**DENIN Summer Scholars Internships**

Dates of internship: June 6, 2022 - August 12, 2022

Location: virtual

Number of positions available: 2

Faculty Mentors: Kelly Cobb, M.F.A. (Fashion and Apparel Studies) and Dr. Kedron Thomas (Anthropology)

**Project Title:** Sustainable Fibers, Textile, and Apparel

**Research Description:** The way we clothe ourselves today is fundamentally unsustainable. Current systems of fiber and apparel production depend on water and other natural resource depletion, soil and water pollution, significant fossil fuel inputs and carbon emissions, and producer and consumer waste. Textile and apparel scholars and industry professionals have proposed an array of models and approaches for ameliorating these environmental impacts, from the use of organic fibers to localized production models to the “upcycling” of post-consumer materials. These approaches tend to focus on a single aspect of the industry’s supply chains and operations, however, and generally take an incremental approach to improved sustainability outcomes. The question thus remains: what would a truly sustainable fashion system look like and how could it be realized? The DENIN summer scholars will support research to address this fundamental question. The broader research program involves faculty from across the social sciences, applied sciences, earth and environmental sciences, agricultural sciences, art and design, business, and other relevant disciplines to enable a holistic approach that incorporates scientific, technical, humanistic, and social perspectives to assess fashion’s environmental impacts and to consider existing academic and industry approaches to improving sustainability outcomes.

**Research aim:** Our principal aim is to develop an interdisciplinary research program that will yield an evidence-based evaluation of the changes that are needed in order to make apparel production and consumption an environmentally sustainable endeavor. DENIN summer scholars will contribute to this program by identifying relevant scholarship through online database searches and library searches; compiling and annotating scholarly articles and books; reviewing and summarizing white papers, corporate reports, government reports; drafting summaries of research findings; and preparing presentation materials.

**Benefit to students:** Aligning with the educational mission of the university, this opportunity will provide a meaningful practical experience for students. As part of the DENIN summer scholar program, the scholar will learn research practice, research ethics, scholarly writing, and presentation skills. This scholarly work will culminate in the form of academic presentations, grantmaking and/or peer-reviewed publications.

**Prerequisites:**

Introductory experience with scholarly research. Interest in sustainability.

**Stipend:** $4,500. Direct deposit is required.

**Funding Source: DENIN**

**How to apply:** To apply please submit a cover letter, resume and unofficial transcript to Dr. Yolanda Williams-Bey at [yolanda@udel.edu](mailto:yolanda@udel.edu) no later than May 13, 2022