

The Spotlight

A Little Bit of Fashion... An interview with Jacob Phillips by Jay Clark

Who are you?

I am Jacob Phillips. I am the Administrative Assistant for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. I am the Safe Zone coordinator for Jacksonville State University, and besides that, I am a senior here at Jax State and I am about to graduate in Spring 2024 as a nontraditional student.

What was it that got you into fashion?

A couple of things that were the most prominent were seeing different runways growing up and appreciating how clothes fit a person. I grew up in a family of four, I was the youngest of three brothers, and I always got their hand-me-downs and so, my outfits were always a little rough looking, a little rough around the edges because I am 6'7 and they are 6 foot even, so nothing quite fit correctly. Once I was able to start diving into my own world of fashion, and what there is out there, I really enjoyed dressing up and having different things to wear every day.

Do you have a favorite fashion piece that you own?

I never thought I would say this, but my favorite pair of shoes, and my favorite fashion piece that I own are my rhinestone boots. They are fabulous and I never thought I would be a rhinestone guy, but whenever I wear those, I feel empowered. It's the craziest thing for me, but I really enjoy it because I usually wear black, but those sparkly shoes are my favorite thing.

What fashion piece do you think does not get enough hype and/or credit?

I think a fashion piece, or even a fashion runway show, that doesn't get enough credit is what Alexander McQueen had done in 2013. The runway was called The Land of Plenty, I believe. There was an outfit in it named the Basket of Plenty, and it was this beautiful red and black outfit that was supposed to represent the negative effects fashion can have on the world as far as industry goes. It's beautiful, and Alexander McQueen did a great job representing this problem.

Are there any updates or events you would like to share?

Well, of course, we have the Diversity Fashion Show on November 1st since we're talking about fashion. Super, super excited about that. We will have a red-carpet reception at 5pm and then the Fashion Show starting at 6pm. I encourage every person to show up and dress in their best outfits. We'll have plenty of photo opportunities to show off everyone's different styles. If anyone is still interested in walking in the show, those QR codes and everything can be found on our website if you want to don your favorite outfit and show it off!