Michele Marini Pittenger, president of the Travel Goods Association, and Robert Dodson, chair of the TGA Board and CEO of Ricardo Beverly Hills, open The 2019 Travel Goods Show, flanked by the TGA Board of Directors.

No wheels, no problem: John Heth of Groskopf's Luggage examines one of the ultra-light, backpack-style carry-on bags from CabinZero.

Hailey Belluk and Andrea Vogt of CAA Manitoba compare anti-theft accessories with Ron Ste Marie of Travelon®.

It's the first morning of The Show, and Ana Paola Ramos, Sophia Karamanos and Eleazar Jacobo Roiz of Latin American retail conglomerate Coppel Corporation are caffeinated and ready to write orders.

Jeena High of LiteGear, Barbara Tolliver of The Traveler, and Magi Raible of LiteGear represent generations of travel gear expertise.

Hailey Belluk and Andrea Vogt of CAA Manitoba compare anti-theft accessories with Ron Ste Marie of Travelon®.

Sandra Seaman, Eileen Zheng, and Myra Taylor of Zappos are drawn to the shoe pockets in the Lux and Nyx The Little Zoe jetsetter backpack, demonstrated by Lisa Hu of Lux and Nyx.

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It's not magic, it's physics! Omar Abass of RetraStrap and Ryan Browning of Value Merchandise International discuss the weight-reducing effect of the RetraStrap shoulder strap for carry-on luggage.

Cretia Eyster from Kipling talks duffles and totes with Joseph Williams of Luggage Base, aided by Beth Moran of Kipling.

Daehwan Kim of Briggs & Riley demonstrates the monogramming process for Judith and Joel Garrett from Le Bon Voyage, while Sarah Smith of Briggs & Riley looks on.

Niclas Johnson from Travelers Club Luggage shows off the Chicago Collection to Lisa Legault and Jodie Hamelin from CAA North & East.

Retailers stream onto The Show floor, welcomed by Michele Marini Pittenger, president of the Travel Goods Association.

While Debra Hook looks on, colleague Yon Chang of Von Design tries on a plush and snuggly Smart Blanket, assisted by Katherine Pai from IYOH.
Business with a handshake and a smile: it’s the TGA way. Suhail Niazi of ReturnMe Lost & Found discusses travel security and eco backpacks with Solgaard Design founder Adrian Solgaard.

MaryBeth Brejnik and Stephen Gay of the Navy Exchange discover all the updated features of The Airhook 2.0, winner of the Product Innovation Award for Best New Design – Accessories.

Media attendee Reyna Simone of Travel Quips examines the new Design Go Hybrid Travel Pillow, one of dozens of exciting inventions in the New Products Pavilion.

Shen Jianzhi and Renee Harrison of Shanghai Overseas Import and Export Company and Lance and Kerryn Best of Voyager Group check out the functional mesh suitcase divider in a Newest ABS hardside carry-on.

David and Erika Sebens of Sebens Consulting discuss aluminum manufacturing processes with Barbara Yakima of Aleon.

Dutch distributor Jack Van Zuijlen from De Basis checks the weight and internal organization of one of Thule’s new carry-on spinners.

Going in Style’s Marilyn Janisch examines Lux and Nyx’s The Little Zoe Boardroom-quality backpack. With water bottle and umbrella compartments, detachable wristlet, and vegan leather, The Little Zoe looks perfect for Palo Alto!

Aleon founder and aircraft-aluminum specialist Carol Elms talks hardsides with Shelley Stern of Savinar Luggage.

Hannah Thezard of U.N. Luggage and Liza Costa of Wanderlust see the possibilities of the Sphynx All-in-One Portable Razor. Cute, portable, and TSA-compliant, the Sphynx got a lot of attention.

Get those big wheels rollin’! Ross Donaldson and Diana Cheung of TJX Europe test the carpet-conquering GravityRoll wheels and split-handle design of the new G-RO SIX.

Doug Stone of Doug Stone Sales runs through the colorful catalog of Cabin Zero carry-ons with David Kim of ABC Luggage.

Sara Chalifoux of Moleskine sends herself a postcard from Hong Kong, courtesy of an inspired promotion by Toyi To and Christie Zarpas of Frequent Flyer.
Javad Sadeghy of Bon Voyage Luggage and Mike Merensky from it luggage USA discuss an extra-light softside carry-on in this year’s it color, warm grey. Media attendee Benjamin Schneider of Euromonitor. com takes a closer look at a champagne carry-on spinner from GABBIANO Luggage’s The Macan Collection.


Mike Schmidt of Nomatic runs through the 20+ features of the Nomatic Travel Pack, with Kenji Egawa, Ryuta Kuwayama, and Yusuke Otaki of Sunco Luggage. The best part of The Show: meeting your colleagues in person — and discovering how much you like them. Sophy Liu and Dun Li of Nantong Shield Suitcases & Bags and Jorge Carmio of Maletines Presidente share a bonding moment on The Show floor.

Media attendee Haley Woods of Girls Love Travel peruses a colorful rack of hip and comfortable travel scarves with a built in surgical-style mask, designed by inventor and frequent traveler Danielle Travis of The Barrier Method.

Jonathan Russell of Springboard Retail talks point of sale systems and data analytics with Troy Perchotte of TravelSmart’s Luggage & Accessories. Cora and Scott Way of Urban Traveller describe their Burlington, Canada customer base to Scott Contrera of stylish New York travel goods manufacturer Solo.

Jim Markley from Sockwell talks stylish Merino wool compression technology with Jon Thiessen from U.N. Luggage. All Sockwell socks are made in the USA from homegrown wool. Media attendee Benjamin Schneider of Euromonitor. com takes a closer look at a champagne carry-on spinner from GABBIANO Luggage’s The Macan Collection.

Denis Wood from Dalys 1895 gets recharged at the pkt. Multivitamin Launch Pod, hosted by Ivy and Harriet Chase of pkt. Scott Harris of Knomo London and Christine Beben of Just Bags Luggage Center discuss the new Park Lane Collection.

Van Williams of the Luggage Shop of Lubbock receives a TAB seatback organizer, presented by Ron Rodrigues of Walter + Ray. Also a winner: Van Williams of the Luggage Shop of Lubbock receives a TAB seatback organizer, presented by Ron Rodrigues of Walter + Ray.
Mark Pressman of Cavalet and retailers Joe and Rogerio Farid of Rosso USA take a moment from examining 4-wheel spinners to smile for a photo.

Pam Merritt and Melanie Shepherd of Zulily talk hard-sides with the freshly caffeinated Nicholas Shadeed and Stephen Jacobs of Travelway Group International.

Adrian Solgaard of Solgaard Designs chats with kindred spirit Heather Newgen of The Voluntourist about Solgaard’s ocean-saving backpacks. Each Solgaard bag is produced using 5 lbs of plastic waste upcycled from the ocean.

Etan Yaish and Eli Weiss from FUGU Luggage demonstrate the Rollux for Dinah Yau Lim from Uniglobe Travelware. The Rollux won Best New Design – Luggage for its ability to transform from carry-on to a full-size, 36” spinner in seconds.

ItGirl’s daily fashion show – and its stand-alone booth – clearly differentiated the brand from parent company It luggage USA.

Becky Flint from AAA Oregon discovers the Mixologie Mini Blending Kit of travel-friendly roll-on perfumes, one of dozens of inventions in the New Products Pavilion.

Burton Robertson of Packablez takes a closer look at GetSet’s built-in LED weight display with Jeff Magsitza of GetSet Luggage. GetSet’s weigh-as-you-pack feature earned it this year’s Product Innovation Award for The Best Use of Technology.

Retailers at the Thule booth appreciated Thule’s sleek and thoughtful collection — and the micro-brews on tap during happy hour.

Open to the bustling Show aisles, the Launch Pods provided travel goods start-ups with some of the most visible display space at The Show.

Rinki Tanaja of BagItUp and Raffi Lakshminarayanan of Swiss Mobility and Blackbook review all the updates and additions to the Bugatti collection.

Barbara Tolliver and Susan Taylor of The Traveler plus Tamana Keller of Matador pose in front of “Ollie,” the custom Matador EarthCruiser FX. Matador won the Best Booth Award in the 400-600-square-foot category.

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The GUESS Icon Triangle Collection by Signal Brands draws the eye of Teresa Mangione and Michelle Dreicer of Stein Mart, assisted by George Patterson of Signal Brands.

Logan Howe from Sharon Luggage reviews the many, many organizational features and hidden pockets in the InTransit Travel Bag with Mary Colbert of WALTER + RAY.


Richard Swayne of Heys Luggage shows off Heys’ charming collection of children’s rollerboards to Walid Mejbel and Sajad Abdallah of Blocks Trade Canada.


Addressing the most important part of any wardrobe: Ross Johnson of Ella Dawn Designs displays chic leopard-print shoe bags to Natalie Martin of the Gibbons Company.

Calrissian Whitaker of the Warisan Group examines the soft, breathable, anti-bacterial fabric of the combo scarf and surgical-style travel mask produced by Danielle Travis of The Barrier Method.

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It’s a full house at “Generationspeak,” presented by consumer anthropologist Georganne Bender. This year’s Retail Lab educational seminars included detailed advice and inspiration for both brick-and-mortar and online retailers.

Nicole Reyhle leads a Retail Lab Seminar focused on welcoming technology into your business, with shipping expert Brian Gibbs, consumer anthropologist Georganne Bender, and POS data-mining expert Jonathan Russell.

Jodie Enriquez and Mary Spinali of Blue Buggie stay after class to get expert advice on managing online reviews from Mimi Do of YELP.

Jeena High from LiteGear unfolds the surprisingly roomy and stylish Kompressor Poncho for Kim Clark of Leather Inc. The high-quality poncho is waterproof, breathable, seam-taped and stows into a built-in fanny pack.

Lauryn Atwood of Lolo Garbo Enterprises examines roll-up travel games displayed by Chris Wootten of Pitkin Steams International.

Brian Gibbs shares more secrets to reducing freight costs (always a key issue when shipping bulky luggage) with Stephanie Ojard and Kathy Villarreal of AAA Colorado.

Paul Steiger from Sharon Luggage discusses the patented pollution, virus and pollen protection offered by a Posh Pollution Mask with Marleen Bergman of Posh Pollution Mask.

Jackpot! Lucky lady Renee Silverman of Windy City Luggage dba Irv’s Luggage wins two round-trip tickets to London, courtesy of Design Go. Contestants picked a number between one and 100, giving them some of the best odds in Vegas.

Jon Thiessen of U.N. luggage in Canada also had a go — and went away with a Kindle. David Lomas of Design Go and Michele Marini Pittenger of the Travel Goods Association were on hand to present Thiessen with his prize.

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The most popular Retail Lab seminar of The Show? “Marketing on a Dime,” presented by Retail Minded founder Nicole Reyhle.
Alex Fink of Fink’s Luggage and Repair, Jay Friedman of Lazar’s Luggage and Tim Bleish from Bag and Baggage exchange expert retail opinions.

Jon Davies from Solo, Jim Boyle from Briggs & Riley, Melissa Dunn of Solo, Colleen Anders and Laura Ballereau of Briggs & Riley, Bob D’Addario and Mike Brown of Solo and John Charles Coccherelli of Briggs & Riley (and friends) blow off steam at the end of a successful first day.

AAA is with you wherever you go... including The Show! Attendees included Becky Flint and Anne McAlpin of AAA Oregon/Idaho, Stephanie Ojard of AAA Colorado, Michelle Baird of AAA Hoosier, and Kathy Villarreal of AAA Colorado.

Tiffany Zarfas Williams and Van Williams of the Luggage Shop of Lubbock share the latest industry news with Barbie Hall and Mike Deutschendorf of Wallybags.

Legendary retailers Mark and Shelley Stern of Savinar Luggage and Satbir Hundal of San Rafael Luggage Center take a moment to pose for a picture at the Opening Night Party.

Representing Boulder, CO, Leicester, UK, and Mare Island, CA, Dana Blanchard of Hedgren, Dan Burman of CabinZero, and Jeena High of LiteGear discuss the global travel goods industry.

They know where the bodies are buried: Colleen Anders from Briggs & Riley, Sam Hirst from TripEquipment, and Bernie Maduzia from Briggs & Riley (and friends) know all the travel industry’s secrets.

Lisa George from 24-7 International, George Cassius from Earth Gear Corporation, Lyndsey Haberstroh and Mike Gothelf from Portmantos/Luggage Online and Dan Bettinger from Altman Luggage Co. toast to new friends and new opportunities.

Alex Fink of Fink’s Luggage and Repair, Jay Friedman of Lazar’s Luggage and Tim Bleish from Bag and Baggage exchange expert retail opinions.

Walter Adekunle and Luis Orjuela of Piel Leather catch up with industry friends Dodie Teather of the Derek Alexander Group and Joe Iannuzzi of Travelon®.