

Somy Ali

Alumna Makes Fashion Statements to Raise Awareness of Social Issues

Somy Ali is an entrepreneur, filmmaker, and tireless advocate for human rights. Occasionally she speaks to South Florida girls who are at risk for dropping out of high school, which causes her to reflect on just how far she herself has traveled.

"I thought it was ironic and strange as I had dropped out but didn't have guidance at the time," said Ali, who turned her life around when she enrolled at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

After overcoming personal and cultural obstacles, Ali earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2002. And this year she is the college recipient of the 2009 Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, which recognizes alumni at Nova Southeastern University for their business achievements and contributions to the community.

Ali is the founder and president of her own clothing line, So-Me Designs, whose colorful T-shirt fashions make statements about everything from religious tolerance to world peace. She has produced documentaries about victims of abuse worldwide. She founded No More Tears, a nonprofit organization that focuses on domestic violence. And she visits university campuses to raise student awareness of human-rights issues.

Born in Pakistan, Ali moved to Fort Lauderdale with her family when she was nine. At 16, she dropped out of high school and moved from South Florida to India, where she pursued a career as a model and actress in Hindi films. Eventually, she grew tired of her "superficial" life as an actress. She returned to South Florida and enrolled at NSU.

"I don't have words to describe what a 180-degree turn I did once I got into the academic life," Ali said. "I

"I honestly believe that if it hadn't been for the professors at Nova, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Somy Ali
Recipient of the 2009
Distinguished Alumni
Achievement Award



"Can you save the world one shirt at a time? YES! By making choices that are good for the earth and its people, you can make a difference everyday. Our designs support sustainable manufacturing, foster ideas of peace and harmony, create