



News

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Philadelphia University will honor leaders of innovation and the best of this year's student designs at the Spirit of Innovation Gala and Annual Fashion Show on Saturday, May 8

The honorary Doctor of Humane Letters will be presented to Allen E. Sirkin '64, president and chief operating officer, Phillips-Van Heusen Corp.

PHILADELPHIA, May 3, 2010— Philadelphia University will celebrate outstanding leaders of innovation and this year's most creative student designs during An Evening of Innovation on Saturday, May 8, featuring the Spirit of Innovation Gala and the Annual Fashion Show.

At the Fashion Show, the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters will be presented to Allen E. Sirkin '64, president and chief operating officer of Phillips-Van Heusen Corp.

Sirkin began his career at Phillips-Van Heusen Corp. [NYSE: PVH] in 1982 and has been in his current position since 2006. Phillips-Van Heusen is one of the world's largest apparel companies. It owns and markets the Calvin Klein brand worldwide. It is the world's largest shirt and neckwear company and markets a variety of goods under its own brands, including Van Heusen, IZOD, G.H. Bass & Co., ARROW and numerous well-known designer and celebrity licensed brands. Sirkin, a 1964 graduate of Philadelphia University (then the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science) is a member of University's Board of Trustees and a recipient of the 1995 YMA Man of the Year Award.

In addition to receiving the honorary degree, Sirkin and Maurice Kanbar '52 H'03 will be awarded the Leader of Innovation Medal at the Spirit of Innovation Gala and Awards Ceremony, which will take place 5 p.m. at The Hyatt at the Bellevue.

The Leader of Innovation Medal honors innovative entrepreneurs who have made significant contributions across many fields that better society and which shine a light on the impact of innovation all around us.

Kanbar, an inventor, entrepreneur and film producer, is the inventor of SKYY vodka and the D-Fuzz-It lint brush, and has produced such films as 2006's animated feature *Hoodwinked*. Philadelphia University's Kanbar Campus Center was named for him, as is New York University's Kanbar Institute of Film and Television.

The 2010 Lifetime Innovation Award, honoring members of the Philadelphia University community who have demonstrated significant innovation in their fields, also will be presented at the Gala to:

- Robert Cordaro '76, chief operating officer, John Varvatos Enterprises, Inc.
- Alvin P. Gutman, former chairman, Pressman-Gutman, Inc.
- Liong-Keng Kwee '68, managing director, Pontiac Land Private, Ltd.
- Robert J. Reichlin '47 (posthumously), chairman, Zuckerman Honickman, Inc.
- John L. Steen '59, founder and president, Steen Sales, Inc.
- Andrew J. Vecchione '72, president, Polartec, LLC
- Vincent M. Wolanin '69, chairman/CEO, PrivateSky Aviation Services, Inc.

“These friends and alumni are world-class leaders and innovators. Their careers helped inspire our Strategic Plan and motivate our students,” said Philadelphia University President Stephen Spinelli Jr. “Not only are they accomplished in their chosen fields, but they wonderfully exemplify the University's mission, sense of purpose and innovative spirit.”

“I can't think of a higher honor, or one that could be any closer to my heart, than receiving the Leader of Innovation Medal from my alma mater,” Sirkin said. “I am thankful to the school for giving me the medal, but even more for preparing me for a wonderful and fulfilling career. I am truly appreciative for the award and flattered to be honored with the other recipients.”

Philadelphia University's Annual Fashion Show

Following the Gala at 8 p.m., some 2,300 students and their families, faculty, staff, honorees, industry executives and designers will attend the standing-room only Philadelphia University Fashion Show, which showcases the best of each year's fabulous, colorful, creative and innovative student fashion designs.

As a special guest, fashion doyenne Iris Apfel will be attending this year's Innovation Gala and Fashion Show. Apfel, whose work has been highlighted in exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Peabody Essex Museum, has straddled the worlds of textile, fashion and design over the past forty years. She is lauded for her well-honed and somewhat irreverent sense of style. She is co-founder of the textile design company Old World Weavers.

“Our fashion designers and members of the Fashion Industries Association on campus put a tremendous amount of work into this event,” said Clara Henry, fashion

design program director. “It is a wonderful evening of elegance, innovation and creativity.”

The theme of the 2010 Fashion Show is “A Tribute to Elegance.” Bill Henley and Lori Wilson, co-hosts of *The 10! Show* on NBC10, once again will serve as emcees.

Musical Guest Singer-Songwriter Whitney Wolanin

This year’s Fashion Show also will include a special performance by TopNotch® Records recording artist and songwriter Whitney Wolanin. Wolanin has performed at Citi Field, Shea Stadium, Dodgers Stadium, Fenway Park, Staples Center and other venues. “Loud and Clear,” written by Whitney and her sister Victoria, was featured on the hit MTV show “The Hills” in 2008.

The Fashion Show, the largest of its kind in the region, is the culmination of years of study and hands-on experience for Philadelphia University’s fashion design students. The show is produced by the Fashion Industries Association, which includes students in fashion design, fashion merchandising and fashion industry management, and proceeds support the University’s Fashion Scholarship Fund.

The presenting sponsor of the 2010 Fashion Show is Phillips-Van Heusen, and major sponsors include Peerless Clothing, Fishman and Tobin, Polartec, TJX Foundation, Lord & Taylor, Macy’s, Independence Blue Cross, Zuckerman Honickman, Inc., Warnaco, VF Corp. and Versa Capital Management.

Additional sponsors include Fox Rothschild LLP, American Development Institute, LLC, Charming Shoppes/Lane Bryant, Parkhurst Dining Services, TD Bank, Unifi Manufacturing, Federal Mogul, Peter J. Solomon Co., Destination Maternity, A.D.S. Ventures Inc. and K&L Gates.

For ticket information, go to www.PhilaU.edu/eveningofinnovation/tickets or call the Public Relations Department at 215.951.2851.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,300 students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. As part of its core mission, the University focuses on professionally oriented programs that prepare students for successful careers, with a strong foundation in the liberal arts and an orientation toward interdisciplinary collaboration. Philadelphia University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts, and Science and Health.