Student fashion designers in Northeast Ohio show their new-school designs. Classrooms in colleges and universities in Northeast Ohio are packed with talented fashion design students, toiling away with sketchpads, needles and thread, waiting for their chance to make a mark on the fashion world. Throughout the academic year, they dream, draw and -- in many cases -- actually create pieces that look as though they came right off the runway or a hanger at your favorite store. Here's a look at a few we'll be keeping our eyes on.

-- Emily Hamlin Smith, Plain Dealer Style Editor

Jacqueline Hutchinson, 51
Ursuline College

Her mom taught her to sew at age 10, and Jacqueline Hutchinson of Maple Heights is certainly putting those lessons to good use. She churned out six pieces in two weeks recently for a school fashion show, and this summer she's meeting with a buyer in New York to do a trunk show with eight more pieces she designed on her own.

The collection for New York features evening-wear designs, including a stunning, deep-V wrap dress with long pleated skirt and Swarovski rhinestones. The black, pleated fabric reappears as a collar on a short, cleavage-baring dress with gold accents.

Geometric shapes inspired the line Hutchinson created for Ursuline College's recent student fashion show. She designed a blouse with long sleeves but had to shorten them when she ran out of fabric. The miscalculation was a blessing in disguise -- her buyer in New York loved the modified look.

Her mom got her sewing, but Hutchinson credits Ursuline with teaching her about draping and flat patterns -- skills she needed to create her own collections -- and with inspiring her to dream big.

"I'm a cancer survivor, so going to college uplifted me and focused me and helped me keep my mind off my illness," says Hutchinson, who will graduate in December. "From here, I'm just going to keep going."
Susan Hayley Fox, 21  
*Ursuline College*

Susan Hayley Fox of Pepper Pike has come a long way since she passed out in her first sewing class.

"I hadn't even seen a needle yet, but I knew they were there," Fox says.

She quickly got over her fear of needles and has since gone on to create pieces, including an award-winning dress made completely of candy and two sheath dresses with detailed draping.

Fox says she chose the beautiful floral material for the draping because it reminded her of one of her favorite designers.

"I just love Vera Wang," she says. "Her florals are always so elegant. That's what I was going for."

Fox is only a sophomore but is already earning herself a name at Ursuline and beyond. Her candy dress has been invited to numerous special events, including an engagement with the Cleveland Orchestra.

"Thank goodness it hasn't melted," she laughs.