

# Fall fashions — smashing, progressive

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Staff Writer

As autumn leaves begin changing colors, area clothiers begin turning their attention to new season wardrobes.

The fashion scene this year ranges from muted charcoal grays to shocking neon yellows, from cropped pants to long skirts, from oversized wool jackets to lace stockings.

"There's really no such thing as 'in' or 'out' in fashion," said Bob Simpson, owner of Town and Campus. "What looks good and makes you feel good about yourself is what's here now."

Simpson said the unrestricted, oversized style is popular because people enjoy the comfort and versatility of the larger designs. According to manufacturers, he said, everyone soon will get used to oversized clothings and consider it average.

Although many think of women as the major trend setters, men tend to be very innovative about clothes, Simpson said. Of course, now there is a lot of "cross-over" dressing, where males and females wear the same styles, he said.

"A lot of folks like the stone-washed and wrinkled look for both sexes. Earthy tones, such as neutrals and grays, are popular, too . . . especially with a neon color, like bright yellow or orange, for contrast," he explained.

Colors play a major role in the styles at Benetton, said owner Martin Okun. "Many colors in our clothes aren't used by other designers, like Ralph Lauren or Calvin Klein," he said.

Bright boatneck, crewneck and V-neck sweaters are selling well this season, he said, in addition to jumper dresses that can be worn over a shirt or with a belt.

Another popular feature this fall is padded shoulders in jackets and sweaters, Okun said. "It reminds me of the Joan Crawford style of the '40s," he said.

Despite past influences, women's interview-wear, for example, does not have to be the standard navy suit and white blouse, according to Martha Trotter, manager of the Towne Shop.

"Women should allow their clothes to make a positive statement about them. It takes confidence to pull it off, but it's worth it not to look just like everyone else," she said.

Trotter suggested a long jacket with a straight skirt, or a pen or scarf instead of a bow or high collar. "Being conservative doesn't have to be boring," she said.

Women can update classic suits with current accessories or added layers, she said. Also, cotton sweaters that can be combined with wool items, according to the weather, are useful wardrobe additions for interview or casual dressing.

"You can use what you have and modify it to keep up with fashion," Trotter said. "The trends that are coming — classic and affordable — fit Chapel Hill."

And classic is here to stay, said Billy Calary, manager at Julian's College Shop. He mentioned traditional wools, tweeds and plaids as still being stylish with men. He said charcoal gray remains popular as a fashionable fall color.

Texture, such as that of a nubby, hand-knitted sweater, is the "big item" this season, said Michie Barnes, manager of Scarlett O'Hara's.

Also, blocked, striped and diagonal designs, as well as pullover vests, crop-length pants and hip-wrap skirts, characterize today's clothing scene, she said.

"Length is very versatile now," she said. "We carry both long skirts and shorter, slit-at-the-ankle pants, which seem to be a favorite. A new addition to pants this year is four stitched seams in the bottom of the legs to give an ironed appearance."

Designers are currently adding more details to items, Barnes said. To complement this trend she suggested coordinating shoes, belts and jewelry with clothing to form a winning outfit.

Favorite accessories among shoppers this fall include wide leather belts, brass bracelets, wooden bangles and abstract necklaces of black or natural wood, she said.

While heavier weight clothing is necessary for cool weather, what does one wear to cocktail parties and other evening occasions? Formal styles do not change that much, Barnes said, and female students tend to purchase traditional dresses, like silk chemises, that will be appropriate for years to come.

"In this day and age, you've got to invest money in clothes that will last and blend with changing fashion moods. We strive to give women a total look from head to toe using simple lines and attractive colors," she said.

Trends often come from magazines like *Seventeen*, and Pam Welser, fashion consultant for the magazine, mentioned many of the styles discussed in Chapel Hill.

"The look now is classic with a dash of punk, sort of a prep-funk combination," she said.

Music Television has had a big influence on fashion, Welser said, and this is one reason why people are opting for the neon colors and oversized jackets. Also, anything ornate, from antique rhinestones to clear plastic, is acceptable for detail, she said.

"Winter whites are popular this year, and so are shaker-net sweaters where you can see the knit pearl," Welser said.

Unusual patterns in lace stockings, socks and sweaters are signs of the times, just as are mixed plaids and checks, she said.

While fall fashion is described as being anything from a wool blazer to a plastic miniskirt, confused students can relax and follow their intuitions. "Students come to school and have been dressing the same for about 19 years; they're ready for a change and a new image," Simpson said. "That new look is totally up to the individual. There's something for everyone this time of year."

Photography by Charles Ledford

Fall Fashion editor, Cindy Dunlevy

Models —  
Jett Ferebee  
Susie Almand  
Rebecca Rollinson

The rites of

# FALL



From Julian's College Shop and Benetton — perfect for the crisp, cool days in Kenan Stadium