# **CALIFORNIA** pare \$2.99 VOLUME 70, NUMBER 39 SEPTEMBER 5-11, 2014



THE BIG CUT: Maro Takourian is a long-time sample maker at Gem Sewing in Los Angeles, where a new service called Made Well-LA is located. Made-Well-LA offers full-package services and advice for designers wanting to produce their goods in the United States. (See related story below.)

MADE IN LA

### More Services Jump In to Bring Apparel **Production Back to Los Angeles**

By Deborah Belgum Senior Editor

When Mike Basteguian was growing up in Los Angeles, his family's garment factory was one of 80 clothing contractors in the early 1990s that blanketed various spots in Hollywood.

Today, there are only a handful of factories, two of which are owned by the Basteguians. "It was completely the opposite then of what it is now," said Marie Basteguian, Michael's mother, who started those two factories more than two decades ago when she made men's shirts for Cavaricci and women's tops for Fred Segal.

Now Mike Basteguian is trying to bring back some of that garment glory with a new venture he has forged to help designers and clothing companies make their creations in Los Angeles. Called Made-Well-LA, his company is a fullpackage resource that takes a concept and helps carry it forward to the final product. He likes to refer to himself as an "apparel concierge," whose company has a website at www. madewellla.com.

"With all the production experience we have between us here, we can help brands. Any mistake they make can set them back thousands of dollars. That can bury a small- to mid-size company. One production mistake or the loss of a customer, they are out of business," said Mike Basteguian, noting that he wants to keep his minimums at a low 150 to 300 and can turn products in three to four weeks.

Basteguian is just one of many clothing-industry insiders **►** Made in LA page 8

### **Wet Seal Hoping to Turn Fortunes With New Executive Team**

By Andrew Asch Retail Editor

The Wet Seal Inc. will start the Back-to-School season under new leadership with the Foothill Ranch, Calif.based retailer's second major change in 18 months.

The 532-store mall-based retailer for teens and young women announced on Sept. 3 that John D. Goodman, who led the company as its chief executive officer since January 2013, resigned on Aug. 26. He will be replaced by Edmond Thomas, who is returning to Wet Seal for a second term. Thomas had previously served as Wet Seal's CEO and a director of the company from 2007 to 2011. Goodman joined the company after a bruising proxy battle that led to the ouster of CEO Susan McGalla, who resigned in July 2012.

Thomas said he hopes to improve Wet Seal's performance. "While I understand fully the complexities of navigating today's dynamic retail landscape, I am convinced **Wet Seal** page 9

**RETAIL TECHNOLOGY** 

### Making Sales on Social Media Elusive but Intriguing

By Andrew Asch Retail Editor

After a decade of building audiences and communities, many think that social-media sites should be able to transform into a giant cash register.

With hundreds of millions of people visiting brands' pages on social-media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest, many analysts thought the next obvious step for these sites would be to sell products on their forums. So far, the retail promise of social media has not been met, but a handful of companies are looking for gold in social media.

Nordstrom made a splash on Aug. 28 when it became the first brand to use Like2Buy, a program from Philadelphia company Curalate that links photos from Instagram accounts

**⇒ Social Media** page 3

### With New Line Nor, Duarte Gives Activewear a Fashionable Edge

By Alison A. Nieder Executive Editor

Henry Duarte is joining the ath-leisure movement, but the Los Angeles designer is putting his signature rock 'n' roll stamp on the growing trend.

Duarte's new collection, Nor (New Objects Research), takes athletic staples such as sweatshirt fleece, hoodies, shorts and windbreaker materials and reworks them into a fashion-focused collection that blends activewear, streetwear

"It's got my rock background and it's still very understandable and it has a lot of fashion," Duarte said.

Built around four key colors—black, gray, white and navy—the line is packed with details such as zipper trim, sheer panels and pockets.

"Everything has a detail," Duarte said. "Why do you need this line if it's not detailed?"

For example, Nor's hybrid shorts are made from a mix of wovens and knits to give them the look of denim and the comfort of a knit pant. There are also sport jackets and sweatpants, as well as T-shirts with slouchy pockets and asymmetrical hems. There are even a few puffer vests, including a long version that skims the body at the shoulder but then

A few styles have a little hint of bright color, such as a pop of color on the inside of a collar. There are styles for men and for women, but much of the collection is unisex. Duarte has also included accessories such as bags, leather goods, jewelry and shoes.

thing for every retailer as well as enough pieces to allow a retail store to order a few items exclusively for a season or

With 200 pieces, the designer wanted there to be some-

New direction, exec at Bebe ... p. 2 Retail Sales ... p. 3 LA Fashion Week planning begins ... p. 4

Reed launching new trade show ... p. 2

### **Bebe Hires Jimenez for New Direction**

For more than 30 years, **Bebe Stores Inc.** has cultivated a niche as the mall-based clothier for the woman who loves nightclubs and la dolce vita, but during a Sept. 4 conference call, Jim Wiggett, the chief executive officer of the San Francisco–area retail chain, said that his company planned to expand its offerings beyond clothes for going out.

Wiggett joined Bebe in June, and during the conference call, he criticized the party-centric "9 to 5" advertising campaign of previous CEO Steve Birkhold. "It was too focused on clubbing and partying, and it reinforced a narrow brand positioning," Wiggett said.

The retailer will expand its categories to offer clothes for the office, special occasions and sports as well as other categories. "Those are dimensions of her life as well," Wiggett said. "It is a desire for self-expression and better fabrications. Those are things Bebe stands for. We're not moving away from a customer. We're educating her [to find] that we have more to offer her."

To help direct this change of directions, Wiggett announced that Bebe had hired Mary

Jimenez as senior vice president to direct the new merchandising direction. Jimenez has served as the vice president and general merchandise manager for **Guess by Marciano** and as vice president and general merchandise manager of design for Bebe's **Bebe Sport** division. She also worked at **eLuxury.com**, an **LVMH** company. Wiggett also worked at LVMH as an executive vice president.

During the conference call, Wiggett stressed that the company would run on a leaner operating budget and it would also introduce a new store concept that would offer some avenues for omnichannel retail such as ordering garments by store **iPads** if they were not in stock.

Also on Sept. 4, Bebe reported results from its fourth quarter from its 2014 fiscal year, which ended July 5. Same-store sales declined 1.9 percent compared with a 7.9 percent decrease in the previous year. Net sales from continuing operations were \$103.6 million, which was a decrease of 8.7 percent from \$113.5 million from the same quarter last year. Net loss from continuing operations was \$24.2 million, or 30 cents per share.—Andrew Asch

### Reed Plans New Trade Show Axis, Taps Agenda's Chiu to Lead the N.Y. Event

After producing four **Agenda Wmns** subshows at the popular **Agenda** trade show, Vanessa Chiu will helm her own event, which will be called **Axis**, it was announced on Sept. 4.

The first Axis show is scheduled to run Feb. 22–24 in New York. It will share space with **Capsule Women's** trade show on **Pier 94** in Manhattan. Axis will be a biannual show, and it is owned by **Reed Exhibitions**, which also owns Agenda. Chiu will work with a staff of three people to get the new show going. She will work out of Reed offices in Los Angeles and the East Coast.

She predicted that 200 branded collections will exhibit at Axis. It will be different from Agenda WMS, which showcases street fashion and activewear looks for females at Agenda, which has been considered a show dominated by men's fashions and style, said Chiu, who will continue to direct Agenda Wmns.

Axis will exhibit "elevated" street fashions, and there also will be a cross-category focus on health and fitness, beauty, home products, and swim. "Axis was created to fill the void in the New York Women's fashion lifestyle market with niche brands that currently do not show," Chiu said in a prepared statement. "We've built a platform to showcase the newnew, [emerging brands] expose branded collections that were displaced in the current New York trade circuit and introduce new global collections into the U.S. marketplace."

Axis also announced a group of advisers to counsel the show. They include Kristin Reiter, **Nike**'s global concept director; Adrianne Ho, founder of the blog *Sweat The Style*; Kasia Meador, a surfer and fashion creative consultant; Rachel Wang, **Style. com's** fashion market director; and Deirdre Maloney, Capsule trade show's co-founder.

-A.A

### VF Collaboration Pledges \$10 Million to Building and Safety Upgrades in Bangladesh

Greensboro, N.C.-based apparel giant VF Corp., in partnership with International Finance Corp., will provide up to \$10 million in financing to VF vendor factories in Bangladesh. The money will be used for building upgrades and fire and safety improvements. The new funding is part of a \$17 million commitment VF made to assist Bangladeshi garment workers.

"The safety of the people making our products around the world is an imperative," said Eric Wiseman, chairman, president and chief executive officer of VF. "Our program with IFC helps to ensure that our suppliers have access to the necessary capital to complete safety-improvement plans." IFC is a member of the World Bank Group.

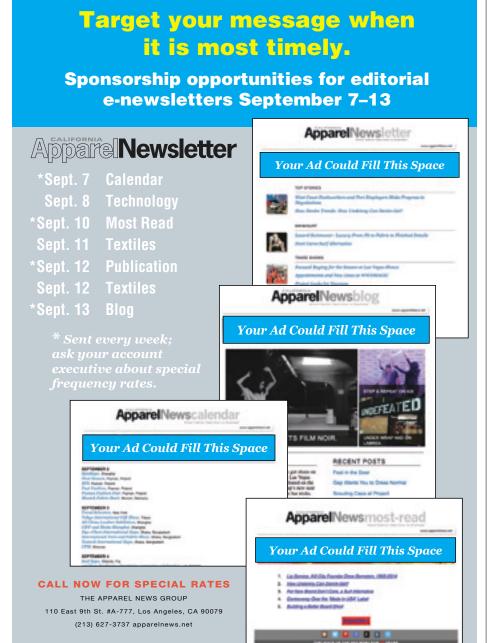
The collaboration between VF and IFC will enable the IFC to award loans to qualified Bangladesh factories that produce VF products. These loans will help "accelerate the implementation of needed fire and building-safety improvements," according to a VF statement.

Before implementing any improvements, the factories will go through structural, electrical and fire-safety assessments as required by the **Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety**, an association formed after the 2013 collapse of the eight-story **Rana Plaza** building, which resulted in 1,129 deaths and 2,515 injuries. Many of the dead and injured worked at several garment factories housed in the building. The AFBWS was formed by 26 global retailers, including VF, to create the **Bangladesh Worker Safety Initiative**, a five-year project to improve safety in Bangladeshi garment factories.

The IFC loans will range from \$100,000 to \$1 million and will need to be used to address one of three performance standards: "assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts; labor and working conditions; or resource efficiency and pollution prevention."

"Employment in the apparel industry has reduced poverty for millions of women in Bangladesh," said Serge Devieux, IFC director for South Asia, in a statement. "This financing model, which we think could work well for other buyers and suppliers, will help Bangladesh's suppliers improve work conditions and strengthen the country's ability to attract garment manufacturers."

Additional information on the program and VF's other efforts to improve the health and safety of Bangladeshi garment factory workers can be found at www.wecare.vfc. com.—Alison A. Nieder



### Fashion Industries Guild to Honor Tech/Chemistry Entrepreneur at Annual Gala

The **Fashion Industries Guild** of **Cedars-Sinai** will honor technology entrepreneur Michael Lefenfeld at its annual gala on Sept. 20 at the **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion** in downtown Los Angeles.

Lefenfeld is the founder and chief technology officer of **SiGNa Chemistry**, a company that employs a chemical process Lefenfeld discovered for a variety of industries, including oil recovery, clean energy and other chemical manufacturing processes. His first invention was a noninvasive blood gas diagnostics sensor array, which became the pulse oximeter. While at **Bell Labs**, Lefenfeld and his team created flexible electronic transistors, which can be printed by inkjet printers. These transistors can be used to make products such as e-readers, flat-panel highemission displays and security sensors in clothing.

The Sept. 20 event, dubbed the Black Tie or Spy Gala, will raise funds for the **Fashion Industries Guild Congenital Heart** 

Laboratory and the Hal Kaltman Fashion Industries Guild Congenital Heart Research Endowment, named for the late Hal Kaltman, textile executive, past president of the Textile Association of Los Angeles and longtime supporter of the Fashion Industries Guild.

The event will include a cocktail reception, casino gambling, dinner, dancing and entertainment.

Past honorees include Vera Campbell, Steve Schoenholz, Jeff and Betsy Kapor, Jay and Kathi Mangel, Christopher Wicks, Sandy Richman, Tony Litman, Barbara Fields, George Rudes, Kenny Weinbaum, Moshe Tsabag, Jeff Marine, Dov Charney, Richard Clareman, Ilse Metchek, Steve Maiman, Gregg Fiene, Maurice Marciano, Maurice "Corky" Newman, Karen and Lonnie Kane, Larry Hansel, and Robert Margolis

To purchase tickets for the event, visit www.fashionindustriesguild.org.—A.A.N.

**TECHNOLOGY** 

### **Cirrus Files Brings CRM Data Directly to the Inbox**

Running a sales team can be complicated business, but a lot of salespeople still work with pen and paper rather than employ tech-savvy programs such as customer-relations management, according to **Cirrus Path Inc.**, headquartered in Laguna Hills, Calif., which recently released its **Cirrus Files** cloud-based customer-relations management application.

One of the company's top releases, the **Cirrus Insight** app, integrates data from San Francisco–based **Salesforce. com** with **Gmail** and **Google** apps and offers a free analytics package for analyzing and reporting that information.

Many retailers and sales groups believe CRM will make their companies more productive. Companies such as **Oracle** and **Microsoft** produce some of the best-known CRM programs. Over the past 15 years, companies began using CRM programs to compile granular information on consumers. In exchange for that data, consumers got goodies such as frequent-flyer miles, bonus credit-card points and loyalty cards. The sharing of information through CRM will bring better leads, improve closing rates and give everyone in a company, from marketing to sales, a more in-depth view of consumers and sales targets, according to the Salesforce website.

CRM may sound like a chief information officer's dream come true, but getting everyone on staff to use the program can be hard, said Jason Hubbard, Cirrus Path's vice president of marketing.

"How do you get your employees to use it?" he said. "We solve this by bringing Salesforce into the inbox of where salespeople live and where most customer interactions oc-

cur. Instead of trying to force your sales team to stop what they're doing, go into Salesforce, look up or create a record, then come back and remember what they were working on—we make it a seamless platform."

Cirrus Files also allows users to continually update and store new information.

"Cirrus Files lets you store your files in Google Drive but organizes them off of the structure of Salesforce. So every time a new account, opportunity, case, etc., is created in Salesforce, a corresponding folder is created in the drive," Hubbard said. "Anything placed in that folder will show up on the page layout in Salesforce. So you always know exactly where to go to find your files," he said.

-Andrew Asch

### Neiman Marcus to Anchor Hudson Yards Development in New York

**Hudson Yards**, the mixed-use \$20 billion development on the west side of New York's Manhattan borough, will have a high-profile anchor when **Neiman Marcus** opens its first New York store in the center in 2018.

The 250,000-square-foot multi-level store will anchor the 1-million-square-foot **Shops at Hudson Yards** and will carry a mix of luxury and fashion brands.

The Dallas-based luxury department store is also opening a Neiman Marcus store on Long Island in 2016 and its outlet store, **Last Call Studio**, later this year in Brooklyn. The company is also currently renovating its luxury department store **Bergdorf Goodman**, located

on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.

Hudson Yards is a joint venture redevelopment project by the New York City Department of City Planning and Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Located on the far west side of midtown, the 28-acre project will connect with the planned extension of The High Line elevated park on its south end at West 28th Street and with the **Jacob K. Javits Convention Center** on its north end at West 43rd Street. The area, overlooking the Hudson River, will extend to Seventh and Eighth avenues. An extension of the New York City subway will stop at Hudson Yards beginning in early 2015.

Developed by Related Companies and

Oxford Properties Group, Hudson Yards will have more than 17 million square feet of commercial and residential space, 14 acres of public open space, a 750-seat public school, and a 175-room luxury hotel, according to a release issued by Related Co. and Neiman Marcus.

"Neiman Marcus Group is delighted to announce that Manhattan will have its first Neiman Marcus. Hudson Yards presents the ideal location for a Neiman Marcus store. The project is a bold and innovative retail idea and one that complements how we view our Neiman Marcus brand," said Karen Katz, president and chief executive officer of Neiman Marcus Group, in a company statement. "Neiman

Marcus Group is well-known to New York and New Yorkers through our landmark Bergdorf Goodman store—a beloved and revered New York institution at the corner of Fifth and 58th, and we are excited to establish a flagship NM store in one of the world's premier shopping destinations. We look forward to serving New Yorkers and visitors to New York with legendary Neiman Marcus style."

A five-year renovation of Bergdorf Goodman is scheduled to be complete in 2020. Plans call for additional space for designer and luxury women's sportswear and "labs" to highlight the work of new and emerging designers.

—Alison A. Nieder

#### **NEWS**

### Social Media Continued from page 1

to products available on a brand's e-commerce site.

Twitter raised eyebrows last year when it hired Nathan Hubbard, former chief executive officer of ticketing at **Live Nation**, to find ways to make sales through Twitter. Media reports said that Twitter and online payments company **Stripe**, both headquartered in San Francisco, have been developing a system to make it possible to make sales on the Twitterverse.

Since 2011, various companies have been seeking to turn Facebook "likes" into "buys" by building online marketplaces on the social-media giant.

Yet technology analysts have been split on whether social-media malls will be ghost towns or whether they will gross more than bricks-and-mortar malls.

In 2011, **Booz & Co.**, now called **Strategy&**, forecast that the market size for social media would grow to \$30 billion in 2015. Sucharita Mulpuru of **Forrester Research** was the lead writer on a report that sought to take down expectations of social-media riches. A 2011 Forrester report noted that Facebook's ability to drive e-commerce revenue was elusive.

In 2013, Mulpuru had doubts on Twitter being able to make sales from its tweets. In a report, she claimed that some of the retail success stories on Twitter are companies liquidating inventory or promoting sales, and other success stories have been hard to find on the free service.

Social media's retail success has still not been decided, said retail and tech consultants. Judah Phillips of **SmartCurrent**, based in Boston, said that social media is spectacular for spreading the word on a product or a service—but not much else.

"Sure, social can build demand," he said. "But the demand is often fulfilled in other channels—the brand's site or in-store or via an affiliate. How much does **Coke** sell on Facebook or Twitter?"

Social media typically serves as the first step in a process to making a purchase, said Mercedes Gonzalez, director of **Global Purchasing Companies**, a New York–headquartered retail consultant and buying office.

"People look for brands' credibility through social media," she said. "It helps in the research process." But consumers will make an actual purchase at a bricks-and-mortar store or at an e-commerce site. The research process and customer engagement that Facebook offers has continued to motivate companies, according to the **State of Retailing Online** study, which surveyed 81 retailers in May and June. It was undertaken by the **National Retail Federation**, a major retail trade group, and Forrester Research.

It found that 62 percent of retailers surveyed planned to spend more on Facebook interactive marketing efforts this year compared with last year. In a prepared statement, Mulpuru said that Facebook is popular because the denizens of Facebook end up doing work for the advertisers. "People think of Facebook as a social network, but, in reality, it's another medium for personalized display advertising," she said.

These companies also intend to spend more marketing dollars on Instagram, **YouTube**, Pinterest and Twitter, according to the survey.

Social-media sites are playing their retail cards close to their proverbial vests. Facebook and Twitter did not reply to emailed requests for comments. An Instagram spokeswoman said the popular social-media site would keep its focus on "brand advertising" and that it wouldn't comment on "developing commerce."

However, companies such as Curalate will continue to make retail possible for sites such as Instagram. Its Like2Buy program will take a brand's profile link on Instagram and pull up a gallery of shoppable Instagram photos, then purchase the products on the brand's website, said Apu Gupta, Curalate's chief executive officer.

"Instagram turns creativity into commerce by changing the way consumers engage with products from their favorite brands," Gupta said. "With Like-2Buy, Curalate is providing retailers the most seamless and secure method of driving traffic and revenue from Instagram while providing digital marketers the ability to immediately demonstrate value from their efforts."

Still, the retail industry continues to test when it comes to social, said Artemis Berry, vice president of digital retail for NRF. "What we are seeing is a continued testing approach," she said. "There's not a massive investment increase, but there is a ton of opportunity in overall marketing campaigns as well as engagement. It is changing all of the time. You blink and there is a new platform out there."

#### **RETAIL SALES**

### **Back to School's Retail Surge**

The Back-to-School season made business surge in August, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers. Retail sales increased 5.2 percent compared with the same time last year, said Jesse Tron, a spokesperson for the

| Sales | % Change | Same-store | from yr. ago | sales % change | from yr. ago | f

New York-headquartered trade group.

"Sales posted a very strong gain, with apparel stores closing out the month at their highest year-over-year gain in four months," he said.

Adrienne Tennant, a prominent retail analyst at **Janney Capital Markets**, described retail business as "solid" at the end of August, especially for teen retailers. "We believe promotions have been compelling and aggressive, both in-store and online, throughout the month of August, which helped drive traffic," she wrote in a Sept. 4 research note.

Ken Perkins of Boston-area market-research company **Retail Metrics** wrote in a Sept. 4 research note that August sales received a lot of support from Backto-School shopping. "While consumer spending has been tepid throughout much of the current recovery, the consumer is still event shopping," he wrote.

August's sales surge did not proverbially lift all boats, however. **Gap Inc.**, the San Francisco–based specialty retail giant, reported comp-store declines for its Gap and **Banana Republic** divisions. The declines were 6 percent and 2 percent, respectively. However, its **Old Navy** division posted a 2 percent increase in its same-store sales.

Quiksilver Inc. also reported a decline when the Huntington Beach, Calif.—based surf giant announced results for the third quarter of its 2014 fiscal year. Net revenues decreased 19 percent to \$396 million compared with \$488 million in the same quarter in the previous year. Andy Mooney, Quiksilver's chief executive officer, promised improvements. "We are resolving the product-delivery issues and already see improved fulfillment in the Holiday season. We continued to right-size staffing, redeployed our marketing to invest more in media and point of sale, improved the quality of distribution in North America, and completed a number of licensing transactions for peripheral product categories. We are encouraged by the positive feedback we have received on our Spring 2015 product lines, both for apparel and footwear."

**Zumiez Inc.** of Lynnwood, Wash., reported a solid August. The skate and action sports–friendly chain reported a same-store-sales increase of 2 percent. It also reported results for its second quarter on Sept. 4. Same-store sales for the quarter increased 3.4 percent compared with the same time in the previous year. Total net sales increased 11.9 percent to \$176.7 million from \$157.9 million. During a call with Wall Street analysts, it was announced that the company would open 56 stores in 2015.—A.A.

## **Coming Soon in** Sept. & Oct.



#### September 12

Cover: Fashion Freight & Logistics NY Fashion Week Coverage Textile Preview with Tech Focus and LA Textile Resource Guide\* Findings & Trimmings Advertorial **Fashion Faces Bonus Distribution** Las Vegas Souvenir & Resort Gift Show AccessoriesTheShow/FAME/Moda

Manhattan 9/21-23

LA Textile Show 9/29-10/1

#### September 19

Cover: Fashion **New Resources** Spot Check Technology Made in America Made in America Advertorial **Bonus Distribution** 







#### September 26

Cover: Fashion Jr. fashion Fiher & Fahric **Fashion Resource** Fiber & Fabric Special Section\*+ Industry Focus: Retail/ **Boutiques** 

#### **Bonus Distribution**

LA Gift & Home Market 9/28-30 LA Textile Show 9/29-10/1 LA Majors Market 10/6-8 Fashion Portland NXT 10/8-11 LA Fashion Market 10/12-15 Designers & Agents LA 10/13-15

#### September 5

Cover: Market Must Buys Textile Show Wrap Finance Industry Focus E-tail Spot Check Eco Report Denim Report What's Checking Eco Advertorial Finance Advertorial **Denim Advertorial** 

Fashion Resource **Bonus Distribution** LA Majors Market 10/6-8 LA Fashion Market 10/12-15 Designers & Agents LA 10/13-15 **Project Ethos** LA Fashion Weekend Concept LA

Style Fashion Week



# **Apparel News**

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### FashionWeekLA.com Relaunched

LA Fashion Week is scheduled to start on Oct. 6, and the producers for the Fashion Week LA calendar website, which officially relaunched Sept. 2, hope that designers and fashion show producers will start planning for it on the relaunched website (www.fashionweekla.com) ASAP.

The website plans to offer one-stop registration for all fashion week events that are approved on the site. It will also offer calendar listings for fashion events and other services.

So far, the only events listed on the Fashion Week LA site are those produced by the LA Fashion Council. Kelsi Smith of the Los Angeles Fashion Council, which has

produced Fashion Week events since 2012, announced last month that her organization had partnered with Jen Uner, the founder of FashionWeekLA.com.

"We don't have big expectations of our first season," Smith said, but eventually she and Uner intend for the site to list a smorgasbord of Fashion Week events. "It's a marathon, not a sprint."

Deadlines are coming up. Production dates, times and locations must be registered by Sept. 15. Participating designers and schedules must be confirmed by Sept. 22. For more information, visit www.fashionweekla.com.—Andrew Asch

### **CFA Event to Discuss Private Label and Branded Manufacturing**

The California Fashion Association will host an invitation-only discussion on Sept. 16 titled "Private Label vs. Branded Manufacturing...How Does Your Business Grow?" at the City Club in downtown Los Angeles.

Kevin Sullivan, executive vice president of Wells Fargo Trade Capital, will moderate the panel, which will include Mitchell Quaranta, co-chief executive officer and president of Swat Fame Inc.; Daniel Abramovitch, vice president of Topson Downs; Daniel Neukomm, partner with the La Jolla Group; and Frank Kaufman, partner with Moss Adams LLP.

Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m., followed by the panel discussion. Parking will be validated. Jackets are required.

RSVP is required.

For more information, email amy@calfashion.org.—Alison A. Nieder

### Calendar

#### Sept. 8

**Nolcha Fashion Week** 

Various venues New York Through Sept. 10

**Sept. 12** 

Capsule Basketball City

New York Through Sept. 14

Sept. 13

**Designers and Agents** Starrett-Lehigh Building

New York Through Sept. 15

**Atelier Designers Doubletree Guest Suites** 

Through Sept. 15

Sept. 14

**Accessories The Show** 

Fame Moda Manhattan

Stitch Coterie

**TMRW** Jacob K. Javits Convention Center

New York Through Sept. 16

**Coeur** 404 Event Space Through Sept. 16

Sept. 15

DG Textile Expo Fabric & Trim

Miami Airport Convention Center

Through Sept. 16

Texworld Paris Le Bourget

Paris

Through Sept. 18

Las Vegas International Lingerie Show
Rio All-Suites Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas Through Sept. 17

**Sept. 16** 

"Private Label vs. Branded Manufacturing" panel discussion hosted by Wells

Fargo City Club

Los Angeles

Première Vision

Parc d'Expositions

Paris

Through Sept. 18

ModAmont **Expofil** Indigo

Paris-Nord Villepinte

Through Sept. 18

"How to Get Over Your Fear of Selling" webinar

**Sept. 17** 

Las Vegas Souvenir & Resort

Las Vegas Convention Center Las Vegas Through Sept. 20

**Sept. 18** 

**Imprinted Sportswear Show** Fort Worth Convention Center

Fort Worth, Texas Through Sept. 20

Sept. 20

"Black Tie or Spy Gala," honoring Michael Lefenfeld and presented by Fashion Industries . Guild of Cedars-Sinai

**Dorothy Chandler Pavilion** Los Angeles

Sept. 21

Fame

Moda Manhattan

New York

Through Sept. 23

Sept. 28

Los Angeles Gift & Home Market

California Market Center Los Angeles

Through Sept. 30

Sept. 29

**Los Angeles Textile Show** California Market Center

Los Angeles Through Oct. 1



For calendar details and contact information, visit ApparelNews.

Submissions to the calendar should be faxed to the Calendar Editor at (213) 623-5707. Please include the event's name, date, time, location, admission price and contact information. The deadline for calendar submissions is the Tuesday prior to Friday publication. Inclusion in the calendar is subject to available space and the judgment of the editorial staff.

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Trends are changing at the speed of Twitter. Gaps in supply chains, overseas production and inconsistent suppliers will leave you slow to capitalize.

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**GET MORE THAN JUST YARN.** 



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#### **US Supima Cotton**

Preferred by luxury brands for its length, strength, and fineness. Dedicated to conservation and carbon neutrality.



#### Lenzing Micro Tencel®

Superior in moving moisture, reducing bacterial growth, and offering strength and comfort. Made from FSC-certified pulp.



#### Lenzing MicroModal®

The ideal fiber for flexible clothing. Now with Edelweiss technology for a more sustainable and renewable luxury product.



#### **Nor** Continued from page 1

"We can partner with stores," Duarte said. "A store has the freedom to sell something not everyone else has. That's what people need today.'

Fabrics include cotton and cotton jerseys, mesh, rayon blends, slub linen, nylon and tech fabrics, and nearly everything is wholesale priced below \$100.

"It's an atelier collection at a better price point," Duarte said. "Retailers need a good-priced line that's going to sell. That's why we went for the details. You get a lot of fashion for the money. It can fit in a lot of stores."

Everything is produced in Asia "to get this price and this level of detail," said Duarte, who has been traveling to China and back since last November developing the line. The time spent overseas has influenced the line, he said. "You get to see what goes on there and what goes on here and get to blend the two. It's bringing new inspiration back to America in a lot of ways."

Helping Duarte on the collection is Pepper Foster, who is also working with Duarte on the men's collection for action-sports retailer Monkey Sports. The third member of the team is Emily So, whose family factory in Shanghai produces the Nor and Monkey Sports lines, as well as several Los Angeles-based contemporary col-

lections. Duarte has worked with So's father for years on other projects. "He's very familiar with the contemporary market and very good at doing smaller minimums and higher-end garments," Duarte said.

Duaret, Foster and So stress that Nor is unlike anything else in the market and, indeed, it is the antithesis of a basic sportswear line.

"Everyone already has so many basics in their wardrobe," So said. "We want you to come back and keep discovering it. There's so much there. It's a lifestyle."

Plus, Duarte says, the collection is large enough to appeal to a broad mix of customers. "Pepper wears it in his way. I wear it in my rock 'n' roll way. Emily will wear it in a dif-

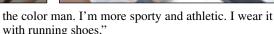
ferent way," he said. Foster said he was wearing Nor recently at an Urban Outfitters store when one of the

ents have also asked if they can wear the line on tour.









Duarte compares parts of the Nor collection to athletic shoes, such as the ones sold at sneakerhead favorite Blends, located next to Duarte's design studio in downtown Los Angeles.

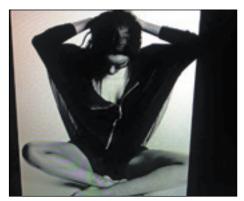
You go into Blends, and you don't know which shoe you like more—you could be shopping forever,"

Duarte said. "I wanted to make pants that were like a Nike shoe. Some shoes have five molds on the bottom. There are 30 different pieces in each pant."

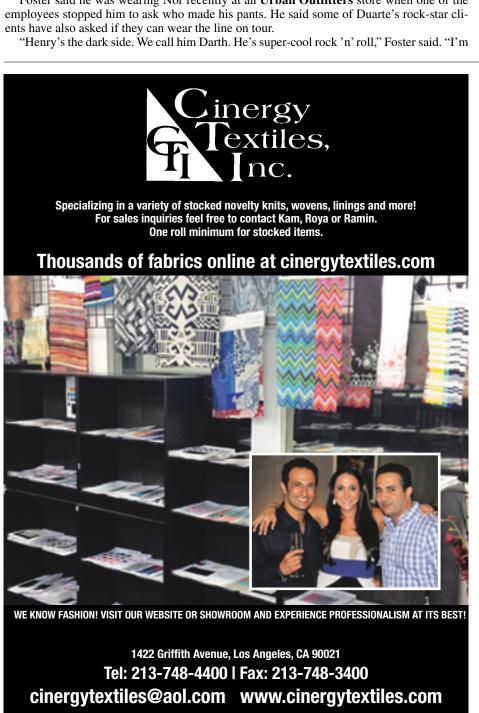
Kay Sides, owner of the Hatch showroom, which will carry the new collection, describes Nor as "rock 'n' roll, fierce activewear."

Nor takes a fresh approach to the athletic-inspired trend, Sides said.

"It's a really accessible price point, but you can still rock it with your Céline Birkies and look rad."











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### Patagonia Introduces New Nano-Air Products That Are Extremely Light

Most outdoor athletes know that when the going gets tough, you start to heat up and have to shed layers of clothing.

For those sports enthusiasts who want a one-stop jacket that keeps you warm, dry and breathes, **Patagonia**, based in Ventura, Calif., has released a new product called the Nano-Air jacket, which also comes in a Nano-Air hoodie.

The feather-light outerwear is made from **FullRange** insulation, which is a multi-denier synthetic fill insulation made from several different types of polyester fibers developed by **Toray Mills** in Japan.

It's built in much the same way as traditional fill insulation but has a proprietary element that gives it added stability against fiber migration. It allows for great stretch and recovery.

Nano-Air garments use a 60-gram insulation weight for versatility in a wider range of temperatures. Utilizing a blend of hydrophobic fibers that repel moisture, FullRange insulation will maintain its warmth and loft when wet and dries fast.

So if you are a rock climber, this is the way to go if you need a stretchy jacket that doesn't act as a blanket that warms you up.

The Nano-Air products are incredibly breathable, allowing airflow of up to 40 cubic feet per minute. They also can be worn continuously during aerobic, stop-start activities in the mountains and make it unnecessary to adjust layers when your body heats up.

"As soon as we started field testing the Nano-Air hoodie, I knew we had something special on our hands, and lab testing confirmed it," said Jenna Johnson, Patagonia's business unit director for alpine. "We've created an entirely new category of synthetic insulation with the Nano-Air products. The feedback we've received from our ambassadors has been incredible. You put it on and leave it on. It's already hard to imagine climbing or skiing without it."

The jackets are made in styles for men and women. The jacket retails for \$249, and the hoodie sells for \$299.

—Deborah Belgum

#### Made in LA Continued from page 1

trying to capitalize on the wave of companies that want to shift all or some of their overseas production to Los Angeles or help start-ups become familiar with the ins and outs of a seam and a button hole.

Houman Salem, a lingerie and apparel maker as well as an e-commerce retailer, is taking it a step further. He just began compiling an online directory of Southern California garment manufacturers, textile producers, accessories makers, pattern makers, label providers, logistics services and legal services as well as marketing and public relations that work with apparel and textile companies.

His endeavor is called **Made by Los Angeles** (www.madebylosangeles.com), which also comes with a Made by Los Angeles hangtag program he designed and developed. "All the listings go through a professional review," said the entrepreneur.

It costs \$59 a month to be listed in the online directory, which has a dedicated page that is like a micro-site that contains photos, videos, descriptions and business information. Apparel factories such as **Indie Source** and **9B Apparel** are on the site as is **LA Dye & Print**.

Users can access the directory for free, unlike Makers Row, another online apparel directory that covers the United States. Salem said the listing service is intended for independent designers, small- to mid-sized businesses and corporations that seek reputable Los Angeles—based service providers to the fashion and apparel industry. "We need to create awareness," Salem said. "My vision is that in two years we have enough people to create a local sourcing show."

The venture's hangtag program is available to all licensed LA-based garment makers. The hangtags' logo is a sewing machine in the center surrounded by the words "Made by Los Angeles."

Salem has 10,000 of the tags stored in his warehouse. For directory members, the hangtags cost 10 to 12 cents each. They will be around 15 to 18 cents each for non-directory members

Salem's hangtag program is similar to the one developed in 2012 under the auspices of then-Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. The mayor's office put out the call for someone to create a garment hangtag/logo that could be used by clothing companies that manufacture or design in Los Angeles.

That logo showed a hand holding a sewing needle surrounded by the words "Designed & Made in Los Angeles" with the ampersand formed by a piece of thread. It was unveiled at a press conference at the Cooper Design Space.

But the hangtag concept pretty much

died when Villaraigosa left office in 2013. Salem contacted the Office of Economic Development for the new mayor, Eric Garcetti, to inquire about the fate of the apparel hangtag. He learned the logo had never been trademarked and was not being used.

So he decided to create his own hangtag after talking with Glyn Milburn, who works in the mayor's economic development office. "We strongly support efforts like Made by Los Angeles that aim to build upon our strong creative and manufacturing bases to create jobs," said Milburn, who played in the **NFL** for 10 years before turning to business development and entrepreneurship.

#### **Small is beautiful**

Made-Well-LA and Made by Los Angeles are two newer ventures that were recently at the **Sourcing at MAGIC** show in Las Vegas to generate new business. But other entities have been at it for longer with mixed success.

A recently launched website, called the **American Brand Project**, is trying to connect shoppers with Made in USA products that include apparel, cosmetics, pet supplies, food, beverages, and home and garden goods.

The website lets brands set up their own online stores. To be on the website is free, with the American Brand Project taking a 5 percent commission on sales.

Already, Los Angeles—based **Rising Sun** blue jeans is signed up as well as **Bikini Thief**, based in Pasadena, Calif.

American Brand Project, based in Encinitas, Calif., had a launch party in West Hollywood, Calif., on Aug. 20, hoping to reach out to more Los Angeles apparel companies. "This particular party was targeted to the fashion and apparel industry, where

brands are heavily represented in Los Angeles and California," said Andrew Henderson, co-founder of the site. "We are much more interested in putting consumers in contact with companies that produce in the United

So far, there are around 300 brands represented on the site, located at www.american-brandproject.com.

Randa Allen at **The Trendchasers**, a full-package facility in downtown Los Angeles, said her company has had to adjust what it charges for its various services in order to



Gem Sewing, started by Marie Basteguian more than 25 years ago, is one of the few apparel factories left in the Hollywood/Los Feliz area.



Houman Salem just launched an online directory of apparel- and textile-related businesses in Southern California



Two sewers at Gem Sewing work on garments scheduled for quick-turn products.

make a profit

Now it bills the client for development and has set its minimums to 500 pieces. "People don't realize what it takes to develop a garment," she said. "Sometimes the development is more costly than making the garment."

The Trendchasers keeps track of how much time is spent on pattern making and how many lab dips are done in dyeing a garment. "A lot of times the customer changes their mind," Allen said, noting that many changes lead to a more expensive process.

Many of the clothing they find being manufactured here are made of synthetic fabric, such as yoga wear and activewear. That's because imported garments made of synthetic fabric can have a duty that is nearly 33 percent of the cost of the garment.

"I feel like the people who are manufacturing overseas want to do some made in America. We find that people want to bring some things back, but it is not the whole thing," Allen said. "Also, I think the community wants made in America, but they don't' want to pay American prices."

#### Wet Seal Continued from page 1

there is an opportunity to strengthen the Wet Seal brand and look forward to sharing my vision for an improved Wet Seal with our shareholders, team members and customers," he said in a statement.

Wet Seal also announced that Adam Rothstein was named chairman of its board of directors. He replaces Lynda Davey and will start his job on Oct. 1. On the Wet Seal investors site, it was noted that Rothstein serves as the chairman of Big Idea Brands, a New York apparel company, and has more than 15 years of investment experience.

During a day of big announcements, Wet Seal also reported preliminary results for its second quarter, which ended on Aug. 3. Same-store sales declined 12.4 percent. The quarter's net sales were \$121.2 million compared with net sales of \$137.2 million for the same quarter in the previous year. The retailer's stock slid 28.57 percent to \$0.75 a share from \$1.05 a share. On Sept. 3, Wet Seal also announced that it entered into an agreement to sell shares of its Class A common stock to a limited number of institutional investors. Wet Seal expects to receive \$18.5 million from the sale.

Goodman's tenure at Wet Seal was marked by new directions for the company as well as reversals. In April, the company announced that it would shutter its **Arden** B division. The contemporary store maintained a fleet of 54 mall-based stores. On Aug. 12, it announced the debut of 30 Wet **Seal + Plus** shops for plus-size women. In July, it reported that Christine Lee. who had received acclaim as general merchandising manager for Pacific Sunwear of California, would join Wet Seal as its

chief merchandising officer. The company has reported only one quarter of positive same-store sales in two years. In the third quarter of the 2013 fiscal year, Wet Seal reported a 0.8 percent increase in same-store sales for the entire company and a 1.7 percent increase at its Wet Seal division.

Forecasts for Wet Seal might remain mixed, said Howard Davidowitz, a veteran retail consultant and investment banker for Davidowitz & Associates, based in New York. The teen segment of retail is currently having a tough time, Davidowitz said, and he predicted that a management change at Wet Seal will not push its performance past teen mall retailers such as Abercrombie & Fitch and Aeropostale, which also are going through tough times.

Davidowitz recommended that the new management invest in its merchandising team. "If they have the right team of merchants, they have a shot," he said. "The whole business is about merchandising. At the end of the day, the whole business is about who has the right merchandise, at the right time and at the right price.'

Goodman, the former CEO, will receive \$819,200 in cash as part of his severance agreement. He also was vested with 100,000 shares of restricted stock, according to Wet Seal's financial documents.

Thomas will receive a base salary of \$975,000 and also gets a signing bonus of \$75,000. Before his first stint at Wet Seal, Thomas worked as president and co-chief executive at Tilly's Inc. from 2005 to 2007. After exiting Wet Seal in 2011, he served as a partner at **KarpReillvLLC**, a private investment firm that worked with small- to mid-size growth companies.



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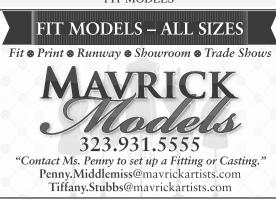
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Please send resume to: Miscella.Ruano@seven7jeans.com



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Junior clothing manufacturer is seeking an experienced customer service & edi rep. Experience with AIMS 360 and processing edi docs 753, 754, 810, 812, 850 & 860. Must have min 1 yr experience with Target (POV) and Walmart (retail link & data sync) as well as all other majors accounts proceedures.

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