Khadija Ahmed: First hijab-wearing model to walk the runway

Freshman Khadija Ahmed makes her modeling debut as the first hijab-wearing model for the Iowa State Fashion Show.

BY OLIVIA HANSON
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For the first time in its history, the Iowa State Fashion Show has selected a hijab-wearing model to walk in their annual fashion show, Khadija Ahmed.

Ahmed, a freshman in business and supply chain management, said she had no idea she was The Fashion Show’s first hijab-wearingmodel. She said she thought she was just another to fall in line. In the future, she said she hopes to see more hijab-wearing models try out for The Fashion Show.

“I honestly didn’t know because there’s a lot of Muslim people and I thought I would just be one of people who’ve done it before, but to be the first is kind of cool,” Ahmed said. “I hope more people come and try it out. I’m helping people step over those boundaries that hijab-wearing people can’t do modeling or fashion.”

What prompted Ahmed to try out to be a fashion show model was when she came to The Fashion Show at Iowa State last year on a field trip with her sewing class from East High School in Des Moines.

“I think that’s why I wanted to try it was because it left a good impression on me and because of how all of the clothes were represent-ed,” Ahmed said. “The music and everything… it was nice.”

This year’s modeling directors, Emily Curtiss, Abigail Greeser and Shane Fye, were the ones that selected Ahmed to be in this year’s show. They also didn’t know they’d picked The Fashion Show’s first hijab-wearing model either until Fashion Show adviser Sarah Bennett told them. They selected Ahmed strictly on the basis of her walk and the confidence she displayed.

“I remember the first practice. I remember this so distinctly because she was just killing it,” Curtiss said. “She has such a sassy walk and we love that. We love walks with personality.”

Everyone was nervous for the first modeling practice, Curtiss said, but Ahmed had a look of confidence when she walked. Curtiss then stopped the practice and had Fye turn off the music. She said, ‘Hey, I want to point someone out for everybody.’ She had Ahmed walk in front of the whole room and she just lit up and everybody clapped for her.

“I mean she did phenomenal,” Curtiss said. “She has an amazing walk. That’s why we chose her.”

The design Ahmed will walk in at The Fashion Show is an athletic outfit made by Rose Echard, a junior in apparel merchandising and design.

Originally, the outfit was a V-neck, short-sleeved shirt with cropped leggings, but Echard tailored the garments to be less revealing for Ahmed. She made the shirt long-sleeve with a higher neckline to make Ahmed more comfortable, as it is a part of her religion to wear modest clothing.

Echard also made Ahmed an athletic-wear hijab, a task that is not taught in the apparel, merchandising and design department and one that Echard hadn’t done before. Echard said she made it the night before the garments were due by searching online how to make a hijab. Her inspiration was the Nike Pro hijab, which was just released this spring.

“It was definitely a cool experience because it was something that I never tried and it’s something that is being talked about a lot right now — just kind of like inclusive fashion and obviously diversity is a big topic on campus right now. So it was a cool experience to get to design that for her and it was something I had never tried, so I just figured it out as I went,” Echard said.

Originally, Ahmed was going to wear a blue one to match, but Echard thought a Nike Pro type hijab would be better and Ahmed hopped on board with Echard’s idea.

TRIVIA

Wednesday
8:30 pm to 11:00 pm

$3.00 Yum Yum Bombs (7 -11)
$3.00 Tater Tot Casserole (till 10)
$3.00 Coors Light Draw (7 -11)
$3.00 Chuck Norris Bombs (7 -11)
PRIZES AWARDED NIGHTLY!
From dorm friends to outgoing president, vice president:

**West-Smith reflect on their term**

BY ALEX CONNOR

Freshman year, before classes even started, Cody West had Student Government on his mind.

“I still remember my first day on campus,” West said. “I emailed Hillary Kletcher at the time, who was student body president, and I said: ‘I really, really interested in finding a way to be involved in Student Government at Iowa State. Can you help me?’”

She responded: Yes, Monday at 8 a.m. — the first day of classes.

“And people just can’t believe it, because it’s such a ‘Cody West thing’ is what they tell me,” he said.

Growing up in Altona, Iowa, West had always known that Iowa State was the place for him. The extent to his participation on campus, however, he wasn’t so sure. In his mind, he was here to research and study.

“My mom had talked about Iowa State and I knew it was where I wanted to end up. I was very selective in the colleges I applied to and I decided to come here way before it became my comfort zone,” West, president, said.

But for vice president Cody Smith, who met West his freshman year when the two lived in the same hallway on the sixth floor of Larch Hall, his first few days on campus were different. To him, Iowa State and all it had to offer hadn’t yet solidified, the university still had to prove itself to him.

From rural Indiana, Smith remembers his second day living on campus. During Destination Iowa State activities, he began thinking, “I want to go home. I don’t want to be here. This was a mistake.”

But then he realized why he came to Iowa State in the first place and why on his first campus visit in high school, he knew that he’d have to explain to his family why going to college out-of-state and in Ames felt right.

“I was like, I know to do what I want to do with my life and my career (that) I’m going to have to invest in myself here,” he said. “I’ll be out of my comfort zone, so that’s what motivated me to knock on the doors of random strangers in my hallway and ask if they wanted to get food.”

Cody, meet Cody.

**FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS**

For West and Smith, they felt the past year was successful because of the relationships they fostered and built during their administration.

While the office of Student Government president and vice president carries weight, to West and Smith it’s more about what you do on the presidential search committee which consumed much of his time as Student Government president, but also helped bring a new leader to the university.

While Cyclone 101 — a course on university-wide calendar system that could be used as a tool to better engage with the student body. But, it never came to fruition.

At the same time, however, West served on the presidential search committee which consumed much of his time as Student Government president, but also helped bring a new leader to the university.

For West, who served as vice president for a year and as president the next year, he touched the presidency, but also helped bring a new leader to the university.

“The [Cyclone] Carnival, even,” he said. “We never implemented, the university undertook a task force to review the onboarding process for incoming and transfer students. The two wanted to address lease gaps for students but fell into a larger housing issue regarding student occupancy in homes, as well as the conditions in which students live. This issue fostered lobbying by Student Government on behalf of student’s voices, as well as the launch of a residential rating system for properties across Ames.

The bottom line?

“Each day and each semester presents unique classes and challenges and initiatives and crises on campus, I mean, it’s everything that you could possibly think of,” West said.

“We don’t have it all figured out, some people think we do, but we really just take it one day at a time and do the best we can and I think that’s what we’ve done over the past year.”

**THE TRANSITION**

In deciding to run for Student Government vice president last year, Smith knew that he’d have to give up being a traditional college student — less time for friends, family and coursework and more dedication to serving the institution as a whole.

He feels that despite the long meetings, the stress and countless hours put into the position, it was worth it.

“Serving in this role, I’ve done my best and put my heart and soul into the last year making sure that more people can have that experience,” Smith said.

For West, who served as vice president for a year and as president the next year, he touched on the visibility of the position and himself as a representative of the students at Iowa State.

“I never thought I’d be in something so visible,” West said. “I never knew that as a 21-year-old everything I did would be under a microscope and that’s taught me a lot, how to conduct myself and think before I speak.”

“I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world,” West said.

“But that doesn’t mean West and Smith won’t try to do their best to enjoy their last month at Iowa State as students.”

“The fact that other people get to experience this is what makes walking away OK,” West said.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT**
ISU Dining locations to undergo renovations

BY RYAN PATTIE
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With the closure of Clyde’s, Iowa State has taken its first steps to renovate the university into a better place to eat for students, staff and all other visitors.

Toward the beginning of the semester, ISU Dining gave students a preview of what could change while students went back home over the summer.

Now that the spring semester is coming to a close, ISU Dining has announced that the changes they hinted at are set in stone, and students will see them take shape in the fall.

The steps had already begun with the implementation and grand opening of Lance and Ellie’s, Iowa State’s own original sandwich shop.

The next step was for Clyde’s to close so renovation can begin to change it from a ‘grab and go’ style restaurant into a burger and shake restaurant, as it was several years ago.

Mohamed Ali, the Director of Dining for Iowa State, elaborated on what the new changes would look like and everything that the new Clyde’s would offer.

“It will begin by opening from 7 in the morning and provide breakfast, Starbucks drinks and breakfast sandwiches to paying customers,” Ali said. “The lunch and dinner will be mostly fries, salad, grilled cheese, burgers and shakes. However, vegan and vegetarian options will still be provided.”

Ali also said Clyde’s will be compatible with GET for mobile ordering and pick up when it is hopefully open this fall.

However, Clyde’s isn’t the only dining facility getting renovations. The Memorial Union Food Court and the Hub are set to undergo some significant renovations. The Hub will still provide coffee and various food items to students, but the renovations will help prevent long lines and cramping in the building.

“Lines have always been a problem at the Hub,” Ali said, “We wanted to try and find a way to make it faster for everyone.”

While Clyde’s is undergoing another change in its design and menu and the Hub is changing to alleviate one of its issues, it is the Memorial Union that will see the most changes.

Not only will the look of the Food Court be significantly changed, but the menu will also see a change.

“We are having a salad bar in the middle of the food court area,” Ali said. “This allows students the option to have healthier, ‘green’ foods and even a rice cooker to make rice bowls.”

It has also been proposed that various meats will also be provided at the rice cooker so everyone can create a variety of rice bowls.

“When it comes to changing the actual restaurants inside of the food court area, Ali said the elimination of restaurant chains would be part of the plan.

“The plan is to eventually remove all other chain restaurants, but keep the same concepts the originals had. For example, if we were to get rid of Chester’s Chicken, we would replace it with another chicken place, but with our own branding.”

ISU Dining announced renovations will be made to Clyde’s, the Hub and the Memorial Union Food Court.
Weaver traveled to the University of Minnesota to compete in the 6th Annual National Undergraduate Supply Chain Case Competition.

Deposit Back!

In yesterday’s front page story on underrepresented communities in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, there were two areas in which the name Allison Weaver was used instead of Alexandria Wilson, the correct name of the person quoted. Additionally, in a quote, the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association was incorrectly called the Cattle Beef Association. The Daily regrets these errors. The Iowa State Daily welcomes comments and suggestions or complaints about our reporting.

CORRECTIONS
Republicans should keep their promise

Ever since The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 — more popularly known as Obamacare or The ACA — was passed, Republicans have criticized the bill and promised that when they gained power they would repeal it and take measures to make Obamacare less attractive and less affordable. As a result, Iowa has one company (Medica) providing care on the ACA exchanges. Iowa Republican legislators then decided to exacerbate the problem by allowing Iowa Farm Bureau to sell “health plans.” These plans do not count as insurance, so the coverage can be very slight. Popular aspects of ACA, such as no denial for pre-existing conditions and coverage up to age 26, are not regulated. The Farm Bureau hopes to attract healthy people without pre-existing conditions who are willing to pay little for very little coverage. In other words, Farm Bureau is skimming the low-cost customers, while Medica, the one company still in the exchange, takes people with pre-existing conditions and will again have to raise its rates.

The idea of health insurance is that the broader the pool of the insured, the more costs are spread and the more efficient the program can be. When or if any of the Farm Bureau health plan customers become seriously ill, they will find their plan’s coverage completely inadequate and want to switch to Medica. This spells doom for the exchanges.

Despite their repeated promises, the Republicans could not even repeal the ACA directly, so they are doing it through back-door, disingenuous policies. And their promise to replace the ACA? They haven’t even begun to do that. America remains the developed country with the world’s most expensive health care system and the least coverage.

Given the Republicans’ failure at the national level, they are now attacking state-organized health care. Iowa has joined in. In the state, Republicans did take measures to make Obamacare less attractive and less affordable. As a result, Iowa now has only one company (Medica) providing care on the ACA exchanges. Iowa Republican legislators then decided to exacerbate the problem by allowing Iowa Farm Bureau to sell “health plans.” These plans do not count as insurance, so the coverage can be very slight. Popular aspects of ACA, such as no denial for pre-existing conditions and coverage up to age 26, are not regulated. The Farm Bureau hopes to attract healthy people without pre-existing conditions who are willing to pay little for very little coverage. In other words, Farm Bureau is skimming the low-cost customers, while Medica, the one company still in the exchange, takes people with pre-existing conditions and will again have to raise its rates.

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EDITORIAL

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The Rooney Rule Effect

Finding a coach from a different culture is rare

Editor’s Note: This is the third part in a three-part series about the diversity of coaches in the high school and collegiate ranks.

Hiring coaches of color as assistants and head coaches can work and has worked often throughout recent history.

Wille Taggart (now at Florida State as the Seminoles’ first permanent African-American head coach) took over a poor football program at Western Kentucky and made them into the mid-major powerhouse that they are today.

Then, he went to South Florida and Oregon, where he became the Ducks’ first African-American head coach as well.

What’s interesting about Oregon?

They’re the first state to implement their own version of the NFL’s Rooney Rule. In the 2003 season, there were multiple programs who have made their first African-American football coaching hires, including Texas, Florida State, Oregon, and Texas. And Taggart is only one of those coaches still at the school that hired him, and two — Charlie Strong at Texas and Kevin Sumlin at Texas A&M — were fired and replaced with white coaches.

Many schools refuse to go from one coach of color to another, and the lack of head coaches of color in general, has led some to suggest a college sports version of the Rooney Rule, known as the Eddie Robinson rule.

The proposed rule would essentially serve the same purpose as the Rooney Rule, requiring athletic directors and administrators to interview a coach of color before hiring a head coach. The proposal has been brought forth multiple times, but it has never been put into law despite a push from NCAA legislators in 2016 urging school presidents and chancellors to sign the pledge into law.

Part of that has to do with issues in the proposal itself in both the accountability and implementation departments. The NFL’s Rooney Rule has come under criticism at times in recent years, with multiple teams circumventing the rule and offering interviews to minority candidates simply as a way to follow the rule, and not as a serious candidate.

The most recent example was the Oakland Raiders’ public pursuit of former ESPN commentator Jon Gruden.

Gruden was Raiders owner Mark Davis’ first and only target for the job, according to the Washington Post, but if he had hired him without interviewing any other candidates, the Raiders could have been found in violation of the Rooney Rule. So, he gave interviews to Tee Martin, the USC offensive coordinator, and then-tight ends coach Bobby Johnson. But the Pitts-Pollard Alliance believed that neither candidate was given a fair shot at winning the job, according to ESPN, alleging in a statement that the candidates were effectively “interviewing for second place.”

The NFL announced on Jan. 19 that the Raiders had compiled with the rule. That has led many to believe that it would be difficult to “catch” collegiate programs who were violating the proposed Eddie Robinson Rule. In 2016, Dr. Lapchick told Inside Higher Ed that the proposal needed sanctions, otherwise it “doesn’t have any teeth.”

Aundrea Meeks, a former head coach and athletic director at Warner Columbia High School, doesn’t see them being a way for the Iowa High School Athletics Association to put any plans into action.

Meeks said that, more so than forcing schools to interview candidates of color, candidates have to be willing to make coaching their profession, as well as teaching. He said that it was very important that potential minority coaches know that coaching is something they are willing to commit themselves to before applying for jobs.

“I tend more to just coaching a position, being the head coach,” Meeks said. “There’s so much that goes with it.”

Iowa City High athletic director Terry Coleman agrees that implementation would be a challenge for many high schools, especially in sports that don’t get as many applicants such as bowling or tennis.

That echoed the sentiments of Dowling Catholic head coach and athletic director Tom Wilson, who was very supportive of continuing to grow diversity in the Iowa coaching landscape but thought that trying to push legislation of any sort would be very difficult and that applicants “need to apply” so that they can get a fair shot.

At the college level, UNI athletic director David Harris has expressed doubt over the viability of such a rule due to the NCAA’s more decentralized chain of oversight.

“The NCAA doesn’t have the jurisdiction to dictate the hiring practices of institutions,” Harris said. He added that some of the results that the NCAA’s rule proposal hopes to create could be done by “working very hard to make sure [schools] diversify their applicant pool.”

Pushing a diverse, qualified pool of candidates was Harris’ main solution to the problem that coaches of color face. He mentioned that, while the lack of head coaches of color in football is discouraging, he’s been very encouraged by the growth of the administrative staff.

According to Lapchick’s Gender and Diversity Report Card, only 12.5 percent of Division I Athletic directors are people of color. The past two years have seen candidates of color win a number of high-profile athletic director jobs in Power Five conferences.

Lynn Sloan at USC, Alfred Greene at Auburn and Pat Chun at Washington State are three of the most recent examples. Greene became only the second African-American athletic director in SEC history. Chun, who moved up from Florida Atlantic, became the first Asian-American to be an athletic director in a Power Five conference.

“It’s something I think, as an industry, we have the ability to improve upon every time we do a search,” Harris said.

Only time will tell if diversity makes its way to Iowa universities, but for now, the faces of college football in Iowa are white.
Public displays of affection range from holding hands to behavior that would make a porn star blush. So when does PDA go too far? The Iowa State Daily asked current and former Iowa State students to share their opinions on public displays of affection.

"I'm fine with minimal kisses in public, but when it changes from kisses to make-out then I'm like ugh," said Calvary Tutson, senior in hospitality management.

While some may not be comfortable with showing PDA, they're okay with seeing it.

"I personally don't like to show PDA, but I think it's cute when others do," said Sierra Collins, a former Iowa State student. "It just comes to public displays of affection.

"First of all, I think it's important for me to say that in my opinion quick kisses and holding hands is totally fine, and while they wouldn't want your grandparents to see you of affection.

"My best advice for PDA is that if you don't want your grandparents to see you doing it, don't do it for the rest of the world to see," Livermore said. "I think we got there around 7:30 and chatted until they closed up at 10:00."
“She made it and she showed it to me. I’m like, ‘That’s so cool.’ I put it on and it fits nice. I’d never tried the Nike Pro hijab, but it looked like it and it’s really nice. It’s an activewear feel. You can run or actually exercise and even wear it day-to-day,” Ahmed said.

When Ahmed first learned that she was selected to be a model in The Fashion Show, her sisters and her mother were happy for her, but her dad did not want Ahmed to pursue it in fear that she would be judged.

“The only person who opposed it was my dad,” Ahmed said. “He was like, ‘No people are going to watch you, they’re going to judge you.’ And I’m like, ‘I don’t really care if people judge me. Being Islamic, people judge you and no matter what, everyone gets judged.’ So I wasn’t scared.”

“My mom was like so chill. She asked what I was going to wear,” Ahmed said. “Then I told her and she was like, ‘I don’t care.’ My sisters were the first people I told when I got in and they were like, ‘Oh I’m so happy for you!’ They said, ‘Yeah! Go for it! Fight!’ I’m like, ‘There’s no fighting involved.’”

One thing that inspired Ahmed to try out to model for The Fashion Show is her desire to break down cultural barriers and make people understand that Islamic people can do what everyone else can do even though they may have certain clothing restrictions.

“It’s important to step aside stereotypes that Muslims or people that are super religious and if we wear the hijab, we can’t do other things — besides wearing it,” Ahmed said. “I think bringing it into fashion and showing that we can style it with our outfits is a big step. And how it’s prevalent nowadays is that people are seeing that we are also showing our identity with our religion and it doesn’t stop us whatsoever with how we represent it and being ourselves at the same time.”

Ahmed said she was inspired by another hijab-wearing model, Halima Aden, who has been making headlines ever since she won the Miss Minnesota Pageant and became the first hijab-wearing pageant winner in the history of the contest.

The two have similar backgrounds. Ahmed’s parents were Somali refugees who fled Somalia to come to the United States in the 1990s. Aden grew up in a U.N. refugee camp in Somalia until she was 7 years old, when her family was approved to come to the United States. Aden and her parents settled in the nation’s largest Somali-American community of Minnesota. Ahmed’s family landed in Minnesota as well.

Ahmed, who is the middle child of nine children, was born in Minnesota. She wasn’t there long before her family moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa. Ahmed went to elementary and middle school in Council Bluffs. Her family moved to Des Moines before she entered high school.

Throughout her time in Iowa, Ahmed said she has not faced much discrimination. Though she does remember growing up when her and family would go to the grocery store and people would stare and ask, ‘Why are they wearing those?’ Or when she was younger and kids would ask her if she was bald. She would say, “No. It is my religion and I like wearing it.”

To counter ignorance, Ahmed had a few suggestions: get educated, watch the news, ask someone or visit a mosque.

“You could easily go to a mosque,” Ahmed said. “You can go in there. Everyone’s accepted to come in and you just learn about the religion. You can ask, ‘What’s the Quran?’ Everyone’s open minded. They will talk. Like if someone asked me, I would sit down and talk to them or just give them the basics. I want people to be educated that it’s not bad. It’s a peaceful religion.”

As for her future, Ahmed said she hopes to use the knowledge she gains as a supply chain management major to eventually make her own line of hijabs and modest clothing, inclusive to everyone.

“I want to be the CEO of the place, running everything, telling people what to do,” Ahmed said. “Not right when I get out of college — probably intern and work right under a company for awhile and get experience. Then I would try expanding myself into making my own product and my own label for myself.”