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People

OHS alumnus marketing backpacks with style

OHS 2005 graduate Ryan Olavarria is the proverbial man with a plan. After graduating this year from Williams College with a degree in Economics and Art History, he came up with the idea of producing premium quality backpacks and computer totebags with an “American preppie classic” look.

“Backpacks have never been done in a high-end and fashionable way,” he said. After reading men’s fashion blogs and magazines, he went in search of a manufacturer who could provide him with a sturdy, stylish product.

He found a firm in Schenectady, N.Y. called Tough Traveler that had been in business for 40 years. Working with them, they designed a number of prototypes to his specifications and design and he was soon in business marketing under the brand name of R. Williams.

He has since expanded his line offerings of adult size backpacks to include computer laptop tote bags, ladies clutches and wristlets, canvas briefcases and kid’s backpacks as well, all of which were featured this month at a trunk show he hosted at the Williams Club of New York.

“I’ve thought of doing a high-end men’s wear line,” Olavarria said of his future plans. He plans to bring out a line of women’s silk



Ryan Olavarria with fellow OHS classmate and fashion designer Althea Harper.



R. Williams backpacks

shifts in the spring with the company’s distinctive logo.

For more information,

Olavarria’s varied and stylish creations can be found at rswilliams.blogspot.com

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