

By: Andi Shae Napier

Fashion bleeds creativity and inspiration; it has no barriers or borders. It's a medium that everyone can speak through, and in this case, it's Liberty University students who are communicating through their creations.

Liberty University's Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) is hosting their 18th annual Fashion Show in the School of Music Concert Hall on April 13. This year's theme is "Le Monde de Texture," (the world of texture) and outside of it being a huge production, it's a huge task for student designers trying to express themselves in their designs.

Beginning with 20 student designers, 40 student models, those in leadership roles, CSER volunteers, and the tech team, there are over 100 people coming together to put on this show. This year, it all happened to begin with Liberty student Elise Oliver.

Oliver is the director of the 2024 FACS Fashion Show, and a junior studying fashion design. She began planning the event in July, and the official process started in September with the designers launch. Potential designers attend the event to hear the show's theme and begin brainstorming.

Oliver broke down where the inspiration for this year's show came from.

"When you think of fashion you think of like, art. You think of people and cities and fashion weeks and runways and magazines. And one thing that really spoke to me was it's fashion and art, but what makes art?" she said. "There's so many different textures and types of fashion and types of materials that you can use to create garments. So I was really inspired by like all the different textures, especially across fashion, beauty and culture."

Last year's theme was "Fashion Speaks" and Oliver credits those designers for pushing her to new creative heights.

"It was kind of whatever speaks to you as a designer. And so I saw the designers were very challenged by that because they had so much freedom," she said. "So I wanted to continue that challenge. How can I challenge my creativity but include texture? Texture is something fun, I thought!"

Avery Ours is a senior participating in the fashion show for the first time. She's designing one garment and she felt this year's theme really gave room for creative choices.

"I honestly thought it was pretty interesting cause it's kinda nice having this opportunity to like, go out of your way to do something that's hot couture," she said. "Now you get to like, have creative freedom. And the theme is not so much restrictive, it's like guiding to feed your ideas."

Krislyn Grigg is a junior, and a third year fashion show designer. In her interview, she couldn't say enough positive things about her FACS fashion show experience.

“It's a great experience because my first year I just kinda threw myself into it. I had no idea how to sew at all. It's just a great community because you can go into the sewing lab and they'll just be like, ‘Oh I'll help you, girl!’ and make you learn,” she said. “They're all super sweet and nice and honestly, it is a really great experience. I enjoy it every year.”

Grigg wanted to dive deep and really communicate through her art and she believes this show's theme allowed her to do that.

“For this year, I really took inspiration from just like, not even just the idea of the theme, but my personal stories and backgrounds. I really took that into it,” she said. “I can implement the texture through this kind of thing. I just wanted to really take in my story and keep it all my personal branding.”

With four days until the show, finishing touches have been added, rehearsals have been completed, designers have their testimonies for their pieces prepped, and tickets are on sale. To purchase yours for \$12, go to [Liberty.edu/Tickets](http://Liberty.edu/Tickets). Tickets will be sold at the door for \$15. Stop by on April 13 at 8 p.m. to see the world of texture brought to life.