RALPH LAUREN ITM AND NEW TIMES GROUP ITM SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED TO FOUR ITM MAJORS

We are pleased to announce that the Selection Committee, composed of David Uricoli, Senior Director of Human Rights Compliance at Ralph Lauren Corporation and ITM advisory board member; Mike Cottell, Senior Vice President of Menswear at Ralph Lauren Corporation; Fariba Jalili, Executive Vice President of Global Operations at Diane Von Furstenburg, ITM Advisory Board member, and outstanding ITM alumna; Paul Magel, President of Computer Generated Solutions and ITM Advisory Board member; Sara Eisman, Associate Equity Research Analyst, Energy & Metals, at MLV & Co. and exceptional ITM alumna; and Analeesa Stieha, Customs Compliance Coordinator at Louis Vuitton and excellent ITM alumna, has chosen Danna Hall, Kayoko Hashimoto, and Yoona Kim as the recipients of academic year 2014’s Ralph Lauren ITM Scholarships and Samantha Douglas as the recipient of the 2014 New Times Group ITM Scholarship.

The Selection Committee was struck by Danna’s eloquence, ethics, deep passion for corporate social responsibility, as well as ability to balance academia, work, and community service. In her enthusiastic recommendation of Danna, Dr. Irene Buchman highlighted how caring Danna is with the issues concerning the ITM field, finding the subject matter to be fascinating, and happy to be studying broader, global issues.

To augment her major in ITM, Danna is simultaneously minoring in Art History, English, and Latin American Studies. In addition to her academic workload and membership in the Presidential Scholars Honors Program, Danna is a member of the International Trade Student Association and Corporate Responsibility clubs. She has also volunteered for the Fashion Design Club’s spring 2012 and 2013 exhibitions, the FIT Upper Division Fair, and the FIT Accepted Students Day. In the broader community, Danna has mended donated children’s clothes with Baby Buggy, spent an evening at the Fox House, a shelter for young, homeless mothers and their children, and volunteered backstage at the Mercedes Benz New York Fashion Week.

She also works practically full time at internships and as a consultant at the Writing Studio, where she contributed to a multimodal research presentation addressing the New Racism in Writing Education and Multiliteracy in Writing Centers as well as planned and managed its final practicum and holiday celebration. Danna is currently interning with Komar Brands, assisting in the production, sourcing, and quality compliance departments. She was previously a Summer Design Intern at Carole Hochman Design Group and was employed by Trumansburg Summer Day Camp Program from 2008 to 2011.

Danna prides herself in figuring out how to create the craft, such as making beaded daisy chains and folded paper flowers, than the finished product itself. She feels the constant need to be challenged, helping her to prepare for a career in international trade in the fashion industries. Going forward, she plans to pursue a career in developing sustainable sourcing practices and to foster relationships with factories which value their workers. Danna plans to influence the consumption and conversational orientation of shoppers, instilling social consciousness in every step of the supply chain and sales process.
Kayoko also captivated the imagination of the Selection Committee, citing her impressive election to President of the Asian Student Network, which has some two hundred members and already conducted activities involving the creation of the kimono by engaging the office of the Japanese Consulate General of New York. As treasurer of the Japanese Student Association, she managed its Japan Earthquake Fund Raising event as well as initiated the co-sponsorship of a social with Indian cultural organizations, and taught origami to foreign students. Kayoko was also creative handicraft staff of Friend, a Shanghai-based Japanese non-profit organization that sells handmade craft and quilting worth $30,000 annually and created five elementary campus funds for undeveloped areas in China. She was backstage staff at the Shanghai Creative Charity Bazaar as well as N. Hollywood S/S 2013 Fashion Week and assistant at the New York Career Form 2013,

In her strong recommendation of Kayoko, Dr. Jean Amato, as club advisor, minor advisor, and Regional Selections in Asian Film teacher, indicated how evident Kayoko’s keen intelligence, deep motivation, transformative leadership, and enthusiastic involvement in cross-cultural events were in every undertaking she witnessed.

In addition to her impressive extra-curricular accomplishments, Kayoko was recognized for her ability to combine her multi-cultural experiences as someone born in Japan, reared in China, and studying in New York through her internships with Gap Press Japan in New York, Rakuten, one of the world’s leading e-commerce companies based in Tokyo, and Miss Universe China. She was also a translator for the Chinese Cooking Workshop in Shanghai, China. Kayoko has since extended employing her language skills by tutoring in Japanese and Chinese at the Academic Tutoring Center and the FIT Alumni Visual Merchandising Workshop.

In discussing her career goals, Kayoko mentioned the direct application of her ITM degree to building a career in international marketing in the luxury sector to promote awareness of diverse fashion cultures and to create more international business opportunities.

Yoona demonstrated to the Selection Committee her remarkable development in the fashion industry, receiving her associate in applied sciences degree in fashion design, taking natural dying courses, produced hand-dyed scarves, meeting devotees to sustainability, and writing a book on artisans who preserved traditional ways of living, before joining ITM.

Born and reared in South Korea and having attended a Canadian secondary school before coming to New York, Yoona faced challenges that forced her to stop studying and working. However, her determination drove her to enter the ITM program, where she revels in discussing issues in an ideal platform.

Yoona values sustainability as evidenced by her vice presidency in the newly formed Corporate Responsibility Club. Her main role there is to manage product development so that the members can plan fund raising events. She also volunteered as a peer note taker in a Chinese class for FIT-ABLE, FIT’s disability support services area.

As her father’s prodigy, Yoona observed how his international trade background gives him confidence in the success of his own undertakings. Upon joining ITM, Yoona recognized how the program’s lessons made her realize her congruity to his own qualities as a successful businessman. This has inspired her to start a social enterprise through which she intends to connect labor in developing countries with that of higher income countries. She would also like to introduce Korean national heritage to international markets, where there is a desire for products with rich history and philosophy behind them.
Samantha impressed the Selection Committee with her excellent presentation skills and devotion to community activities. She is involved in the Distributive Education Clubs of America, an organization that focuses on high school students who want to invest early in their future careers; Key Club, which serves children globally; GirlTalk, a teen mentorship program for middle school girls; Dream Team, a club that assists in organizing the Special Olympics at a local recreational center; GA Gwinnett Teen Shelter Board, which helps less fortunate youth; Kennesau State University’s radio station; and the International Trade Student Association.

Samantha also volunteered for designer, Tracy Reese, during this spring’s Mercedes Benz New York Fashion Week and interned as a public relations assistant at Atlanta International Fashion Week. She is currently interning at 212 Showroom NYC.

Samantha credits ITM with greatly increasing her career interest in the fashion industry. She hopes to become an international buyer for a luxury company, department store, or an association that she can help to grow. To start practicing in this field, she asked to help with the buying for a hotel gift shop, Paramount News/Free & the Brave Bazaar Shop. By taking into consideration customer suggestions for her purchases, she has seen sales rise first hand.

The judges were impressed with all of the applicants, noting their drive, dedication, preparedness, articulacy, and depth in their conviction for corporate social responsibility.

We hope that you will all join us in congratulating Danna, Kayoko, Yoona, and Samantha for their well-deserved recognition.