Fashion show models from casual to formal

By SALI McSHERRY

From flirty dresses to elegantly embellished gowns, Ursuline College's annual Innovations fashion show will be held 1 to 4 p.m. April 29.

Open to the public, the show will feature clothing designed by Ursuline fashion students with more than 50 original creations for women, and before and after the show, boutique vendors will see a variety of handmade items, said Constance Korosec, the college's fashion design, merchandising and interiors chairwoman.

"It's always exciting to watch our fashion design students unveil their original collections," said Dr. Korosec. "The goal is to offer students real-world design experience by providing an exciting forum in which they can showcase their creativity."

Attendees will view a range of women's wear designs from casual and flirty dresses to elegantly embellished gowns. Opening the show this year are freshman textile class members who have designed white paper dresses with flounces, circle skirts and A-line silhouettes.

Senior Natalie Koch said her "Out of the Shadows" line is an updated, refined wardrobe with a lighthearted sensibility for the spring season. It is designed for women who are confident when it comes to their style of dress. "The line incorporates neutral tones, off white and the not-so-basic black, with a hint of detailed fabrication for an exceptional product line," said Ms. Koch, who was inspired by Chanel, Bob Mackie and Bill Blass. In the future she would like to work on a fashion show production team, learning more about directing, modeling and designing.

Fashion design senior Ashley Bohanan was inspired by romance, glamour and three-dimensional fabrics for her "Pretty Bad" collection. "My garments are very feminine, my collection consists of rose, ruffles and pastel colors," Ms. Bohanan. In the future she would like to work for a major design firm where she can learn the business and eventually produce her own line.

"Art Nouveau American Girl" was designed by senior Jacqueline Hutchinson. "My inspiration is centered on geometric art. The eclectic shaped forms of mathematical curves, linear points, triangular inverts and draping in my garments illustrate a pure work of art," she said.

Ursuline's students prepare for the fashion industry through rigorous course work in design, merchandising, retail, graphics, textiles, apparel construction and production, culminating in a senior fashion show.

In addition, the college's fashion design students participate in study trips throughout major U.S. cities and have the option of attending New York's Fashion Institute of Technology during their junior year. They also have hands-on access to the college's costume collection that includes more than 3,500 pieces of 20th century American apparel and accessories.

The show will be held in the College's Matthew J. O'Brien Athletic Center, 2550 Lander Road in Pepper Pike.

Fashion show admission costs are $10 for adults, $5 for students and no charge for children 10 and under. Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information, call 440-646-8142.