

Digital photography students showcase their portfolios
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Durham College's digital photography students proudly displayed their portfolios today during the program's first Digital Photography Portfolio Showcase. The showcase is for graduating students to display their final products from the portfolio development class introduced this year. The different niches students chose were represented in three ways; promo prints, a display print, and a look book personally designed by each student.

"They all have their own niche that they're looking for and that's what they focus their portfolio on but then they also had a little bit in the back of the book that showed some of their other skills as well," said Brian Stephens, teacher of the portfolio development class.

Stephens assigned each student with the task of coming up with five contacts from the industry that are related to their chosen area of specialty as an assignment earlier in the semester.

"We invited those people to come and see their work and it's been great, many of them have come," said Stephens. Among those attending were wedding photographers and photographers who work in the commercial industry.

Kesune Stephenson, a digital photography student at DC, had her portfolio focused around her chosen specialty in product and food photography and said she and her classmates worked tirelessly on their finished products.

"It's very tedious [work], I was doing an assignment where I had to shoot a series, it was an eight page spread with 12 pictures, and I was in the studio from four o'clock in the afternoon and I stayed until one in the morning. Just to make sure, because I wanted different lights, I wanted to get the feel and bring this fruit or whatever it is to life," said Stephenson.

Brittney Gilpin, a digital photography student at DC, had her portfolio focused on event and portrait photography, and said the shoots with animals were the hardest but she still loved every minute of the challenge. Aside from animals, students persevered through tardiness and cancellations in their model searches with many of them choosing to use family and friends versus acquaintances.

"It was just easier to use family and friends [as models] with the workload we were given," said Gilpin.

Students were in good spirits as they talked about their work with potential employers and admirers alike, and Stephenson found herself elated and nostalgic about her experience: "I've grown and I've learned and being here, I got what I came here for. I really learned a lot."

Gilpin was among several students who are looking forward to graduation in June, and are excited to get their hands dirty in the real world while expanding their passions.