Imagine a shop that combined the joy of everyday shopping with our natural desire to do good in the world. **Others** fills that dream. Located in downtown Fargo, Others is a philanthropic boutique exclusively featuring buy-one-give-one and fair-trade items. Better yet, 100% of store profit is donated, making it the only shop of its kind in the world – right here in Fargo.

Others was born from founder Laura Morris’s dream to create a local boutique that solely supports brands that do good for people and the planet. Others promotes the idea that the clothing we wear, the gifts we buy, and the goods we consume can add up collectively to generate largescale global change. The store also donates 100% of its profits to help those in our community and around the world. To date, Others has contributed over $300,000 to organizations working to alleviate poverty and increase opportunities to people in need.

However, instead of sweatshops and fast fashion, you will find something a bit different. Clothing made by companies using sustainable materials and taking care to not harm our environment, upcycled jewelry made from bone and antler by artisans in poverty-stricken areas of Africa, and greeting cards made with 100% recycled materials by women in need of work after escaping the sex trafficking industry are just a few products that fill the store. Others partners solely with companies who take care to practice sustainability and fair trade – using the retail industry to better the world.

**Others** founder Laura Morris sees sustainability becoming more important in the fashion industry as transparency grows. Social media is making it much easier to become connected with people and businesses from all over the world. Consumers are starting to ask the tough questions – How was this made? Where was this made? Who is profiting from it? Who is disadvantaged by it? Shedding light on harmful manufacturing practices is the first step in growing fair trade and sustainability in the fashion industry. From here, the hope is that more companies will react to this and take on ethical, fair trade, and sustainable production practices. Laura doesn’t see this as a complex hurdle; rather, all that is needed is repeated growth in the number of people asking the tough questions to generate further movement within the industry.

Laura credits her team and the community as the reason that Others has been able to keep growing its success.

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team has expanded to a manager, buyer, and two sales associates - each contributing to the growth of the store in a unique way. The community that they support is also the reason that they are here and able to carry out their mission. Others can see the impact made in the local community through their efforts to support community organizations. They can also feel the change spreading as individuals transform their daily choices and shift their purchasing patterns toward a more meaningful lifestyle.

In spring 2019, Others looks forward to its next big venture: online selling! They are looking forward to a spring e-commerce launch to expand the company even further, reaching more people to spread the mission of collective giving. Be sure to follow Others on social media and watch for updates and early discounts on their e-commerce launch!

“There is no lack of data for how giving is good for the body, mind, and soul. Giving doesn’t always have to be heavy and creating change doesn’t always have to be a big, magic, sexy spark. I believe the greatest impact comes from the simple and genuine act of slowing down in our typical everyday life, sharing in stories of good work, asking how we can do better by this planet and the people within it, and supporting each other in continually working to accomplish a less harmful and more intentional life together. If there were one lasting example seen from Others, it would be that by coming together, each opening our eyes to new and big conversations, supporting our local community, and purchasing with greater intention, the effect can be massive and transforming in a remarkable way.” - Laura Morris, November 2018

FABO Kicks off Another Busy Year

NDSU’s Fashion, Apparel, and Business Organization (FABO) has begun another year. FABO is a student organization focusing on all things fashion. It is open to students of all majors, though many members have a major or minor in ARMD. This semester, FABO hosted monthly meetings, held special events for its members, and volunteered with the YWCA and on NDSU’s campus.

FABO hosted four meetings this semester. Members enjoyed guest speakers, including local fashion blogger and influencer Maria Helm, representatives from Other’s Fair Trade Boutique, and the manager at Jessie Blue Boutique. In addition to monthly meetings, FABO hosted three external events. They hosted a DIY Mug Night for members to decorate their own coffee mugs, a movie night, and their annual holiday party at Herd and Horns. Members enjoyed a meal together and exchanged gifts at the holiday party.

FABO also got involved on campus. To celebrate Homecoming, FABO partnered with the NDSU Bookstore to set up a photo booth. The held the photo booth in front of the bookstore on the Friday of Homecoming week. Students and alumni had fun snapping a few Bison-themed photos to show off their Bison pride. To finish out the year, FABO participated in a community service project with Unique Boutique at the YWCA, an event in which women in the YWCA’s shelter can pick out Christmas presents for their children and loved ones. Members helped set up donations the night before the event and merchandise Unique Boutique’s retail “store.”

FABO looks forward to another successful semester, and FABO members are excited to begin planning their annual fashion show. The spring fashion show is Wednesday, April 24th at noon in NDSU’s Memorial Union Ballroom.

Save the Date:
FABO Fashion Show
Wednesday, April 24th
at 12:00 PM
NDSU Memorial Union
Great Plains Ballroom

FABO members celebrate the holidays at Herd and Horns near campus

Others: Fargo’s Fair Trade Boutique (Cont.)
Creative Capital Design

Britta Cabanos is an NDSU alum from the Apparel, Retail Merchandising and Design program. After graduation, she received an associate’s degree in design from FIT with a focus in active wear. Britta has held a variety of design jobs over the course of her career, including designing licensed products for Donna Karan, DKNY, Tommy Hilfiger and Nike Swim. She also had own swim line, which she sold to Victoria’s Secret and swimwear boutiques across the country. She is on the Board of Visitors for NDSU’s College of HD&E.

After her 9-year career at Nike and 20 years in the industry, Britta became a freelance design consultant. She soon partnered with Rebecca Ward, another freelance designer in the Portland area. They pooled their connections and resources to form a partnership: Creative Capital Design. Today, the company has grown into a consulting company for small-scale companies to large brands to use as a design resource. CCD offers services in strategy, design, development, sourcing and product management.

worked with the design team to create trend boards using Adobe Illustrator, comp-shopped and developed trend forecasts, conducted sourcing research, and attended fittings. For her special project, Katie assisted with a sustainable t-shirt project that CCD was working on. Katie really enjoyed the experience. She found her passion for working with product development, and she learned a lot from Britta. She encourages other NDSU students to take advantage of internship opportunities, ask lots of questions, and be open to experiences that take you outside of the Midwest.

Recently, Creative Capital Design launched its sister company, Inside Fashion Design. Inside Fashion Design is an online resource to inform, inspire, educate, share stories, and create community connections for the design industry. They publish content on their website, blog, newsletter, and on social media and now offer workshops in their studio, led by highly experienced industry experts. Inside Fashion Design is a new part of CCD, and it is growing fast. Britta now spends most of her time creating content and building relationships for this new resource. Last year, Inside Fashion Design sponsored NDSU’s FABO fashion show. They also sponsored a scholarship to financially support an NDSU student pursuing a New York City fashion internship. The Apparel, Retail Merchandising, and Design program at NDSU is excited to grow our partnership with Inside Fashion Design.
Apparel Studies Student Travels to LA for Summer Internship

Sierra Steenson, a senior majoring in Apparel Studies at NDSU, spent her summer in Los Angeles interning with fashion design house Moda Seta. Moda Seta designs private label merchandise for retailers like Urban Outfitters, Tilly’s, PacSun, Forever 21, and Macy’s. Most of Sierra’s duties in her internship revolved around product design. She primarily worked in graphic design. She also assisted with selecting fabrics and silhouettes for new product, put together inspiration boards, sat in on business meetings, and worked in the warehouse.

Sierra’s special project was a design challenge using a surplus of camo fabric that had been acquired by Moda Seta. Sierra’s team was challenged to design an edgy, junior t-shirt for the extra fabric. She enjoyed the challenge, and was really happy with the end result. Sierra was very happy with the artistic freedom that she was given over the course of the internship. She credits her design courses here at NDSU for helping her refine her design aesthetic and build her creativity. She advises underclassmen to start building their resume and portfolio now to stand out when applying for competitive internships.

Overall, Sierra loved the experience of interning in LA for the summer. The diversity of the city excited her, and she looks forward to moving back to LA to pursue a career in fashion design after graduation. Best of luck, Sierra!

Minneapolis Study Tour

In October, ARMD students traveled to Minneapolis for their fall study tour to learn about the apparel industry in the Twin Cities. During the three day tour, they visited AM Retail Group, Coolibar, Target, Clothier Design Source, Made for Retail, Evereve, and Anthropologie. The students also attended a dinner with alumni from the ARMD program who live and work in Minneapolis. They learned first-hand about product development and design, visual merchandising, retail store leadership, buying, and much more. In their free time, the class attended the show Beautiful – The Carole King Story at the Orpheum and did a shopping assignment at the Galleria Mall in Edina.

When asked about her favorite part of the study tour, Janet Tumainai, a Senior ARMD student said, “It was a worthwhile tour overall for me. The best parts for me was hearing from the NDSU Alumni, visiting with Target’s PD&D and VM teams, and touring the smaller companies like Coolibar, Clothier Design Source, and Made for Retail.”

Editor’s Note: Katie Fischer, a Senior ARMD student is again the Student Editor for this newsletter. Katie received the Inside Fashion Design Scholarship this past spring and interned in New York City over the summer. We hope you’ve enjoyed this newsletter. If you have ideas for future newsletters or would like to share about your career, email:

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