

ALUMNI STORIES

TALENT PERSONIFIED Selecting just a few of our amazingly talented graduates is no easy task. From designing gowns for the red carpet to creating graphics for Marvel Comics, FIDM Alumni are creative thinkers, entrepreneurs, and business executives around the world. We'd like to introduce you to just a few.

“I looked at other universities and FIDM is so career-focused; there’s definitely more of a one-on-one environment compared to a larger university.” Heidi Westgaard, FIDM Grad



Vani Kumar

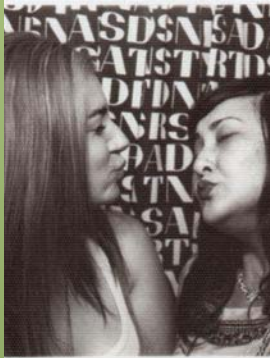
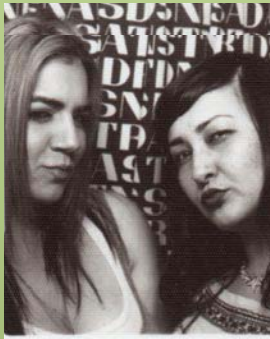
BUSINESS OWNER VANI KUMAR

Apparel Manufacturing & Management Program Alumna Vani Kumar is the owner of The Suit Closet, a one-stop shop for businesswomen in Downtown Los Angeles. “Each day may include being on the sales floor with my employees, reviewing inventory, making sure the books are up to date, analyzing marketing efforts, or writing checks to vendors. I like to be involved in every aspect of my company,” says the busy entrepreneur. “What I love most about my job is that I make my customer’s life easier, and that makes us both happy.”

GRAPHIC DESIGNER JEFF POULIN

As the Senior Creative Manager of Creative Services at Marvel, Graphic Design Alumnus Jeff Poulin is living out what many would consider to be a dream job. “It was my dream to work with Marvel as a young fan and it is my pleasure to work with Marvel as an adult,” he says. “I love working in the Super Hero business because it reaches across so many creative mediums. In one day I can go from writing stories for our characters or designing for apparel, to reading an authentic comic book from 1972.”





Nichole Kreglow & Stephanie Bodnar

FASHION DESIGNERS NICHOLE KREGLOW AND STEPHANIE BODNAR

Fashion Design Professional Designation Program Graduates Nichole Kreglow and Stephanie Bodnar met while attending classes, including History of Costume and Intermediate and Advanced Draping and Pattern Drafting, at FIDM San Francisco. However, it was when they became partners in their fourth quarter Collection Development class that the creative sparks really began to fly! Since then, their fashion designs have been on display at both the de Young and Legion of Honor museums and they launched a new line OdileOdette, inspired by the two swans in Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*.



BEAUTY PRODUCT DEVELOPER ALTHEA LIM

Beauty Industry Merchandising & Marketing Alumna Althea Lim is the Global Skincare Product Development Administrator for cosmetics giant Estée Lauder. “My experience at FIDM was amazing,” remembers Althea. “Everything from the classes to the materials used, to the faculty and classrooms—it’s all designed to inspire creativity and educate on how to use that creativity in the work force.”

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Design by Alumna Monique Lhuillier

FASHION DESIGNER MONIQUE LHUILLIER

Monique Lhuillier took the bridal industry by storm with her high fashion gowns. Now her glamorous eveningwear and bridalwear collections are sold in some of the most upscale boutiques around the world and she's launched a line of tableware in collaboration with Royal Doulton. Celebrities including Sophia Bush, Evan Rachel Wood, and Ashlee Simpson have been spotted in her incredibly gorgeous designs.

INTERIOR DESIGNER MICHELE ROSE COSEO

"I am an Interior Design junkie," reports alumna Michele Rose Coseo, owner and principal interior designer of the Savannah Design Group based in Escondido, California. Design was probably in the Libertyville, Illinois native's blood. Her mom is an interior designer and her dad is a contractor. The Interior Design graduate founded her business in 1998, and today is a leader in model home design for national builders. The Savannah Design Group is known for breathing life and creating personality and lifestyle from a lifeless floor plan.



Design by Michele Rose Coseo

“The effort you put into your career will guide you towards your path in life. By making intentional choices toward your goal, you will get where you want to be.”

Sivorn Ouch, Theatre Costume Design Alumna



Image from Rich & Skinny look book

CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND DENIM LINE CO-OWNER JOIE RUCKER

Joie Rucker, who designed for Levi's and Guess prior to launching the wildly successful Joie, is now the creative director and co-owner behind the celebrity favorite denim line Rich & Skinny with partner Michael Glasser, who founded Seven For All Mankind and Citizen of Humanity. Everyone from Beyoncé and Leighton Meester to Paris Hilton and Teri Hatcher has worn Rich & Skinny and fashion editors can't get enough either.