Ohlone alumna ‘tumbles’ her way to Fashion Week

By ASHLEY LAM  
Staff writer

Tanesha Awasthi, an alumna of Ohlone, took up fashion blogging merely six months ago and to date she already has 24,000 followers on Tumblr. Awasthi attended Ohlone to fulfill her general requirements before transferring to UC Berkeley to complete a bachelor’s degree in English. She had a professor at Ohlone she forgot her name is Bruce Bennett and he was one of the first professors to encourage that the sketchbook for their sketchbook and the option of buying a shirt, having over 10,000 followers on Tumblr. The tour was sponsored by Tumblr.

Awasthi said that just eight weeks before fashion week, Tumblr had announced that they would send a group of bloggers to cover the new York fashion week. Awasthi quickly jumped at this opportunity and sent an email to the fashion director of Tumblr to apply.

After a Skype interview, Awasthi made it to the final round and packed her bags for New York city. While at New York Fashion Week, Awasthi saw a number of shows. She said the shows that stood out the most for her were Oscar De La Renta, Christian Siriano and the television hit “Project Runway” finale taping.

“My absolute favorite show was Oscar De La Renta. His gowns are amazing, and the models had a confidence that made their beauty shine from the inside out as they floated down the runway,” Awasthi said.

“I also got a glimpse of Anna Wintour, whom I look up to in a major way, being that she’s Vogue magazine’s Editor-in-Chief,” Awasthi also said that the general feel of the runway shows this season consisted of many bold colors, vintage-inspired trends, feminine silhouettes, maxi shirts and midi-length dresses. After fashion week, Awasthi said that she was able to bring a bit of fashion week back home with her.

“I think every show I saw inspired me in some way, especially Christian Siriano’s collection, with its bold color and sheer fabrics,” said Awasthi. “I already wear lots of color and I love sheers, so seeing them styled in different ways on the runway gave me new ideas on how to wear things that I’m already wearing and it’s always nice being able to re-wear things that are already in my closet!”

Although Awasthi’s blog and trip to New York Fashion Week were both recent successes, Awasthi’s interest in fashion started at a much earlier age.

“I think my love for fashion stemmed from seeing my Grandma get dressed-up in her intricate jewelry, three-piece suits, hats and high heels. I loved how pretty she looked in her matching skirt, top and blazer suit and sparkling jewelry. She looked like a movie star, and I wanted to dress just like her when I grew-up,” Awasthi said.

Awasthi has a full-time job in the technology field, but she still keeps up her fashion blog, girlwithcurves.tumblr.com. In her free time, she started a blog. I knew I wanted to write about fashion, but I wasn’t exactly sure what I’d focus on,” she said.

“As an experiment, I posted a picture on flickr. A week later, I discovered my picture was posted and repinned over 100 times on Tumblr. I immediately decided I’d start a blog about my own, personal style, and decided to call it “Girl with Curves,” since most of the comments were about me being curvy,” Awasthi said she has been getting amazing feedback on her blog and she has been a huge inspiration for women of all ages, shapes and sizes.

When Awasthi looks forward, she doesn’t want to be as a stylist or designer. She said she hopes to work in the fashion industry, being able to re-wear my clothes more than once. She said, “Far too many times, have I heard girls say that they hate shopping, due to the frustration they face in finding clothes they feel good in, therefore they want to lose weight.” In the future, Awasthi said she hopes to work in the fashion industry may-be as a stylist or designer. She said that she has always dreamed of moving to New York or Los Angeles to pursue a career in fashion.

She said that she aspires to create her own clothing line specifically with curvy bodies in mind.

Sketchbook tour will visit U.S.

By AMY SCOTT  
Opinions editor

In 2012, Brooklyn Art Library will be hosting its third annual Sketchbook Project Tour. The site describes it as a “concert tour without the band.” Artists around the world can participate in the tour. The participant can pick from 40 different themes for their sketchbook and the Library arranges that the theme is just a starting point. Artists can take their book in any direction they want. As long as the book is filled with the artist’s work, whether it be drawings, paintings, stories, etc. Major cities all over the United States will be visited by the tour as well as cities in Canada, England and Australia. The tour boasted of having over 10,000 sketchbooks last year. The participation fee for the tour is $25, which pays for the sketchbook for the tour. When ordering the sketchbook, participants also get the option of buying a shirt, having their sketchbook professionally scanned for online viewing for an extra $20 and a charity of their choice to donate a free sketchbook.

Registration for the tour ends on October 31. Sketchbooks must also be sent in by January 31 and the tour will start April 2012. Participants can go to the website at http://www.arthouseco-op.com/projects/sketchbookproject to register and sign up for the tour.

A model struts down the catwalk at Fashion Week dressed in an Oscar de la Renta dress.

Awasthi also offered words of advice to young fashion advocates and bloggers. “The best advice I can offer is to develop your own unique voice,” Awasthi said, “Your readers will want to engage in your blog because you have something to offer that appeals to them, so it’s important to stay true to yourself, your style and have fun blogging.”

‘My car is on fire’

September 29, 2011 monitor 5

A vehicle that was parked in parking lot C on Sept. 28 sent plumes of smoke into the air as it burned. The cause of the fire is unknown.