AFRICA:
THE NEXT FRONTIER IN APPAREL SOURCING

GAME CHANGING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES, EMERGING FABRICS AND DESIGNERS, AND THE POTENTIAL TO DELIVER LARGE-SCALE SOCIAL IMPACT

APRIL 30, 2015
5:00 – 7:30PM
NYU PRESIDENTIAL PENTHOUSE
37 WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST
18TH FLOOR

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LAUREN BUSH LAUREN  
FOUNDER & CEO, FEED

Lauren Bush Lauren is the Founder and CEO of FEED, a social business whose mission is to "Create Good Products that Help FEED the World." After traveling around the world with the UN World Food Programme as a student, Lauren was inspired to create a consumer product that would engage people in the seemingly overwhelming fight to end world hunger. In 2005, she conceptualized the idea for FEED by designing the initial FEED 1 bag which, when purchased, feeds one child in school for one year.

In 2007, FEED was founded. Every product sold has a measurable donation attached to it and, to date, the social business has been able to provide over 87 million meals globally through the WFP and Feeding America. FEED has also supported nutrition programs around the world, providing over 3.5 million children with Vitamin A supplements through UNICEF.

STEFANI MAR  
SENIOR TEXTILE DESIGNER, EILEEN FISHER

Stefani Mar is an artist and costume designer who has been working as a textile designer for Eileen Fisher for 12 yrs. She sources and develops textiles with a focus on scarves and artisanal textiles, and feels herself fortunate to work with highly skilled artisans in shibori, as well as handloom weavers. She was thrilled when her interest in artisanal textiles was accepted and embraced by Eileen Fisher and their customers, helping to give artisans business, supporting textile traditions and encouraging new interpretations built on traditional knowledge.

SYDNEY PRICE  
SVP OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, KATE SPADE & COMPANY

Sydney oversees implementation for the company’s trade initiative, on purpose. on purpose teaches a group of 150 local artisans in Masoro, Rwanda to become a profitable supplier to kate spade new york, Jack Spade and Kate Spade Saturday. Sydney created the on purpose model, which seeks to integrate the Rwandan artisans into the company’s supply chain as a true manufacturing partner. Additionally, she oversees product design for Rwanda-made products, as well as manages training programs that will allow the artisans’ business to participate in the global marketplace.

ABOUT SPARK

SPARK is a Netherlands-based organization that focuses on job creation for youth and women in conflict affected societies through supporting the growth of small to medium enterprises (SMEs) with an aim to contribute to long-term peace and stability. SPARK supports SMEs through developing local business support centers (BSCs) and business support services such as business training, mentoring and coaching, which are otherwise underdeveloped in these societies. SPARK’s BSCs give entrepreneurs in fragile countries the opportunity to gain knowledge to build high quality businesses that are set up to succeed.

Since 2006, SPARK has supported over 250 small and growing businesses (SGBs), in coordination with local partner banks in each country, through a loan guarantee program offering up to 15K Euros to each SGB. The businesses have a wide range from textiles, agriculture, IT, bakeries, and more. SPARK works in Liberia, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Mali and other countries in the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

ABOUT IGNITE FUND

IGNITE Fund is an impact investment vehicle under SPARK for select businesses that successfully completed the loan guarantee program and require additional funding to scale their businesses. The IGNITE Fund is created to close the ‘pioneer gap’ in local investment funds, which are otherwise not present. IGNITE Fund provides loan, convertible debt, equity and quasi equity investments to promising businesses that are looking to grow their operations. IGNITE Fund also provides technical assistance and mentoring in addition to financial support. The goal is to support today’s fledgling innovator who just might create the next great, scalable innovation that can promote peace and stability in fragile states while offering investors risk-adjusted financial returns.
ABOUT LIBERTY & JUSTICE

Liberty & Justice is a fair trade certified apparel manufacturing company based in New York and Liberia. L&J owns a flagship factory in Liberia that has pioneered a Future Factory model – a high performance manufacturing facility with exceptional social and environmental impact. In addition to living wages, the workforce is provided with 49% equity, free healthcare, savings matching, and literacy classes. L&J has filled orders for US brands such as Haggar, PrAna, and FEED. L&J is the first GIIRS five-star rated company and was the first apparel manufacturer in Africa to gain fair trade certification.

ABOUT MADE IN AFRICA

Made in Africa, a subsidiary of L&J, is a social enterprise focused on supporting brands to source high-quality, cost competitive, and ethically-made apparel products from Africa. All orders are produced at MIA partner factories, which are hand-picked by MIA and intensively supported to achieve Future Factory standards. MIA's on-the-ground team of experts ensures excellent outcomes for our brand partners. Brands that work with MIA can expect high-quality products at a competitive price, delivered on time and with exceptional customer service at every stage.

Made in Africa develops its partner factories to go beyond compliance, empowering employees through the provision of living wages, equity sharing, workforce development programs, and generous benefits. In addition to market linkages and capacity building support, MIA also provides factories with trade financing loans. Each factory's cost of capital is tied to their social and environmental impact ratings, providing an innovative and concrete incentive for improvement. Made in Africa’s goal is to scale the Future Factory model across the African continent, transforming the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers, developing flourishing economies, and delivering positive environmental impact. MIA recently won first place at the 2014 HiiL Living Wage Innovation Challenge.

PAUL VAN ZYL
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, MAIYET

Paul van Zyl is the Co-Founder & CEO of Maiyet. Prior to founding Maiyet, Paul was known for pioneering new approaches to human rights protection; he has advised countries around the world on how to facilitate transitions to peace and democracy following periods of mass atrocity and human rights abuse.

From 1995-1998, Paul, a South African, served as the Executive Secretary of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was charged with investigating Apartheid-era crimes. In 2001, Paul co-founded the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) in response to a growing recognition that facing legacies of past abuse and injustice is crucial to protecting human rights around the world. He is currently a member of the Monitor Talent Network and the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on Fragile States, and has served as an adviser to the Sundance Documentary Film Program. He has also worked as a researcher for the Goldstone Commission, as a department head at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in Johannesburg, and as an associate at Davis Polk and Wardwell in New York.

Paul has been recognized for his work protecting human rights and promoting peace. His accolades include a Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship in 2009, a Recent Graduate Award from NYU Law in 2009, selection as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2008, selection as a TED Fellow in 2007, an Alexander Prize by the School of Law at Santa Clara University and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by Santa Clara University School of Law.

In tandem with his other work, Paul serves as Director of New York University School of Law’s Transitional Justice Program, and teaches law both in New York and Singapore. He obtained a BA and an LLB from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and an LLM in International Law from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. Following these studies, he was accepted into the prestigious Hauser Global Scholars Program at New York University School of Law, where he completed a LLM in Corporate Law.
SEAN ANSETT
BOARD CHAIR, LIBERTY & JUSTICE CLOTHING

Sean Ansett is a senior sustainability professional with over 15 years of experience. Through his organization, At Stake Advisors, Sean provides strategic advice to corporations, social enterprise start-ups, UN agencies and non-profit organizations on ethical trade, human rights and environmental sustainability globally. He was Executive Director of the Bangladesh Safety Accord and is Chief Sustainability Officer at Fairphone, Chairman of the Board of Liberty & Justice Clothing, and Senior Associate at the University of Cambridge Program for Sustainability Leadership.

Sean was the Director of Corporate Responsibility at Burberry in London. Previously, he was the Director of Global Partnerships at Gap Inc. where he led Gap Inc.’s social responsibility and stakeholder engagement strategy related to labor, environmental and human rights issues. He was the chief architect behind the company’s stakeholder engagement strategy that significantly enhanced the company’s reputation.

He has served on several global multi-stakeholder initiatives including the Advisory Board of Social Accountability International, the Global Reporting Initiative’s G3 expert committee, the Ethical Trading Initiative, a founding member of the MFA Forum and UNCTAD’s committee for integrating CSR indicators in financial reporting.

Sean is a regular speaker and writer. He has contributed and is quoted in Bloomberg, Financial Times and the Wall Street Journal amongst others. Sean is a returned United States Peace Corps and World Food Program volunteer. He has a Master’s degree in Sustainability Leadership from the University of Cambridge, Wolfson College and a Master’s of Science degree in Business Administration. He is fluent in Spanish.

ABOUT THE NYU REYNOLDS PROGRAM IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

At the intersection of new ideas and intractable social challenges lies the NYU Reynolds Program in Social Entrepreneurship, a cross-university initiative that finds changemakers from across the globe and transforms them into social entrepreneurial gamechangers.

Encompassing all of NYU’s undergraduate and graduate schools, this first-of-its-kind program founded in 2006 engages global challenges through a new vision of practice-based education, one that equips cutting-edge leaders to think boldly, act swiftly, scale broadly, and build smartly. An impressive 92% of our alumni continue to innovate in the social impact space. Of those, 40% are founders or co-founders and 50% hold senior leadership positions in leading business, social sector, and public organizations. The program also offers comprehensive opportunities and resources to the entire NYU and greater NYC social entrepreneurial communities including:

- the Social Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century Speaker Series, featuring visionary changemakers from Elie Wiesel to Chuck D to Wendy Kopp;
- the Realistic, Entrepreneurial, Actionable Learning (R.E.A.L.) Workshop Series, providing practical, hands-on training in skills needed to be successful in the changemaking arena;
- the Changemaker Challenge and NYU Reynolds/D-Prize social venture business plan competitions, providing real capital and curriculum to students from across NYU who want to change the world;
- new undergraduate and graduate courses in social entrepreneurship taught by industry leaders and experts including John Wood, Jeffrey Hollender, Jonathan Lewis, and Greg Van Kirk.

More than a reimagining of social entrepreneurship education, the NYU Reynolds Program realizes that the ground has shifted. We are in a new era of academic responsibility, and to answer that call we need visionaries that continue to define social entrepreneurship in the 21st century.