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Designing in the genes for NKU student

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EDGEWOOD - Celia Reyer has studied fashion design in Los Angeles and Palm Beach, but has returned home to Northern Kentucky to finish her education and start her own business.

This summer, the Northern Kentucky University student will travel to Scotland on a scholarship to study design.

Scotland isn't the first country one thinks of to study high fashion.

"Scotland isn't the obvious choice, but the course covers many areas of design, which is perfect for me," said Reyer, 26, of Edgewood. "It covers architecture, which I love because my design inspiration comes from the beauty of the past and that includes architecture.

"It also covers landscape design, which correlates with my museum exhibition design studies and works."

The scholarship was offered through Northern Kentucky University and the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad.

In Los Angeles she earned a degree at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. Later, she moved to Palm Beach to design costumes for Broadway plays.

"I got the job in Palm Beach to work in costume design because of my knowledge of apparel production and my love of historic design - the Broadway productions for the shows I worked on were set in the late 1800s to 1960s," said Reyer.

Reyer said she wanted to be a designer since the age of 8. Growing up she watched her parents, Jack and Ruth Reyer, design National Football League apparel from their Edgewood-based business, National Sports Properties.

"Growing up, consciously or subconsciously I soaked in all of the priceless knowledge that my parents were so happy to pass along to me and my siblings," said Reyer. "I think knowing I was going to be a designer was just completely natural."

While her desire to design took her elsewhere, home called Reyer back.

"I returned to Northern Kentucky to spend time with my family after being gone for so many years and to regroup," she said. "I have had the opportunity to design custom designs for Addison Mac, a designer boutique, as well as to work as a wardrobe consultant."

Reyer said NKU offered her the best chance to broaden her education.

"I'm at NKU because I like the school and what I am studying," said Reyer. "I figure getting more education in different areas of design will only broaden my abilities as a designer."
