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Our hands furiously doodle, scribble and write.
Our hands scroll and follow, double tap and like.
Our hands clap for the art that surrounds us.
Our hands capture beauty in our finger tips through one powerful click of a button.
Our hands have touched each page of this magazine and with care we hand it off to you. Hold it, in your hands. Read on and enjoy.

-The Editors.

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Hannah Patrick
ART DIRECTOR: Liza Levi
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: James Lewis
STYLE DIRECTOR: Addie Jonas
EDITORS: Katie Neary, Alyssa Schuetz
DIGITAL TEAM: Meghan Eife, Mary Elizabeth Hoffman, Nicole Palmer
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Gianna Leflar
CONTRIBUTORS: Sarah Choi, Samantha DiMartino, Brittany Miller, Chloe Richter, Jordan Stein
FACULTY EDITOR: Nick Cassway

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**Special Thanks**

**Models:**
- Addie Jonas - Cover
- Alex Rojo - PG 22
- Natalia Ramos - PG 40
- Kelsey Omeis - PG 44
- Paige Macdonald - PG 82
- Olivia Foster - PG 83
- Sarah Choi - PG 77

**Cover Wardrobe:**
- Cory Schneiders - Purple Robe

**Make Up:**
- Savannah Baudry - PG 8

**Cover Photo:**
- James Lewis
OUR GENERATION’S DAYDREAMS of the past were once someone’s reality. Drifting minds often find themselves digging through the past to make sense of the now. Wishing of utopic days unclear, we look to the past to reimagine the present.

NEW NOSTALGIA

LOCATION:
THUNDERBIRD SALVAGE
1431 N 9TH ST,
PHILADELPHIA,
PA 19122
PHILLY AIDS THRIFT 710 S 5TH ST
Located a couple blocks behind South Street, this nonprofit thrift store donates its proceeds to local organizations involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The store features a dynamic, two-story layout that displays a vast inventory of quirky items around every corner. Although you may need to sort through racks of clothing or shelves of CDs to find something you like, the prices are cheap enough to make you want to spend hours inside searching.

Best For: oversized graphic tees with funny sayings

THUNDERBIRD SALVAGE 1431 N 9TH ST
If you need something they probably have it. This large warehouse is filled with a wide range of items including music, home, furniture, clothing, and tech. Located in a secluded warehouse in North Philly, Thunderbird requires visitors to plan their trip to visit, as it is not located in a walkable area near other shops or restaurants. Only open on the weekends, so come to spend a Sunday perusing through the store.

Best For: quirky home goods and cool vintage jewelry at cheap prices!

URBAN EXCHANGE PROJECT 2050 FRANKFORD AVE
Originally starting as a business that donated clothing to the homeless, Urban Exchange opened a storefront to welcome everyone in the community. They strive to have fashionable pieces for just $5 and still regularly donate clothing to the needy.

Best For: frequent “fill a bag” sales

BUFFALO EXCHANGE - 1713 CHESTNUT ST
With a large selection of clothing for both men and women, their inventory mainly features current fashion items that have been gently worn. The clothes are organized by category, making it easy to find what you need. Conveniently located in Center City.

Best For: incredible shoe section that makes thrifting shoes not seem gross

RETROSPECT VINTAGE 508 SOUTH ST
This vintage boutique has a great selection of clothing for both men and women, with home goods, music, and shoes sections as well. Everything is merchandised by color, making shopping super easy.

Best For: vintage dresses from the '50s and '60s

RAXX VINTAGE 832 SOUTH ST, 3661 WALNUT ST
This curated store offers both clothing and home knick-knacks. Raxx has a great selection of vintage t-shirts, sweatshirts, and jackets all merchandised by style and color conducive to the ease of shopping.

Best For: vintage graphic sweatshirt you wish you had as a hand-me-down

MEADOWSWEET MERCANTILE 47 N 2ND ST
Meadowsweet is the place to find perfect vintage high-waisted Levi’s jeans or thick oversized sweaters. The store is expertly curated with a selective inventory of clothing that follow current fashion trends.

Best For: vintage wool sweaters for the winter

JINXED 1331 FRANKFORD AVE, 1050 N HANCOCK ST, 4521 BALTIMORE AVE, 1835 E PASSYUNK AVE
Each location features vintage home decor and furniture in good condition, sold at a moderate price. Each store is creatively set up to make an environment using the pieces in their inventory. Although it is mainly a home store, it also has a smaller clothing section of unique vintage pieces to add to your wardrobe.

Best For: vintage furniture from a variety of time periods to add character to any home
don’t send that text or that e-mail. instead, pick out a pen and paper to create a handwritten note that will surely put a smile on a loved one’s face.

1. Find a piece of paper. It can be computer paper, cardstock, or my personal favorite, loose-leaf. Loose-leaf paper might not seem very special to most people, but, because it is lightweight, the ink of the pen soaks into the paper more prominently than it would on any other kind of paper. Also, as the paper gets older, the lines start to disappear, and the folds in the paper tend to become more delicate, giving more character to the note.

2. Pick out the writing utensil of your choice. I recommend using a gel pen or a 0.5-tip marker. Stay away from using lead pencils because they fade over time.

3. At the top of the page, start with a greeting. It can be as formal as “Dear” or as casual as “Hello.”

4. You can write a note for different reasons, such as saying thank you, catching up a loved one on what’s happening in your life, or my personal favorite, telling someone how much you love and miss them. The note can be as long as you wish.

5. Add some ornamentation to your note. This personalizes the note and shows how much effort you put into it. Draw a picture, add stickers, or even add decorative stamps to the letter.

6. Finish off your note with a closing line, such as, “love,” “sincerely,” or “see you soon,” and sign your name.

7. If you are using an envelope, seal it with stickers, or a wax seal. Wax seals add a vintage feel, and show that you put a lot of time into creating this personal piece of happiness.

8. Finally, deliver the note. You can send it via USPS, or if the recipient of the letter is not far, you can hand them the letter on clip it through their mail slot.
EVERY YEAR, THE Drexel Photography Program takes an 11-day trip for the Junior Western Landscape class with Professor Paul Runyon, Associate Professor and Program Director of Photography in Westphal. The class, which has taken place since 1999, offers students the chance to experience and photograph the landscapes of the Southwestern United States. It was originally developed by Professor Runyon with Dr. Dave Jones. After working out the logistics, the two came up with a plan, in addition to having the spectacular landscape to photograph, the students learn firsthand about industrial tourism, land-use, geology, and the politics of water in the West.

Some destinations were so remote that the only way to see them was to hike 3-5 miles a day while carrying the equipment required to photograph. This year’s class hiked 13 miles in one day. Many days consisted of rising before sunrise to capture the early morning light and working until after sunset. This meant long, but productive days. The group traveled to multiple national parks and recreational areas in three different states, which offered the students a lesson in land-use and a glimpse into how the National Park Service manages the assets entrusted to it.

WORDS: Jordan Stein
PHOTOGRAPHY: Drexel Senior Photography Students
The first stop on the trip was Lake Mead and the Hoover Dam, where the students witnessed the water crisis that faces the western part of the country. They photographed the lake and its surrounding shoreline, which is currently experiencing a drought of historic proportions.
The second stop on the trip was Moab, Utah, a small desert town that has been forever changed since the advent of the mountain bike. Home to Arches National Park, the town now offers a cautionary lesson regarding the interface of natural resources and tourism. While in Moab, the class also visited Canyonlands National Park and Dead Horse Point State Park.

Next, the class traveled to the Navajo Nation, the home of Monument Valley Tribal Park and many scenes from iconic western films such as Stagecoach (1939) and The Searchers (1956). The evening was spent photographing the night skies over the canyon and making landscapes by moonlight.
The final stop was Henderson, Nevada and Lake Las Vegas for a well-deserved free day. The students had put in 12 hours of work on each of the 11 days and were finally able to rest and review their images. With early mornings, long days, and workouts carrying the camera equipment, every moment of exhaustion instantly became worth their while after seeing the images. From the composition, to the subject, to the lighting, these images are symbolic of the invaluable journey these students will remember for a lifetime.
WHILE TODAY'S TRENDSETTERS are sporting t-shirts and sneakers, it can seem unnecessary to invest in a tuxedo. Why buy something so formal when everyone else is just relaxing in jeans and a tee most of the time? Casualwear can be seen on a lot of celebrities who are spotted wearing Vans and bomber jackets on the red carpet. However, despite this growing trend tuxedos are ever-present, and now is a more exciting time than ever to experiment with them. Challenging the rules of color, texture, and pattern, experimentation with tuxedos has led to new developments in menswear.

This isn't the first time people have tried to spice up menswear. Over the years, many fads have come and gone. Some trends have made a lasting impression, like the midnight blue tux and the double-breasted jacket, while others are so bad that they will never see the light of day again. How do you know which styles are here to stay and which will be laughable in a few years? It can seem intimidating to make such a large investment in a tuxedo, especially if you want to stray away from the traditional version. Trying to strike a balance between exciting and timeless can be hard, but it can be done by keeping a few simple tips in mind.

If you're interested in having formalwear in your wardrobe that will last a lifetime, you can either stick with a traditional tux or go with one of the updated variations that have been around as long as the original. Both the midnight blue and the double-breasted styles are classics with just a little twist that you're sure to stand out in.

The current changes happening in tuxedos are a bit riskier and trendier. They aren't guaranteed to stick around, but that's what makes it more fun. Starting with the silhouette, the skinny style we've been seeing for a while is now being replaced with something a

TUXEDO TURN-AROUND.

Personalize your formalwear to make it elegant, stylish and timeless.

WORDS: Meghan Eife
ILLUSTRATIONS: Katherine King
little more slouchy and elongated. This slight change in fit could also be a good option if you’re worried about longevity, as the fit is less likely to fade out in comparison to more distinct stylistic changes like pattern and color.

For someone interested in being “of the moment” or “on trend,” try experimenting with pattern. Whether you use it on a large or small scale is up to you. From both the jacket and trousers to just a few small accessories, any presence of pattern can add a personal touch. Checks and plaids are fun, but also safe. Mixing and matching can be an interesting technique to wear these patterns well.

You can also try tamer patterns like plaid, checks, or windowpane with interesting color combinations like green and brown. Don’t forget textured patterns like houndstooth and herringbone; you will be sure to make a strong impression. For a preppy look, try other textured textiles like tweed and Donegal.

For those not looking to buy an entire ensemble, invest in an exciting jacket to spice up the old-fashioned double-breasted jacket look. Try it in corduroy or wool with a peaked lapel to create a look of sophistication. The intriguing textile will differentiate you from the crowd. If you want to invest in a true statement piece, try a dinner jacket in an elegant fabric like jacquard or velvet. You’ll be sure to stand out, and draw plenty of attention.

Tuxedos can become an extension of your creativity when you invest the right amount of time and effort into deciding exactly how you want to look. Whether you are minimalistic and subtle or love to stand out in a crowd, a tuxedo is a great way to use fashion as a form of self-expression. Now more than ever, the range of options for your tuxedo are seemingly endless, and you can use every detail to make your tux entirely your own.
COMMONLY USED FOR taste in cooking; turmeric, cinnamon, and black pepper have many other beneficial uses in skin care, hair care, and body health. Turmeric, the spice known for its natural healing abilities and bright yellow color, works as an antioxidant that can be used to fight inflammation. Cinnamon, known for its distinct seasonal smell during the holidays, can soothe an upset stomach, enhance cognitive function, and freshen your breath. Black pepper, a spice commonly added to everyday meals, can be great for enzyme stimulation to promote digestion, boost immune systems, and help improve brain function.

### 1. FACE SCRUB
A turmeric scrub will benefit people with uneven skin tones. Using regular cane sugar, add a few dashes of turmeric and a teaspoon of coconut oil. Be sure to use the coconut oil in its solid state. If the coconut oil is in liquid form, it will make the mask thinner and difficult to use as a scrub. Scrub face with the mask, and let sit for a few seconds before washing. If yellow stain remains on skin, wash the remaining residue off with soap.

### 2. FACE MASK
Gather turmeric, plain yogurt, and honey. Start with half of a teaspoon of both yogurt and turmeric and one tablespoon of honey, and mix together until everything is combined. You may need to add more honey depending on the consistency because you want it to be able to hold when applied to the face. Apply to face and leave on for 10 minutes. Wash off with water.

### 3. SPOT TREATMENT
Turmeric is a great treatment for acne and acne scars. Start by mixing together a few drops of raw honey and pinch of turmeric. Once fully mixed, apply to affected areas or all over face. Let sit on skin for ten minutes and wash off. Repeat as necessary.

### 4. POWER SNACK
Perfect for breakfast on the go, or as a daytime snack. Blend together a handful of kale, one frozen banana, one cup of coconut water, two tablespoons of almond butter, and a pinch of ground cinnamon and turmeric. This smoothie is the perfect pick me to keep you full and energized.

### 5. DIGESTIVE
Turmeric milk can help with indigestion. Bring together a cup of coconut milk, a teaspoon of turmeric (or fresh turmeric root) and a half teaspoon of fresh ginger in a pot. Simmer for a few minutes, remove from heat, and let sit for ten minutes before drinking. The anti-inflammatory properties of the vegetable are higher when the root is freshly ground rather than using the turmeric found in the spice bottles at the grocery store.
1. BODY SCRUB
Combine one teaspoon black pepper, one cup of sugar, a fourth of a cup of coconut oil, and 15 drops of grapefruit oil. Melt the coconut oil and mix with sugar, add in the grapefruit oil and black pepper and mix together. Store in an airtight container until use.

2. CLEAR SKIN
Mix equal parts honey or turmeric with black pepper. Add water, and apply to affected areas. Leave on for 15 minutes and wash off with soap. The turmeric and black pepper tackle uneven skin tones and bumps, leaving the skin glowing.

3. EXFOLIATOR
Combine half a teaspoon of black pepper and one teaspoon of yogurt. Apply directly to face, wash off after 20 minutes. The black pepper gets rid of dry skin while the yogurt calms redness.

4. STRONG HAIR
To get naturally strong hair, use just enough honey to cover roots and ends and mix with a teaspoon of black pepper. Leave on hair for a few minutes and wash out mixture with shampoo, and conditioner.

5. BRAIN HEALTH
Helping you focus by stimulating the brain, drink black pepper tea. In a pot, combine water with one teaspoon of black pepper, honey, lemon juice, and freshly ground ginger. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat, and steep for 5 minutes. Strain and drink.

1. NAUSEA RELIEF
Boil one teaspoon of cinnamon bark in a cup of water for about 10 minutes, strain, and drink to help ease nausea.

2. BUG BITES
Apply a mixture of cinnamon and honey to skin irritation will help alleviate pain and itching. The combination of these two will disinfect the area, moisturize, and heal the bite.

3. FACE WASH
Combine one tablespoon of pure coconut oil, three tablespoons of raw honey, one tablespoon of apple cider vinegar, and about twenty drops of cinnamon oil. Blend together all of the ingredients and store in bottle for multiple uses. The coconut oil and honey will hydrate the skin while the apple cider vinegar and cinnamon oil will clear breakouts.

4. AIR FRESHENER
In a jar, fill it halfway with baking soda and add up to a teaspoon of cinnamon. Stir the baking soda and cinnamon together and leave open. Remix or shake jar occasionally to revive freshness.

5. FACE MASK
This mask will help refresh your skin. Mix cinnamon with fresh lemon juice in equal parts. Apply the paste onto the skin, and leave on for fifteen minutes before washing it off.
SET OUT ON A VOYAGE TO VINTAGE ON A QUEST TO REVAMP YOUR WARDROBE; THERE’S NOTHING QUITE LIKE THE RUSH OF UNCOVERING A HIDDEN GEM AMONG THE BARREN SEAS OF FAST FASHION.

LET’S SET SAIL FOR OUR OWN “HIDDEN GEMS.” BREAK OUT YOUR TREASURE MAP AND FOLLOW THE DOTTED LINES: YOU’LL SEE THAT X MARKS THE SPOT AT 3501 MARKET STREET… THE URBN CENTER. NO, YOU HAVEN’T BEEN PUNK’D BY A PIRATE; THE EXTRAORDINARY TREASURE TROVE WE SEEK IS THE ROBERT AND PENNY FOX HISTORIC COSTUME COLLECTION.

SINCE 1898, DREXEL HAS INVESTED MILLIONS INTO THE ACQUISITION OF FASHIONABLE DRESSES AND ACCESSORIES ORIGINATING FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES AND ERAS: A BOUNTY OF STYLE THAT WOULD MAKE EVEN CAPTAIN JACK SPARROW PROUD. AHoy! GET INSPIRED BY THESE GEMS AS THEY POINT YOUR STYLE NORTH TOWARD YOUR NEXT FASHION ADVENTURE.

HUNTIN’!

Creator: James Galanos
Date: 1985
Location: USA
Type: Evening Dress
Medium: Jacquard Silk

IT’S THE 80’S BABY
Creator: Hanae Mori  
Date: 1973  
Location: Japan  
Type: Evening Dress  
Medium: Silk Twill, Chiffon

Creator: Roy Halston Frowick  
Date: 1978  
Location: Japan  
Type: Evening Ensemble  
Medium: Sequins

T O T A L L Y  G R O O V Y !

G L A M  G I R L
Creator: Norman Norell  
Date: 1951  
Location: USA  
Type: Cocktail Dress  
Medium: Wool Jersey, Organdy, Silk

Creator: Gilbert Adrian  
Date: 1947  
Location: USA  
Type: Suit  
Medium: Gingham Suiting
Creator: Gustave Beer  
Date: 1900  
Location: France  
Type: Afternoon Dress  
Medium: Silk chiffon, Velvet, Chantilly lace, Metallic thread

Creator: Callot Soeurs  
Date: 1926  
Location: France  
Type: Evening Gown  
Medium: Velvet, Glass, Metallic Thread
Take a walk through Rittenhouse Square Farmers Market. There’s a variety of vendors from local fruit and veggies to planted succulents and artwork. Afterward check out the stores on Chestnut and Walnut Street for more shopping! Make sure to check out boutiques such as DFTI, ToBox, and Skirt. Also, make sure to stop by one of the oldest and most well-known department stores in the area, Boyd’s. Bring your credit card with you, prices aren’t cheap!

Relive the infamous movie “Rocky” by running up the steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Step inside the museum, and tour some of the many exhibits that are showcased. Tip: If you are a design student at Drexel, show your ID to get free entry!

Kick start your Friday night with a special event at the Art Museum. Every Friday night, they host a party with live music and gallery access that runs until 8:45 p.m. Stay for the cocktails and tapas-style light bites by local restauranteur Steven Starr. Plus, the final Friday of every month has themed performances and activities.

To enter Vesper Sporting Club you must go through a rotating bookcase. This recently opened speakeasy, Vesper used to be a members-only gentleman’s supper club. Now open to everybody this club serves up artistic drinks with an amped up bar fare. Located at 223 South Sydenham Street, Vesper is open until 2 A.M.

FRIDAY TO DO LIST:

SPENDING A WEEKEND IN PHILLY WITHOUT ANY PLANS? FOLLOW THIS GUIDE TO LEARN THE INS AND OUTS OF CENTER CITY.

WORDS: GIANNA LEFLAR
PHOTOGRAPHY: JORDAN STEIN
Start your morning with a Café Latte at La Colombe Rittenhouse on 19th Street. Their usual espresso shot is a double shot, so just be aware! Not a fan of espresso? their plain coffee is strong, but not bitter. The selection of pastries is to die for, with the almond croissant a crowd favorite. This space is great for getting some work done, hanging out with friends, or people watching.

Steven Starr does it again with outside brunch on Rittenhouse Square at Parc. If you enjoy people watching, Parc is a must. This Parisian-style bistro makes you feel like you have been transported to Paris. The food is always exquisite, and the service is outstanding. Parc is always PACKED, so make sure you secure a reservation through OpenTable or call. If you’re craving an appetizer, you must go with the French onion soup. Order the egg white omelet oozing with gruyere, it feels and tastes like a puffy cloud of cheese. The smoked salmon tartine and the macaroni au gratin are also must-tries.

A smorgasbord of good eats, Reading Terminal Market is located on 12th and Market. Whether you want a famous Philly cheesesteak, Amish donuts, Indian curry, breakfast-to-go, ice cream from Penn State, or Chinese takeout, Reading Terminal has it all. This place gets busy on Saturday afternoons, so do your homework beforehand, especially if your time is limited. Very popular among tourists and locals, don’t venture here if you feel uncomfortable in crowds.

Hurry in early for brunch at High Street on Market. This place has an edgy approach to American cooking with fresh, farm-to-table food. It’s small, with about 12 tables and a communal table that seats 6–8. The menu changes seasonally. A must-try from the baked goods-heavy kitchen is the “red eye” Danish, which is topped with country ham and coffee spiked gravy. Wash it down with coffee from the local coffee roaster Rival Brothers. This establishment does not accept reservations, so make sure to put your name in early as it gets crowded quickly.

Stroll through Philadelphia’s Historic District and snap a picture in front of the Liberty Bell. This Philadelphia icon is one of the city’s most historic locations. Make sure to check out Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was signed. It’s a surreal feeling to be in a room where the founding fathers debated the future. If you visit during the warmer months, head over to Independence Beer Garden with great local and craft beers offerings.

Stop by the happy hour at Double Knot in the Gayborhood. Everything on the menu is $4.00, let me repeat, FOUR DOLLARS. Happy hour is upstairs only with 6 tables and a bar. The dishes are tapas style small plates that are to be shared. Their happy hour menu offers a rotating drink every week. Must-tries off the happy hour menu are the brussel sprouts in a sweet soy sauce, kimchi fried rice, sushi rolls, edamame dumplings, and the pork bao buns.
SO, YOU’RE CONSIDERING getting into shape, but you’re stuck between riding and running? While running is great, it’s not always for everyone. With cycling, you’ll have substantially less muscle damage and inflammation levels, and a faster recovery period in comparison to running. This means less pain, less recovering, and fewer problems. Plus, Philadelphia is one of the best places for cycling. And on top of everything else, you get to go places. Fast.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A BIKE

For basic fitness, you will probably want an endurance bike. An endurance bike frame is built to be a compromise between comfort and speed. The bike frame itself may be made of aluminum or carbon. Carbon is going to be more expensive, but lighter in weight. Some manufacturers will build a bike with a carbon frame and less expensive components (gears, cranks, etc.) in order to make it more affordable.

Get a professional fitting done. If you buy a bike that is too long, too short or not properly adjusted for your flexibility or body, you are going to hate your bike. You will feel way more pain than necessary, and it could cause injury to yourself.

Beware of big stores or chains when shopping around. It’s better to go to an independent shop to purchase your bike. Let them do the fitting so they get to know you. Later on down the road, they may really help you out if you’re stuck in a pinch.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU DON’T HAVE A SPARE TUBE

You’re riding along, and your bike computer reads 45 miles. You’re loving the openness with no one on the road, and then BAM! The back-tire blows and sudden panic settles in. You brought zero spare tubes, you have no pump with you, and you’re in the middle of nowhere. What do you do? There are many tricks out there — two of the best hacks are to tie off the part of the tube where the puncture is and attempt to refill the tube with air OR try filling the tube with grass or some soft material. If you’ve brought your phone, it’s time to call a friend. Never ride without a spare, or even two. You’re going to need it eventually, and you’ll be happy you had it.

KEEPING YOUR BIKE SAFE

When you can, bring your bike inside. With enough desire, even the best lock can be defeated. If that’s not an option, lock your bike in a well-trafficked and well-lit area. Here are some quick tips for locking up:

• Make sure what you lock your bike to is solid and can’t be easily defeated by lifting the lock up and over the pole.
• DON’T use cable locks. They are the easiest and quickest to cut.
• DO use U-locks, and try to use two. Both connecting the frame, wheel, and bike rack together.
• Remove your accessories (lights, GPS, etc.), or someone will for you.
• Write down the serial number of your bike so if it is stolen, you can report it.

KEEPING YOURSELF SAFE

• WEAR HIGH VISIBILITY GEAR.
• LOUDLY ANNOUNCE “ON YOUR LEFT!” TO WARN RUNNERS WITH HEADPHONES.
• USE YOUR HANDS TO INDICATE A SUDDEN TURN OR STOP YOU ARE ABOUT TO MAKE, AS SOMEONE COULD BE RIDING CLOSELY BEHIND YOU.

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• Remove your accessories (lights, GPS, etc.), or someone will for you.
• Write down the serial number of your bike so if it is stolen, you can report it.

WORDS & MODELING: James Lewis
PHOTOS: Hannah Beter
GET GEARED UP!

Your head is the first thing you need to cover, so get a helmet when you take a spill, all it takes is one unfortunate fall to find yourself in the hospital. Helmets today are stylish and incredibly safe so there is no reason not to wear one. **Recommendation:** Specialized helmets. First priority is padded cycling shorts. You have two options for shorts ones that are just shorts, and ones that are then bib shorts. The ‘bib’ acts as suspenders. For your shorts, so they stay put as you ride and don’t end up causing any discomfort. **Recommendation:** Pearl Izumi bib shorts. For affordability and good quality Castelli Velocissimo bib shorts for highest quality and price.

Gloves will protect your hands in a crash, give you enhanced grip, and comfort, and keep your hands warm if it’s cold. **Recommendation:** Pearl Izumi. Next up, a cycling jersey. A jersey is a compression shirt that’s breathable and comfortable, making it great for working out additionally, they usually have pockets in the back where you can store your phone, extra cash, and snacks. **Recommendation:** Pearl Izumi. Cycling shoes connect to the pedal to maximize power transfer as you pedal. The pedals you buy will come with the attachment that goes on the bottom of your shoe, the whole system connects together with the “clipless” system, you will notice a big difference in speed and power. Most beginners shy away from clipless pedals - understandably so - as having your feet attached can be daunting with a simple rotation of the foot outwards, however, your feet pop out immediately in the event of a crash. They also pop out within a week of riding. You won’t have a worry in the world and you’ll be happy with the way it improves your speed. **Recommendation:** Look Keo 2 Max w/ Vitriola Zoom shoes. After a helmet, there isn’t anything preventing you from riding, but my suggestion is to go a few steps further for comfort and safety reasons.

**SPORT DRINK RECIPE**

3 3/4 CUPS COLD WATER
1/4 CUP PURE MAPLE SYRUP
1/4 TEASPOON SALT

Mix all ingredients together in a 1-quart bottle. Shake well and enjoy!

**WHERE TO RIDE AROUND PHILLY**

Valley Forge Trail: A 6-mile loop that rolls through the historic park with many great sights and views throughout.

Perkiomen Trail: A 19-mile trail starting at the end of the Schuylkill River Trail near Valley Forge, perfect for all levels of cyclists.

Schuylkill River Trail: A 30-mile trail from Philadelphia to Parkerford suitable for all members of the family.

BEGINNER MISTAKES TO AVOID

One of the worst things you can do to sabotage your ride is riding with the wrong tire pressure. Before heading out, check your tires! If they are too low, you run the risk of getting a pinch flat. If they are too high, then you might be losing important traction on the roads. Check the tire for its recommended PSI, and adjust accordingly.

Having an improperly fitted bike can cause great physical pain and will make riding uncomfortable. Adjust your seat (saddle) so that your knees are almost fully extended at the bottom of your pedal rotation. If that doesn’t fix it, it’s time to head to your local bike shop and get a proper fitting.

Use a degreaser and some blue workshop towels to keep your bike clean. Spray down the bike and clean all surfaces with towels. Thoroughly spray down the chain, place the towel on the chain and spin the wheel so the chain runs through the towel. Your chain should be kept clean and lubricated to prevent any issues with the other bike parts, like the derailleur. Lubricate your bike chain weekly or bi-weekly, depending on how often you ride.

Check your tire pressure, and bring your bike back to your local shop once a year to have everything tuned up.

Beginners underestimate the importance of hydrating and fueling as you ride long distances. If it’s a hot sunny day you should be doubling your intake of fluids. My rule of thumb is if it’s cold out, a 16-24oz bottle of water is good for every hour. If it’s extremely hot, you should be drinking 3-4 16oz bottles an hour. Some professional athletes use concentrated electrolytes with some sort of sports drink.

**GOOD LUCK OUT THERE!**
REHEARSAL STARTS RIGHT on time. The cast is gathered around the director, following his lead to workshop the script. I observe the stage manager and assistant stage managers as they sit primed and ready, diligently taking notes. Next to me, the general manager points out two of the cast members. One of them was cast in an upcoming winter production with Inis Nua Theatre Company, while the other member took part in a production in Edinburgh, Scotland. The general manager explains that she spent her summer working with Pig Iron Theatre Company. With an
air of sophistication, mature refinement, and positive energy, would you believe me if I told you that everyone I was talking about was not theatre professionals, but students? With only the director as a seasoned professional, all other positions from administrative jobs to the performers themselves, are filled successfully by students in the Drexel Co-op Theatre Company.

Drexel does not offer a major in theatre. Yet, rehearsing on average 25 hours a week, the students of the Drexel Co-op Theatre Company do not treat this as a hobby but as a serious opportunity to lead them closer to a theatre profession. They come from all different majors including biology, marketing, screenwriting, and playwriting, all with different backgrounds and talents.

The director sits right next to the cast as they workshop and develop different lines of the script. There is no bickering or arguing. There is only discussion and improvisation. The more I sit there, the more I realize that although this program is a student-run organization, it is run with the utmost level of professionalism, I am truly impressed.

The current Director Geo Decas O’Donnell has brought his theatre company CollaborationTown (CTown) to Philadelphia. After meeting Nick Anselmo, Drexel’s Theatre Company Director, O’Donnell was brought on board by the theatre company’s Mandell Professionals In Residence Project (MPIRP). With this program, students of Drexel are given the opportunity to work alongside theatre professionals, most recently in the production Mutant Water Babies.

Although this is only his second time working with students, O’Donnell has found the program to be extremely rewarding. He shares the following quote from Zen teacher and monk Shunryu Suzuki which illustrates why he loves working with students: “In the beginner’s mind there are many possibilities, in the expert’s mind there are few.” O’Donnell thrives on the energy and openness that he has experienced working with students; they are willing to go out on a limb to try something that most professionals would be reluctant to do. Professional performers often know what works best for them on stage and are less open to experimentation. The youthful energy of students makes everyone excited and provides a blank canvas for the director to paint upon. To O’Donnell, working with students is like “recharging my artistic batteries.”

Program director Nick Anselmo also shares his appreciation for working with students. He came to Drexel 13 years ago specifically to start the theatre program. With vast experience in theatre, he realized that while he enjoyed performing, what he really wanted to do was educate and lift people up. Anselmo does not see Drexel’s lack of a theatre program as a weakness, but rather as the program’s greatest strength. Instead of students being theatre majors who are forced to meet requirements, Drexel students strive to do their best because it is what they love to do, not what they have to do. These students perform out of passion and heart; they have a desire to inspire people through storytelling on a stage. Anselmo recounts, “we train artists, not just theater people”.

General Manager Stephanie Smith co-op as a production assistant at the Pig Iron Theatre Company is a great example of success. She would not have been able to achieve that connection without the Drexel Co-op Theatre company. Smith says “MPIRP helps build connections between Drexel’s students and the Philadelphia Theatre community so they can become more involved with their passions on a professional level.” In addition, current cast member Felicia Batten earned the opportunity to perform in Edinburgh, Scotland. Felicia is a senior Screenwriting and Playwriting major, but to her, this program has developed her theatre hobby into a career path. Joey Teti, a junior majoring in Marketing, was asked to audition for the Inis Nua Theatre Company and performed in his first paid performance this past winter. Joey states that the program and its faculty “expect a professional level and know how to draw it out of you.”

With such high demand to work with Drexel students, Anselmo is careful in choosing theatre partners. He would prefer to work with a company who wants to accomplish something that they normally would not have been able to on their own. He strives to establish a theatre community in which students feel welcomed and are inspired to grow and improve. Ultimately, Anselmo’s goal is to provide students with a professional experience that demonstrates that they can have a successful theatre career. The MPIRP program stands alone as the only program in the country to provide students with a professional level of experience in a university that has no theatre major.

At their final stage production, I find myself in the audience cheering like a proud parent. From the first rehearsal that I witnessed Geo working with the students over lines to seeing them now nailing every word with a fierce passion; I see the confidence and strength they have gained over the course of the program. Their performance pulls at my heartstrings as they sing the ending chorus: “I can’t be a pessimist because I’m alive. So, I’m forced to be an optimist, I’m forced to believe that we can survive whatever we must survive.” I believe that they have the skills to not only survive but thrive in the world of theatre. I believe in them and the program that continuously expands as students blossom under professional direction. With unlimited possibilities, one can only dream of what the theater program will put on next. The only safe assumption is that I’m sure it will be a show you don’t want to miss!
IMAGINE IF WE obsessed about the things we loved about ourselves rather than what we want to change. In a world where people strive for perfection, growing up can be a bit of a challenge when navigating social pressures. By tending to our inner selves rather than focusing on outward appearance, we can all add a little more positive energy into the world.

Dr. Catherine Dubaillou, a psychologist at the Drexel Counseling Center, has focused her studies on women’s body image and the increasing number of people struggling with their bodies. She states that the problem starts at home. At a young age, we have no sense of what our bodies look like. Thus, friends, family, and the media play a key role in the minds of the 80% of people who are unsatisfied with their bodies. One of the first steps we can take is to change the negative messages we hear at a young age. Dr. Catherine has been studying eating disorders since 1999 and has seen first-hand the increasing number of people struggling with their body image. She notes the impact of the “subjective experience of your body in your mind” prominently shaped by messages received at a young age from external forces like the media, as well as internal messages from your parents and friends.

Although society often seeks a quick fix for body image issues, Dr. Catherine states that people need to start by rethinking the process as a whole. By breaking down taboos and combating negative feelings, we can start to see where these negative messages originate and can better avoid them. Changing the conversation to a positive one by steering away from topics of food and weight places importance on personal values and interests instead of physical appearance. The practice of mindfulness can lessen personal critical behaviors and dedicate a moment out of your day to listen to yourself and what your body needs. The Persian poet Rumi once said, “This being human is a guest house.” Treat your body with care, for it is the only house we are given.

Despite the growing acceptance of all body types in society, there are still people who struggle with loving their body inside and out. Luckily, outlets like the Buddy Project exist that strive to give people the companionship they need when they have low points and bad days. Created in 2013, the Buddy Project has paired over 185,000 people together to provide positivity, resources, and education to make an impact on young people in our society. When it comes to body positivity, founder Gabby Frost states:

“Body positivity is important because all shapes and sizes deserve to feel confident. Body positivity helps people feel more secure about cellulite, pimples, stretch marks, moles, etc. I feel like I’ve seen most people struggle with their weight because they focus on the number itself and feel like that number defines them.”

Changing this narrative is the most important thing we can do for each other. Rather than look at flaws, we must dig a little deeper and see through them. No matter who we are or where we come from, everyone has dealt with body image issues. We sat down with four Drexel students to hear their personal experience with body image issues, and how they have grown to love themselves inside and out.
Like all of us, Trish is continuously trying to incorporate wellness into her life and accept her body. With early mornings and late nights as a college student, it can be difficult to keep her schedule straight, but Trish combats this by making sure to take time for herself. By attending weekly yoga classes and even playing video games for a couple hours, she reduces her stress. Trish has grown into someone who is proud of what her body can do, stating that originally “my body used to physically limit me, only being able to walk a certain distance before my legs would cause me tremendous pain; and also socially, being afraid of even speaking up in class because I didn’t want anyone to look at me”. She’s come a long way and has completely changed her perception of herself. She took new beginnings at college as her opportunity to better herself, and even lost 15 pounds during freshman year — healthily — of course! She said, “I went to the gym at least once a week, got a decent amount of sleep each night, and learned to control my never-ending appetite.” Throughout the school year, she saw small changes happening, and her confidence began to grow. One thing she would tell her younger self is simply, “don’t be afraid”. Don’t count yourself out before you even begin. Taking the first step is all you need to do.
As a woman with a diverse cultural background, Lae has struggled with feeling confident in what she looked like. Although her French, Spanish, and American nationality has brought her insecurity, Lae finds confidence in her body by wearing clothing handed down from both her mother and grandmother. She shares, “I admire both of them a lot and love the clothing I inherited from them; it makes me feel connected to strong powerful women.”

She also spoke with her father, who advised her that she was “just a citizen of the world” and that her diversity is something to be admired. Since then, she has embraced her body because to her, she believes self-love begins with being proud of who you are and feeling comfortable in your own skin. She states, “it also means accepting the
Rachel Choi

Rachel has grown from feeling self-conscious about her body to owning her body and accepting her “flaws.” Growing up, she always felt insecure about her legs and wished they were long and lean. Looking up to celebrities, she dreamed of having the same body type as she saw in the media. Rachel revealed that she would never wear shorts as a teen, instead only wearing things that she felt flattered her legs. Then, something amazing happened. Her lacrosse coach placed her in the defense position. Rachel realized that her body, specifically her legs, was the exact thing that was helping her excel. She appreciated what her body could do rather than what it looked like. Her legs were powerful, which in turn made her feel powerful. Today, Rachel focuses on her personality, friends, and the things she loves. Rachel’s most powerful statement was, “Love your body for what it does and not for what it looks like.”

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fact that you don’t always feel 100% and accepting that it is ok; you can’t be happy 24/7.” Lae finds joy in her hobbies including drawing, listening to music that puts her in a good mood or shopping in her mom’s closet. Lae supports that being in your body is a good place to be because “you don’t choose your body and you have to learn to love it.” Lae understands how the media has shown distorted images of perfection but stands by models who refuse to be photoshopped like Ashley Graham. She would tell her younger self to embrace what you have and know that you are a beautiful person who is surrounded by people who love you. The love of her family and principles matter most, and she now takes pride in how her body represents who she is.
Even at the turn of the century, women knew that a smaller heel was more comfortable. Considered innovative and cutting edge, these heels were the first of its kind. The U.S. was high in energy after World War I with new fashion styles hitting the streets. For the first time in history, the hemline of a woman's skirt was going up and, thus shoes were exposed for the first time. This called for a new era in which shoes became a woman's fashion statement. Today, the small “kitten heel” reigns supreme in the workplace with heels that last all day. The next time you put on a pair of business heels, just think, what you’re wearing was worn by women one hundred years ago!

1918

Edgy black and red shoes have always been statement pieces. With cutouts, the silhouette of the woman’s shoe gained new energy. No longer were shoes limited. They could come in any style and reveal even more stocking and leg. Scandalous! These heels, combined with the previous decade are what we today call “Mary Janes.” This classic shoe can be seen today from the heel on Dancing with the Stars and in the workplace!

1930

With rhinestones covering every edge and a bright cream color that pops, this shoe looks like it was created yesterday. Materials such as leather were heavily rationed during World War II, but luckily for design rhinestones served no purpose in the war and could be used without limit. This exaggerated aesthetic can be seen in today’s glam rock looks and on any platform shoe!
With every step you take, you are following in someone’s shoes. Literally. The shoes that you wear today have been influenced by shoes from every decade. The mix of styles that we see in today’s shoe styles didn’t just pop up as new inventions from shoe designers. Each generation has added their own twist to established styles. Here is a look back on shoes of varying cuts, silhouettes and styles in history that are still seen today.

1960
Tory Burch has nothing on these OG ballet flats. These slippers represent the second wave of feminism during the 60’s. At the time, fashion rejected strong femininity and turned towards a more youthful, almost androgynous look. Moving away from the Marilyn Monroe style, today flats are the perfect wear-to-work shoe that is both professional and comfortable to fit the active lifestyle of the working gal.

1990
Think you love your Chelsea boots now? That cut was created almost 30 years ago! The short boot is trending today, especially during seasonal weather, but this cut with separated fabric has been in the works for years. Further development has led to this design being featured in everything from your fall booties to rainboots that keep your feet stylish and dry! This pair proves that great design never goes out of style!

2008
The incoming 00’s are elaborate and extravagant as ever as shoes and handbags become the it thing to have. Fashion norms took a turn and suddenly clothing styles became minimal while shoes became over the top. It was now appropriate to wear clothing that was simple and basic if it was paired with fashionable shoes or a statement bag. With this logic, your accessories did all the talking, and they were loud and proud.
Witnessing 13,000 lanterns float into the night sky is purely magical. The Rise Festival, in the Mojave Desert, Nevada, takes you on a spiritual journey to connect with your inner self, as well as with the strangers around you. At the festival, each person receives two lanterns to write what they want to let go of, such as their past, or what they hope for in the future. Some use their lanterns to write notes to loved ones who have passed away, while others write wedding proposals on them. This year, many lanterns had ‘Vegas strong’ written on them, due to the tragic Las Vegas shooting that took place a week before the festival. After the sun sets, everyone lights up their torches as they begin a countdown. Uplifting music plays in the background as the sky lights up and fills with the rising lanterns. Time stands still as thousands of strangers feel like old friends and help one another light and release their lanterns. In that moment, everyone has escaped reality, and in a way, have become their lanterns. We are all fueled by an inner flame that drives us to where we are in our lives, and continues to drive us to where we will be in the future.
Layer a printed long-sleeved shirt under your denim jacket. Whether it’s a plaid shirt or a thermal with a cool cuff, cuff your jacket sleeves with your shirt sleeves on top. Leave your jacket open to show off the blouse, and pair with black jeans and sneakers!

Denim is always a staple, and can be paired with almost anything. Try a ribbed midi dress underneath the jacket for a sophisticated night-out look, while an easy-going tee shirt dress works well all day!

Rock the double denim trend in style. Match your denim jacket with denim skinnies or a flared cropped jean with a pastel colored top underneath for contrast. Add a funky heeled boot for a statement look.

Wear your denim jacket over a maxi dress and brown booties for a feminine fall look. Top it off with a wide-brimmed hat and boho bag that’s great for the city!

You don’t need to spend a fortune to get the most out of your wardrobe! The comfy look just got upgraded, so you can repurpose it for any occasion. Find out which closet staples can be transformed into four different outfits. From class, to night-outs, to brunch with the girls, try these simple tips and tricks to wear your casualwear staples for any occasion.

Over a fitted skirt, add an oversized sweater to create a comfy chic vibe – add heeled booties for the perfect mix of casual and dressy.

Appeal to your classic side by layering a collared shirt under your pull-over. This is a timeless look that can be paired with trousers and slip-on loafers, perfect worn for work or play!

Overall are a fun alternative to basic jeans! Pair them with a chunky sweater to create a statement fall look!

Dress up! Add a pair of leather leggings and heels to make a plain sweater come to life! This look is great for a night out on the town, especially on cold winter nights.

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Whether you’re into crew-necks or V-necks, try your favorite short-sleeved tee under a mini dress. This ’90s-inspired look is great with a patterned, spaghetti strap dress. Pair with sneakers and a choker to complete the look.

Tie a flannel shirt around your waist over your white tee. This will bring contrast to your look, and act as an extra layer! This works best paired with leggings to create a fun look, perfect for running errands or going to class.

Switch it up and try a tunic on top of your distressed denim. This will add an interesting length dynamic to your outfit. Pair with a cropped leather jacket and ankle booties.

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Knot your tee to the side or the front to create the illusion of a cropped shirt. This will add dimension to your outfit. Pair with a bomber jacket and mini skirt, perfect for day or night.

Tuck away! Try tucking your tee into a high-waisted skirt or jeans. Bring it all together with a belt to accentuate the waist.

Try pairing distressed denim with heels and a black blouse. The masculinity of the denim mixed with the femininity of the blouse and heels make it a great look for dinner and drinks.

Pair your favorite jeans with a cropped band tee, sneakers, and black fishnets to give your outfit an edgy, relaxed vibe. Great for a lunch date with friends!

Bodysuits are great for both day and night! If you’re feeling adventurous, wear a white lace bodysuit with distressed denim. For an everyday look, try a crew neck bodysuit with a cardigan.
Keep the good times rollin’ with these 7 festival essentials to pack in your bag.

**WORDS:** Brittany Miller

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** James Lewis

**LIP BALM**

While spirits may be high, so is the temperature and sun exposure. Be sure to protect your lips and take care of those babies by moisturizing with a lip balm that has an SPF rating!

**PORTABLE CHARGER**

A must for those who want to keep up a killer Snapchat story and beautifully edited Instagram photos. A portable charger guarantees that you’ll last through a day of endless posts and photos.

**WET ONES**

Between multi-person body sweat, port-a-potty door handles, and hand-held food, germs and bacteria run amuck at music fests. Hand sanitizer will keep the germs away, and your post-festival body will thank you.

**DEODORANT**

Nothing ruins a music festival moment like lifting your arms to pump your fists in the air only to realize that the long day’s sweat and dirt has reached its peak. Mini deodorants provide a quick and easy one-swipe solution.

**IBUPROFEN**

Listening to indie, electronic, and alternative rock music may sound like the perfect music festival lineup, but five hours in, your head will start pounding. Make sure to bring ibuprofen to help alleviate anything from headaches to back pain.

**BANDAGES**

Remember those great new shoes that once felt like you could run a mile in, but now feel like your ankle is being stabbed with pushpins? Bring some bandages to keep your feet moving all night to the set list.

**TISSUE**

Imagine waiting in line for a crusty bathroom only to realize that there’s no toilet paper. Not just for runny noses and blotting sheets, tissues will ensure you’ll always stay fresh.
This one is perfect for students because you can draw out your entire semester’s schedule. You can check out your week at-a-glance, have a color associated with each class, and even color code your notes as a reference.

BULLET JOURNALING IS the perfect way to keep track of your schedule while providing an outlet to express your creativity. Using a simple dotted grid notebook, create unique layouts to keep track of your life. Ditch that rigid planner and opt for blank pages, open to any and all possibilities. From school to exercise, check out these ideas to jumpstart your journal and doodle your way through the week!

**SUPPLIES**
- Dotted or lined grid notebook in a size of your choice
- Fine tip pens (at least one black)
- Markers or highlighters in your choice of colors
- Ruler

**TO-DO LIST**
- Task Canceled
- Task Started
- Task Completed
- Task Scheduled
- Task Migrated
- Meeting/Appointment

**COLOR CODED SCHEDULE**

**BULLET JOURNALING**

**EVERY ONE HAS A TO-DOWN LIST. BUT HERE’S A KEY TO ADD TO YOUR LIST, SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU’VE DONE AND WHAT IS LEFT TO DO.**
RUNNING LATE OR simply looking to cut down on makeup quantity and cost? Purge your current makeup collection and create an easy, bright, and bold full face of makeup with only two drugstore products: lipstick and bronzer. From liner to cheeks and everything in between, here’s how to utilize two simple products to achieve the ultimate slay-worthy face.

**WORDS:** Brittany Miller  
**PHOTOS:** Lara Blanco

**1. BLUSH AND CHEEKS**

Lipstick can go a long way, not only long-lasting in formula but for rouge cheeks, too. Dab a bit of lip color on your index finger and rub it against your thumb to warm it up. Then, lightly massage onto the apples of your cheeks. Move back diagonally towards your hairline to create a seamless blush.

**Brows**

Brows are in, and not thin. To create fuller, bolder eyebrows, fill in the brows with bronzer, and curve this along the natural slant of your eyebrows to form a sharp or subtle angle, depending on the degree of drama you desire.

**Eyeliner**

For those who prefer a more natural liner look, this one’s for you. Using an angular brush, load the bronzer onto the brush and start to create a wing at the outermost corner of the eye. Draw a line sticking a bit out from the eye in the direction of the tip of the brow and angle it off to form the wing. Then, connect this wing along the eyelash line and taper it off in the middle of the lid.

**Bronzer**

Bronzer was the original sun-kissed contour. Using the bronzer, blend it along the top of the forehead and into the hairline. Then, following the shape of your cheekbone, apply the bronzer underneath to create the illusion of more hollow cheeks and a slimmer face. For those wishing to accentuate more features, apply and blend the bronzer along the sides of your nose for a more slender effect.

**Lips**

This one is a no-brainer but with a twist. Apply lipstick as you normally would. For more dimension, add the bronzer into the corner of your lips and blend inwards to create a gradient, ombré effect.

**EYE SHADOW**

The eyes are the window to the soul, so let’s provide a beautiful frame. Loading the bronzer onto a fluffy eyeshadow brush or using your index finger, blend this into the crease of your eye. Layer more in the outermost corner for a smokey-eye effect. Then, load the lipstick onto your ring finger and warm up the product by rubbing it between your finger and thumb. Apply this directly on the lid and blend into the crease.

**KEEP TRACK OF YOUR MOOD BY LOGGING HOW YOU FEEL FROM DAY TO DAY. NOTICE THAT YOU’RE GETTING TOO STRESSED? MAYBE IT’S TIME TO TAKE UP YOGA OR TRY SOME MEDITATION TECHNIQUES!**

**WEEKLY MOOD TRACKER**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>MON</th>
<th>TUES</th>
<th>WED</th>
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</table>

**COLOR KEY**

- **RED:** HAPPY/FEELING GOOD
- **BLUE:** SAD/DISTRESSED
BARE WALLS CAN get sad and boring, especially when extra money for decorations is hard to come by. Try these easy projects that only take a few supplies and a little bit of time to spruce up your small space!

**WORDS:** Hannah Patrick  **PHOTOS:** Jordan Stein

### D.I.Y. NEON SIGN

**SUPPLIES**
- Pliers
- String
- EL wire light (You can find this on Amazon)
- Hot glue
- Large paper (poster board works great 18’x24” or 24”x36”)
- Pencil
- Galvanized wire

**Step 1:** Decide what you want your word to be. Note that whatever you chose, you will not be able to have a space in between words, so stick to one word or two short words.

**Step 2:** Lay out paper and draw your word. A large curly script font works best for this project. If you’re intimidated by drawing it yourself, try typing it out and following it by eye as a guide.

**Step 3:** Cut the string to the same length as the EL wire. You want the word to take up the complete length of the wire. To test this, use the string to trace the word you have drawn.

**Step 4:** Once the word is drawn to your liking, take the wire and bend it to the shape of the word, using the drawn word as a guide.

**Step 5:** Using the hot glue, slowly attach the EL wire to the galvanized wire.

### FABRIC HEADBOARD

**SUPPLIES**
- At least 42” x 36” piece of cardboard
- 1 ½ yard of cotton fabric of your choice.
- 1 ½ yard of Upholstery-Grade Polyester Batting (at least the size of the fabric)
- Staple gun with staples
- Pencil, ruler, scissors

**Step 1:** The dimensions of the headboard can differ depending on the width of your fabric. The fabric used here has a width of 44” and cut to be 1 ½ yard long (52”). The height of the headboard and the cardboard will be 42”, while the width will be 42 inches wide (to fit a twin bed).

**Step 2:** Draw your design. You can make your headboard any shape you would like. For this specific one, I chose a combination between a sharp and scalloped edge. Use the guide below to follow this specific shape. Note that the red lines are simply a guide to follow to create even edges. You will only be cutting the black lines to create the design.

**Step 3:** Cut the board. Once you have the design drawn out, use a utility knife to cut it out.

**Step 4:** Next, lay out your batting, and cut a piece the size of the cardboard headboard. Leave 2” of room on all sides to attach it. Make a cut at each corner from the edge of the batting to the beginning of the cardboard so the edges are sharp and clean. Using the staple gun, staple all the way around the board. If you want a thicker board, repeat this step as many times as you want until you reach the desired thickness.

**Step 5:** On top of the batting, repeat Step 4 using the fabric. You only have to do this step once.

**Step 6:** Now you have your headboard! Simply slip it between your mattress and bedframe to attach.

### HEXAGON SHELVES

**SUPPLIES**
- Wood glue
- Popsicle sticks at least 6” in length (about 100 per hexagon)
- Spray paint or wood stain
- Optional: acrylic accent paint and paint brushes

**Step 1:** Optional. Print out a hexagon with the width equal to the length of the popsicle sticks you will be using.

**Step 2:** Begin laying out sticks into the hexagon shape, either on top of your printed guide or by eye. Layer the sticks so that the ends are touching. Use only a small dot of glue on each end.

**Step 3:** Continue step 2 until it is deep enough to hold any small items you are trying to display (about 16-20 sticks deep works well.)

**Step 4:** Stain with a wood finish, or spray paint to match your room décor.

**Step 5:** Optional) Use acrylic paint and a paint brush to make accents on either the front face or the inside of the shelf for a pop of color.
STUDY ABROAD

FOR MANY STUDENTS, studying abroad is not only a thrilling experience, but a daunting one. However, spending a semester in a faraway place has never fazed fashion design senior, Kristi Kuiken. She’s a pro at navigating the trials and tribulations of cheap, solo, and Instagram-worthy expeditions, even transferring to London College of Fashion after studying abroad there for a term. Fresh off of booking a flight to Japan, Kristi shares her top ten tips on how to study abroad like she did, without spending a fortune.

BY: BRITTANY MILLER

4. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF “CHEAP” COUNTRIES

“The cheapest place that I’ve been was Barcelona. Especially if you’re studying abroad in London, going to Barcelona is great. And especially Eastern Europe like Budapest, Poland, and places like that. I feel like it’s kind of fun to take trips to places that maybe not everybody goes would be kind of a unique experience.”

5. STUDENT PERKS

“I used STA travel for student discounted flights. All the museums in London are free, but to be honest, I will always ask for student discounts, especially because in other countries like Italy, most museums are free for students.”

6. KNOW YOUR ACCOMMODATION TYPE

“I use AirBnB and sometimes hostels if I’m with other people. It depends on the vibe too. If you’re going to a party city and meeting people, definitely consider a hostel, but if you’re going with a group of friends and want to have your own space, then I’d say an AirBnB. A hostel usually tends to be cheaper though, depending on where you’re going.”

7. DEALS AND STEALS

“We found a Great AirBnB in Spain that had a rooftop hot tub, drinks in the fridge, and a view of a Spanish alleyway with a live dance performance. But to be fair, my biggest deal was probably a round trip flight home to Philadelphia for $380.”

8. SPLURGE PURGE

“I didn’t really do a huge splurge. I did a bunch of mini splurges. If there was one dessert or something and I was like, ‘I really want this’ then I would go for it. But I wasn’t going out and buying a giant bag or something. If it was an extra ten pounds or five pounds I’d be like, ‘Yeah, you know what? I’m here, let’s just do that,’ rather than spending it all on one thing.”

1. BUDGET YOUR EXPENSES

“I did a full Excel breakdown. I Googled everything, asked people, worked it out with my parents because I was paying for most of it.”

2. BE FLEXIBLE WITH YOUR BUDGET

“The biggest thing was travel. I ended up getting there and people would say, ‘We want to go here for this weekend’ so I’d have to have extra money to try and do those trips. Or you’d get somewhere and you know if you go the wrong way you have to book an expensive train back so stuff like that adds up.”

3. BE ON THE GRIND

“I worked my ass off. I used both of my summers to work, I worked during term time. I saved when I was at Drexel, but the biggest thing is getting a job and setting aside time to work. It was really difficult to do, but definitely worth it.”

9. EAT IT UP

“Food was a big thing, and then probably my next important thing was having enough to travel. The food was actually less expensive than I thought it was going to be, but the travel cost definitely added up. I bought groceries, but the only time we would eat out was when we were traveling (but to be fair, that was pretty much every weekend).”

10. MAKE EVERY PENNY COUNT

“Everything is so globalized now so I think broadening your perspective is essential because you have to be able to work with people from other countries and not just be nice, but also potentially know about that culture in order to build a relationship with that person. It isn’t even necessarily the studying part, although it is great to get a completely different insight from another university and see how somebody else does something. I think in every industry, being good with people and being able to relate to other people is at the heart of it.”

YOU NEVER WANT TO RUN OUT OF MONEY WHEN YOU’RE ABROAD. STAY ON TOP OF YOUR BUDGET AND HOW MUCH YOU ARE SPENDING!

TRAVEL TIPS...
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF the weekend to travel to other cities—while on a college budget. Leaving from Philadelphia, here’s a guide to 5 great cities to explore on your own or with a group of friends.

**LAS VEGAS**

How to Get There: Roundtrip flight for as low as $100 from skyscanner.com  
Where to stay: Luxor hotel, as low as $20.00 a night booked through goseek.com  
What to do: Resort Pool Party (Free), Walk along the Las Vegas Strip (Free), Watch the Bellagio Fountain show, it goes off every 15 minutes. (Free), Explore Fremont Street (Free), Hoover Damn ($30.00), See a show (Prices vary)

**WASHINGTON D.C.**

How to get there: skyscanner.com flight, $20  
Where to stay: HI Washington DC Hostel, $25.00 a night  
What to do: Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (Free), White House (Free), Washington Monument (Free), Lincoln Memorial (Free), Tidal Basin, a national park with cherry blossoms in bloom starting April (Free), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Free), Arlington Cemetery ($13.50)

**ORLANDO**

How to get there: skyscanner.com flight, $50  
Where to stay: AirBnB, as low as $35 near Universal Studios  
What to do: Universal Studios, Island of Adventure and Volcano Bay 2-day park hopper ($99.00), City Walk (Free), Disney Springs (Free), Orlando Eye ($25.00), Outlets (Free), Orlando Science Center ($18.95), Gatorland ($26.99)

**NEW ORLEANS**

How to get there: skyscanner.com Flight, $40  
Where to stay: Booking.com hostel reservation, Site 61 Hostel, $20  
What to do: Café Du Monde for the best Beignets (Price varies), Tour the Garden District ($25.00), Take a Swamp Tour ($29.00), Walk down Bourbon street to experience the bar scene (Free), Listen to Jazz music everywhere (Free), Jackson square to experience local artists (Free), St. Louis Cemetery (Free)

**CHICAGO**

How to get there: skyscanner.com Flight, $80  
Where to stay: River Hotel, $60  
What to do: Baseball Game (Price Varies), "Flick" the bean in millennium park (Free), Navy Pier (Free), Sky Deck Chicago to experience the best views of the city ($23.00), Chicago River Walk (Free), Lou Malnati’s for a pan of deep dish pizza (Price Varies), Portillos for the best Chicago dog (Price Varies)
WHAT IS AIR-TIGHT, heat-safe, easy to store, and perfect for on-the-go? The often-overlooked mason jar. Try these delicious and unique recipes prepped, stored, and ready-to-eat all in a mason jar. Whether you are a busy student, on the go, or looking for ways to switch up your everyday meals, these compact meals are perfect for you!

***All recipes yield one jar and can be made in advance and stored in the fridge for up to a week.

GREEK STYLE OMELET
What You’ll Need:
- 1 16oz. mason jar
- 2 eggs
- 2 Tbsp. crumbled feta cheese
- 1 Tbsp. diced fresh tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh onion
- 2 Tbsp. chopped cooked spinach
- 1 Tbsp. milk
- Salt and Pepper to taste

Assembling The Jar:
1. Add all vegetables, cheese, and milk to the jar.
2. Crack 2 eggs into the jar.
3. Add salt and pepper.
4. Firmly put lid on the jar, and shake until eggs are scrambled and all ingredients are combined.

When You’re Ready to Eat:
Remove lid and microwave for 90 seconds. When the 90 seconds are up, check to see if eggs are cooked through, and continue microwaving for 15–30 seconds if needed. Be mindful that the jar will be hot when removing it from the microwave. Put onto a plate, or enjoy right from the jar.

SUPERFOOD SALAD
What You’ll Need:
- 1 16oz. mason jar
- ¼ cup cooked quinoa
- ½ cup baby spinach (or lettuce of your choice)
- 2 Tbsp. diced roasted sweet potato
- 2 Tbsp. diced avocado
- 1 Tbsp. dried cranberries
- 1 Tbsp. chopped walnuts
- 2 Tbsp. dressing of your choice

Assembling The Jar:
1. Add dressing to the bottom of the jar.
2. Layer in cranberries, walnuts, sweet potato, avocado, and quinoa.
3. Top with spinach or lettuce.

When You’re Ready to Eat:
With the lid tightly on, gently tilt jar back and forth, distributing the dressing throughout. Remove lid to empty salad into a bowl, or enjoy straight from the jar.

NO BAKE OREO CHEESECAKE
What You’ll Need:
- Filling
  - 1 4oz. mason jar
  - ¼ cup whipped topping
  - 2oz. softened cream cheese
  - ½ tsp. vanilla extract
  - 1 Tbsp. sugar
  - ¼ tsp. lemon juice
- Cookie Base
  - 2 Oreo sandwich cookies
  - ½ Tbsp. melted butter

Assembling The Jar:
1. Crush cookies in a food processor or blender to create crumbs. Combine crumbs with butter, and add to the bottom of the jar.
2. In a separate bowl, mix cream cheese, vanilla, sugar, and lemon juice. Fold in whipped topping. Spoon into jar, layered over cookie base.

When You’re Ready to Eat:
Top with optional extra cookie crumbs, chocolate chips, or chocolate syrup.

CLASSIC MAPLE PANCAKES
What You’ll Need:
- Filling
  - 1 16oz. mason jar
  - 1 Tbsp. maple syrup
  - ¼ tsp. cinnamon
- For the batter:
  - 1 cup pancake mix
  - 1 Tbsp. flaxseed
  - 1 Tbsp. chia seeds
  - ¼ cup milk
  - 1 egg
  - 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil

Assembling The Jar:
1. To make the batter, combine all ingredients in a bowl, and whisk until smooth.
2. Add 5 tablespoons of batter to the jar along with the maple syrup, sugar, and cinnamon.
3. Mix thoroughly until all additional ingredients are combined with batter.

When You’re Ready to Eat:
Remove lid, and microwave for 90 seconds. Empty into a bowl, or grab a fork and enjoy!
**DIGITAL DETOX**

*Take a break from your screen and get in touch with the world around you.*

**WORDS:** Sam DiMartino  
**PHOTOGRAPHY:** James Lewis

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**GO TO THE DOG PARK**
Nothing is more thoughtless than playing with pups. At the dog park, owners let their dogs roam free for strangers to play with. Keyword being play; they are not there to Snapchat. If you’re staring at your phone, you might step in something that you don’t want to, so just put it away and play with the beautiful creatures surrounding you.

**JOURNAL**
Take 20 minutes out of your day to write your thoughts down. I know, I know, there isn’t enough time in your day to sit down, and do something relaxing. But hey; instead of scrolling through Instagram, open up a blank page, and explore your thoughts. Who knows, you might even learn something new about yourself.

**PUBLIC LIBRARY**
A public library is the closest thing we have to a time machine. Think about it, it’s the only place where you can explore the past, present, and future all at the same time. Do you hear that sound? It’s silence. Something you should learn to get comfortable with. Breathe in the smell of old books, and feel the texture of worn out pages as you suddenly enter new worlds.

**GO ON A WALK**
Leave your phone at home, and go for a walk without your good ol’ friend google maps. What’s the matter, you scared? Take a physical friend if getting lost makes you weak in the knees. Turn down streets you usually don’t frequent, and actually experience your neighborhood. Who knows, you might stumble upon something amazing.

**HAVE A HOT DRINK AND CHAT WITH A FRIEND**
The best conversations can happen around a cup of coffee or tea. Put your phones in time-out for an hour. When the conversation starts, you won’t even realize the amount of time that passed. Let your mind take control of your thoughts, and see where the conversation takes you.

**GARDENING**
Try to keep something alive other than the battery on your phone. Planting can do wonders for the mind and soul. Unfortunately, not everyone has a green thumb, but now is your chance to find out if you do. And if you don’t, well, at least you got to play in the dirt.

**GO TO THE THEATER**
Live theater will mesmerize you, and if it doesn’t, your seat will act as a good place to take a nap. The glory of live theater is that all phones must be put away and on silent at all times. Even better, if you do take it out, an usher will escort you — and your phone — out. So, don’t embarrass yourself. Let your mind be preoccupied and entertained by the performers that are standing before your eyes.

**TAKE A BATH**
Light some candles, throw in a bath bomb, turn off the lights, and let your body soak in the hottest water that your skin can tolerate. A phone is no fun in a bath, and if it gets wet your life will be ruined. Plus, if you feel uncomfortable being alone in your bath, feel free to invite a guest.

**LEARN HOW TO TELL TIME**
Stop using your watch as an accessory and actually learn how to tell time. You will no longer have to check your phone when someone asks you, “What time is it?” Don’t forget, the little hand tells the hour and the big hand tells the minutes.

**READ A MAGAZINE**
Flip through a magazine, like the lovely one you are currently holding in your hands. Magazines are a great source of inspiration. Be careful not to get a paper cut, I know the process of turning a page is rather difficult compared to the process of stroking a screen. Don’t worry though, you will eventually get the hang of it.
DOWN THE RABBIT hole somewhere in the Garment District, designer Raul Penaranda sits at his desk. His office is painted with scraps of fabric, brimming with racks of shimmering garments, bold runway sketches, and archives of textile designs from his days at Oscar de la Renta. His high-rise hideout is charged with creative energy, located right in the heart of Times Square madness. Indulging in the crisp air, we catch up over lunch to the tune of bustling street traffic seeping in through a cracked window.

“Things are really amazing right now!” he says, as his Latin tongue turns the ‘z’ into an ‘s.’ Raul beams with excitement and charm. The leading duo, Raul and Larry Haack, ex-lovers turned close friends and business partners, have launched a successful online store, collaborated with Flying Solo NYC, a retail incubator for independent designers, and of course, have continued to design gorgeous garments. Raul’s latest project is his most recent runway show in New York Fashion Week, debuting a Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection called “Lola,” laden with blush tones, florals, and ethereal fabrics.

The Inspiring Story of Raul Penaranda & A Message to Dreamers Entering the Workforce

WORDS: Liza Levi
PHOTOS: Jordan Stein
“Lola” pays homage to the strong female figures in Raul’s life, named after his grandmother and precious pup. The inspiration for the collection surfaced in a dream in which Raul saw his grandmother luring him into a mysterious doorway. “Come, come! This is your store!” Apprehensive, the designer entered the room only to be blinded by how bright it was. “Come, it’s ok, your eyes will adjust”, she explained. As his vision cleared, he saw racks upon racks of garments dazzling with sequins, patterns, and texture—nothing was plain. Confused, he muttered, “but this is too much, there is nothing simple, there are no basics.” “It’s ok, it’s ok”, she repeated. Maybe she was right; maybe every piece in the collection needs some drama, some fantasy. Raul’s dream inspired a collection of fun fashion pieces that would truly embody the brand’s mission statement: “Show the world who you are.”

Turning dreams into reality, success sometimes feels like a fantasy for this humble designer. Born in Cali, Colombia but raised in Venezuela, Raul is a long way from home living in the Big Apple. His love affair with fashion comes from his roots, beginning with watching his sisters and mother use fashion as a means of self-expression. His mother was a seamstress, which exposed him to the world of clothing, construction, and color. Coming from a poor upbringing, he could have never predicted the results his hard work has had on his career.

Just as Raul did, today’s young creatives enter the increasingly competitive workforce with feelings of excitement and opportunity, yet are often drained of their enthusiasm out of fear. Will I like my boss? Will I have any creative freedom? Will I even get a job? Of course, entry-level jobs won’t warrant much artistic control, but a bigger fear lies in the possibility that one will never get to that level, losing sight of their original dream. So, there must be more; there must be something to turn aspirations into truth and create success. How can designers and creatives keep sight of their dreams, evolve, and find their voice in such a cutthroat industry?
Raul believes that first, “your brand won’t be defined overnight, it’s almost like an evolution [...] somehow you become the designer.” Ten years of experience working his way through the multifaceted fashion industry preceded the last seven years that Raul has spent being an independent designer. Names like Oscar de la Renta, YSL, DKNY, Tommy Hilfiger and Zac Posen grace his resume, with experience in a variety of departments. “When I was younger, your age, I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do… I thought, I’m going to learn it all, not because I wanted to be the best, but because I wanted to be the most prepared.” To stay relevant, it is vital to have an endless disposition to learn; curiosity is what drives innovation.

After a decade of familiarizing himself with different layers of the fashion industry, Raul decided to invest in himself by releasing his first collection in 2001. His business partner Larry admits, “we had absolutely no clue what we were doing, our first show we spent and wasted so much money, like $100,000… now we can do them for almost nothing.” Reminiscing about their very first line, the two chuckled with slight embarrassment.

“I had no clue who I was as a designer, what my “thing” was going to be.” Countless artists face this problem, struggling to concisely define who they are and what their vision is.

Entering the intense worlds of art and fashion can have a significant influence on one’s journey to self-discovery. While some thrive in this type of environment, others tend to lose themselves in the reflections of what they think the industry needs them to be.

Discussing the struggle artists face to define themselves, Raul waves his hands next to his eyes, saying “going into a corporation you are going to be lost, but they will train you like a horse in a race.” While some feel the corporate world makes it easy to stray away from aspiration, they tend to teach the drive and work ethic required to run a business. Then again, maybe being lost isn’t such a bad thing. Raul seems to think so.

“You know, you get to the age of 16/17 years old, and everyone tells you what they think you should be. I was talking to my nephew and he says to me, ‘Uncle, everyone keeps telling me what they think I should be,’ I asked him ‘And what do you think?’” Raul’s nephew responds, “Honestly Uncle, I’m lost.”

With an Alice in Wonderland-esque view on how to find yourself, Raul firmly believes that you must face your fears head-on, and avoid letting the mysteries of the unknown thwart your perseverance. Don’t be afraid to stare through the looking glass or jump down the rabbit hole - even if you don’t know where it will take you.

Raul wisely snickers before uttering his most sacred advice: “Good! Go ahead and get lost! Because it’s the only way you will find yourself.”
The Phillynombros are crushing the Philly food blogger scene with their vibrant, mouthwatering snapshots of food from “Foodadelphia, Nomsylvania.” Gary and Ryan are both from South Jersey and bonded over “being the only two at dinner to whip out their phones and take a picture of their meal.” As far as trying to “make it” in Philly, they replied, “We wouldn’t necessarily say that we are trying to ‘make it’. Our hope is that our audience feels connected with us and finds what we’re doing to be relatable!” With 15,000 followers, it’s clear that people find their page relatable. According to the nombros, being in Philly is the best thing about what they do. “We’ve made awesome friends and connections, being able to attend unique Philly events and restaurant openings makes this whole thing worth it.” The Phillynombros have partnered with local restaurant Rex 1516 to create a special burger for Customer Appreciation Week, and secured a partnership with VisitPhilly to do an Instagram takeover during Philly Restaurant Week. If you’re ever in a rut on what to eat for dinner, follow @Phillynombros for all things Philly Food.

@PHILLYNOMBROS, 26, FOOD BLOGGERS.

SYDNEY FERRARA, 21, FASHION BLOGGER / CONTENT CREATOR

Sydney Ferrara, otherwise known as @coexvst on Instagram, is a women’s fashion blogger and content creator. Her aesthetically pleasing, monochrome-chic page is full of personal photos that exemplify a minimalist style. Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Ferrara made her way to Philly for school at Temple University. As a Media Studies and Production junior, she curates both her own style blog thecoexvst.com and Instagram page. “Philadelphia is so vibrant and full of life,” she says, “Living [here] has given me the chance to do things like be on the press of Philly Fashion Week and get my work printed for a style guide at the Sonesta Hotel.” Ferrara says that networking has played a key role in her success in the city, from grabbing coffee with other influencers to working with an established brand such as Audaviv. “Trying to ‘make it’ in Philly really turned into what was just my online portfolio into a brand,” says Ferrara. “Philly has something for everyone. From fashion to food, to history, I always love exploring and trying new things.”
IAN CRUMM. 25. LIFESTYLE CONTENT CREATOR

A recent graduate of Drexel University, Ian Michael Crumm has built a prosperous career from social media. If that’s not crazy enough, he has 380,000 followers that watch his every move. His Instagram consists of a curated feed of menswear, traveling ‘inspo’ and grooming products. He gets paid to travel, stay in 5-star hotels, and to just mention specific products on his page. Ian first moved to Philadelphia to attend Drexel and hasn’t left since. His personal brand started when he began Tumblr blogging, which sparked his interest in digital communication. His interest quickly turned from an online portfolio into a blog about personal style. “Over the past few years Philadelphia’s underdog spirit has really gathered steam and fueled a city bursting with creativity,” says Crumm, “there is a pride in Philadelphia that is very different. It’s an earned pride and it’s really creating this wonderful entrepreneurial sensibility.” Everything Ian does, whether attending Bryant’s SoulCycle class or eating out at the Dandelion, he relates back to his digital life. “I’m always on, but also have the chance to always turn off. It’s an interesting mix of freedom and continual responsibility.” How lucky is it to be able to turn your social life into a career? What a wonderful [digital] world we live in.

AMBERELLA. 36. STREET ARTIST.

If you have noticed the 3D hearts with inspirational sayings wheat pasted throughout Philadelphia, then you have seen Amberella’s work. A street artist who wears many hats, Amberella studied photography at University of the Arts, worked in the photo industry, was a prop and wardrobe stylist, and opened an all pink gallery and boutique in Northern Liberties. After eating peanut butter and jelly for every meal, she decided it was time for another career change and began creating a body of work inspired by catcalling. With sayings ranging from ‘Can’t Stop, Won’t Stop’ to ‘Keep Going’ to ‘Ur So Rad’ she receives instant gratification through public exposure and her own anonymity. Amber expresses that not having fame as a purpose brought her more success, “I guess really trying to ‘make it’ to me would be getting to do what you love every day that in turn serves others and having that be your sustenance.” The 36-year old’s work is universal and connects with many different types of people which have led to collaborations with Urban Outfitters, Pizzeria Vetri and Boyd’s. Amberella notes that another huge part of her success is taking risks and feeling uncomfortable, stating, “if you aren’t afraid, then you aren’t growing.”
ROB LAWLESS, 26.
COMMUNITY INFLUENCER.

After Rob Lawless became unsatisfied with his career at Deloitte, an auditing, consulting, tax, and advisory business, he rebranded himself via Instagram as “Rob’s 10k Friends.” With this new handle, he set out to meet 10,000 people, starting in Philadelphia and slowly expanding to other cities. The goal was to create a “Humans of New York” inspired page: meet as many people as he could and make genuine relationships and connections after one hour of talking. Lawless is now taking on this project as a full-time commitment, using Philly as his base for making daily interactions and posting about each one on Instagram. With help from his friends and family, he’s funding this project through donations, advertising, and sponsorships. When asked what he’ll do when he eventually hits 10k, Lawless simply replied, “I think it depends what my life will be looking like at that time. I’m not afraid to hit zero on my bank account – not only is this beneficial for me, but I’m helping to create mutual connections for people in all different cities.”

DUSTIN GENEREUX, 29.
FASHION PHOTOGRAPHER.

Dustin Genereux, as seen on Instagram as @DustinGenereux, is one of Philadelphia’s most renowned fashion photographers. Specializing in portraits and studio work, Dustin has a following of over 40,000 people on his social accounts; a rather impressive number considering Genereux isn’t a homegrown Philadelphian and only moved here a few years ago. To stay on top of his branding, he uses every possible avenue to drive traffic to his Instagram and website. He has a print store, a preset store, and every social media platform possible that link to his portfolio. Genereux prides himself on his diverse Instagram appearance compared to other photographers. He says that Philly is small, but its distinct personality makes it a place for him to get recognized as an artist. “The city’s small, so it offers a pretty tight-knit community, and everyone knows everyone who is in the industry … It also has some incredible agencies like Reinhard and Vie that have amazing models for a small market like Philly.”

SVVVK, STREET PHOTOGRAPHER.

SVVVK is a photographer who is not afraid to break the rules. His love of urban spaces started with him shooting his friends’ skateboarding. While studying film at Drexel, he discovered the vast amount of abandoned buildings that haunt Philly. SVVVK has explored everything from airplanes to factories, often ignoring the “Do Not Enter” signs along the way. He now focuses on getting the perfect shot from the top of Philly skyscrapers. Spaces and views like this have motivated SVVVK to reach higher and push boundaries. He tries to make his content stand out, whether that involves planning for weeks, or just being in the right place at the right time. SVVVK gets to see and photograph places people don’t even know exist, but luckily for his 58,000 followers, he gives us a taste of adventure and heart-racing suspense with his photography.
WALKING UP TO a noisy apartment, I knew I was in for a musical treat. As I stood waiting to be let in, I heard the muffled band practice of Almost Isles. Formed in 2016, the guys describe their sound as alternative, with Latin-influenced guitar thrown in. The band is made up of past and current Drexel students who all found a connection with each other through music.

Their band name is based on a common fact: Ignacio, Collin, and Dave all come from peninsulas, which in Latin, “pen” means almost. They technically live on “almost islands,” so that’s how they got “isles.” It took a few weeks to come to a final decision. However, after going to an Indian restaurant and refusing to leave until they were no longer untitled, they finally had their new name. They like to say it was a 9-course meal.

Lead singer Ignacio De Socarraz Novoa, who also goes by Iggy, studies Product Design at Drexel. From sketching to tangible designs, he has always wanted to create things which led him to his passion for music. Drummer, Collin Barlage is just your typical computer science guy. He’s the dude you love to hate because he just seems to be good at everything. When Iggy was first playing guitar with Collin on the keys, they just meshed. Collin said he knew the note Iggy was going to play before he even played it. While on co-op at II-VI Optical Systems, Iggy met Drexel grad Dave Shields and the position of bass player was filled.

Some of their first band practices are their fondest memories. Since Iggy had songs already written, Collin and Dave went along and found their own sound within the lyrics and notes. Nowadays, the band dynamic has shifted as they all write and collaborate, mixing their unique sounds into one. Their influences are diverse: Iggy listens to a lot of alternative/Latin music, while Dave is drawn to funk, and Collin is big on jazz.

To record their first EP, Day Before Christmas, they propped up two cell phones (which, we should be clear were Androids) using paper towel rolls in the basement of Dave’s old apartment. The guys had no professional equipment, so they made due with what they had. Dave likes to say it gives them street cred. Their first show at The Grape Room was their first experience being mic’d professionally. Looking forward to the future, Iggy says that, “the next show is always the best show.” Although, they can all agree that whenever anyone is dancing, that’s the greatest feeling.

— Mary Elizabeth Hoffman
STATING THAT JOY Again’s music does not fall into any specific genre, vocalist and guitarist Sachi DiSerafino says that they “make whatever sounds good,” taking influences from a variety of genres including pop, rock, and indie. Both Sachi and bandmate Con Shea take the lead in songwriting with two very distinct styles. Sachi takes a more straightforward approach to his lyrics, telling a story that is easy to follow and understand as a listener revealing that he only writes when some “bad sh*t happens” to him. He hopes to elevate his writing to mimic Con’s poetic songwriting style that expresses his point of view in an allegorical way, using imagery and metaphors that encourage listeners to dissect their meaning.

When the band was still named Forever Lesbians, they were discovered by the prominent disco and rock producer Godfrey Diamond. He took an interest in their music and introduced the then teens to music producer Caleb Laven. Laven, who currently works with Frank Ocean, began to produce Joy Again’s music, evolving their sound from a lo-fi high school band recording in their basements to a high-production band recording in a professional music studio.

Joy Again recently released two singles, Kim and On a Farm, with Sachi and Con each writing one song each. In the span of two minutes, Sachi wrote Kim, a song inspired by a conversation about a musician friend’s girlfriend but led into a deeper discussion of the two musicians’ mutual love of the punk band D.L.I.M.C. On a Farm, however, represents the direction in which the band is looking to go, using a more artistic, poetic sound.

— Katie Neary
THE MOMENT HENRI Tyler starts to talk about his music, anyone would be able to see the pure enthusiasm and passion he has for his art. After seeing the video for the Foo Fighters’ song “The Pretender,” he knew music would be his future and immediately got himself a guitar. He learned the fundamentals, played with a few garage bands, and eventually wound up going solo while in college. His sound is a blend of alternative rock, singer-songwriter, and indie pop. Whether strumming on an acoustic guitar or playing the harmonica, his deeply personal lyrics pull from his own life experiences. Authenticity is something he doesn’t take lightly.

Henri says his biggest songwriting inspirations are Ryan Adams and Jack Antonoff. Adams is a singer-songwriter, producer, and musician, best known for working with artists such as Fall Out Boy and producer Glyn Johns (the Who, Rolling Stones, the Beatles.) Jack Antonoff, a former member of the band, Fun, is known for his inquisitive songwriting, and recently produced Lorde’s album. Henri admires their music making process and how they add so many different musical components even though they are “pop” writers. Henri believes that getting the right line or riff is what really matters, reinforced by the words of Jack Antonoff that “music can and deserves to be thoughtful and smart.”

Released in December, Henri’s most recent EP Years holds one of his fondest memories to date. One of the songs Veronica just didn’t feel right, so every night over the course of many weeks he would sit and rewrite it. He says the song is a culmination of everything he’s been through in the past year and shows who he is as a person and a songwriter.

At the end of the day, Henri says to anyone interested in music, “hearing the music is one thing, but to really know what it sounds like you have to go to a show in person.” He also hopes that more people can appreciate the lyrics that he has worked so hard to write, as they are just as important as the name of the artist who sings them. — Mary Elizabeth Hoffman
SITTING DOWN WITH RFA was nothing less than a charming evening full of sarcasm and witty banter. They are just some average joes going to school like the rest of us and doing what they love on the side: making music about girls, booze, and their adolescent lives. They’re a garage rock band inspired by ’60s and ’70s rock ‘n’ roll. They pull their sound from bands like The Strokes, Arctic Monkeys, The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen, and Bob Dylan.

Lead singer Dan a.k.a “Danzino”, is majoring in Music Industry Business at Drexel and has been a fan of music ever since he can remember. When it comes to “saying funny things sometimes,” Brendan, a.k.a “Branzino”, is your guy. Originally a guitar player, Brendan is now the band’s bass player and adds vocal harmonies. Having worked for Philly POPS, a non-profit orchestra, and Gravity Given Productions, he learned valuable skills about PR that he brings to RFA. Drummer Alec Powell, a.k.a. “Anzino”, attends Temple University and studies Psychology. He is best known for wearing the same shirt while performing at every show. Lastly, Christian Turzo, a.k.a. “Chranzino”, goes to the University of Pennsylvania, plays guitar, and desperately needs new shoes.

Currently, the band is working on a full album and booking tour dates. They recently released the song, Suzie Lee from their forthcoming, untitled album. For an up-and-coming band, Brendan said, “stuff that usually works is booking dates out of town through our own connections.” The band tends to take a more DIY approach when it comes to finding venues. One of their stand out moments to date was their 10-day tour in November of 2016, where they blossomed not just musically, but as a group. During the cross-country tour, they found themselves driving 13-hour stretches and sleeping on venue floors. Along with that, they were finalists in a chance to open for the Radio 104.5 Birthday Show. Through all the changes, long car rides, sleepless nights, and jam sessions, the band’s favorite and most rewarding memories are the ones when the crowd sings back their lyrics.

— Sarah Choi & Mary Elizabeth Hoffman
FINDING THE PERFECT CO-OP can prove to be intense and intimidating. Students can always go to the Steinbright Career Development Center and choose to apply to internships through the standard route. Or, they can choose to go slightly off course, outside of the career center, and search for co-ops on their own. Melanie Kraus, D&M co-op advisor, suggests looking into both. “The Steinbright Career Development Center has a lot of great resources on our website all focused on the self-directed job search - from how to identify employers to how to contact them, as well as career specific resources for over 25 different industries,” says Kraus. “These are all also resources outside of SCDConline. If the office as a whole didn’t promote and support searching for co-op positions outside of SCDConline, we wouldn’t offer so many resources for how to conduct the job search.” Although a bit more risky, we’ve caught up with a few students who took the plunge, and went outside of co-op system to find an internship all on their own.

ADIE JONAS, NYLON MAGAZINE

“I knew I had wanted a job in fashion editorial before it was even time for me to start applying for internships. I also knew that Drexel did not have a lot of editorial options in the Career Development archives. I decided to go out on my own, and utilize my social media skills to my advantage. I stalked a few companies on Instagram, checked out their Facebook pages, and created a LinkedIn profile. In fact, my success story begins and ends with LinkedIn. I used this social media platform as a tool to “virtually stalk” a number of other interns from several companies who had previously worked in the positions I desired. Rather than wasting my time messaging superiors who would never bother to answer a LinkedIn message, I reached out to their interns to get a faster result. I sent them messages, and simply asked how they applied for their internships - believe it or not, most of them got back to me. After applying to countless publications, I got in touch with someone from Nylon Magazine, my dream job! The intern gave me her boss’ info, I sent an email, went in for an interview, and was hired on the spot. After the luck I had with my experience, I’d hope that someone in need of some guidance or internship advice would never hesitate to reach out to me via social media - it definitely doesn’t hurt to try!”

SARAH HASSAN, WARNER BROS RECORDS, ATLANTIC RECORDS

For Warner Bros Records, I applied to every online channel I could find for music industry internships. But, the most important thing was asking around. I made a list of all the music industry contacts I’ve made throughout my previous jobs, and emailed each person asking if they had connections to any of the companies that I applied to. A friend of a friend interned with Warner Music Group and put me on an email chain with an HR rep. I sent my resume and cover letter, and she got me the interview (they rely mostly on referrals).

The interview was set up like a career fair with each department of WBR present. They had every department and label under the parent company that was hiring there so I went to each department. There was a long line at the “Atlantic Records, Executive Office” section (pretty much to be an assistant to the CEO and his assistants). I decided last minute to slide into line (I think I even cut!) and right then, the most intimidating woman at the fair said to me, “You three are the last ones. I’m late for a meeting.

You each have two minutes to impress me!” When it was my turn I started my 30-second pitch, starting off about my experience running a tour management app, which immediately caught her attention. She told me that she wanted to know everything about this app and to set up a call with her in a few days. She liked that I was prepared and did not come off intimidated, and had clear answers to her tough questions. For the Atlantic position they took a lot longer to get back to everybody, but that was the one I wanted the most, so I followed up every few days asking if the position was filled yet, reiterating that I have experience in everything they are looking for. My confidence, persistence and HUNGER is what got me that job. They gave me an offer.”

LAUREN KAYATI, INDEPENDENT COSTUME DESIGN COMPANY

“Over the summer, I worked with a seamstress who I met through a friend. The seamstress and I spent the summer designing unique costumes and we worked with several kinds of materials and fabrics. One day, while I was working with her on a project, her friend came in to visit. I found out that the friend was a costume designer (which was perfect for me as costume design is my field of interest). Through networking with her and talking about our mutual interests in costuming, she offered me a job on the spot. It turns out that she is a designer for the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, films and commercials, New York musicals, some Philly shows, and several local high school shows. Through my co-op, which I found outside of the system, my boss and her connections in the fashion industry helped me connect with someone a few levels above in the industry who could immensely help me build my brand as a designer. Through my co-op and this new opportunity, I learned a lot of priceless information from women who have been in the costume industry for some 30+ years.”
Jack O’Connor

the boy behind the brand
talks company history and future plans

words & photography by: Jordan Stein

STRICTLY FEATURED

x Jack O'Connor
THE BOY BEHIND THE BRAND TALKS COMPANY HISTORY AND FUTURE PLANS
MEET JACK O’CONNOR. A Drexel senior, entrepreneur, and creator of his own major, Entertainment Merchandising. His company, Strictly Featured, is a streetwear clothing line promoting up-and-coming Philadelphia artists. O’Connor “features” artists on his clothing line by representing their work through a logo, design, or an attribute of their artwork on long and short sleeved-tees, hats, and patches. The success of his business is due in large part to Drexel’s cooperative program. The co-op program is meant for students to have meaningful educational experiences by working within their chosen field. For Jack, however, he used the co-op program to work for himself to expand his business and learn what it means to be an entrepreneur.

O’Connor has the determination to succeed and passion for the arts. The initial motivation for Strictly Featured was that “it started with the name” — there was no actual idea at first. It began with him and his brother talking about musicians featuring other musicians on their songs and recognizing how those artists grew in popularity due to the collaboration. Jack met another entrepreneur who told him that success lays within empathy and analytics, meaning you need a story and you need to know who that story is catering to and why. This advice stuck with O’Connor, he explains “I’m quite social and really want to see everyone succeed at something they love. Match that with my love of art and entertainment and you get Strictly Featured. It’s about giving artists a chance to improve themselves (work and personal) and ultimately create something with them that I’ll enjoy too. My instinct is to help the next person in line even when it comes to business.”

In the summer of 2017, O’Connor did his co-op for himself. “People don’t realize the opportunity that comes with the co-op program,” he says as he explains the tedious application process, “there is a full application I had to fill out along with all the details of what Strictly Featured was and where I wanted to go with it.” He had to outline his plan of action, what he wanted his merchandise to look like, and what he wanted his new business to represent. His reaction to working as his own boss and having other cohorts join the Strictly Featured team was, “Wow! It's
Co-opeing for Strictly Featured allowed O’Connor to become more business savvy, collaborate with others, learn to budget, and understand the ins-and-outs of what it takes to run a successful clothing line. As part of the Entertainment Merchandising major involves entrepreneurship, he applauds Drexel and their entrepreneurship program for creating something unique for each specific student.

When planning collaborations for Strictly Featured, O’Connor decided to start with street artists. “It gives a platform to highlight an artist’s creative work, some with important messages and others who just have a unique style of their own,” he states. O’Connor admires the independence, hustle, and the nonstop effort to succeed in the street artist community, which encouraged him to reach out and work with the street artist, Ephemeroh.

Jack admired Ephemeroh’s active voice in Philly, his public installations, and the small sweatshirt line he created. Ephemeroh’s work is painterly and abstract, it draws viewers in using windows, reflections, and everyday objects to make us question reality. O’Connor believed that the artist would have a lot of original ideas about art and clothing to bring to the table. When he reached out to Ephemeroh, there was an immediate attraction towards working together. O’Connor grew as a business owner after the collaboration, having learned how to properly represent an artist, be flexible to creative ideas, and ultimately learn about the brand he was working with.

Jack’s mission with Strictly Featured is simple: to promote Philadelphia visual artists and to inspire others. There is always a story when it comes to art; each piece includes a write-up of the artist and is tagged by hand making it original for every buyer. The success of Strictly Featured, so far, has come from having a story that people connect to and are interested in sharing. Collaborating with artists helps to create a community of people who support one another and a perspective on what each individual stands for. The larger the community, the larger the impact becomes, Jack plans to grow and expand with more artists in Philadelphia, so stay tuned! There is so much more to come from Strictly Featured!
EVERY DAY YOU probably walk by a blank wall that seems to serve no purpose other than to hold up a building’s roof. Then, one day, that same wall has been covered by a giant raccoon nibbling on a soft pretzel. To Philadelphia’s V.U.R.T Creative, every wall is a blank canvas and an opportunity to create a beautiful design that interacts with its environment. V.U.R.T. (Visual, Urban, Renewal and Transformation) is a non-profit organization shedding light on the importance of visual arts with a fresh take on murals.

Evan Lovett co-founded V.U.R.T. to blend his interests in tattooing, illustration, and street art to create murals that enhance and beautify Philadelphia. His work has brought him all over the world, and with every place he visits, he makes time to create a mural. They are created quickly and pack power, “leaving a mark on the places [he] goes instead of just taking from them”. Vibrantly detailed and inspired by animals and nature, these murals are three, four, or even five times bigger than Lovett. Every animal comes alive with personality. Although these murals live on walls, the animals feel as though they are there with us, roaring with rage, delicately chirping, or mischievously eating. The art isn’t just a depiction; it becomes a real member of the community.

As his devotion to murals grew, his passion to impact a location with his art also grew. In collaboration with Danielle Wong, long-time friend and social worker by trade, he created a non-profit organization to give back to the community. He “strives to bring color to the dreary and attention to the overlooked and forgotten”.

On the Kensington-Fishtown border, Lovett created a mural of pigeons located right outside of his studio prior to the establishment of V.U.R.T. Although the owner of the building was hesitant about murals, Lovett showed him that a mural didn’t have to have a cliché theme or be something specific. The combination of vibrant, bold graffiti and the beauty of nature sparked the Local Critter Project. Lovett’s goal when painting his murals is to bring awareness to things that are often forgotten, whether that be animals, social issues, or even a blank wall in a neighborhood that has gone unseen. Combining his awareness of the environment with his art, he creates murals with spray paint and recycled materials, keeping the projects as sustainable as possible.

Along with affecting a neighborhood and creating conversation through a mural, V.U.R.T. also has non-mural initiatives, including sustaining visual arts programs and arts education. The Starter Box program places hand-painted boxes at local businesses to collect art supplies for donation to local Philly public schools. V.U.R.T. also hosts a free art class called Starter Brush, where they offer education, supplies and a free lunch to keep the interest in the visual arts alive. As an organization, V.U.R.T. wants to make art accessible to all who are interested. Although their mission has only been in effect for about a year, it is making an impact on visual arts in Philadelphia. From children to adults, the city’s members have the opportunity for exciting new art education, as well as public murals they can see every day. While V.U.R.T. grows, it will continue to help communities and the people that live in them grow and possibly ignite a passion for visual arts.

V.U.R.T is helping us rethink our community and the people and animals that inhabit them. They are showing us the importance of visual arts by making it accessible and exciting. Within the hands of giving artists, Philadelphia has gained a colorful new voice.
Stephanie Torns is part of the Tony Award-winning musical Waitress. Get an insider’s look on what it is like working on Broadway and the path she took to get there.
GETTING YOUR START on the big stage is no easy task. According to Stephanie Torns, “You [can] leave an audition and sometimes think ‘Damn! I booked that job’… and you don’t. Sometimes you think you bombed it, and you get a callback. So, it’s not an easy thing, and after years of doing it, it doesn’t get easier.” But after landing her dream role in her favorite musical, Wicked, starring as Elphaba the Wicked Witch of the West she says, “when I got to fly high as the green girl in Wicked when I was 21 years old, I could have died a happy woman.”

Currently, Stephanie is the understudy for the lead role Jenna, serves as one of the supporting characters Dawn, and is also part of the ensemble in the Broadway production Waitress. Based on the 2007 film of the same name, the story revolves around Jenna, a pregnant diner waitress who specializes in creating one of a kind pies that distract her from life’s troubles. Waitress has made Broadway history by having the first all-woman creative team. Although she is rotated between three roles, Stephanie recalls that Jenna is her favorite character to bring to life: “…the role just moves me. Her story, the music she gets to sing written by the one and only Sara Bareilles, and the journey the character gets to go on is simply amazing.”

Her day begins differently depending on the role she is portraying. When she is performing in the ensemble she says, “I usually get to the theater about 45 minutes ‘til show time, with a coffee in hand!” When she is performing as the lead, her day is much longer. “I get to the theater early to stretch and do a vocal warm-up. I like to be done with my prep before the half-hour call because then people are in and out of the room for wigs, costumes, etc.” Eight shows a week can take a toll on the body, Stephanie exercises daily to keep herself energized. Along with working out, she also gives her body time to rejuvenate; “there are some days I just need to rest and so I take a good old cat nap under my makeup station at work. Glamorous sleeping on the floor life!” For Stephanie, it’s worth it!

Stephanie loved dancing around her childhood home since the age of three. Living in Long Island, Stephanie was exposed to the magical land of Broadway as it was just a train ride away. The first production she saw was Footloose, and she was in awe. She stepped on stage for the first time as a sophomore in her high school production of Oklahoma. After her performance, Stephanie fell in love with performing on stage. Stephanie did not initially pursue a career in theater when she started college. Instead, she attended SUNY Fredonia in the hopes of becoming a music teacher. She soon realized that live theater is where she belonged and transferred to the American Musical and Dramatic Academy to pursue her dream of performing on Broadway.

Theater takes audience members on a journey into a new story. It all begins as soon as the lights dim and a hush falls upon the crowd. Stephanie had the opportunity to watch Waitress and she recalls, “I was just in awe. I found myself crying and laughing with everyone else like I didn’t know what was going to happen. It was amazing.” Actors do not know how each show is going to be accepted, as each audience reacts differently. Stephanie says, “an audience makes or breaks a show for us sometimes. We feed off of the energy as actors and every show for us is different depending on what we get back from each audience.” What Stephanie really loves about the audience is, “during the bows just seeing people really moved by what we just did fills my heart and soul.”

The cast has become a large part of Stephanie’s life as well. When asked what is the best part about being in Waitress she says, “the people I work with! These people have become my family. We laugh, we cry, we lift each other up when needed, and overall just truly enjoy each other’s company.” Stephanie says that the cast and crew regularly bring treats that are hard to resist, “my waistline and thighs don’t enjoy it but my taste buds sure do!”

From the moment guests walk into the theater for Waitress, their senses are filled with the aroma of freshly baked pies. And the best part is that guests can purchase pies served in mini mason jars, to enjoy while watching the show. So, come by and have a pie at the Brooks Atkinson Theater in New York City! Indulge your sweet tooth, and watch Stephanie Torns in the hit musical Waitress! After all, it’s the audience that makes Stephanie’s job that much sweeter. “I think sometimes we forget how much we truly move people. And then we get fan letters or stopped at the stage door with someone sharing their heart with us and it just really puts into perspective how special it is. I’m grateful for the job, but mostly the beautiful people who take the journey along with us each performance.”
I identify as non-binary and use they/them pronouns strictly. It took me a really long time to get to this place because I didn’t even know it was an option. Clothing plays a huge role in how I feel and most of the time it plays a role in how other people treat me. The way I dress varies on a day to day basis and whether I decide to dress more masculine, or feminine depends on what I feel most comfortable in, or even sometimes what I’m least uncomfortable in. When I wear feminine clothes I’m more likely to be misgendered but I just try to dress in a way that makes me feel good. The word ‘non-binary’ makes me feel free.
“My personal style is gender fluid, trendy, unapologetic, and bold. I like to mix men's and women's clothing to create my outfits. I express myself through clothes; once I took myself out of the box of just men's clothing, it opened the door in so many ways. It helped that I experimented with different styles of clothing in order to finally find myself. Fashion is a way of breaking down gender boundaries that can open up people’s eyes from just seeing boys vs. girls.

The future of fashion, in my eyes, is acceptance. Acceptance of race, size, gender, and sexuality. These are all the boxes that are used to label and excludes people. It would be cool to see gender-neutral stores in the future. This will, hopefully, open up people’s mind to think of how clothes can define our personal style and not how they define us.”
Clothes and style have been tied to my identity since I was very young. It has always been a key source of inspiration and creative expression. When I was an adolescent, I began designing clothes in my bedroom at night which has led me to a career in various aspects of the fashion industry over the past 10 years. As a member of the LGBTQ community, I’ve used my own personal style to express a fluidity with gender roles and presentation. Throughout the years, I’ve seen the collective consciousness swing toward gender fluid expression in fashion unrelated to sexuality. Many members of the current generation have embraced a modern understanding of gender which shows a wide range of expression in personal style which inspires me to continue to embrace my unique style relating to gender fluidity. As this is in stark contrast to the current political climate, I am encouraged for the future giving way to a more widespread embrace of a wider view of what is accepted in regards to expressing gender. Through my Instagram account, @destinyslegendaychildren, I have also been able to connect with many individuals who share the courage to express themselves without gender barriers. I look forward to inspiring and being inspired by the continued evolution of genderless fashion.”
“I identify as gender nonconforming. To me, that means we are one step closer to breaking down the binary and being free to express ourselves in whatever way we feel comfortable. I dress for myself and to feel good in my body. I pull influences from a super wide range of things like punk, y2k, early prairie, ‘80s, etc. I know that’s not super specific, but I don’t think my fashion is specific! I think it’s whatever I want it to be whenever I feel.

That’s what I see and want for the future of fashion. Break down the rules, break down the binary, break down traditionalism, and be who you want!”
FOR PROSPECTIVE AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENTS, CHOOSING TO GO TO DREXEL UNIVERSITY MEANT CHOOSING A HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. IT ALSO MEANT CHOOSING A SCHOOL THAT DIDN'T REQUIRE A FLIGHT OVER 8 HOURS IN DURATION TO REACH. HALING FROM DENMARK, INDIA, CHINA, AND NEW ZEALAND, THESE FOUR STUDENTS SHARE THEIR INSIGHTS INTO THEIR HOMETOWN, MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THEIR COUNTRY, AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES THEY FOUND MOST SHOCKING IN AMERICA.

QUICK STATS:
HOMETOWN: Copenhagen, Denmark
MAJOR: TV and Film Production
FOOD: Sushi
DRINK: Coffee.
TV SHOW: Friends
STORE: Adidas
FAST FOOD RESTAURANT: McDonald’s
COLOR: Blue
SPORT: Soccer

QUICK STATS:
HOMETOWN: Indore, India
FOOD: Asian Cuisine
DRINK: Coca-Cola
TV SHOW: Friends
STORE: Zara or Banana Republic
RESTAURANT: El Vez
COLOR: Black
SPORT: Tennis
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES VISITED: 14

QUICK STATS:
HOMETOWN: Beijing, China
FOOD: Beijing Duck
DRINK: Iced Americano with two extra shots of espresso
STORE: HBX
FAST FOOD RESTAURANT: Burger King
COLOR: Gray
SPORT: Sleep

QUICK STATS:
HOMETOWN: Auckland, New Zealand
FOOD: Rose Ice Cream with Pistachio Crumble
DRINK: Gin and Tonic
HOBBIES: Cooking or Yoga
SPORT: Squash
MAJOR: Finance with a minor in Accounting

WILHELMINA HAUCH-FAUSBOLL
HAYLEY HUGHES
KRISHNA SAWANTI
YUXUAN (YOSHI) ZHANG

WORDS: Brittany Miller & Samantha DiMartino
PHOTOGRAPHY: Jordan Stein & James Lewis
Born in Copenhagen, Denmark, Wilhelmina is currently a senior at Drexel majoring in TV and Film Production and remains undecided if she wants to return home or stay here after graduation.

What is your hometown like? I live right outside of Copenhagen. It’s a biking city, so I don’t have a driver’s license because I just bike everywhere. It’s not like the cities with skyscrapers like here or New York. It’s just a different vibe.

What’s something about your home country that’s a misconception or stereotype that you wish people knew or understood? A lot of people ask if it’s a city in Germany, and I have to clarify that it’s a real country.

What do you see as one of the major differences between home and America? We’re more liberal about [alcohol] back home. Like you drink at the age of 16 and you can drink on the streets and I feel like here it’s very behind closed doors and you have to hide it.

What is one part of American culture that you were excited to experience? I’ve seen American movies about college life and I was so intrigued just to see what all these parties and stuff were. And in school, you have to take classes about alcohol, and learn the bad things about it. And I think sometimes it’s taking it a little bit too seriously and I feel like if there weren’t so many rules about it, it wouldn’t be that big of a problem.

What’s the biggest difference, or thing you’ve found most shocking in America? People say “How are you?” without actually wanting to hear how you are. That was confusing in the beginning. Like when I walked into a store and people asked, “How are you?” I was like, “Why are you asking me how I am, I don’t even know you.” I was so confused, I didn’t know how to respond, but then I found out it’s just a way to greet people.

How is TV different here than in Denmark? There’s a lot more satire, I feel like here it’s easy. Here, there’s less of a filter. And there’s just so many TV shows over here, so many bad and good ones [because] America is the biggest country for TV and film.

Originally from Auckland, New Zealand, Haley Following her passion for squash and ended up at Drexel by chance. She has enjoyed her time in Philadelphia and explored the United States ever since.

How did you make the most of your Drexel experience? Sports to begin with. That was pretty much most of my life for the first two years. Then, I realized there was more out there at Drexel. I did a study abroad dual program during the summer in Berlin and London – definitely a highlight of my life.

What is your hometown like? A lot more scenery. Green mountains everywhere. You go out for a walk and you will climb a mountain and have a beautiful view of the ocean and the beach. You can drive ten minutes and you are at the beach. It’s clean and green.

What’s something about your home country that’s a misconception or stereotype that you wish people knew or understood? They think we are Australians and don’t know what a New Zealand accent is. We call ourselves “kiwi” and they think it’s because of the kiwifruit but it’s a native bird. They’re endangered, flightless birds that are kind of useless but can’t help themselves because they can’t fly. Only found in New Zealand, so it’s true to your heart.

What is one part of your culture that you wish you could share with Americans? Quality. I find things over here are a lot more quantity over quality. Down to food, you know you go to Cheesecake Factory and it’s all about big portions when there is not much actual goodness in what you are getting sometimes.

Have you picked up on any American slang? Was there any American slang you didn’t understand at first? You definitely do have to change your language a bit because people don’t understand like we call fries “chips” and people get really confused. The trash can we just call “rubbish.” A lot of daily words I guess; I’m wearing a jumper, you say “sweatshirt.”

What’s the thing you’ve found most shocking in America? The number of one-way streets around here. I found it really hard to get used to because we drive on the other side of the road. I found it difficult to look the right way when I get to two-way streets, especially since on campus it’s one-way streets. Also, the flush goes the other way around, and the stars are aligned oppositely so things like that are kind of funny when you first come over.
What is your hometown like? I’m from Beijing, but I don’t like that place. Not a city for me. It’s huge, 16 times bigger than Hong Kong.

What do you miss about your country or your home? You don’t need to bring cash or use a debit or credit card. Two years ago, they established something called We Pay, and you just use the QR code to pay for anything, even small shops on the corner use it.

What is one difference between education in your country and education in America? My family and I don’t like the education system in China. You don’t have much choice in China. We have something similar to the SAT, and if you have a really good grade you go to a good school. The school decides who you are going to be in the future when you graduate.

What’s the biggest difference or thing you’ve found most shocking in America? You are not allowed to get into any relationships in middle school or high school. In China, the government and school think it’s a bad thing. When you’re 18 or 19 and don’t have experience in this area, you are really bad at it, and the emotional part is really low and creates a lot of trouble. Here, it’s free and open and you can tell people everything you want to say and you don’t have to worry.

Where did you co-op? I co-oped in Singapore and I just got back in March. Right before my co-op, I did study abroad in Berlin and London. I also recently got back from Zambia in Africa. I was doing a business consultancy program with the Lebow Business School and I was down there for a couple weeks, so that was great. I’ve been away for 1 ½ years for the past 3 years so I’m filling up my passport!

Do you speak another language? Did you know English before you moved here? I speak Hindi, the local language although not spoken by everybody in India. I speak my mother tongue Sindhi, which originates from a province called Sindh which is now in Pakistan but was earlier a part of India. So I speak 3 languages. English was OK to learn I think because my parents speak English, so that was a huge plus. Sometimes our conversations would switch to English.

What is one part of American culture that you were excited to experience? I really like them, they’re fantastic. I like them the same, I wouldn’t compare them but they are holidays at the end of the day. Bringing people together, making people happy; that’s all that it’s about.

What are some holidays that you celebrate in India? One of the big holidays is called Diwali, which I think is a combined Thanksgiving and Christmas. It’s a huge holiday in India. It’s a festival of lights, so it’s super bright. Holi is the festival of color, and you know people play with colors. There’s a lot of good food and people coming together.

What’s the thing you’ve found most shocking in America? Gun laws. It was surprising how people can have a gun here in this country. I do feel sometimes that I’m unsafe like someone can shoot me and you would never know why.

How is it different from India? You know, I feel really safe back there. Especially for boys, it’s a good country to be in. Over the years, especially in Delhi, it has become very unsafe for women. I think the reason this is happening due to lack of education.
**Stranger Things** Having trouble finding a girlfriend/boyfriend? This show will teach you how: 4 spritzes of Farrah Fawcett Spray and you'll be good to go.

**Orange is the New Black** You won't want to stop watching the woman-on-woman action! Yup, I said it. There's a lot of fighting and loving in jail outside of the “being in the cell” part.

**Making a Murderer** The only reason I watched this series in two sittings and not one was because I had to get up and use the bathroom…

**Sense 8** 8 people in 8 different places around the world are connected… think about that. Once you start watching, you’ll want more and more to just find out WTF is going on!

**The Standups** 6 funny people just making fun of themselves and sharing some TMI thoughts that they have.

**Ozark** I learned a lot in this show, like money “laundering” isn’t actually just putting your money in the washing machine. Whoops!

**Black Mirror** If you thought the light bulb and smartphones were huge breakthroughs in the history of technology then YOU AIN’T SEEN NOTHING YET. *Black Mirror* illustrates the social effects of technology that could destroy your life, like being able to record things with your own eyeballs or the literal afterlife.

**The End of the F***ing World** Not only shows the surface of the characters’ feelings, but also hilariously shows the deep, dark inner thoughts of a boy and a girl. It really made me wonder if there are actually people like this out there and if there are, can we hang out?

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**Best Netflix Original Shows You Need to Watch!**

**Love** Awkward, nice guy meets a very direct, attractive girl. Makes me think: wow opposites really do attract and there really is someone out there for everyone. Gives me hope.

**The Keepers** A creepy docuseries about the murder of Sister Catherine Cesnik. Watching this every night made me think: I wish I had an S.O to watch this with right now because I don’t even want to get out of bed in fear that something is going to grab my legs from under the bed.

**Mindhunter** A crime drama set in the ‘70s, based on the psychology of real life serial killers. You won’t be able to stop watching until you get real hungry… like Jeffrey Dahmer hungry… Lol.

**Friends from College** Circles a group of old friends from college, and yes one of them includes the cute little Fred Savage from *The Wonder Years*. This show gives a sense of nostalgia and gets you thinking about your own future after college. SCARY!

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**Comedies to Watch While You’re Still Half Asleep but Need to Get Your Life Together and Wake the F Up!**

**Wet Hot American Summer 10 Years Later** Amy Poehler, Paul Rudd, Elizabeth Banks, and Bradley Cooper play teen camp counselors who crack hilariously stupid jokes making fun of sleep away camps!

**White Gold** If you miss Chuck Bass on *Gossip Girl* and all his amazing schemes, watch him scheme some more in this show, but with his BEAUTIFUL BRITISH ACCENT.

**Master of None** Aziz Ansari is hilarious and can educate you on some racial issues that are still happening. But like, c’mon, it’s 2018 people!

**Atypical** The main character, Sam, will teach you that the best way to get your crush to notice you is to break into their house and leave a nice dessert like some chocolate covered strawberries. And it’s completely normal.

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**Netflix and “Chill” Something to Watch With Your S.O.**

**True Life:** I can’t get out of bed, I just can’t

**Comedies to Watch While You’re Still Half Asleep but Need to Get Your Life Together and Wake the F Up!**

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**Sunday Scaries**

**Words:** Sarah Choi

**Photography:** James Lewis

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**DARK SHOWS TO WATCH TO MATCH YOUR DEPRESSING MOOD BECAUSE TOMORROW’S MONDAY**

**Ozark** I learned a lot in this show, like money “laundering” isn’t actually just putting your money in the washing machine. Whoops!

**Black Mirror** If you thought the light bulb and smartphones were huge breakthroughs in the history of technology then YOU AIN’T SEEN NOTHING YET. *Black Mirror* illustrates the social effects of technology that could destroy your life, like being able to record things with your own eyeballs or the literal afterlife.

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**The End of the F***ing World** Not only shows the surface of the characters’ feelings, but also hilariously shows the deep, dark inner thoughts of a boy and a girl. It really made me wonder if there are actually people like this out there and if there are, can we hang out?
With an eclectic taste and an exceptional sense of craftsmanship, the 2018 Drexel Fashion Design seniors prove themselves to be one of the most talented classes yet. The group showcases a selection of undeniable creativity and alchemy in their work. We’ve caught up with some of this year’s designers to gain insight into their personal style of design and their senior collections.

“I want to dress strong women in pieces that highlight their confidence and appeal to their darker, bolder, and sexier side,” says Monique Gould when asked to describe her personal design style. Her favorite piece she has created thus far is her eveningwear dress, as almost the entirety of the garment is hand sewn. When discussing her senior collection, Gould explains that she hopes it will be “incredibly visually stimulating,” reflecting the great amount of detail in her work. The theme for her collection is “Forbidden Fruit,” perfectly describing her wicked, provocative, and luxurious look she aims to create. Ultimately, Gould wants to show off her skills in hopes of working for a lingerie brand. Speaking of the London-based lingerie brand Agent Provocateur, Gould says, “they are my absolute favorite lingerie brand; I love how they keep their pieces high end but still cheeky and fun.” Emphasizing her passion for lingerie design, Gould anticipates eventually starting her very own lingerie company.
"I would define my design style as fun and tongue and cheek, however still flattering and sometimes intimidating," explains Cory Schneiders, before delving into his love of film and pop culture. "When I present my work, I notice that people smile and sometimes laugh because I incorporate humor and nostalgia into new and contemporary styles." After losing his father to cancer in the winter of 2017, Schneiders had a revelation. "Life is so unpredictable and sometimes unfair, and this only emphasized that life is too short to wear boring clothes," he says. He remembers watching his father get ready to leave for work in the morning, wearing firmly pressed pants and a well-tailored jacket. His fond memory clearly explains why Schneiders' favorite piece he has crafted thus far is his tailored jacket. "Keeping all of this in mind, I wanted to push the envelope more coming back to school, and really go the extra mile when executing my creative visions," says Schneiders. Although his senior collection theme is not yet finalized, he hopes for it to be nothing short of breathtaking. He ultimately would love to work as a creative director and will strive to ensure confidence in the consumers wearing his designs.

"When designing, I think it's really important to focus on what I find interesting or exciting," says Korman. When asked how to elaborate on her own design style, she describes it as "edgy yet sexy yet sophisticated." "What really matters to me is if I would wear something or not, and I just hope that it resonates with other people. I guess it's kind of selfish in a way, but it's the only way I know how." Her favorite piece that she has constructed is her tailoring final, a carefully crafted yet edgy pea coat adorned with leather and chains. Korman also gave us a look into her final collection. "I chose the theme Rocky Horror Picture Show because it's not only one of my favorite movies from my childhood, but the fashion in the movie encapsulates my personal style in three all-encompassing yet unique ways: motorcycles, the '70s, and lingerie." She hopes to pay homage to the film while also providing a "sneak peek" into her personal trademark. Korman plans to move to Manhattan post-grad, with aspirations to create her own dream brand.
I aim to tell a story with all of my designs, allowing them to speak to a character or a setting.” With a love of science fiction and fantasy, Sarah Webber tells us how these themes influence and inspire her work, whether it be ready-to-wear or costume design. “When designing my primary focus is texture, both visual and tactile,” she explains. One of her favorite pieces she has created thus far is a hand-knit dress with a leather yoke and leather-molded spikes on the back. “I knitted pretty much nonstop for three days straight before our critique and finished a piece I was really proud of that was even shown in the fashion show that year,” says Webber. Her excitement for the fashion show doesn’t seem to be dying down anytime soon for the young designer. Soon showing her senior collection, Webber is eager to be delving into the art of costume design. She hopes to explore new materials and techniques that will help her portray her overall story and concept. Post-grad, Webber hopes to work in costume design for film or television and possibly even win an Oscar. “Science Fiction and Fantasy are my favorite genres and the most inspiring to me. I find Colleen Atwood’s work incredible, including costumes for Snow White and the Huntsman, Into the Woods, and a number of Tim Burton’s films, and would love to work for her.”
As a designer, Alli Best likes to describe her personal style as minimalistic and clean-cut. "I gravitate toward clean lines and linear forms that really show quality construction and details," she says. "One of my favorite designers is Jil Sander because of the simplicity of her collections." Best is currently constructing a piece for her eveningwear class, which she explains will be her favorite design to date. She illuminates the difficulties of using six yards of continuous fabric for the piece but admires the satisfaction she feels when pushing herself to complete the challenge. When it comes to her senior collection, Best is up for the task and hopes to challenge others, noting, "my biggest goal for [senior] collection is really to make people think when they see it. I think that anyone can make a beautiful collection, but I want to push myself to make a collection that illustrates an emotion and connects with the audience. I want my collection to encompass a design aesthetic and to be a creative expression. This is really the last time to be experimental, so I'm striving to create something conceptual and emotion-invoking." In the future, Best could see herself becoming a trend forecaster or working her way up the ladder as a designer at one of her favorite brands. She hopes to end up in Manhattan, working amongst some of the greats in the industry.

When asked how he would describe his personal design style, Scott Solakian explains, "I'd say I align pretty closely with this idea of urban luxury." Solakian’s style mainly consists of sleek streetwear with a modern twist. "That’s tough," he exclaims when asked to name his favorite piece. "I’m not really sure — but if I have to pick one, I’d say either the jacket I’m working on now or the dress shirt from my ‘Back to Work’ collection. I just love the concept behind it... I think in general I have a fascination with taking these rudiments in everyday dress or uniform and f***ing them up." When it comes to his senior collection, Solakian has a few ideas in mind. His intention is to create looks using innovative fabric combinations, while also keeping in mind potential trends for men and women in a year's time. "It's also just more storytelling, but this time in a more extensive way with a full collection of different looks. It's fun cause this is one of the first times I'll be able to really give you guys a chapter, not just a few paragraphs. This is way more than just creating five looks for the Drexel Fashion Show — that's just the starting point...." We asked Solakian what his hopes and dreams were for the future in his fashion career, and his response was short and sweet: "To be one of the best ever."
from darkness into light

WORDS BY: Nicole Palmer   PHOTOGRAPHY BY: Jordan Stein
Inspired by the Greek legend of Persephone, recent Drexel graduate Lela Thompson’s collection reflects the darkness that the Queen of the Underworld faced as she was tricked by Hades to eat seeds of a pomegranate, trapping her in the underworld for three months out of the year.
Persephone’s mother Demeter, Goddess of the Harvest, lets the Earth die causing winter during this time of separation and agony. When her daughter returns, she brings the Earth back to life for spring, summer and fall.
Thompson, who competed as a finalist in the 2017 Supima design competition, reflects this journey from dark to light in her collection with majestic, ethereal designs and the saturated colors of the tantalizing pomegranate.
With a playful approach to mundane objects, Drexel product design students Barbara Carreno, Gina Lerman, and Carl Durkow are changing the way we think about products. From creating not-your-childhood-toys, to a chair meant to take you back in time, to a pillow that loves to hug — these students are redesigning everyday experiences.

WORDS: Katie Neary & Alyssa Schuetz   PHOTOS: James Lewis
ILLUSTRATIONS: Gina Lerman
NOT A TRADITIONAL industrial designer, Gina enjoys bringing fun back into everyday products with her whimsical style. Instead of focusing on the product, she enjoys understanding the experience that a product brings to its users and the problems that it solves for them. Never taking things too seriously, Gina’s work displays her signature playful approach to design, inspired by her co-op at Hasbro Toys where she explored the exciting world of toy and game design.

Gina creates soft sculptures and stuffed forms, often using small prototypes to generate research and analysis of user interaction. One of her favorite pieces is the Werm, a gray stuffed pillow with sensors that, when hugged, vibrate in a calm breathing rate. The Werm, molded in a huggable shape, focuses on the soothing quality of the human embrace. The piece encourages users to become aware of their body in space by focusing on embodiment and mindful body awareness.

Upon graduation, Gina knew she wanted to explore her visual talents further. She applied to the Ghostscout Training Camp in New Hampshire, a month-long intensive program focused on encouraging artists to work hard and find their passion. The camp is run by Dan Bandit, aka GHOSTSHRIMP, the background illustrator responsible for the show *Adventure Time*. Camp activities consisted of daily 6 AM workouts, midday forestry work, and lengthy afternoon drawing sessions. Although it was one of the hardest things she has done in her life, Gina recalls the experience as “intense and amazing”, which served as an outlet for her to explore art and illustration outside of Drexel. After completing the mentally and physically taxing Ghostscout Training Camp, she has become aware of her personal strength and development as an artist.

Like every other recent grad, Gina is still figuring her post-grad life out. With her professional life ahead of her, Gina is interested in exploring art further, as well as the intersections of various design fields. Gina’s soft sculpture work was recently featured in the *Combination Skin* exhibition at Philadelphia’s Little Berlin art gallery. Her work called Floofs are a group of soft, tactile form explorations and interrogations of body dynamics through wearable art made from muslin, cotton, and fleece. Floofs range in shape, size, and color, with some featuring a variety of soft, organic limbs and extensions created for user interaction. At the exhibition, the audience was encouraged to touch, hug, squeeze, and even sit on the Floofs to engage in the sensory experience. Gina was inspired by touch, intimacy, and the experience of embodiment, as well as the change in the user’s silhouette. During the show, audience members enjoyed interacting with the plush objects, and hugged and wrapped them around their bodies. In the future, she looks forward to exploring a variety of design fields, ranging from working on illustrations and comics to creating wooden toys. Putting it simply, she wants to “make stuff, learn, and be alive.”
CARL DURKOW

BRINGING FUN TO formal design, senior Product Design student Carl Durkow creates products that generate a lighthearted interaction between human and object. He loves to design furniture, stating that it is expressive yet also functional. Noting that the creation of mundane objects like furniture and utensils is often not pondered by most people, Durkow still strives to create products that enhance everyday life and encourage users to think about the products that they come in contact with on a daily basis.

A self-proclaimed victim of option paralysis, Durkow often struggles with pinpointing ideas in an industry overflowing with over-complicated, mass-produced “stuff.” Thus, he enjoys putting his playful spin on objects used in everyday life, the primary example of that being the Narl Chair. An omni-directional round rocking chair made of billowing gray wool felt plumes, Durkow designed the chair with the intent to revert its adult user to a child-like state. Durkow was inspired to create a divergence of the Montessori education philosophy which encourages the empowerment of children. The philosophy states that children will be empowered by furniture scaled to their size as their feet can touch the ground. The Narl Chair’s height inhibits its adult user’s feet from touching the ground, resulting in unfettered rocking that places the user in a state of childlike enjoyment. Further examples of his cheeky design interactions can be found in the wooden sculptural lamps he created for the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York City, which turn on by inserting a finger into a hole on its base. Developed from initial sculptures inspired by Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky’s use of line and shape, Durkow’s lamps reflect the development of whimsical forms that he hopes to expand into a full collection.

Durkow’s senior thesis focuses on the role objects play in our experiences when eating a meal. From utensils, to plating, to the chair you sit in, Durkow understands that the combination of those objects can create a grand experience for their user. He hopes to create a uniform dining experience with a set of furniture and furnishings centered around a fixed thesis.

According to Durkow, “you enjoy life more if everything is beautiful.” With that in mind, he graduates from Drexel this year to pursue the design of handcrafted, handmade items that inspire people to enjoy the things around them more. At the end of the day, Durkow jokes about the superficiality of design, stating that he and his peers ultimately question “is it cool?” No matter what aspect of design he pursues, you can be sure that Durkow will create products that make commonplace objects “cool.”

BARBARA CARRENO

WITH A GENTLE flourish of Spanish phrases, she says goodbye to her friend and then turns to say hello to me. I offer up a professional handshake as a greeting to which she looks confused and instead greets me with hug.
We settle in for our interview and from the beginning she has a commanding presence. It’s not overpowering, just simply a strong presence that makes you take note. Barbara Carreno is a senior product design major at Drexel. At 34, her path to get to this point has not been a straight line from point A to point B, but rather a squiggly line that does only one thing consistently — move forward. While most students are working towards starting their first career, Barbara is starting her second.

Her career began as a student studying graphic design in Venezuela. Her professors acknowledged her talent for understanding both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional design and recommended her to try product design. At the time, she made small figurines out of clay for fun that were small and could fit in the palm of your hand. With childlike features, some may call them toys, but with their bright colors, Barbara considers them personal expressions. From the push of her friends, she opened her first stand at a local artisan market and was then invited to sell her characters at a bigger market called “El Nido.” It was a four day show, and she sold out after the first day. Barbara has gone on to work many markets and later hold exhibitions of her own. However, to this day, Barbara still reflects upon “El Nido” as her favorite show because it was there that she realized that she could live her dream and make a living from her characters.
Barbara’s characters have become her lifeline and lifeforce. Her work is titled “Micro Barbi” which is a combination of her nickname “Barbi” and her friends’ endearing teasing about her height “micro” which was conveniently applicable to her miniature characters.

She took her first toy class in 2010 to further develop her brand but due to the turmoil in Venezuela, Barbara left her home country and traveled to Spain where she continued to find success with her characters. It was during her time in Spain that she fully entered the toy industry and met many people who were able to guide her. She explains, “If you’re not part of the industry, there is a misconception about what it really means to be a toy maker.” Barbara defines her art as a “new realm of contemporary art developed through pop surrealism.”

It’s not about making a product that will sell. Barbara’s aim is to make a product that will move people and make them feel something. Each of her characters are inspired by an emotion. Whether it be from a story she heard from a friend, or from someone that she just met; Barbara pulls those hard-to-express emotions and turns them into a work of art.
To her, they are not simply “toys” but rather “characters” to help teach people empathy. For example, her Golden Bodos, short for the Spanish word “Bodoque” meaning “little bundles” are small, spherical shaped with large, childlike faces. Without a body, they are just cute, happy faces with eccentric antennas that have an object at the top. One has a Chinese take-out box on top while the other has a bunny with a red heart painted over its heart. With a small smile, rosy cheeks, and sparkles in their eyes, these toys—or rather characters—are sure to brighten anyone’s day!

She enjoys “giving life to the physical thing that you have designed.” To design something that is simply two dimensional is no longer satisfactory for Barbara. She values the combination of art and function that comes with product design. She explains that she “feels guilty for just making art for the sake of art.” She wants to give more.

While her characters and the emotions behind her art are complex, her design process is simple. As she meets people, she learns their lives and becomes inspired by their emotions. Then she thinks of an idea and it moves from her head, to hand, and finally to the clay. She prefers to work without sketches and just use her hands. Anything that separates her from her work makes her uncomfortable, such as working with gloves or a magnifying glass. She laughs as she explains how her eyesight is terrible because she refuses to use a magnifying glass even though the details on her figurines are extremely small. While her characters may be small, her dream is to see them big. Barbara smiles as she describes her dream job to design a park that showcased all her characters as huge works of art that you could walk amongst.

To date, Barbara’s favorite characters are those that most might consider creepy. Her interest in anatomy comes through in these figurines. Less childlike, and more serious, these characters are dark and mysterious with disproportionate limbs and odd poses. They may seem “creepy” to others since they reveal parts of the human anatomy, but to her, they represent emotions that people normally shy away from. To illustrate, Barbara designed the character named Kathy after a well-known yoga teacher in Barcelona whom Barbara shared a connection. Kathy is designed with unusually thin arms, legs, and torso with a large teardrop shaped head. Her hair comes together in two small pigtails, with a delicate nose and mouth in contrast to large bug-like eyes with no pupils—Kathy has a way of seeing into your soul. In addition, across her torso, in immaculate detail, you can see her heart and kidney as if they belonged on the outside of her body instead of inside. Kathy is posed naked, legs crisscrossed with arms out, hands with open palms. Barbara states that Kathy is “open to interpretation.” To Barbara, it is a beautiful thing to face the emotions that so many people want to hide from.

Her current goal in life is to make people smile more. This is seen her in toy “Dreamer in a City.” Small enough to fit in your hand, this toy will surprise you with its large personality. A small neighborhood of trees and animals of all different colors grows on its rectangular head, while its face, outlined in magenta, shares the same small eyes, mouth and rosy cheeks as the Golden Bodos. It has a small rectangular body that would seem too fragile to hold up its overly large head. However, with matching shoes and a decorative skull and cross bone pattern to add some spunk, this character stands tall, emitting happiness without a care in the world. In the face of negativity, but in line with Barbara’s personal values, this little friend brightens the world spreading joy, hope and optimism.
GONE ARE THE days where one simply bought clothing, turning a blind eye to the true cost of what goes into making a garment. Think twice about where you buy your outfit by discovering the different ways local business stay ethical. From students paving the way, to a million-dollar business looking to the future, these Philly fashion innovators are successfully blazing the trail for future designers to come.

The growing need for ethical business practices was brought to the concern of Abby Wagner, a junior at Drexel University. After watching The True Cost documentary, Wagner switched from Drexel’s fashion design program to a custom major of her own called Ethical Fashion. She said, “I was sitting in Kelly Hall literally crying because it was so insane to me how the fashion industry really was. I didn’t feel comfortable going into this industry as a typical designer knowing all of this is going on, because it wasn’t right. It was then I started to change direction. I was in the major within two weeks.”

The concerns of the fashion industry are not new. The success of fast fashion brands such as H&M, Forever 21, and Zara prove that there is a growing demand for affordable fashion. People often turn a blind eye towards harmful effects from fast fashion, due to its popularity among consumers. Wagner stands out by refusing to turn a blind eye. She states, “I feel like that’s one reason why this issue is so strong. You hear about sweatshops and everything, but we’re still contributing to it. No one wants to feel they’re a terrible person for buying a shirt. I think people feel guilty, or just don’t know what to do – they kind of brush it off.”

Wagner touches on two types of sustainability: environmental and economic. She explains that during the manufacturing process, entire communities can be affected by toxic chemicals being dumped into local waterways or face increased risks of illness and cancer due to exposure to high amounts of pesticides. Wagner notes that this toxic waste usually occurs in poorer countries; western countries are not directly affected by it. Therefore, they are not motivated to change their mindset toward environmentally harmful production processes. Likewise, the fast fashion industry is often seen as the culprit of economically harmful fashion by encouraging continuous consumption of products that are then discarded after use, creating mass textile waste that is just as harmful as the manufacturing process. Wagner explains, “Even if it was made with environmentally friendly practices because they’re producing so many pieces it’s not going to last. People are going to have to throw them out.” Wagner stays away from day-to-day trends to prevent over-consumption, “I pretty much only shop at thrift stores for my clothing, and that’s a way to afford sustainability. A lot of times you’ll find better quality stuff for the same price as something new that’s not junk.”

Moving forward, Wagner hopes to bring awareness to sustainable fashion since she believes in decisions based on awareness. She says, “As a designer or anyone really who’s going into the fashion industry, even if you don’t want to commit your life to sustainability and ethics, it’s important to at least know about it and make your decision based on that instead of turning a blind eye.”

Joining the ways of ethical and sustainable business practices, a factory in North Philadelphia works diligently to push out orders every day. From fabric to cutting, to sewing, to shipping out the finished product, this factory is the heart and soul of the company Boathouse Sports Inc. Each employee takes pride in being part of a company whose motto is “Great Gear, Made Here.” The company is not about outsourcing to make the bottom line. Vertically integrated, the company has full control over its production processes. Its goal remains “Made in the USA” without losing its edge of quality performance apparel that satisfies and takes care of the needs of athletes everywhere. At its core, John Strotbeck, the CEO, was inspired to create this company during his time as an Olympic rower. With careful planning and direction, the company has blossomed from a 12 person company to a multi-million-dollar business. At the heart of it all, the company has stayed true to itself and to their brand identity of producing a quality top-notch product that is made in the USA.
While being “Made in America” is a big deal today, to Boathouse this concept is nothing new. Named after Philadelphia’s own Boathouse Row, Boathouse continues to separate itself from the rest of the pack through its unique partnerships and innovative sublimation technology. This technology allows the company to be more cost-efficient and provide unique and custom designs for their clients.

Philadelphia is not known for its manufacturing, but Boathouse has found a way to keep it here. In the past, the manufacturing business was largely centered in the South. As fabric mills gradually closed, so did the manufacturers. In turn, this downfall increased the cost of labor. Today, many Made-in-America companies retain small product lines and focus on a specialty product to help fight these costs. In contrast, Boathouse is blazing the trail as they maintain a wide range of product lines. From their team sports line, which covers nearly every sport, to their new retail line for everyday athletics and athleisure, to their crew shop which is an homage to the original Stevenson rowing jacket, Boathouse has never taken a step back, but only pushed forward.

Following the same philosophy, Drexel student Elissa Defranceschi emerges with her own ethical fashion business. In 2016 she established her online company Liza which promotes sustainability as a creative outlet. Defranceschi recalls, “It started simply with a friend that wanted me to paint a jacket for him. I told him, “I don’t know, I’ve never done that, but I’ll do it!” And his response was so great.” Since then, the business has been growing and continues to expand through both word of mouth and social media. Defranceschi has designed about 40 jackets within the past year.

Her brand is unique because the pieces are made sustainably and the jackets are upcycled. “I will take vintage jackets or thrifted jackets. Or if someone has an old jacket that they have laying around, I’ll sometimes consider taking their old jacket and then just revamp it. It’s always reused materials.” She uses acrylic paint to hand-paint designs on denim or leather jackets and paints directly onto the garment to produce little-to-no waste. “I don’t see why I would need to buy something brand new, manufactured that went through all these processes when you could just find it for a lot cheaper, better quality, and locally. I like to go thrift in Philly, plus it’s more special that way.”

The abstract face design is the brand signature and the designer’s specialty. Florals and quotations are also popular among customers, but people typically come to Liza for unique designs. The cost of one custom is jacket is $100, “It’s a pretty affordable price for what they’re getting. I would say my customer is college students. They realize it’s worth investing in.” For Defranceschi, the brand “Liza” was built as an alternative side of her personality, an alter ego.

Defranceschi states, “I think a lot of people like vintage or custom stuff because they don’t want to have what everyone else has. There are more people thrifting, reusing, and remaking things because its new and exciting and no one else has it. Hopefully, that will promote more sustainable fashion.” Defranceschi pledges to continue sustainable fashion in future projects. In her opinion, more and more emerging designers are considering sustainability as part of their creative process. “It’s really growing, I know our generation is really aware of it. Maybe if people keep learning about it, it will change.”

From big business to small, ethically made fashion has a place. It is not about bottom line profits, but rather the profit of having a positive impact on the industry. Sustainability can be as simple as minimizing the amount of product you buy or buying from companies who have a sustainable or ethical business practice. It is as simple as you not turning a blind eye.
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**Beth Phillips**

Career Transition and Development

209 Almur Lane

Wynnewood, PA 19096

610.645.6590 Tel

610.645.6596 Fax

[phillipsinternational@comcast.net](mailto:phillipsinternational@comcast.net)

[www.phillipscareerstrategies.com](http://www.phillipscareerstrategies.com)
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THE GIRL WHO FOUND OUT SHE WAS BASICALLY THE HULK.

A guy took me to a scary movie and decided to hold my hand to “comfort” me. I got scared and ended up breaking his wrist due to my reaction. The following day he asked me out again… I never answered - laughed too much.

- TINDER, 25

THE “20 SOMETHING” WITH SOME INTERESTING HOBBIES.

I’d been texting with this guy who claimed he was 24 on his profile, but kept talking about “a couple years ago” when he got a masters degree in orchestra conducting. Anyway, weirdly, he asked if I wanted to come to his apartment and do partner-yoga with him and his roommates… of course I went and found out he was actually “30 something”, and that was my cue to leave.

- TINDER, 19

THE GIRL WHO MUST HAVE HAD SOMETHING IN HER TEETH?

One time I met this guy for dinner. He was so awkward he just kept staring at me. I’m a nervous talker and I felt like I was trying to fill the silence. At one point I said something like “sorry I’m a nervous talker on these things” and all he said was “it’s okay.” and continued to just stare.

- OKCUPID, 23

“DRAW ME LIKE ONE OF MY OLD PROFILES PICTURES

This guy literally drew me. Like, went on my profile, picked a picture he liked, and drew me. I never saw the actual drawing, and we never met, OBVIOUSLY. But he kept sending me messages, under different accounts, saying that I was his muse and saying I was his. It was very murderer-in-the-making.

- OKCUPID, 26

THE GUY WHO GOT ATTACHED WAY TOO QUICKLY.

After the most awkward encounter with this STAGE FIVE CLINGER in a parking garage, he hands me a gift and finally leaves. I head upstairs and unwrap his ‘gift’. It turns out to be a very large picture frame of a FACEBOOK PHOTO OF ME FROM 2014 WITH INSPIRATIONAL TEXT ON IT NEXT TO MY FACE!!! I don’t remember the exact words (the picture was thrown out within 5 mins) but it was something like “you are brave, you are strong, you are beautiful, there is no other woman like you”. Thanks dude!

- TINDER, 20

DON’T TRUST GUYS ON PLANNING THE BEST FIRST DATE.

I was talking to this guy on Bumble... let’s call him Joe. Joe and I really hit it off. So, he asked me out for a date. I got in my best first date clothes, straightened my hair, the whole 9 yards. You know where he took me? Dunkin Donuts. DUNKIN. DONUTS. And not even a NICE Dunkin. It was a run-down Dunkin in a sketchy part of town.

The best part? He didn’t pay for my $1.90 coffee, and then proceeded to ask how many kids I wanted within the first 10 minutes of the date. I faked an important call and left immediately.

- BUMBLE, 20

Broken wrists, Phineas and Ferb, and partner-yoga—these are just a few fun things that go into creating the perfectly unpleasant date.

COMPILED BY: Sarah Choi

ILLUSTRATIONS: Abbey Nesbitt

Should Have Swiped Left

Broken wrists, Phineas and Ferb, and partner-yoga—these are just a few fun things that go into creating the perfectly unpleasant date.

CRINGE-O-METER

CRINGE-O-METER

CRINGE-O-METER

CRINGE-O-METER

CRINGE-O-METER

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