

Tokyo, Japan September 2017

My first trip to Japan was an invaluable learning experience which I can now pass on to my students. Being able to visit Tokyo gave me an overall deeper understanding of the culture, a bit of how Japanese conduct their business and business opportunities in the fashion industry in Japan.

We attended/participated in various fashion related events and activities. The first was the 84th Tokyo International Gift Show, "Spotlight on American Products" which Kaui Waller a former UHMC Fashion Technology student participated in selling tote bags. We attended Vogue Tokyo Fashion Nite Out and met up with another former Fashion Tech student, Yuji Usui who is currently living in Japan and recently applied for a position at Vogue. Also, we attended a class on Traditional Indigo Dyeing in Wanariya.

Upon returning, I shared our experience with the students of my "Art and Design in Fashion" class and photos of our tour of Bunka Fashion College. I showed them a video clip of a recent student fashion show as well of photos of projects the students created such as fashion illustrations, garments and decorated umbrellas from the accessory class. I was able give them insight into what they would have to do to prepare if they decided they wanted to attend a four-year college abroad and what they can expect to learn.