any of the awards that I could have won, that was the one I would have wanted,” Miller said. “To me, a garment not only has to be beautiful, it has to be constructed well, and when I look at my own work, I want it to look like the real thing.”

Learning several new techniques along the way, such as distressing and stonewashing, Miller designed four menswear looks.

“I drew a lot of inspiration from the modern craftsman ideal of a guy who has a profession but on the side does what he loves doing, which is using his hands to make the world a beautiful place through design and environmental stewardship,” Miller said.

Miller recently accepted a position with a new fashion design center opening in Denver as the house pattern maker.

“It is a really exciting space and a really exciting opportunity for me,” Miller said. “It is the kind of business that I have always imagined opening someday.”

Favorite fashion designer: Gareth Pugh

Favorite fashion trend right now: Bold mixing in menswear

Advice for aspiring fashion designers:

“After midnight, nothing looks good, no matter how hard you try.”

Most Marketable Valerie Graumann

From the moment she started sketching out designs for this collection, senior Valerie Graumann knew she wanted to design clothes that real women could wear, winning her the award of “Most Marketable.”

“Winning this award has given me a new sense of confidence that my designs are sellable and that people, other than my mom, think that they are good designs,” Graumann said in an email interview. “I like the thought that people would want to wear my clothes.”

Drawing inspiration from different textures, such as wood, fur, metal and leather, Graumann set out to design a collection that contrasted hard and soft.

“I did not end up encompassing every texture in my designs but the designs still stem from this inspiration,” she said. “I wanted to play with hard and soft, which inspired me to place metal in every look.”

Addicted to sewing ever since ninth grade, Graumann is currently in the process of finding work in South Dakota.

“I have a couple jobs lined up but I don’t want to jinx them,” Graumann said. “In the future, I hope to be able to share my ideas with a creative team whether that is working for a company or starting my own company. We will see what God has planned for me.”

Collection name: Rust

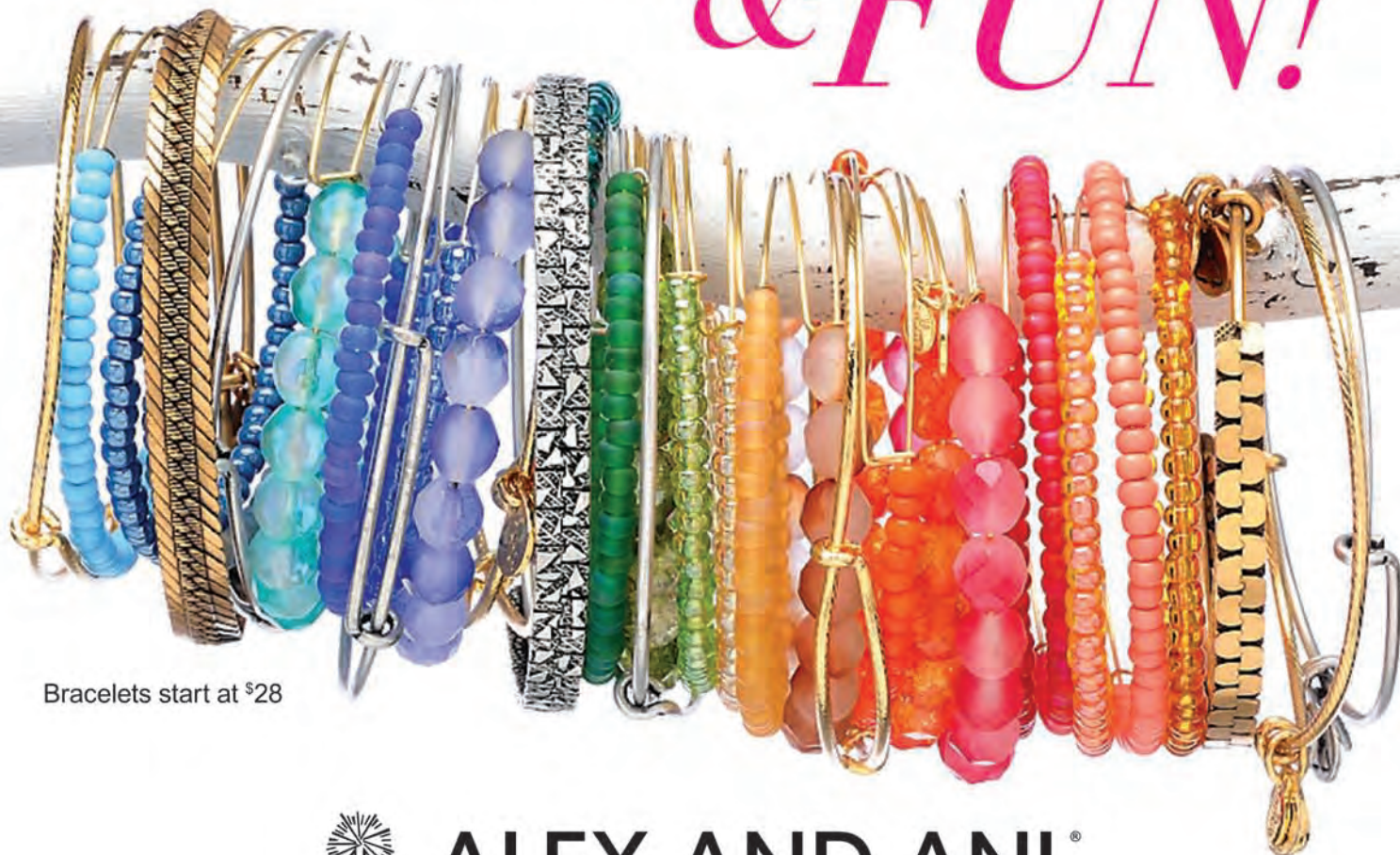
Favorite trend right now: Minimalistic, carefree style that is a little more masculine

Advice for aspiring fashion designers: “I think getting a fashion degree is 30 percent creative, 20 percent all-nighters and 50 percent hard work.”



Photo by Joni Anderson

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The Gallery

A showcase of artistic photography presented in each issue by the College Avenue staff



Above, top right, middle right by Kelsey Contouris. Below by Anne-Marie Kottenstette. Lower right corner by Joe Tiner. Center bottom by Jessica Fish.

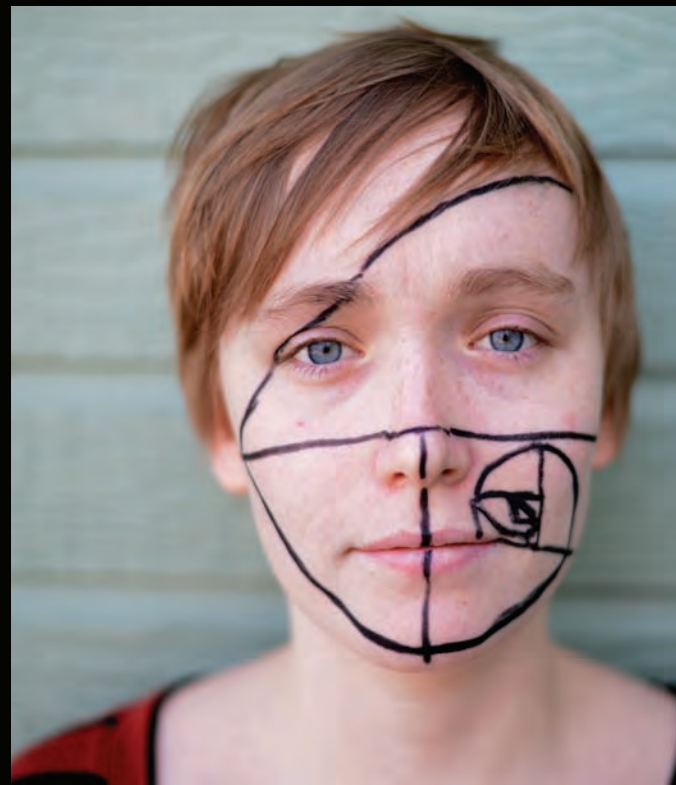




Project 365

By Lauren Martin
College Avenue Magazine

I have started a 365-photography project. The goal seems simple: take one picture every day for a year. That seemed easy enough for me to try. But, after a few short weeks, I began to run out of things to photograph. It's easy to take a picture of a pretty sunset, but it's tough to try to make something creative out of the objects you see every day at home, school or work. Nevertheless, this struggle is exactly what I love about Project 365. I am forced to always be looking at mundane things in a new way. That art project the neighbor kids gave you can suddenly become something beautiful when you look at it in the right light.



Shakespeare with a twist

By Kelsey Shroyer
College Avenue Magazine

Stories generally carry themes throughout history. The story of love and loss, the story of peace and war and the story of people. What if an old story could be turned on its head or brought back to life? That is exactly what English Professor Barbara Sebek is trying to do. As a professor of Shakespeare II, a class required for all English majors, Sebek had the courage to try something a little different.

Inspired by an old radio episode of “This American Life,” Sebek heard about a story of life aboard a military aircraft carrier. While listening, she could not help but draw similarities between what was happening on this aircraft carrier and what was happening in Shakespeare’s play, “Measure for Measure.” This inspired Sebek to propose an optional project to her class in which students could modernize the play instead of writing an end-of-term paper.

“I proposed it to the class, and they seemed really excited about the idea,” Sebek said.

Though some students are still opting to go a more traditional route with an end-of-term paper, many jumped on the idea with enthusiasm. Nicole Smith, an English creative writing major, was one of those students.

“The idea was very provoking from the beginning, and it seemed like a fun alternative to an end-of-the-year critical essay,” Smith said.

Senior English education major Amanda Anderson agreed, saying, “I really like the idea because it requires that you integrate two completely different eras and settings, forcing you to consider both the minutiae of the play and the themes that transcend time.”

“What if an old story could be turned on its head or brought back to life?”

The project has come with some challenges, however. The process of modernizing was not as easy as it might seem. Many of the characters could not fit into modern rolls and had to be altered. Some characters were complex, and a modernization would change things fundamentally.

“So, in our modern adaptation, do we make

the Duke into a genuine guy, or do we make him into a pseudo-villain?” Smith asked.

Trying to organize an open-ended project, Sebek and her students discussed what it meant to modernize a play and what modern day issues would come to light. In Shakespeare’s “Measure for Measure,” sex and power become predominate issues. These issues then had to be adapted to a modern military setting.

Although still in its rough stages, Sebek and her students are trying to hammer out the details and take this project beyond the end of the semester.

With an open project, Sebek was able to give her students the reigns. Some students considered re-writing the play, and others chose to do more research on the topic. Many students went with different settings altogether, and some kept the play within the military setting. Hoping to see it into the future, Sebek and her students discussed involving theater and going beyond just reading and analyzing the play, though nothing has been set in stone.

“It makes the subject more appealing to students and allows them to immerse themselves in it in a more meaningful way,” Smith said.



Photos By | Devin O'Brien

On the Imminent Rise

We Want Her Job: Kristen LittleJohn-Lasker

By Alexa Phillips
College Avenue Magazine

Given that Denver-based fashion designer Kristen LittleJohn-Lasker has worked alongside Project Runway designers Mondo Guerra and Stephanie Ohnmacht, you might assume that she has spent her entire life in front of a sewing machine. But, actually, the first time LittleJohn really learned how to sew and construct garments was her first year at CSU.

“Some of my initial perceptions of what a designer’s life would look like were shattered within the first few weeks of AM 143 (Introduction to Apparel Design), but really the challenges that came with the process kept me motivated,” LittleJohn admitted.

After graduating from CSU in 2009 with a degree in apparel design and production, LittleJohn became heavily involved with the Denver Design Incubator, a space in which aspiring designers can develop a brand. She has always been interested in being an independent designer and evolving as an entrepreneur in the apparel world; Denver Design Incubator helped to make that possible for LittleJohn.

“I’ve found the community in Denver so eager to grow this industry while supporting Colorado makers,” LittleJohn said with regards to Denver’s support of up-and-coming fashion designers. “So many individuals are coming together and sharing their experiences to make it happen.”

LittleJohn realized at a young age she was interested in apparel, but never knew how to make a break in the industry. The program at CSU gave her the experience she never imagined possible, such as a notable internship at the sample house of Diane von Furstenberg.

“I’ve always been more of a work-with-my-hands and creative soul kind of person,” LittleJohn said.

Her fashion brand, Imminent Rise, is based on the idea of building a sustainable business in the U.S. as opposed to abroad, as many other fashion businesses choose to do. That being said, the brand emphasizes American-made manufacturing, as LittleJohn hopes to make consumers more aware of how clothing is made, from fibers to finished product.

“Many people don’t understand where the clothes on their back come from and, with this brand, I hope to break that disconnect,” LittleJohn said.

The design aesthetic of the brand is for those who are striving to rise to the top. In particular, this brand is for the upcoming generation of women who are breaking gender stereotypes, LittleJohn said. The brand focuses on luxury essentials for a modern consumer that desires artisan quality. In addition, LittleJohn wishes to partner with a non-profit foundation that encourages young women to strive for and chase their vision.

“Women are on the forefront of emerging in industries typically dominated by men — right now, they are on the rise,” LittleJohn explained.

The challenges LittleJohn overcomes daily as the head of the company are her favorite part of being a designer. Between production and marketing, there are many tactics involved in a company’s survival. From a designer’s perspective, LittleJohn’s favorite part of what she does is the initial stage in product development: playing with fabric, draping silhouettes and finalizing the details of the garment.

“You wake up every day thinking about the necessity of apparel and what makes us — all of us — throw on a piece of fabric every morning and walk out the door,” LittleJohn said.

Her advice for current students in the Department of Design and Merchandising? Network and intern. Networking connections between designers and merchandisers are important for building your own business or working for someone else. They are the one thing other than hard work that will get you far in the industry.

“Network, network, network...with the student sitting at the front of the class, the kid in the back row and your professors; you never know who will be in your future,” LittleJohn advised.

LittleJohn suggests interning as much as possible, because it will help you become flexible as the industry changes, which for fashion is inevitable.



Photos courtesy of Imminent Rise



Aca Awesome

CSU RAMblings take the stage

By Marissa Isgreen
College Avenue Magazine

“And breathe, just breathe,” belts out soloist Allison Danish, a sophomore biomedical science major and member of Colorado State University’s a cappella group, the RAMblings. Sophomore Josh Colonnives, a music major, joins in with vocal percussion. The music swells and with it the energy among the 13-member group.

Founded in 2000 by CSU alumnus Mike Santos, the RAMblings are the only non-traditional a cappella group on campus. They sing on the plaza and in the library during midterms and finals to give students a quick study break. They have also performed for the Miss Wyoming pageant, CSU’s 1870 dinner, Krazy Karl’s Pizzeria opening and sang the National Anthem at a Nugget’s game.

This diverse group of students — representing majors ranging from mechanical engineering and vocal performance to journalism and music education — have one common goal: have fun as a group and spread the wealth of music and a cappella to the students, campus and the community.

“It’s so rewarding when someone comes up to you and says, ‘Hey I saw you singing in the library, and it was really good,’” said Breanna Bollar, a sophomore majoring in human development and family studies.

The RAMblings perform mostly modern

pop songs like “Say Something” and “Sweater Weather,” but also perform oldies such as “Ain’t No Sunshine.”

“I love singing ‘Ain’t No Sunshine’ for an older crowd because they get so excited about it,” said club president Nicole Barton, a junior journalism student.

Aside from producing a cappella music, the group has a lot of fun just spending time together. The lively bunch recalled the mishaps that went along with performing for the 1870 Dinner. The night included a trip to the wrong hotel, driving on the wrong side of the road and then singing almost directly to University President Tony Frank, as he was seated directly in front of the stage.

“I did get to shake Tony Frank’s hand,” Barton said. “And we even got an email from him the next day thanking us and telling us we did a good job!”

Competitive auditions are held each fall to fill open spots. Those auditioning are asked to prepare a chorus and verse of a popular song and be prepared for range testing, sight reading and aural recall. Those that make it to callbacks are then asked to sing with the group to see how well their voice blends. This year, the RAMblings had 64 people try out and 12 asked to callback, and four were ultimately chosen.

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WORLD-WIDE WEB COMICS

By Devin O'Brien
College Avenue Magazine

Web comics and print comics, while different mediums, have a commonality: many people wanting to launch their creations into the world. Yet in both of these avenues exist challenges and benefits.

Comic writer Mike Baron, winner of two Eisner Awards and whose 1981-to-present career includes work for Marvel and sci-fi comic “Nexus,” has seen both sides.

“They’re doing a lot of digital comics these days, and a lot of young guys are buying them, but there’s still people, and there will always be people, who demand a paper product if it’s a comic,” Baron said.

The writer talked about his exasperation with established publishers’ “blind stupidity” and their great slowness in reviewing submissions. One company accepted a work and then rejected it. According to Baron, the industry is in a chaotic panic due to new media and self-publishing.

Baron said his recent work, such as the motorcyclist crime thrillers “Biker” and “Helmet Head,” wouldn’t be in print if not for pulp house publisher Airship 27 and Amazon.com’s self-publishing pro-

gram. After going this route, “legitimate publishers” became interested in him.

“It’s like any other creative field. If you want to break into movies, the best way to do it is to make your own movie... and then you have a product out there to make your shot count,” Baron said. “We got a chance when Capital City agreed to publish ‘Nexus,’ and by making your shot count, I mean make an impact, do something great, be original, be startling, entertain people because the competition is ferocious.”

Is self-publishing costly? “No, man, that’s the beauty!” Baron said. The graphic for a cover is the only expense. As for payment through the Amazon.com program, the author gets 60 percent of the proceeds from printed copies and 70 percent from electronic versions, according to Baron.

As for artists on the web, some of Baron’s friends have had success. Comic artist Mike Norton created the online comic “Battle Pug” and will have his second book released through Dark Horse.

Brien J. Miller, creator of the web comic “Deer Boy!,” has found the web an alternative to syndication in a traditional newspaper. Additionally, newspapers are dying, and the comics section is often filled with what Miller calls “dead cartoonists” — people like Charles Schultz whose work is still published despite their retirement or death. The

large amount of “dead cartoonists” in many comic pages creates difficulty for those wishing to break into syndication.

On that note, Miller said the internet has created an opportunity for people of varying talent to publish their own work. But success also requires self-promotion. Miller himself has promoted his comic by buying web banners for \$20 to \$40 a month, setting up a table at conventions and creating pages on wiki-type sites.

“In short, you can’t spend 100 percent of the time on the art — you now are lucky to get 20 percent of the time in and the rest is self-promotion,” Miller said. “Yes, you can be successful; yes, you can make money — but it’s all the self-generated sweat of entrepreneurship, and it’s a lot of work and travel and time spent doing all the things the syndicate once did for you.”

The web comic medium also allows artists to perfect their work. This may even lead to becoming noticed by a syndicate, according to Miller. However, due to the amount of web comics created, the limited amount of syndicate talent-seekers and a preference for known artists, the chance of being noticed is small.

Hosting a comic online also allows for a lift of restrictions in content and artistic technique, which traditional print comic strips present. The web me-

dium allows artists to portray subject matter which might have prevented the comic from running in a newspaper.

The print method of comics also limits the choice of color varieties to what a newspaper's press is capable of, usually four versions of cyan, magenta, yellow and black. The web allows for, according to Miller, use of radiant colors, shading and other production techniques not possible through a letterpress.

On the expense of traditional art supplies versus digital equipment, Miller said it varies. He said a computer able to handle web comic graphics could cost from \$800 to \$1500, a high resolution

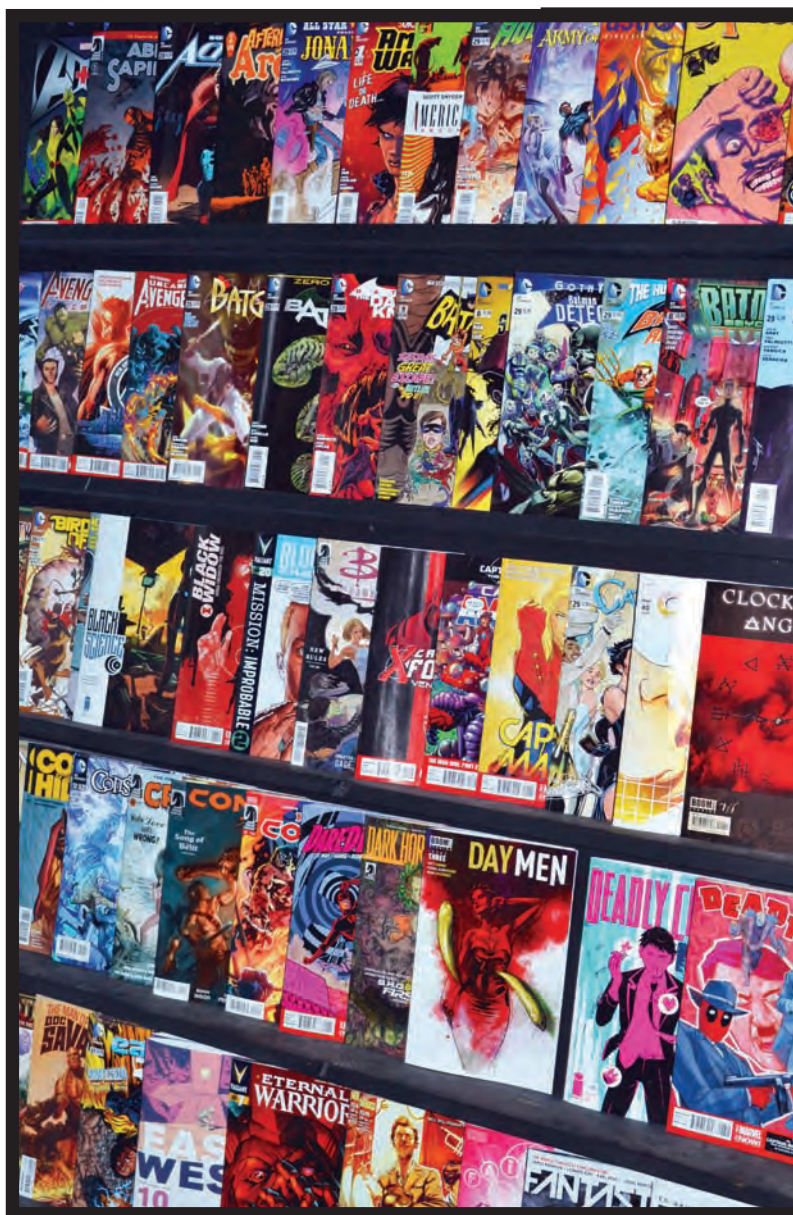
widescreen monitor could be between \$400 and \$600 and drawing tablets from \$150 to \$250. Then there's the cost of drawing programs like Manga Studio EX5, which costs \$80, and the cost of purchasing software upgrades and later versions. However, open source drawing programs exist like "Blender" and "GIMP," which Miller called reasonable alternatives.

Hosting a comic on the web can also provide artistic techniques not possible in print. This includes sound, combining a moving image with still ones (spot animation) and animation.

Finding a core audience is important as well, but is done through multiple years of constant

promotion of your work to establish a base of fans, which isn't easy. Some downsides to the web-based medium of production is the lack of a good revenue stream, as well as the difficulty of finding a core audience through multiple years of constant promotion of one's work to establish a base of fans. Miller said the former is likely due to most advertisers not aiming for web comics' smaller audiences:

"It will just be a matter of seeing if an audience used to the 'free' part will be willing to pay money for it in the future, especially something so content-small and whimsical as an online comic."



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