

Boutique Hosts Party for Fashion Bloggers

Michael Stars spotlighted.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
THE CONNECTION

South Moon Under celebrated its partnership with designer Michael Stars on Thursday, June 23. The Arlington boutique hosted an event for DC Fashion and Beauty Bloggers (DC FABB).

Guests were invited to shop throughout the store, with a 20 percent discount on all Michael Stars products. Gift bags were handed out to registered guests containing a Michael Stars scarf, Voluspa candles, Stila makeup, Tweezerman nail files, headbands, bandeau bras and a 20 percent off South Moon Under coupon.

There was a DJ and an assortment of food including cupcakes from Crumbs Bake Shop, sushi from Sushi Rock and cocktails made from UV Vodka.

Store manager Jess Smith said, "It's super exciting that we're in this partnership with Michael Stars."

Taylor Schlette, marketing assistant at South Moon Under, said, "We thought it would be a great idea to have a party ... We have our own blog. We really like blogs."



Sherwin Wells serves UV Vodka cocktails.

They invited members of DC FABB to celebrate with them.

Schlette continued, "Michael Stars is one of our most popular brands. They have quality basics. Our customers appreciate that."

Stacey Dube, sales executive at Michael Stars, said, "Michael Stars is a California lifestyle brand that has extended to the entire country ... We pioneered what the T-shirt can become. It's not just all about the basic cotton."



Michael Stars T-shirts

Michael Stars is known for its use of supima cotton and the fact that its clothing isn't sized. The labels say, "One size fits all most."

South Moon Under currently has 14 locations across Maryland and Virginia. A 15th store is opening in Delaware mid-September.

The store started in 1968 in Ocean City, Md., as a surf shop and has evolved into a high-end fashion boutique. "Each store does two to four events a year from intimate girls night out to seasonal previews and grand openings," Lester said.

"I would encourage people to jump on our e-mail list and like us on Facebook," Lester said. To learn more, go to www.southmoonunder.com.

PHOTOS BY MAYA HOROWITZ/THE CONNECTION

Tejada Takes Regional Board Role

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Arlington County Board Member Walter Tejada is one of two members of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) tapped to serve in leadership posts on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). He was elected to represent District III of NARC, which includes the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.



Walter Tejada

"We are a very diverse region," Tejada said. "That presents opportunities when debating national issues such as affordable housing, justice and gang activity. I can bring Arlington's voice to the nation through NARC."

Currently, Tejada represents Arlington on COG's Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee.

"We are very lucky to have Mr. Tejada representing our region, along with other parts of his District, on the NARC Board of Directors," executive director of Metropolitan Washington COG Dave Robertson said. "He has been a tireless advocate for public safety and human services, as well as a number of other issues, at the local and regional level, and he brings that knowledge and experience with him to NARC."

Tejada plans to work to find regional solutions for issues such as emergency preparedness, affordable housing and safety and human services. "There are a lot of issues that we take for granted that actually require coordination," Tejada said.

Tejada said he will also reach out to regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations in District III to boost collaborative efforts among NARC members.

Also elected was Fairfax County Supervisor Penny Gross, who will serve as the board's senior vice president. Tejada replaces Gross as District III representative. "It is becoming clear that local boundaries matter less in a globalized world," Gross said. "Competing in that world today requires regional cooperation. That's what NARC is about, and that's why I am eager to serve as the board's senior vice president."

NARC, a non-profit organization, works to find regional solutions to challenges such as transportation, economic development and environmental issues. The organization represents more than 230 regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations.

Up-Close Graduation for Distance-Learners

School gathers its far-flung graduates.

BY ORRIN KONHEIM
THE CONNECTION

The University of Management & Technology in Rosslyn held its second ever graduation ceremony this past Saturday at the Artisphere and then at the nearby Iwo Jima Memorial.

"We wanted to give people an opportunity to have a nice photo opportunity," said J. Davidson Frame, the school's academic dean. "We also wanted to do it, primarily because so many of our students are soldiers and they get a kick out of wanting to visit the Iwo Jima Memorial."

The university was established 12 years ago primarily as a distance learning institution. Although many students have already graduated, it was only last year that the school has been partaking in graduation ceremonies.

According to Frame, the school has been putting out feelers for the last few years. Everyone wanted to come but not everyone has been available. It's been in the last couple years that more people were able to come.

"It's enriching because we communicate constantly via e-mail, via telephone. It's a joy for them," said academic coordinator Kevin Hagarty of the ceremony.

According to university spokeswoman Lele Wang, because the students are on such varied schedules as to when they finish their

University of Management and Technology graduates pose for photos at the Iwo Jima Memorial.



work, they have invited anyone who has graduated within the past five years.

The university originally had students on the same schedule. Approximately seven or eight years ago, the military students requested a self-paced approach, according to Frame.

"Because of their requests, we got away from the standard of everyone studying together at the same time. If they have free time, they study together heavily," said Frame. "When these students are in combat, some of them go a week without sleeping."

Fifty-seven students were scheduled to receive their degrees at the graduation ceremony with 13 earning the title of Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) and one person, Guanglong Zhao being handed a Ph.D.

Some of the graduates flew in from China to be able to participate in the ceremony as

well. In addition to online graduation ceremonies, the university currently teaches its distance components through online modules and power point but is moving to enhance its communication stream as well. They also have students in Hong Kong, Egypt and Morocco.

"We'll move to where we'll eventually have dissertation defense via Skype and curriculum via videoconferencing," said Hagarty.

The university is closely tied with many branches of government. Additionally, it is affiliated with a program from the Department of Defense that allows them to provide education to military personnel.

The University of Management and Technology is accredited by both the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia and the Global Accreditation Center. It is located at 1901 Fort Meyer Drive and can be found at www.UMTweb.edu.