

# art2wear

The annual Art2Wear [A2W] fashion show has become one of the University's largest and most popular events, attracting over 6000 attendees from students to journalists to fashionistas who come to get a glimpse of the fashion industry through the eyes of its next generation of designers. As the event grows each year, a new set of advisors from some of the biggest names in fashion has been brought in to help students to think even more boldly and strategically about their designs.

To lead the way, two dynamic new faculty advisors have come on board. Katherine Diuguid ['05 ID; '11 MAD], serves as the faculty advisor and executive director for A2W. Katherine's interest in design and fashion grew after presenting in A2W as a senior. She was the first student in the industrial design program to be juried into the show. After graduation, she attended Parsons [New School of Design] and had the great opportunity to intern with Michael Kors and Michael Toschi, as well as travel to Europe to take extensive courses in needlework and embroidery.

Justin LeBlanc ['09 ARCH] joins the A2W team, also serving as the faculty advisor and executive director. LeBlanc also has a Master of Design degree in Fashion, Body and Garment from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

After leaving NC State, LeBlanc interned for the late powerhouse designer, Alexander McQueen, and renowned Chicago artist Nick Cave, while pursuing his master's degree in fashion, body and garment at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

"My internships allowed me to understand the demands of the fashion industry," LeBlanc said. "I hope to bring that energy and experience to A2W."

To add to this powerhouse team and serve as the creative director of A2W is another big name in the fashion industry – award-winning marketing professional, creative director, author and branding expert Raymond Nadeau. Nadeau has worked with numerous celebrities from Jennifer Lopez and Reese Witherspoon to top designers, Andy Hilfiger, Vivienne Westwood and Marc Jacobs.

Nadeau brings his experience to the classroom, teaching students the business of fashion design and connecting the College with fashion icons to launch the new A2W Lecture Series. "One of our goals is to make A2W a campus-wide discussion, and the lecture series we've designed will help us do that," Katherine Diuguid says. "We're inviting top designers, photographers, stylists, creative directors, and more to campus to engage in discussion with students and faculty about creation and design. We want people to see fashion as a cultural artifact, and this lecture series is the vehicle to address this across all disciplines."

"This event sends a message to the world that creativity in apparel isn't restricted to one region of the country. NC State is truly a leader in developing quality creative minds," Nadeau says. "A2W is becoming a real 'living brand' for the University. 'It's more than a fashion show or competition – it's a powerful statement of who we are.'" **D**



Katherine Diuguid



Justin LeBlanc



Raymond Nadeau

