

70

YEARS OF  
FOOTWEAR  
NEWS

The New. The Next.  
The Big Stories

TEN

## FIRST NAMES

Seventy agenda-  
setting, industry-  
defining trailblazers.  
Who made the list?

## MIAMI SOUNDS

Designers and execs  
set the stage for  
FN's CEO Summit

# NOW & THEN

A special tribute  
to the players and  
personality-packed  
footwear moments  
of the past seven  
decades. Here,  
PALTER DELISO's  
Vixen pump, a  
reissue from the  
1950s, is a nod  
to timeless design.





# 70 ICONS

Salvatore Ferragamo  
with Audrey Hepburn  
in 1954

## Good Vision

Groundbreaking ideas. Legendary businesses. Passionate leaders. Over the past seven decades, these icons have transformed the shoe business.

By Barbara Schneider-Levy and Erin E. Clack



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF FERRAGAMO

At right: Ferragamo's iconic wedge sandal has been reimagined for spring '15 by Massimiliano Giornetti.

MILESTONE

55



## Cameron Anderson

The industry veteran, who spent 45 years at Kinney Shoe Corp., is widely considered the mastermind behind the launch of Foot Locker. He began his career selling shoes in Kinney stores, eventually rising to president in 1979 and retiring as president and CEO in 1989.

## Thomas J. Bata

Known as the "shoemaker to the world," Bata, who took over his father's business in 1932, rebuilt the company's fortunes after World War II by selling affordable footwear in markets throughout Asia and Africa. Bata Shoe was particularly influential on the manufacturing side, introducing more modern production practices and supporting its workers by establishing schools, hospitals and inexpensive housing around its factories.

## Aldo Bensadoun

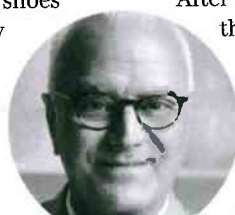
At 21, Bensadoun sold wooden clogs — inspired by styles he saw in Paris — from a small retail concession in Montreal, planting the seeds for what would grow into Aldo, one of the world's largest footwear brands with \$1.8 billion in annual sales. His company's rapid rise was driven by its knack for identifying emerging trends and quickly translating them into budget-friendly footwear for his branded stores and the company's partners.

## The Birkenstocks

Among the oldest shoe brands in production, the company launched in Germany in 1774. But it was descendant Karl Birkenstock who in the 1960s evolved the iconic foot-bed designed by his grandfather for sandals. The family-owned brand has generated renewed interest in recent

seasons as fashionistas covet updates of its signature Arizona sandal and Boston clog.

## Manolo Blahnik



Manolo Blahnik

After 42 years in the business, the 72-year-old designer continues to be an independent spirit, vowing to never jump on a trend, while personally creating each and every shoe in his women's — and now men's — lines.

Introduced to a new generation of customers through HBO's "Sex and the City," Blahnik's looks are a mainstay at top retailers from Saks Fifth Avenue to Harrods.

## Bob Campbell



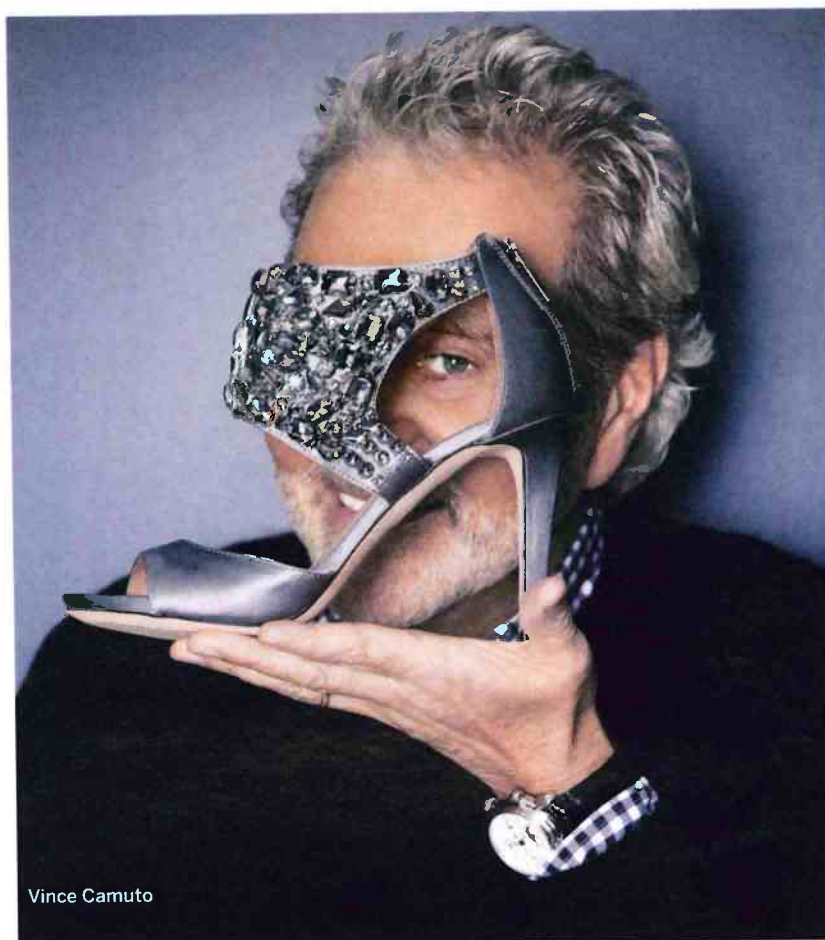
Bob Campbell

As the dynamic force behind BBC International for 40 years, Campbell transformed children's shoes from utilitarian items into fashion must-haves with fun concepts like lighted technology and designs featuring popular licensed characters such as The Smurfs and Disney

Princesses. In recent years, he has brought the power of global brands to bear in the category, amassing a



Nathan Clark



Vince Camuto

portfolio that includes Polo Ralph Lauren, Guess and Cole Haan.

## Vince Camuto

The industry icon, who died earlier this year, spent five decades redefining the footwear industry with his winning approach to both design and retailing. The co-founder of Fisher Camuto, the precursor to Nine West, went on to create yet another empire, the Camuto Group, with wife Louise, which turned his namesake brand — as well as Jessica Simpson — into a fashion phenomenon.

## Eric Chao and Jimmy Chen

The business partners founded Stella International Holdings Ltd. in 1982 in Taiwan to develop and manufacture footwear. In 1991, they opened the Stella Footwear Factory in China. Today, the company boasts a client

base that includes Clarks and Cole Haan, as well as designer labels such as Prada. In addition to offering its own labels, the company operates stores under the Stella Luna and What For banners.

## Tsai Chi Jiu

Along with his three brothers, Chi Jiu launched Pou Chen Group in Taiwan in 1969. It would become one of the world's largest footwear design, manufacturing and distribution organizations. Along with its subsidiary, Yue Yuen Industrial Holdings Ltd., Pou Chen produces more than 300 million pairs of shoes annually for major brands, including Merrell, Timberland and Reebok, with production in regions that include China, Vietnam and Indonesia.

## Nathan Clark

While serving abroad with the British Army in the 1940s, the late Clark, great-grandson of the founder of

## Long Story Short

Founded with the goal of covering the news and the noteworthy — still FN's driving mantra — *Footwear News* has a rich history of its own.

### 1945

FN debuts on Oct. 6 at 10 cents per issue, or \$4 for a yearly subscription. The weekly newspaper, headquartered at 8 E. 13th St. in New York City, is published every Saturday by Women's Wear Co.

### 1948

FN moves to 7 E. 12th St. in New York and starts publishing every Friday. Women's Wear Co. becomes Fairchild Publications.

### 1950

A one-year subscription to FN falls to \$3, while the single-issue price stays at 10 cents.

Jessica Simpson recently teamed with Sequential Brands for her fashion business, while Camuto still holds the shoe license.



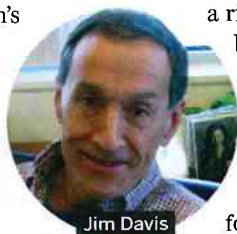


Libby and Sam Edelman

Clarks, noticed other officers sporting simple suede boots with crepe soles that they had bought at bazaars in Cairo. Upon his return to England, Clark created a version of the shoe, dubbed the Desert Boot, for the family business that would revolutionize casual footwear and become an iconic silhouette.

### Robert Clergerie

Recognized for his women's looks with an often-masculine point of view, Clergerie launched his collection and a store in Paris in 1981. In 2011, the French designer ceded the majority of his shares to First Heritage Brands. Soon after, Roland Mouret was named creative director.



Jim Davis

### The Coles

Following in the footsteps of their father, Charles Cole, who created 1970s fashion brand Candie's, Kenneth and Neil have created powerhouses of their own. Kenneth founded lifestyle brand Kenneth Cole Productions in 1983, often using his fame to champion a range of social causes.

Neil is chairman, CEO and president of licensing-and-branding firm Iconix Brand Group, assembling an impressive portfolio of licenses with retailers and manufacturers worldwide.

### Adolf "Adi" Dassler

Together with brother Rudolph, German-born Adi began making sports shoes in the 1920s, outfitting numerous Olympic athletes. When

a rift developed between the brothers, Rudolph left to launch rival brand Puma, while Adi renamed his company Adidas and continued to capitalize on athlete endorsements for global publicity. Today, Adidas is a nearly \$15 billion juggernaut and one of the world's most recognizable brands.

### Jim Davis

In 1972, six years after graduating from college, the enterprising Davis — armed with a \$10,000 down payment — bought Boston-based New Balance, then only a six-employee running-shoe company. Over the decades, Davis and his wife, Anne, have grown it into one of the world's

biggest athletic brands, with annual sales topping \$3 billion.

### The Daytons

Target's beginnings trace back to 1902, when merchant George Dayton opened a dry-goods store in Minneapolis. Under Dayton's sons and grandsons, the business flourished, fueled along the way by the acquisitions of J.L. Hudson Co., Mervyn's and Marshall Field's. Today, Target is a \$73 billion retail giant known for its collaborations with major fashion brands, such as Missoni and Lilly Pulitzer.

### Diego Della Valle

Noticing that clothing trends were becoming more casual, Italian entrepreneur Della Valle had the idea to make more relaxed footwear to match. At his family's shoemaking factory in the 1970s, he created a collection of handmade leather driving mocs with distinctive pebbled soles under the Tod's label. He went on to launch luxury leather-goods brands Hogan and Fay, in addition to acquiring the license for Roger Vivier.

### The Dillards

After borrowing \$8,000 from his father, William Dillard opened his first retail shop in 1938 in Nashville, Ark. Additional locations soon followed, and Dillard's flourished as one of the country's leading department stores. Through the years, the company, now run by sons William and Alex, acquired other banners and stores to grow its nationwide chain into 300 doors.

### David Evins

The New York shoemaker, who died in 1991, gained popularity in the 1950s by focusing on comfort and lightening the weight of women's footwear — all while delivering plenty of glamour. Evins' designs were a favorite of First

Ladies and Hollywood stars, including Judy Garland and Marilyn Monroe, who wore his heels in her famous windblown-dress photo.

### Sam and Libby Edelman

In the 1980s, the dynamic husband-and-wife duo took the shoe business by storm — and became household names — with their colorful line of ballet flats under the Sam & Libby label. The company rocketed to sales of \$88 million in four years and was later sold to Brown Shoe, and then to Jones Group. After a short hiatus, Sam returned to do it all over again. In 2004, he launched Sam Edelman, a contemporary lifestyle brand that's now under the Caleres umbrella.

### Salvatore Ferragamo

Known for his visionary sense of style and a client roster that ranged from Hollywood starlets to royalty, Ferragamo's earliest U.S. boutique opened in California in 1916, and by the 1920s, the Italian designer's footwear business was well on its way to becoming a global luxury empire. Today, the U.S. market represents nearly 25 percent of sales, and



Kenneth Cole

#### 1960

The annual subscription rate rises to \$5; the cost per issue remains 10 cents. FN now publishes on Thursdays.

#### 1969

The cost of a single issue rises to 15 cents; an annual subscription is now \$7.

#### 1973

The annual subscription rate jumps to \$10.

#### 1975

The price per issue rises to 30 cents, while an annual subscription is \$15. FN is now published every Monday, the weekly's new permanent drop day.



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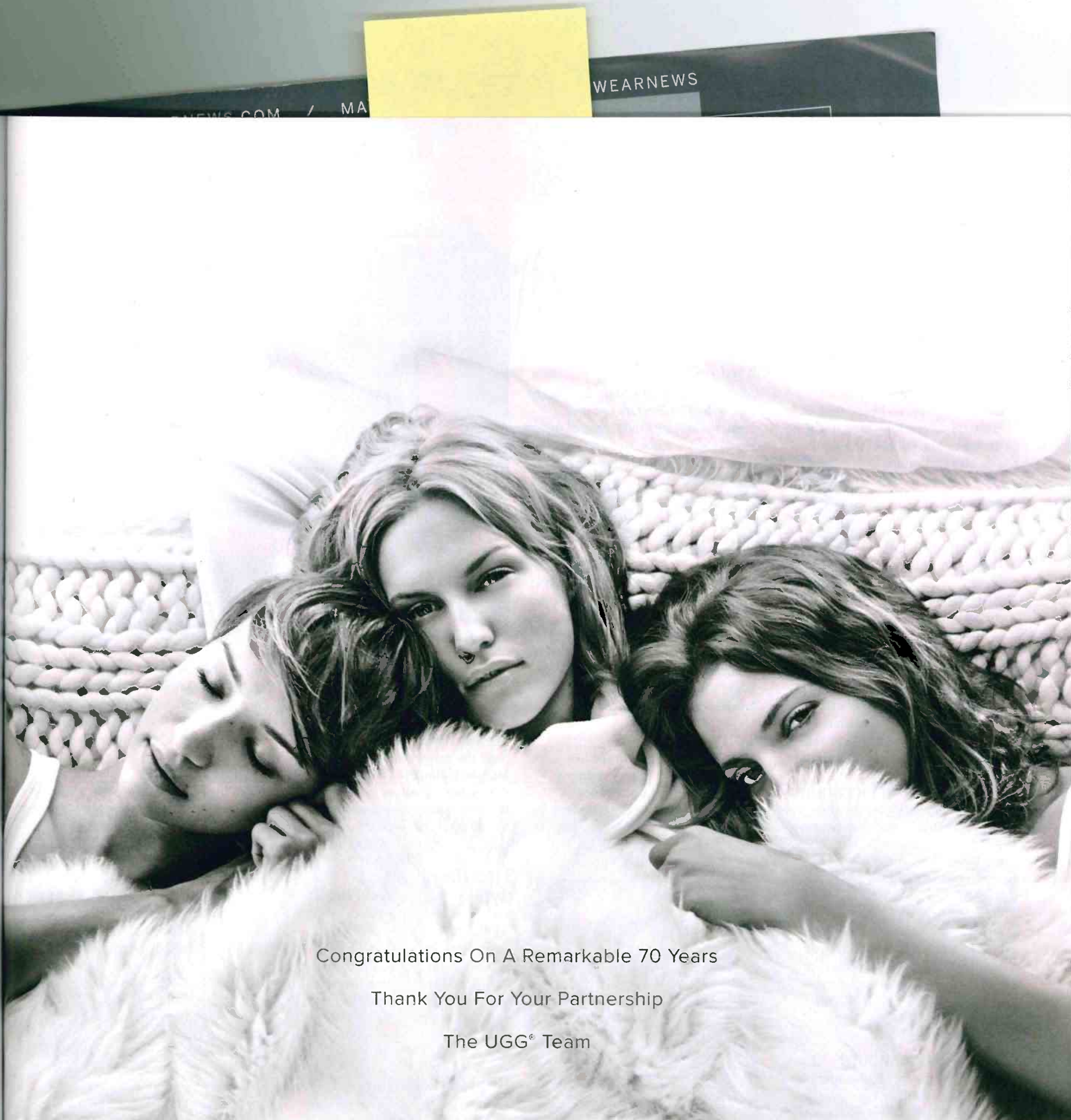
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all six of Ferragamo's children are involved in the business.

### Paul Fireman

While hunting for a sporting-goods company to buy, the former camping-equipment salesman discovered English brand Reebok in 1979. He successfully carved a niche for the unknown label in the aerobics and running-shoe markets during the 1980s, turning Reebok into a global entity before selling it to Adidas in 2005 for \$3.8 billion.



Tony Hsieh

### Jerome Fisher

As the co-founder of Fisher Camuto — forerunner of powerhouse Nine West Group, where he served as CEO — Fisher helped bring fashion-forward footwear to the global market at affordable prices through a string of wholesale partners and concept shops. The company was sold to Jones Apparel Group in 1999.

### John and Tom Florsheim

After buying back their family's struggling business from investor Apollo Management in 2002, the Florsheim brothers — great-grandsons of founder Sigmund — worked their magic to lift it from bankruptcy. With savvy marketing, stepped-up styling and a buzzy collaboration with Duckie Brown, they continue to turn up the cool factor on the once-stodgy men's brand.

### Robert and Michael Greenberg

Robert Greenberg had his first big hit in 1983 with L.A. Gear, which he grew to nearly \$1 billion in sales within five years, and he hasn't stopped since. Together with son Michael, Robert catapulted 23-year-

old Skechers to the top of the shoe game — and well past the \$2 billion sales mark — with a combination of trend-right product and masterful marketing.

### Tinker Hatfield

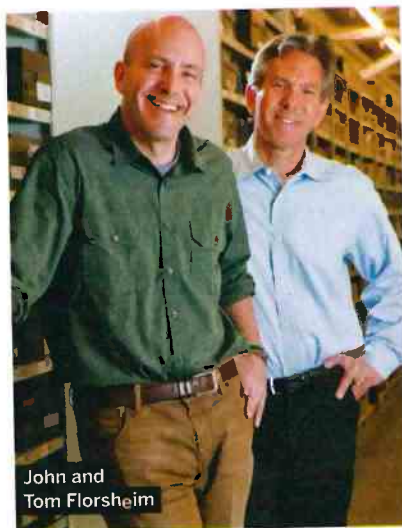
Joining Nike in 1981, Hatfield quickly rose to legendary status as the creative genius behind some of the brand's most innovative and successful styles, including the Air Jordan, Air Max 1 and Air Flight Huarache. Today, he heads the company's Innovation Kitchen, Nike's think tank for product development.

### Joan and David Helpern

The husband-and-wife team turned their women's footwear business, launched in 1968, into a lifestyle collection, operating their own stores alongside wholesale distribution. David oversaw finances, while Joan focused on design.

### Tony Hsieh

After joining Zappos in the late 1990s, the entrepreneur changed the way Americans buy shoes. Hsieh helped evolve the e-tailer into an online powerhouse. Now, he's committed to turning Zappos' Las Vegas home into an urban



John and Tom Florsheim



Jeffrey Kalinsky

mecca that goes way beyond the city's gambling roots.

### Vivian Infantino

FN's late fashion director championed the careers of designers from Manolo Blahnik to Donald Pliner during her legendary run of more than 50 years at the magazine. In 2004, FN launched its annual Emerging Talent Award in her honor.

### Dick Jacobson

The industry veteran was elected FFANY's founding president in 1979 while he was still VP of Nina Footwear. Joining FFANY full time in 1986, Jacobson was instrumental in bringing the industry together to champion such causes as Shoes on Sale, which, since its debut in 1993, has raised millions of dollars for breast cancer research.

### Charles Jourdan

Jourdan launched his eponymous label in 1919, with his three sons joining the business in the late 1940s. Son Roland was responsible for bringing the company's fashion-

forward styles to the U.S. in the 1950s and assumed design leadership upon Charles' death in 1976. Princess of Wales Diana Spencer was among the company's high-profile clients.

### The Kalinskys

With his impeccable eye for fashion, the late Morris Kalinsky, alongside sons Barry and Jeffrey, defined Southern style at his pair of Bob Ellis shoe emporiums in Charleston, S.C., and Charlotte, N.C. Jeffrey would eventually strike out on his own with his trendy Jeffrey boutiques in New York and Atlanta, now majority-owned by Nordstrom.

### Bruce Katz

Together with his father, Saul, Bruce Katz founded Rockport in 1971. The brand shook up the brown-shoe business by inserting athletic technologies into casual footwear. With popular styles such as the ProWalker and the World Tour, Rockport helped spark the fitness-walking movement in the 1980s — and created a new category of footwear.

#### 1977

Capital Cities Media buys Fairchild Publications (and *Footwear News*).

#### 1979

FN's cost per issue hits 90 cents, with an annual subscription now \$25.

#### 1980

The issue price hits \$1, and an annual subscription edges up to \$29.

#### 1985

FN publishes a special 40th Anniversary Issue.



## Martin Keen

Keen took a gamble in 2003 by launching his quirky shoe-sandals with their large, protective rubber toe bumpers that were initially designed for sailing. The bet paid off as outdoor and comfort enthusiasts embraced the line. After selling his shares in 2011 to business partner Rory Fuerst, Keen put his entrepreneurial skills to the test again with Focal Upright Furniture, which offers ergonomic standing desks and seating.

## Phil Knight

Knight, who launched Nike precursor Blue Ribbon Sports with Bill Bowerman in 1964, redefined the athletic-footwear market throughout the '70s and '80s with cutting-edge



Beth Levine

technology, trend-driven styling and marketing savvy. His stalwart vision — and use of marquee athletes as brand ambassadors — catapulted the company into a global phenomenon, boasting nearly \$28 billion in revenues in 2014.

## Herbert and Beth Levine

The celebrated team launched the Herbert Levine label in 1948 in New York and continued to innovate for nearly three decades, with groundbreaking looks such as stretch boots and Lucite heels. The company's client list included Jacqueline Kennedy and Liza Minelli, in addition to providing runway footwear for Halston and Geoffrey Beene.

## Christian Louboutin

Recognized around the world for his red-lacquered soles, Louboutin's signature stilettos are coveted by celebrities on and off the red carpet. After opening his first boutique in 1991, he now boasts more than 90 doors and sells nearly a million pairs annually. Most recently, the designer added a line of nail polishes to his luxury repertoire.

## Steve Madden

Madden's fashion dynasty had surprisingly humble beginnings: The scrappy designer started his namesake brand in 1990 by selling shoes out of the trunk of his car. Twenty-five years later — with a stint in prison along the way — he reigns over a \$1.3 billion business, built on his talent for turning out hit shoe after hit shoe and landing hot buys.

## Bruno Magli

Though it gained international notoriety during the O.J. Simpson trial (the ex-NFL star was wearing



Steve Madden

Magli loafers on the night in question), the Italy-based company was co-founded by Magli as a women's shoe label in 1936. In 1947, the company opened a factory that also produced men's footwear.

## Natalie Massenet

Credited with introducing the designer market to online retailing, Massenet founded Net-a-Porter in London in 2000. Using her background as a journalist at *FN* sister publication *Women's Wear Daily*, she modeled the site after a fashion magazine. In 2010, Massenet sold the business to Swiss luxury-goods company Richemont, and the powerhouse merged with Yoox.com this year.

## Tamara Mellon

Mellon turned young Malaysian shoemaker Jimmy Choo into a global brand with a cult following, acting as the face and muse of the luxury label. After changing hands several

times, the company was sold to its current owner, private equity firm Labelux, in 2011 for nearly \$900 million. Mellon then resigned, and today heads her own eponymous high-end lifestyle brand, launched in 2013.

## Jerry Miller

Following his father, Israel, creator of I. Miller, into the shoe business, the younger Miller launched Margaret Jerrold, a line named for his wife, in the 1950s. Miller added the moderately priced Shoe Biz line in the 1960s, sold in New York's Henri Bendel. He was one of the first to source product globally from regions that included Asia and Eastern Europe.

## Blake Mycoskie

The brains behind Toms, founded in 2006, Mycoskie brought social entrepreneurship to the fashion world with his pioneering, one-for-one business model. Over the past decade, the brand, which now also sells eyewear, coffee and bags, has given away 20 million pairs of its



Natalie Massenet

PHOTOS: FN ARCHIVES

### 1986

FN launches the Footwear News Achievement Awards as a breakfast event. An annual subscription jumps to \$48.

### 1991

FN moves its offices to 7 W. 34th St. in New York.

### 1993

FN now costs \$1.50 per issue, while an annual subscription hits \$51.

### 1995

To celebrate 50 years in business, *Footwear News* publishes three special anniversary supplements throughout the year.





Blake Mycoskie

slip-on shoes to children in need and inspired other companies to give back as well.

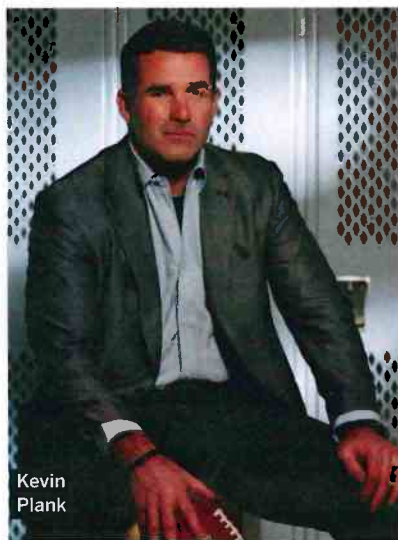
### The Nordstroms

Nordstrom started as a shoe retailer, so it's no surprise that category continues to define the upscale department store more than a century later, under the fourth-generation leadership of Blake, Pete and Erik Nordstrom (great-grandsons of founder John). The brothers have maintained service and selection as the cornerstone of the company, helping to drive sales to \$13.1 billion last year.

### John O'Neil

O'Neil's 50-year career at Converse began on the factory floor — where he worked a night shift while a student at Tufts University — and took him all the way to the executive suite. As president of the sneaker

brand from 1974 to 1987, he put more muscle behind marketing, including signing sports stars like Magic Johnson, to better compete with rivals Reebok and Nike, which eventually bought the brand.



Kevin Plank

### Kihachiro Onitsuka

Onitsuka first formed Japan-based Onitsuka Co. in 1949 to make basketball shoes for the country's rising stars. But within two years, his running shoe, under the Onitsuka Tiger label, was seen on the winner of the Boston Marathon. The brand was introduced to the U.S. in the 1960s, followed by the formation of Asics Corp. in 1977, when it merged with GTO Sports Nets & Sportswear.

### Andrea Pfister

Kicking off his career in 1963 as a designer for Lanvin and Jean Patou, Pfister debuted an eponymous line in 1965, followed by the opening of a store two years later. Julia Roberts, Barbra Streisand and Madonna have worn his colorful and often-whimsical looks, detailed with sequins or lavish embroidery.



Pete Nordstrom

### Kevin Plank

The Under Armour founder launched the company in 1995 and immediately created a new category of performance apparel. Since then, he has steadily rolled out footwear, with cleats, followed by running and basketball styles. Athlete endorsers include football's Tom Brady and ballet's Misty Copeland.

### Louis and Shoal Pozez

When cousins Louis and Shoal launched Payless ShoeSource in 1956, they reinvented how Americans bought shoes with a no-frills, self-service approach. Today, Payless is a global business with over 4,400 stores and e-commerce. After changing hands over the years, in 2012 it was acquired, along with sister company Collective Licensing International, by Golden Gate Capital and Blum Capital Partners.



Miuccia Prada

### Miuccia Prada

Prada built her family's small leather-goods business into one of Europe's most influential fashion houses. She launched shoes in 1982, and since then has turned out fiercely coveted styles season after season. Her Milan-based empire also now includes high-end footwear labels Church's and Car Shoe.

### Sir Edward Rayne

Rayne's grandparents, Henry and Mary Rayne, founded H&M Rayne Ltd. in London in 1889. Rayne joined the family business after World War II, helping to turn it into a fashion-driven label that collaborated with leading ready-to-wear and shoe designers. The company was sold in the early 1970s to Debenhams, with Rayne resigning in 1987.

### Fratelli Rossetti

Founded in 1953 by brothers Renzo and Renato Rossetti, the high-end men's and women's brand has remained a family-owned business. It's now in the hands of the second generation. Production is done exclusively in the company's Italian factories, and the collection is available in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the U.S.

### Luigino Rossi

The Italian company, Rossimoda, was founded in 1942, with Rossi assuming the role of director in 1956. Since then, he has overseen some of the leading brands in luxury footwear that include Givenchy and Emilio Pucci. Today, the company, backed by LVMH, showcases its past and present work, as well as the work of fashion designers from around the world, in the Museo Rossimoda della Calzatura in Venice.

#### 1997

Michael Atmore joins *Footwear News* as Editorial Director. ABC acquires Capital Cities Media (and FN parent Fairchild Publications).

#### 1999

Fairchild Publications is purchased again, this time by Advance Publications, parent of Condé Nast. FN's issue cost hits \$3.

#### 2003

FN's price per issue jumps to \$10, its current price.

#### 2005

FN moves to 750 Third Ave. in New York. The Advance Magazine name is dropped, and the parent company officially becomes Condé Nast Publications.





Stephen Rubin

### Sergio Rossi

After learning shoemaking from his cobbler father, Rossi built a factory in 1966 in his native Italy and began making sandals that he sold on the beaches of Rimini. Quickly garnering a reputation for daring designs and meticulous craftsmanship, Rossi was sought out for runway collaborations. Now owned by French firm Kering, Rossi's namesake brand boasts stores around the world and numerous celebrity devotees.

### Stephen Rubin

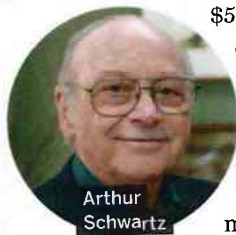
British businessman Rubin grew his parents' small shoe company, later renamed Pentland Group, into one of the U.K.'s largest sports-apparel and shoe firms. In addition to a majority stake in European athletic retailer JD Sports Fashion, Rubin's \$3 billion empire spans a stable of brands that includes Speedo, Berghaus, Ellesse and Mitre, as well as the global shoe licenses to Ted Baker and Lacoste.

### The Schwartzes

Under Arthur Schwartz, Schwartz & Benjamin — co-founded in 1923 by his father, Benjamin — evolved into a major force in the fashion footwear space, focused on building shoe businesses around some of the biggest ready-to-wear labels. Today, Arthur's son, Danny, leads the company, overseeing a selection of licenses, including Kate Spade and Alice + Olivia.

### Abe Shapiro

During the Great Depression in 1939, when many shoe professionals had fallen on hard times, the Boston-based rubber executive gifted \$500 and some office space to the newly formed Two Ten Footwear Foundation. Seventy-six years later, that organization continues its mission of providing financial assistance, crisis counseling and other resources to the shoe community.



Arthur Schwartz

### The Silversteins

Inspired by their father, a clog maker in Cuba, brothers Stanley and Mike Silverstein opened their own company, Nina, in the U.S. in 1953. Today, Nina Footwear Corp. includes the Nina, Nina Originals and Delman labels. Stanley's daughter Nina serves as chief creative officer for the main label, while daughter Flori heads up design for Nina Originals. More recently, the company added children's and accessories to the mix.



Mike Silverstein

### Jacob Slosberg

In 1919, Slosberg and partner Philip Green started a business specializing in classic stitch-down shoes for kids. Fourteen years later, the company bought the Stride Rite trademark from a small manufacturer and began marketing all of its footwear under that name. Boosted by the postwar baby boom of the 1940s and '50s, Stride Rite expanded rapidly, becoming one of the most recognized and well-regarded brands for baby and children's footwear.

### Brian Smith

The Australian surfer's bold gamble to bring sheepskin boots — a Down Under staple — to the beaches of California in the late 1970s marked the beginning of one of the industry's biggest success stories. His company, Ugg Australia (later acquired by Deckers Brands), turned the functional footwear into a fashion sensation, spawning countless copycat brands.

### Jack Smith

Looking to bring the superstore concept to the sporting-goods market, fitness enthusiast Smith opened the first Sports Authority store in 1987 in Florida, offering a soup-to-nuts selection of apparel, shoes and equipment. Within five years, he had built a chain of 136 stores across 26 states.

Today, Sports Authority remains a leader in the category, with more than 450 locations.

### Walter Steiger

The son of a bespoke shoe manufacturer, the designer was inspired by the looks of the Parisian couture houses in the 1960s, launching his first women's collection in 1966. Recognized for his signature curved high heel and minimalist designs, Steiger today works alongside sons Giulio and Paul.

### Rob Strasser

Dubbed the "man who saved Nike," marketing mastermind Strasser helped pull the athletic brand from the brink of death in 1984 by negotiating an endorsement deal with a young Michael Jordan.

### The Swartzes

When patriarch Nathan Swartz acquired bootmaker Abington Shoe Co. in 1955, he sowed the seeds of what would become Timberland. Under



Stanley Silverstein

#### 2005

FN publishes a 60th Anniversary Issue that rewinds through the trend-defining years, the biggest stories and an exclusive interview.

#### 2008

To find the next great footwear designer, FN launches Shoe Star, in partnership with Nine West and the Fashion Institute of Technology.

#### 2009

The Footwear News Achievement Awards become an evening red carpet event.

#### 2010

FN makes its mark on the trade-show business by launching FN Platform, in partnership with Advanstar's Fashion Group.

In 1981, Stephen Rubin and Pentland Group invested in the fledgling Reebok brand; they sold their stake 10 years later.



son Sidney and, later, grandson Jeffrey, the brand (now owned by VF Corp.) shook up outdoor footwear, bringing performance-tech smarts and style to what was then mostly rugged, no-frills product. The Swartzes also blazed a trail by integrating sustainability into their business.

### Burt Tansky

Known in the business as “Mr. Luxury,” Tansky, who retired in 2010, spent nearly 50 years in retail, running high-end department stores Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman and Neiman Marcus. A fan of the footwear business, Tansky thrust the category into the spotlight, helping to cultivate new talent and build designers such as Manolo Blahnik into the major stars they are today.



Burt Tansky

### Roger Vivier

His decadent designs have been called the “Fabergé of footwear.” French master Vivier, who died in 1998 at the age of 90, took women’s shoes to new heights, creating the first stiletto heel in 1954. He collaborated with countless couture houses, including Christian Dior, Schiaparelli and Yves Saint Laurent.



Stuart Weitzman

### The Waltons

Sam Walton, who died in 1992, changed the face of retail when he opened the first Walmart store in 1962 in Rogers, Ark., bringing big-city discounting to small-town America. His empire expanded quickly, and by the time he stepped down as CEO in 1988, the company had pulled well ahead of rivals Sears and Kmart. Walmart reigns as the world’s largest retailer, with staggering annual sales of \$473 billion.

### Wayne Weaver

Weaver’s colorful career began at Brown Group, where he cut his teeth before leaving in 1978 to helm Nine West, then a small importer. A decade later, he snapped up family-footwear chain Shoe Carnival, which has since expanded from three stores to more than 400. Then he tackled an even bigger project: ownership of the Jacksonville Jaguars, an 18-year tenure that ended in 2011.

### Stuart Weitzman

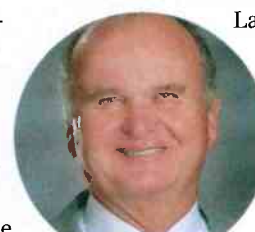
The executive chairman and founder of Stuart Weitzman Holdings LLC, who launched the company in 1986, is still on top of his game. Best known for his iconic diamond-studded sandals that are worth more than \$1 million, he continues to attract customers with sexy designs, such as his popular Nudist sandal. The company was recently acquired by Coach Inc.



Sam Walton

### Peter Woo

The Hong Kong business magnate has his hands in quite a few industries, but Woo has made his biggest mark in luxury retail. A major player in the Asian market, Woo’s company, The Lane Crawford Joyce Group, operates the Lane Crawford department stores, Joyce boutiques and accessories retailer Pedder Group, spanning 620 points of sale.



Wayne Weaver

### Giuseppe Zanotti

Launching his career as a designer for artisanal companies, Zanotti bought his own factory in 1990 and celebrated the 20th anniversary of his namesake brand last year. In 2010, Zanotti stepped into the men’s business and has been building up the label’s retail presence.

#### 2011

The magazine presents its first Lifetime Achievement Award, to Manolo Blahnik, at the FNAAs. The award is then named in the designer’s honor.

#### 2013

FN spins off its popular weekly column, FN Spy, into a twice-annual supplement. Sandi Mines, who joined the magazine in 2003, is promoted to publisher of FN.

#### 2014

Penske Media Corp. buys FN (and WWD) from Condé Nast in August. In December, FN launches Footwearnews.com.

#### 2015

In January, FN moves its headquarters to 475 Fifth Ave. On Jan. 26, FN unveils a redesign, with compelling visuals and new fonts. On May 11, FN publishes its 70th Anniversary Issue.