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Apparel merchandising and management students, faculty and staff listen to presentations about environmental sustainability in the fashion world during last Friday's symposium.

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# Environmentally friendly clothing subject of symposium

## Sustainability key issue at fashion presentation

**By: HANNAH MUNOZ, Asst. Managing Editor**

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Around 100 students, faculty and staff members, mostly from the apparel merchandising and management program, packed the Agriscapes building on Friday afternoon to learn about environmental sustainability within the fashion industry.

Bonnie Bullock Julian, vice president of marketing and design for Transprint USA, gave a presentation on being eco-friendly within the textile industry, and Howard Gabe from the Global Eco Trade Show gave his perspective on utilizing organic fabric.

Both believe pollution has become a huge issue within the fashion industry.

"If there's a message here, it's sustainability," said Julian during her presentation. "It's fortunate to work for a company that works toward sustainability, and now that's your challenge."

Julian spoke on the threat that original textile dyeing has on the environment, as textile plants are said to be one of the biggest air pollutants.

She also gave many visual examples of some villages suffering due to lack of basic necessities, such as water.

Following her examples, Julian gave her solution, which is for students to do their part in using air dye, a process that uses air instead of water to carry dye, eliminating hazardous wastewater as a byproduct of dyeing fabric.

"Air dye technology manages the application of color to textiles, today's sustainable alternative to traditional dyeing and decorating processes," according to [airdye.com](http://airdye.com).

Julian also said this method reduces energy and does not pollute water.

Gabe spoke on different fabrics being used in the industry and insisted fabrics should be organic. He believes it is better for the environment, as he also touched on textile plants being one of the largest polluters in the world.

Gabe also told students organic cotton should be used more often, as should hemp.

"Benefits from hemp - brilliant!" said Gabe.

He was also very enthusiastic about speaking to students about this issue, as he believes students are the key audience when addressing his environmentally friendly solution.

He also believes if this argument were presented more frequently around the nation, a drastic change would have already occurred.

"These are people who can make a difference," said Gabe enthusiastically. "If this was held all over the country, we would be that much closer to making a difference."

Some students seemed to enjoy the program, as some believed it was very necessary to learn about the current fashion industry situation.

"It's the new wave and it is changing the fashion industry because everything is about to change," said Jackie Fanara, a third-year AMM student, who commented on the presentation. "I knew a lot of this [environmental sustainability] was going on, but it was interesting to hear industry personnel speak [on the issue]."

Lori Hugueleg, a senior AMM student, appreciated learning about Julian's stance.

"It was interesting to hear about the unique dyeing process that Colorep has," said Hugueleg. "It's something that people need to be aware of in this country, and it was important for us to hear."

Peter Kilduff, chair of the AMM department and host of the event, believes the symposium was a success. The event has been planned since January.

"I think it went well," said Kilduff. "We had two good speakers from New York with two different perspectives."

"A lot of things about fashion is not environmentally friendly, but there are new practices in sustainable agriculture to make this more friendly."

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