

AATCC California Chapter Technical Section Meeting-Sustainability

11/1/17 6:30 PM at Bolt Threads in Emeryville

Start of Meeting 6:30 PM

Introductions by Krystal Moody-Sustainable Materials Developer & Systems Change Agent

- Diana Wyman
 - Technical Director of AATCC
 - Committee Meetings will be held in a few weeks, which can be attended remotely. These meetings create test methods that are put together by key volunteers in the industry. Some of the newer program topics include LED Lighting and are a great way to network and learn more about AATCC publications.
- Introductions of Panelists
 - Jamie Bainbridge of Bolt Threads-VP Product Development
 - Carol Shu of The North Face-SR. Sustainability Coordinator
 - Lynda Grose from The California College of the Arts-Designer, Consultant, & Educator
 - Scott Ragsdale of Huston Textile-Business Management and Sales Advisor
 - Margot Lyons of Coyuchi-Production and Sustainability Manager
- What are the key elements of building resilient textile & apparel systems that support people, planet and profit?
 - Examples of the ability of a fabric to bounce back after distorted, twisted, etc.
 - Ability to sustain financial growth, financial impacts
 - Input/output has a purpose or usefulness
- In 3-5 minutes, please talk about your current role and the moment that sustainable textiles began with you.
 - Jamie
 - Began running material research for Nike, tried to include a small percentage of organic cotton into tee shirt program, which led to a successful program and led to other programs. Now, a company based on sustainable textiles in Portland and made use of what was available in the industry. Currently focusing on pushing sustainability in textiles industry forward at Bolt Threads. Currently been there 3 years.
 - Carol
 - Senior Sustainability Coordinator at The North Face. Started an interest in college at UC Davis, where she studied organic cotton and natural dying for fashion design. Worked for a small sustainable women's clothing company in Ventura, where 80% of production was made in America.
 - Lynda
 - Conventional fashion design background. Started at Esprit in design in late 80's, where they did Eco-audits. Looking at energy, water usage and environmentalists would conduct research. 1992 Launched a sustainable collection. Started thinking about the relevance in design and fashion. Currently working as a consultant in the industry.
 - Scott
 - Only commercial size weaver in Northern California. Grew up in the Bay Area around nature. Was in the solar industry previously and wanted to work in

academia. Later moved into commercial industries, where he favors natural processes and regenerative thinking.

- Margo
 - Works in sustainable home textiles. Concept phase centers around a target or commitment on sustainable ideas. Interest sparked in college at UC Davis, where she started a Re-Store on campus.
- About Bolt Threads
 - What is the company/business? What do you make here?
 - This is a business of making spider silk fiber using water, sugar, and yeast, which ferments to make a chain of amino acids, which ultimately create silk. Create a polymer from there and then use wet spinning systems to spin fiber onto spools.
 - Absolutely, amazing challenge of something that doesn't exist and then make it into a viable textile. After working in this, you start to understand the performance attributes in spider silk. High stretch, softness without the added chemicals. Build processes from the beginning with a clean slate. Technology platform, start with one fiber and do other fibers with different characteristics eventually.
- What are the opportunities, benefits, challenges to work with these hyper regional production models?
 - Jamie
 - Benefits include the ability to go fast. Many variables can do everything from biology to final fiber. Own knitting equipment; work with regional producers to get the effort off of the ground.
 - Carol
 - 2012 Backyard Project of making a hoodie within 150 miles
 - Fibershed based in Marin
 - Cali Wool Beanie, climate beneficial wool, ranch implementing a carbon emission plan
 - Lynda
 - E-collection, everything made locally.
 - Sustainable cotton project. Organic cotton farm tours, which led designers to turn to organic. Making what was happening in the fields more visual and alluring to designers. Education of organic fibers and awareness. Natfta, trade organizations, sourcing in other counties, have all driven out opportunities in California. Look at what we are doing with farmers to get them involved in biological systems. Integrated waste management, which got traction. Still small, but does good work overall.
 - Scott
 - Manufacturing facility. Vintage looms, manufactured in PA 1920's and 1960's, getting that equipment to California and making sure that it works. Supply-materials, yarns and where it comes from. How to get the fibers twisted and dyed regionally. Long lead times in fabrics. Customers need to be sensitized to those lead times and supply.
 - Margot
 - Production is overseas-85% from India with Organic cotton. Target specific categories that could be made regionally. Spinners moving,

weaving can be an issue domestically, labor costs are higher here. Lack of a full supply chain. Fibershed has been a great resource for them and how to integrate those materials. A slow process, a lot of collaboration in a network, more tradition business way.

- Lynda
 - 73% of cleaner cotton in the Background Hoodie. Blended with colored cotton.
- Circularity, soil to soil. Do you have an example of a program that follows this concept?
 - Margot
 - Biggest mission to work with organic cotton from India. 90% of assortment is organic cotton. Committed to reducing waste, being zero waste in sheets, etc. Donate scraps to CCA and collaborate with Zero Waste Daniel. Last March, Coyuchi for Life. Subscription program to rent some of the basic duvets, towels, and sheets. Renewal Workshop partnership. After time period of subscription is over, send those products back to Renewal Workshop to clean that used product and keep them out of the landfill. 85% of what they receive from other brands can be re-sold. Great response to this, exceeded expectations! Ultimate vision is to partner with someone who could tear those goods up and have that circular program.
 - Scott
 - For Huston, the mission is to make excellent cloth domestically. Recently, putting botanically dyed denim on the loom. Indigo is a limited run to see who is interested and what the market looks like. How close can we go to our mission?
 - Lynda
 - Not a fan of the term of circular, but likes the visual of loops. Think of a garment you have kept for a long time, it is more than a production line, but a life and story that is shared with it. How do we as Designers design for those new systems? How do we deliver that 2nd, 3rd or 4th hit of desire in a garment?
 - Carol
 - Fast fashion, how do we extend the life of clothing? Example of warranty program at The North Face.
- Q&A Section from the Audience
 - Question for Huston Textile/
 - Scott: Vintage loom machinery. Equipment is the draper loom, X3. 47 inches loom state. Chambray, light and heavy. Save the equipment for Ryan so he can put it back together.
 - How do you incentivize companies that have a commitment to ethical business models to be more mindful? Do you feel that there are industries that are missing from the conversation?
 - Jamie: No, the message needs to come from industry and not government to gain movement. Some companies may be overwhelmed by the complexity, if they can be pointed by other companies that can help them start, it can be easier.

- Lynda: Esprit management, look at what the company is known for and use that as the entry point as a sustainability approach. Example: usage of color, asking the right questions about dyeing methods that could help with energy and toxicity levels. Make it appropriate for the company and familiar.
 - Scott: Scarcity- only one Huston textile in the USA. Use of shaming- People who need to know that what they are doing is killing the planet.
 - Carol: Don't underestimate the power of consumers and their money choices. All of big companies looking at Millennials and their value driven behaviors.
- It's becoming a trend to be responsible about sustainability. Seeing more shifts and changes politically and worldwide, how is this affecting your mission?
 - Scott: Community supported cloth program-USDA grant associated with it. Purchase forward around Fibershed, focused on the weaving of climate beneficial wool. Commitment to participate in, to see a paved road for climate beneficial products. What is the momentum? A lot of interest in this.
 - Margot: Many people on her team paying attention to Farm Bills, momentum to work toward more domestic products. Wool Blanket, The Tahoe Blanket, full USA supply chain. Fibershed, Climate beneficial wool, and Textile Exchange. Opened up new avenues for collaboration driven by their values.
 - Lynda: Trends-look at both short term and long term. Millennials coming into their buying habits and education around the industry. Online platforms for funding for production.
 - Jamie: Most conservative group in the industry are equipment manufacturers.
 - What kind of energy and water and chemical reductions they have made. Starts a real change in the industry.
- Pain points in Sustainability, functionality? Any missing components that could hinder you or excite you?
 - Carol: Material performance or color limitations, figuring out an acceptable tolerance and designing around issues. More of a design challenge in some ways. In terms of US production, many of the capabilities we used to have aren't here anymore.
 - Margot: Towels in the marketplace use extra chemicals on them. Trying to reduce those chemicals and found that the towel performs better without them.
- What is one thing that people in this room that they can help with sustainability?
 - Jamie: Supporting small supply chains in the US.
 - Carol: Spending money wisely on products and companies that align with your values.
 - Lynda: The pull through of the supply chain. Make space for young designers in sustainable areas.
 - Scott: The push or the investor. Social impact people.
 - Margot: Share something that you learned today. Collaboration, building networks

Meeting End 7:32 PM