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**University of North Texas Student Wins
Paris American Academy Best of Show Award
at 43rd Annual FGI Career Day**

**Sewing therapy inspires winner's future career
designing clothing for disabled**

DALLAS, TX – April 14, 2011 – Courtney Powers, a University of North Texas fashion student, grabbed the hearts of judges with a winning collection that garnered her The Fashion Group International of Dallas Career Day Paris American Academy Best of Show Award on April 1, 2011.

Miss Powers, who nearly lost her arm in a car crash, received the coveted scholarship which included tuition for a summer semester, airfare and spending money to attend the acclaimed Paris American Academy in Paris, France. While in therapy for her injured arm, she was advised to take up sewing, which led to her enrollment in UNT's fashion design program and a planned career designing clothing for the disabled.

More than 450 entries were submitted by students from 42 colleges and universities across 12 states who attended Career Day. Students competed in fashion design, merchandising and fashion illustration for more than \$30,000 in scholarship awards from the Fashion Group International of Dallas Foundation Fund, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Dallas Market Center, DAVACO, Four-Legged Fashion Fund, Brad Hughes & Associates, Lori Veith Sales, The National Needleart Association, Neiman-Marcus Willow Bend and Cure Couture who sponsored a scholarship in memory of Linda Segal, a Texas Designer who did not survive her battle with breast cancer.

Fashion Group's Career Day Dallas is the longest running and largest fashion career event of its kind in the country, attracting more than 1100 students and faculty. The full day of seminars, exhibits, and keynote speakers culminates with a spectacular runway fashion show featuring the winners of the fashion design scholarship competition in several categories.

Fashion Group International of Dallas Awards were presented in the following categories:

Casual Wear :

- 1st Cesar Arzola, University of North Texas, \$500
- 2nd Christina Lazarine, University of the Incarnate Word, \$300
- 3rd Kirsten Shisko, University of North Texas, \$200

Career Wear:

- 1st Bao Tran, University of North Texas, \$500
- 2nd Karis Wade, Baylor University, \$300
- 3rd Elicia Wittschko, University of North Texas, \$200

Cocktail/Eveningwear:

- 1st Barrett Hutchison, Louisiana State University, \$500
- 2nd Kim Phuong Pham, University of North Texas, \$300
- 3rd Robert Richard, University of North Texas, \$200

Theatre/Artwear:

- 1st William Baldwin, Houston Community College, \$500
- 2nd K.L. Cao, Houston Community College, \$300
- 3rd Sherry Brown, Texas Women's University, \$200

Bridal:

- 1st Michelle Mahler, Missouri State University, \$500
- 2nd Angela Saenz, University of Texas/Austin, \$300
- 3rd Lauren Miller, Louisiana State University, \$200

Fashion Group International of Dallas additional awards included:

Four-Legged Fashion Fund Canine Meets Couture:

- 1st Amelia (Mia) Berry, Baylor University, \$300
 - 2nd Robert Richard, University of North Texas, \$200
 - 3rd Claire Major, Baylor University, \$100
- Honorable Mention: Karina Garza, Art Institute of Dallas

Re-Purposed Denim Award:

- 1st Bryttany Chambers, Art Institute of Dallas, \$300
- 2nd Kinsey McCabe, Texas Tech University, \$200
- 3rd Carissa Reilly, University of Wisconsin-Stout, \$100

The National Needlearts Scholarship:

Renee LaCoste, Louisiana State University, \$500

Linda Segal Memorial Scholarship:

Jelyn Hobson, University of North Texas, \$1000

DAVACO /Havaianas Award winners were:

- 1st Teate Vines, Texas Women's University, \$500
- 2nd Tanaka Denega, Texas Women's University, \$300
- 3rd Jeremy Lutat, University of Arkansas, \$200

Dallas Market Center sponsored "The Little Red Dress" competition to highlight its "You Can't Miss Red" Brand. Winners announced were:

- 1st Katherine Jacobs, Texas Tech University, \$300
- 2nd Hannah Blalock, University of North Texas, \$200
- 3rd Stephanie Stark, Texas Tech University, \$100

Students also competed for the Fashion Illustration Award, sponsored by Neiman Marcus Willow Bend. The award went to:

- 1st Katrina Lee, University of North Texas, \$500

Texas Department of Agriculture Awards were presented to:

Cotton Garment Category:

- 1st Robert Richard, University of North Texas
- 2nd Amy Huang, University of North Texas
- 3rd Heather Fitzgerald, University of the Incarnate Word

Wool Garment Category:

- 1st Lizvette Damman, Baylor University
- 2nd Estefania Vazquez, Baylor University
- 3rd Viet Kent Nguyen, Houston Community College

Mohair Garment Category:

- 1st Elizabeth Cauthen, Delta State University
- 2nd Erick Tovar, Houston Community College
- 3rd K.L. Cao, Houston Community College

Winners of the Texas Department of Agriculture Trend Board competition were:

Cotton Trend Boards:

- 1st Kinsey McCabe, Texas Tech University
- 2nd Ashley Taylor, University of Arkansas
- 3rd Lauren Koenigsman, University of Arkansas

Wool Trend Boards:

- 1st Traci L. Carter, Texas Tech University
- 2nd Leone Islam, Texas Tech University
- 3rd Lyndsey Blakey, Texas Tech University

Mohair Trend Boards:

- 1st Alexis Ybarra, El Centro
- 2nd Sharlah Boyd, University of Central Oklahoma
- 3rd Ashli Gorton, Delta State University

TDA Best of Show Awards:

- City Sewing Machine - Viet Kent Nguyen, Houston Community College
- Bos-Jenome Sewing Machine - Robert Richard, University of North Texas
- Lectra Scholarship - Courtney Powers, University of North Texas

Dallas Career Day, hosted by Fashion Group International of Dallas, was created to provide philanthropic educational outreach for college and university students seeking careers in the fashion and lifestyle industries. This year, students heard inspirational keynote speeches and attended more than 20 different classes presented by top professionals in fashion-related fields, including internationally renowned trend expert, David Wolfe, and a trend fashion show presented by Chuck Steelman, PR Manager for Neiman Marcus Willow Bend. For more information about Career Day, visit www.dallascareerday.org.

Dallas Career Day would also like to give a special “Thank You” to our show Producer, Rhonda Sargent Chambers of RSC Show Productions for all of the dedication and hard work she puts into such a wonderful show. Please learn more about RSC Productions by visiting <http://www.rscshow.com/>.

Fashion Group International of Dallas

FGI Dallas is a global, non-profit, professional organization with more than 6,000 members representing all areas of the fashion industry. Fashion Group provides a high-profile forum to promote the fashion business by hosting events that educate and facilitate the exchange of ideas by giving back to the community. For more information about FGI Dallas visit <http://dallas.fgi.org> or contact Esther Morales, Operations Manager for FGI Dallas at 214-634-0204, or e-mail fgidallas-staff@sbcglobal.net.

Editor’s Note: Photos from the event are available upon request.

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