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A Passion for Fashion

Designer heads to New York for Fashion Week

BY MINDY COOPER
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After a life-long passion for fashion design, one native Portlander and graduate from Jefferson High School has made her way into New York Fashion Week coming up in September.

Larika Page, born and raised in northeast Portland, has always been interested in the fashion and arts.

Page, who currently resides with her husband and two daughters in Atlanta, Ga., said although she didn't always know she would be a fashion designer, while growing up she would always draw a number of different outfits, often inspired by her families love for the industry.

After graduating from high-school at the age of 16, she was torn between two career paths, and she decided to study accounting in college.

After working for five years as an accountant in Georgia, however, she resigned from her position and decided it was time to follow her dream. "I realized accounting wasn't for me, and I wanted to do what really made me happy," she said.

"I said to myself, I'm going to take a huge risk, resigned from my position and enrolled back in school."

Page said school really validated that she was now doing the right thing, and her first design she ever



continued ▼ on page 19

Native Portlander and Jefferson High School graduate Larika Page has made her mark as a fashion designer.

PHOTO FROM ATLANTA MAGAZINE

Bud Clark Commons Fills Need for Shelter Celebrates 10-year effort to reduce homelessness

BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As the City of Portland's 10-year-plan to end homelessness is reaching its half way mark, government agencies, non-profits and institutions have partnered together to get homeless people into permanent homes after a net loss over the past several decades of affordable housing in the downtown area.

One such effort, after nearly two years of construction, is the Bud Clark Commons, a resource center focused on helping people experiencing homelessness move closer towards stability.

continued ▼ on page 13

The Apartments at Bud Clark Commons



Home Forward housing managers Rachael Duke and Matthew Fullen stand outside the entrance to the Bud Clark Commons, a new 130-unit housing complex and resource center across the street from Union Station, downtown, serving low-income and homeless residents.

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 MINDY COOPER/
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER