Ursuline students study the art of fashion

By SALI McSHERRY

Fashion collections featuring “Midnight Monet,” “City Lights,” “Secret Harmony,” Charming,” and “Olive Women” will be highlighted at Ursuline College’s annual Innovations fashion show Sunday, May 1.

The event, to be held 1 to 2 p.m. at the Matthew J. O’Brien Athletic Center on campus in Pepper Pike, is open to the public, and will feature clothing designs by Ursuline fashion students, including more than 50 creations for women.

“It’s always exciting to watch our fashion design students unveil their original collections,” said Constance Korosec, Ursuline’s fashion design, merchandising and interiors chairwoman.

“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.

Senior Melissa Watson, of Chagrin Falls, has been designing since she was a little girl, hand sewing clothes for her Barbies.

Her “City Lights” line was designed to create a trendy look for a city girl. “I used bold prints and leather,” said Miss Watson, who said she was inspired by designers Roberto Cavalli and Emporio Armani. After commencement, she said she plans on getting a job in fashion design and would like to get a master’s degree in textiles or design.

Miss Watson’s “Midnight Monet” was inspired by the paintings of Claude Monet and features blue tones, floral patterns and chiffon. It’s dressy, she said, but appropriate for day, from work to cocktail party.

Fashion design junior and Euclid resident, Natalie Koch was inspired by flowers and used the beauty of color for her “Charming” collection. “My garment colors consist of navy and neutral with an added hint of floral and lace,” Miss Koch said. In the future she would like to become a fashion consultant and work as a personal stylist.

“Secret Harmony” was designed by Senior Jody Scimone, of West Farmington. “My inspiration for the collection was based on free thinking and peacefulness and is a combination of bright and dull colors, woven and knits and has lots of movement,” said Miss Scimone, who hopes to become a designer in California.

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, according to Dr. Korosec.

In addition, the College’s fashion design students participate in study trips throughout major US 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.

Ursuline is at 2550 Lander Road. Admission to the fashion show is $10 for adults, $5 for students and no charge for children age 10 and under. Tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information, call 440-646-8142.