



The
**COTTON
SUMMIT**

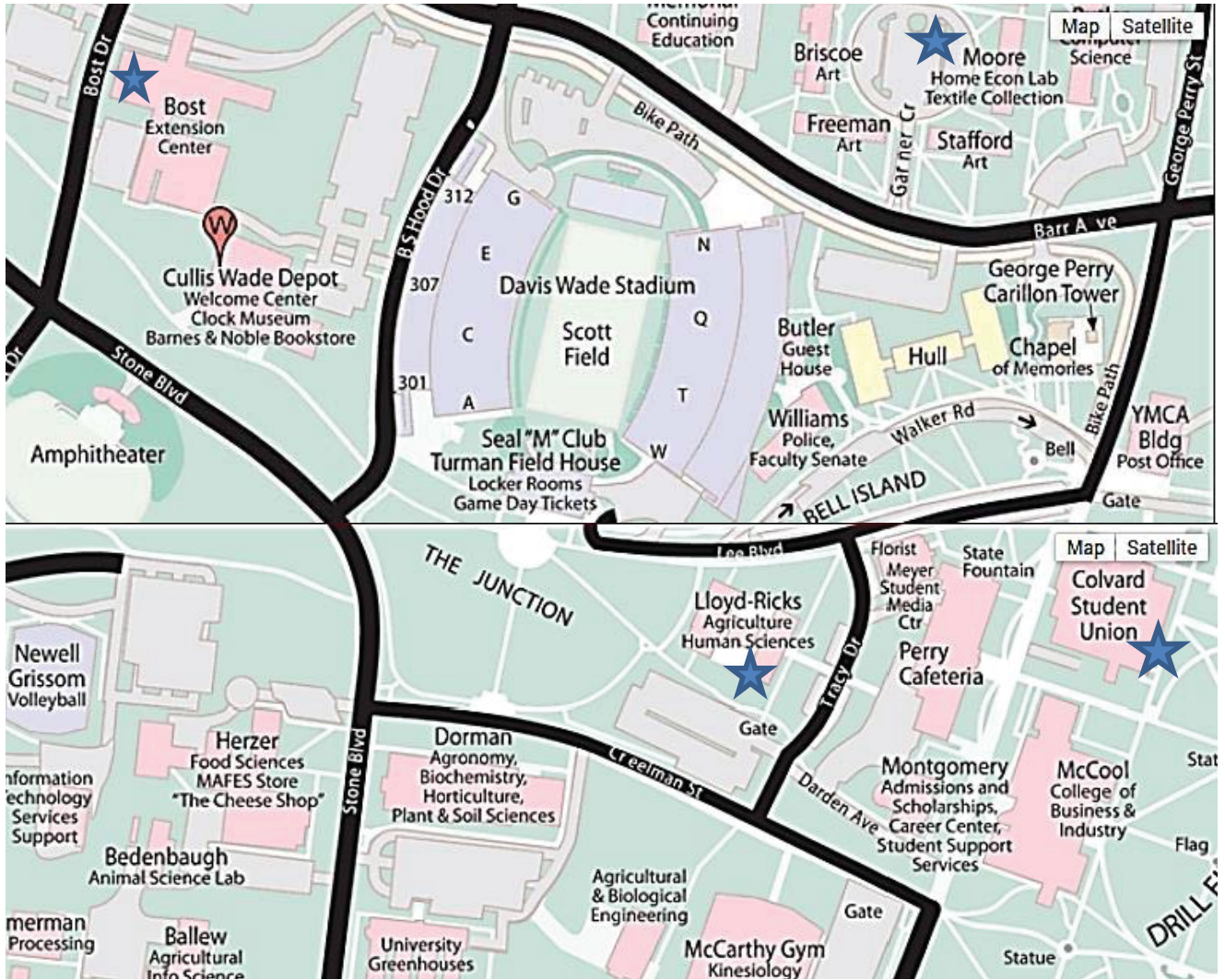
MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF
HUMAN SCIENCES

**Cotton University™
on Campus
Goes Green!**

April 23-28, 2015

Locations of Cotton Summit Activities



Buildings Indicated on the Map with a Blue Star:

Bost Extension Center

190 Bost

Colvard Student Union

198 Lee Blvd

Lloyd-Ricks-Watson Hall (Adjacent to Junction)

255 Tracy Drive

Moore Hall

60 Garner Circle



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

School of Human Sciences

*Agricultural Information Science and Education • Fashion Design and Merchandising
Human Development and Family Studies • Extension Program and Staff Development*

April 23, 2015

Dear Cotton Summit Participant:

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2015 Cotton Summit, hosted by Mississippi State University and sponsored by Cotton, Incorporated.

Since its inception, Cotton Incorporated has been the leader in promoting the sustainability efforts of the cotton industry, yet consumers are often unaware of these efforts. To increase consumer awareness of sustainability and cotton, future apparel, agriculture, and marketing professionals must be exposed to these programs and become purveyors of this information. I am excited that we are able to promote this aspect of cotton during this year's Cotton Summit.

Cotton has long been a vital commodity for Mississippi and the South. The Fashion Design and Merchandising faculty in the School of Human Sciences, as well as those in other departments within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, and the Mississippi State University Extension Service have long been committed to the sustainability of cotton. Sustainability of this historic crop is important to our farmers, our textile industries, and our state's economy.

I thank you for your support of our programs through your attendance and wish you a great time here on our campus.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Newman
Professor and Director

School of Human Sciences • Box 9745 • Mississippi State, MS 39762-9745
(662) 325-2950 • Fax (662) 325-8188 • email:humansci@humansci.msstate.edu

Cotton Summit Welcome

The Cotton Summit: Cotton University™ on Campus Goes Green!

“Almost since we opened our doors, Cotton Incorporated began pioneering sustainable practices for U.S. cotton growers, as well as for businesses that process or manufacture cotton textiles.”

J. Berrye Worsham,
President and Chief Executive Officer, Cotton Incorporated

Cotton University™ on Campus Goes Green is a two-phase project that brings the educational mission of Cotton University™ and the sustainability programs of Cotton Incorporated to the attention of students and the community. Its focus is the growing trend of sustainability and life-cycle assessments.

The Cotton Summit is the first phase of the project. It augments the online textile resources available through Cotton Incorporated by offering presentations and workshops. These activities are open to students and staff throughout the university, including those involved in fashion, agriculture, business, and marketing.

Phase II of the project is a fall 2015 promotional event titled “Pioneers of Progress™”. Using Cotton University™ and the Cotton Summit as resources, student participants will create garments, trend boards, market analyses, and/or promotional materials that promote sustainability through cotton.

Cotton University™ on Campus Goes Green is funded through a grant from the Cotton Education Program, which is administered by the Cotton Board and Cotton Incorporated under the direction of the Importer Support Program. The selected grants further the awareness and understanding of cotton fibers and cotton textiles among students preparing for apparel- and textile-related careers.

The Cotton Summit is the Spring Seminar Series of MSU’s newly developed Product Development and Retail Center.





What Is Cotton University™?

The mission of Cotton University™ is to increase and enhance the understanding of cotton textiles through education and through a networking community of people involved with every aspect of cotton. It gives professionals and students access to valuable resources, including cotton trends, research, and self-paced, online courses. The description and logo for each college appear below. Cotton University™ is sponsored by Cotton Incorporated and the Cotton Board.

The Cotton Summit brings Cotton University™ to life by offering presentations that represent several colleges. It allows students and professionals to participate in face-to-face, hands-on activities. In this program booklet, the logo next to each session description indicates the associated college.

Learn more: <http://cottonuniversity.org/>



College of Denim Manufacturing

Provides a comprehensive foundation in denim manufacturing for fashion and work apparel. Topics include production, quality, fabrics, and garment finishing techniques.

Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/college-of-denim-manufacturing/>



College of Dyeing

Provides a complete foundation in dyestuffs and application methods, dyeing terminology, and dyeing techniques. The information applies to the dyeing of fibers, yarns, fabric, and garments. Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/college-of-dyeing/>



College of Finishing

Provides a broad foundation in chemical and mechanical finishing terminology and techniques. Courses address the finishing of both fabrics and garments.

Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/college-of-finishing/>



College of Fiber Science

Provides a foundation in the understanding of fibers, which are the basic building blocks of all yarns and are the materials with which dyes and chemicals react. Courses focus is on cotton and some of the fibers that are blended with cotton.

Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/college-of-fiber-science/>



College of Garment Manufacturing

Provides a foundation in the assembly of cut panels into garments through three products—denim jeans, T-shirts, and dress shirts—in addition to related stitches, zippers, and accessories. Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/college-of-garment-manufacturing/>



College of General Studies

Provides information on a variety of different subjects that are currently relevant in the industry and to your career. This college provides frequent updates on many exciting topics. Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/general-studies/>



College of Innovation

Offers inspirational and implementable cotton ideas, technologies, and designs. Courses cover the latest and greatest in cotton trends and market directions.

Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/college-of-innovation/>



College of Knitting

Provides a broad foundation in knit terminology and techniques. The information covers an array of products, ranging from intimate apparel to socks and sweaters.

Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/college-of-knitting/>



College of Printing

Provides a complete foundation in printing terminology and techniques, including dyes and application methods. Courses address the printing of both fabrics and garments.

Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/college-of-printing/>



College of Quality Assurance

Offers a foundation in procedures used to measure quality and performance in textile testing, including durability, care and appearance, colorfastness, construction, conditioning, and sampling. Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/college-of-quality-assurance/>



College of Weaving

Provides a foundation in woven terminology and techniques as they relate to fabrics for apparel, home, and industry. Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/college-of-weaving/>



College of Yarn Manufacturing

Provides a foundation in spinning terminology and techniques, which includes different spinning systems and how they impact both yarn properties and knit and woven fabric construction. Learn more:

<http://cottonuniversity.org/college/college-of-yarn-manufacturing/>

Cotton Summit Opening Reception & Denim Donation Drive

5:00 - 6:00 P.M.
Restaurant Tyler
Upstairs



Networking & Special Presentation

New Life for Old Denim: The Blue Jeans Go Green™ Denim Recycling Program

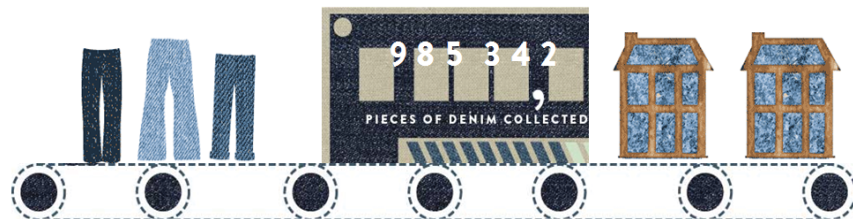
Andrea Samber

Co-Director of Consumer Marketing-Strategic Alliances,
Cotton Incorporated

Created in 2006 by Cotton Incorporated, the Blue Jeans Go Green™ program is a call-to-action to give old denim “new” life by recycling it into natural, cotton-fiber insulation. Learn how Cotton Incorporated is working with colleges, celebrities, Habitat for Humanity, and other agencies to collect denim and to provide insulation for homes across the nation.

Please bring one denim item to donate.

HELP US GET TO 1 MILLION



Opening Reception: Wednesday, April 22, 2015

9:30 - 10:00 A.M.
Union Ballroom

Breakfast

10:00 - 11:15 A.M.
Union Ballroom

Morning Keynote Address

Disorder in Cotton's House



Bob Antoshak
Managing Director of Olah Inc.

There's trouble in cotton's house. Cotton has lost market share to synthetics in recent years. Why is that? This presentation explores the reasons for this phenomenon—including price, performance, marketing, and even confusion among sourcing executives—and offers solutions.

11:30 - 12:00 P.M.
Union Ballroom

Luncheon

12:00 - 1:15 P.M.
Union Ballroom

Lunch Keynote Address

Sustainable Cotton: Food, Fuel & Fiber for Today & Tomorrow



Jan O'Regan
Director of Strategic Initiatives, Cotton Incorporated

Looking out to 2050, forecasters project a worldwide population of nine billion—triple our population in 1965. How to manage that growth and maintain our resources is a challenge that today's college students will face in their professional and personal lives. Cotton has been the subject of controversy. This presentation will explore cotton's "fieldprint" with respect to key measurable factors related to sustainability, land, water, energy and greenhouse gases, and the trends and challenges for retailers and brands to make sustainable product choices that fulfill the needs of marketplaces and goals of businesses.

1:30- 2:45 P.M.
Union Ballroom

Afternoon Keynote Address

Social Responsibility in High-Fashion Denim



Kandice Watson
Fashion Director, Rialto Jean Project

Meet the Rialto Jean Project: an eco-friendly, philanthropic denim brand specializing in hand-painted, one-of-a-kind vintage product. Learn how vintage denim is making an impact in the lives of children, in the environment, and in the wardrobes of celebrities.

3:15 - 4:00 P.M.
The Junction

Ice Cream Social

Mingle, unwind, and enjoy the unique flavors of MSU's own ice cream. The Junction is located between Lloyd-Ricks-Watson and the stadium.



Fashion Design & Merchandising 2015 Senior Showcase

5:30 - 6:30 P.M.
Bost

Senior Showcase Exhibition

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Bost

Senior Showcase Dinner

Welcome

Dr. Michael Newman

Recognitions

Dr. Charles Freeman

NRFSA Executive Board

Dr. Charles Freeman

Introduction of Speaker

Katie Brown

Keynote Address

Nancy Einhart
Executive Editor and VP,
POPSUGAR

Closing Remarks

Dr. Charles Freeman

FDM Senior Showcase: Friday, April 24, 2015

Workshops: Monday, April 27, 2015

“Cotton University™ in Color” Workshops: Creating Designs on Fabric with Sustainable, Natural Dyes & Paints

8:30 - 9:00 A.M.
202 Moore Hall

Catered Breakfast

9:00 - 12:00 P.M.
202 Moore Hall

Eco-Dyeing: The Quick, Eco-Steam Process



Artist: Winki Allen, Surface Design, Wearable Art, & Weaving Specialist

Associate Artists: Jane Dollar & Marva Lee Strong Goodman

Facilitator: Phyllis Bell Miller, PhD., Professor, School of Hman Sciences

Description: Raw plant materials will be used to achieve beautiful organic and geometric shapes and textures on new and repurposed cottons and silks. Pre-mordanted fabrics will be covered with dye materials and tightly sealed in plastic wrap prior to double steaming in a rice cooker, reducing the dyeing process to hours instead of days.

What to Bring: New or used cotton, linen, or silk items in light or natural colors, if you like. Onion skins and cut ends. Black walnut, sourwood, pecan, hickory, rose, or blackberry stems with leaves if you can!

What to Wear: Comfortable, old clothing that you don't mind staining.





12:00 - 1:30 P.M.
Moore Hall, 2nd Fl.

Catered Lunch

1:30 - 4:30 P.M.
202 Moore Hall

Painting with Natural Dyes

Artist: Winki Allen, Surface Design, Wearable Art, & Weaving Specialist

Associate Artists: Jane Dollar & Marva Lee Strong Goodman

Facilitator: Phyllis Bell Miller, PhD., Professor, School of Hman Sciences

Description: Participants will learn how to prepare and use natural dyes to paint on cotton and silk. They will use natural dyes from plant extracts for direct-paint application on pre-mordanted cotton, silk, and other fabrics. There are unlimited possibilities for shapes and lines in rich designs with natural colors.

What to Bring: New or used clothing, bedding, or other items of 100% cotton, linen, or silk in light or natural colors (optional).

What to Wear: Comfortable, older clothing that you don't mind staining.

Sustainability Issues Addressed in These Workshops

Reduced water and power usage and the use of recycled and repurposing materials, of natural resources for dyeing (mostly local), and of fiber and/or fabric that is locally grown and processed.

Workshops: Monday, April 27, 2015



“Cotton University™ in Color” Workshops: Creating Designs on Fabric Using Stamping & Shibori Techniques with Natural Dyes

8:30 - 9:00 A.M.
202 Moore Hall

Catered Breakfast

9:00 - 12:00 P.M.
202 Moore Hall

Stamping Designs onto Fabric with Natural Dye Extracts



Artist: Winki Allen, Surface Design, Wearable Art, & Weaving Specialist

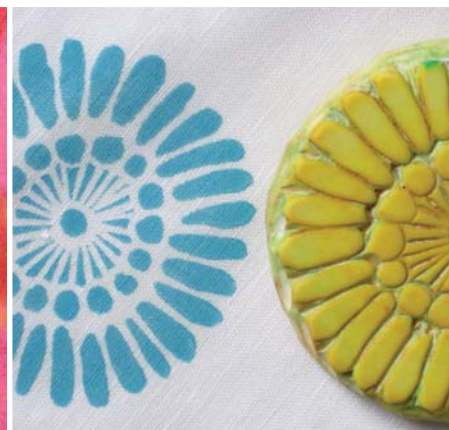
Associate Artists: Jane Dollar & Marva Lee Strong Goodman

Facilitator: Phyllis Bell Miller, PhD., Professor, School of Hman Sciences

Description: Participants will learn to print on fabric with natural dyes from plant extracts. The dyes will be mixed with water and then thickened with an organically certified, water-soluble, carbohydrate gum mixture for printing on fabric. The fabrics will be pre-mordanted, which is a treatment that increases the color- and light-fastness of natural dyes.

What to Bring: New or used clothing, bedding, or other items of 100% cotton, linen, or silk in light or natural colors (optional).

What to Wear: Comfortable, older clothing that you don't mind staining.



12:00 - 1:30 P.M.
Moore Hall, 2nd Fl.

Catered Lunch

1:30 - 4:30 P.M.
202 Moore Hall

Applying Shibori Techniques with Non-Toxic Color Hue Dyes & Natural Dyes

Artist: Winki Allen, Surface Design, Wearable Art, & Weaving Specialist

Associate Artists: Jane Dollar & Marva Lee Strong Goodman

Facilitator: Phyllis Bell Miller, PhD., Professor, School of Hman Sciences



Description: Shibori is a Japanese dyeing technique that involves the shaping of cloth by plucking, pinching, twisting, stitching, folding, pleating, and wrapping. These shapes are secured by binding, looping, knotting, and clamping. This causes some areas of the cloth to resist the dye, which produces unique designs of astonishing beauty and intricacy. The more color and tonal variations, the more artistic the cloth!

Participants will learn to use non-toxic, Color Hue dyes for shibori dyeing. They will also use natural dyes, which were introduced in the workshop “Painting with Natural Dyes.” Whereas the Color Hue dyes impart instant color to the fabrics, the natural dyes must air-cure or be steamed to set the color. Techniques will include pleating, tying, and clamping for a variety of effects.

What to Bring: New or used clothing, bedding, or other items of 100% cotton, linen, or silk in light or natural colors (optional). Also bring 10 small rocks.

What to Wear: Comfortable, older clothing that you don't mind staining.



Workshops: Tuesday, April 28, 2015



Winifred “Winki” Dawn Allen

As a child, Allen was surrounded by family members who were sewers, knitters, lace makers, teachers, poets, and storytellers. She learned much from the wisdom of their hearts and voices as well as from the skill of their hands. As a young woman, it became important to Allen to develop and use her own artistic skill and to share the “voice” of the labor of her heart and hands.

Allen holds a bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Humanities from the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa. However, she completed a significant portion of her undergraduate work and all of her postgraduate work through MSU. She also pursued graduate studies in Humanities at California State University-Dominguez Hills. Allen also attended the University of Tennessee’s Arrowmont School, where she studied fiber arts and natural dyeing from renowned artists. This experience furthered her skill in working with natural materials as an alternative to synthetic color in her yarns. She also studied surface design at the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina.

Allen joined the Craftsmen’s Guild of Mississippi in 1979, where she juried as a member in fiber arts with a submission two- and three-dimensional works in weaving, macramé, and crochet. She currently holds membership as a Craft Fellow in weaving. Allen is also a member of the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild of MS, Inc. (CWSG) and the State Representative of the Handweaver’s Guild of America, Inc. (HGA)

Allen’s recent interests include rust dyeing and printing; working with organic and repurposed materials; creating multi-layered images; manipulating wet silks for eco wraps, rust wraps, or painting; and sun printing. She hungers for new processes and ways to develop multiple dimensions utilizing line, shape, and color in her future, fiber works.

Allen’s work has always been inspired by and colored by nature. She works to recreate multi-layered, organic images in her work. Last summer, her works were exhibited at Convergence 2014, in Providence, RI. Two of her painted, silk, “Othello” wraps were accepted into the internationally juried Convergence Runway Fashion Show and Exhibit. “Earth Meet Heaven,” a 3’ x 9’ eco-dyed silk work, was also accepted into the yardage competition.

Most recently, Allen studied with renowned master dyer, Catharine Ellis, from whom she learned organic, indigo-sugar vat dyeing. She also learned updated, natural-dyeing techniques for obtaining more sustainable, light- and colorfast dyes. Allen seeks growth and change, pushing techniques while exploring the latest developments in the science of natural dyes. Her work is always evolving.

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 Winki.allen.silks





Robert Perry Antoshak

As Managing Director of Olah Inc., Mr. Antoshak supervises the firm's global cotton marketing and consulting programs. He also directs global marketing, branding and licensing programs for Bayer CropScience.

Mr. Antoshak has more than 30 years of experience in the fiber and textile industries. He has held analyst positions with the Fiber Economics Bureau as editor of the Fiber Organon, with the American Fiber Manufacturers Association as Director of International Trade, with the American Textile Manufacturers as Associate Director of International Trade, Trade Resources, Inc., as President, and with Werner International as Vice President. Most recently, Mr.

Antoshak was Managing Director of the Fibers & Textiles Division of FCStone, LLC.

In addition to an extensive background in textile market research, strategic planning and forecasting, Mr. Antoshak has strong experience in trade negotiations and has worked as a FBI-cleared industry advisor to the U.S. government on numerous bilateral quota trade agreements, NAFTA, the MFA and the WTO.

Olah, Inc., 833 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.

Phone: (615) 512-5346.

Email: Rantoshak@Olah.Com. **Websites:** Olahinc.Com and Kingpinsshow.Com.

Olah Inc.

Olah Inc. is a privately owned company, which began operations in 1959 as a textile marketing, development, and sales agency. It has grown into a fully integrated, textile solutions company with offices and representatives in New York, Los Angeles, Nashville, Dallas, Winnipeg, and Hong Kong. The company has five divisions that interact to meet the needs of a growing client base of fiber companies, textile manufacturers, garment manufacturers and brands. It has at its disposal a flexible, educated group of textile professionals throughout the globe who can offer manageable solutions to complex problems.

Textile Development and Marketing: This division is the bedrock on which Olah Inc. rests. Olah Inc. offers textile manufacturers of casual apparel fabrics a bundle of services, including product development, marketing strategy, and sales access to the key North American apparel retailers. It has directed long-term engagements for denim mills in Europe, Asia, and North Africa and is currently contracted to denim suppliers in Japan, China, India, and Mexico. This breadth of experience leads to a unique understanding of the challenges of the global denim business.

The Kingpins Show: Twice a year in New York, Los Angeles, Hong Kong, and Amsterdam, the denim world congregates at the Kingpins Show, which is owned and operated by Olah Inc. Its purpose is to launch new product and exchange ideas. Hosting this show gives Olah Inc. access to the inner workings of the global, denim market place.

Apparel Manufacturing: The jeans business is unique because of the relationships among fabric, wash, and design. Olah Inc. understands this process and has the technical knowledge and experience that have helped jeans makers in Vietnam, India, China, Tunisia, and Morocco to develop product and to make associations with key USA apparel retailers.

Consulting: The breadth of experience that Olah Inc. has on staff and can access in its associations comes together in the consulting division, where a combination of technical and market knowledge have proven value. Multinational market leaders have turned to Olah Inc. to help them to achieve their goals.

Education: Olah Inc. helps those who are new to the denim business and who want to upgrade their skills to advance by offering a series of general and advanced denim-oriented classes. Fortune 500 companies and fashion-forward start-ups have benefited from the Olah Inc. Denim College.

Websites: Olahinc.Com and Kingpinsshow.Com

Jane J. Dollar

Dollar worked for 30 years as a chemist for the Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory. She has been spinning since January 1987, dyeing since about six months later, weaving since 1989, and knitting “forever.” She is a member of Chimneyville Weavers’ and Spinners’ Guild (CWSG) and the Golden Triangle Knitting Guild.

Since her retirement, Dollar has demonstrated dyeing and has taught knitting and spinning at university, local, state, and regional events. She also takes frequent workshops and classes in knitting and spinning. Dollar says, “My back porch provides the perfect place to play with these crafts!” For several years, she has been a regular guest artist in Mississippi State’s creative design courses, where she shares her expertise in dyeing, knitting, and spinning with students and faculty. This is her second time as a guest artist at the Cotton Summit.

513 Whitehead Road, Crawford, MS 39743.

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Marva Lee Strong Goodman

Goodman was born in Copiah County, MS. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, MS, and a master’s degree in education from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS. Goodman then taught in the in the public schools of New Albany, MS.

Since 1984, Goodman has been taking fiber classes in basket making, weaving, and spinning with the Craftsmen’s Guild of MS, the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild, the Ozark Folk Center of Mountain View, the John C. Campbell Folk School at Brasstown, NC, and with various conferences of the Southeast Fiber Forum Association, Inc., with instructors who are well known in the national fiber teaching community.

In the last several years, Goodman has concentrated on spinning and has developed an educational demonstration called ‘Spinning Mississippi Cotton.’ She says, “I really enjoy passing along the knowledge and importance of cotton in Mississippi and how it relates to today’s cotton clothing, which is worn all over the world.”

As a member of the Craftsmen’s Guild of Mississippi, Goodman was selected as one of 40 members honored in the book, *I am a craftsman: 40 at 40*. She is also a certified member of the Master Clothing Volunteer program, through which she teaches sewing. This is her second time as a guest artist at the Cotton Summit.

404 Parkway Road, Brandon, MS 39047.

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Jan O'Regan

Jan O'Regan is Director of Strategic Initiatives for Cotton Incorporated. In this capacity, she works to uncover new opportunities for cotton to bring value into the nonwovens industry. This work includes leading efforts in strategic planning, technical research, market research, and in the dissemination of the results to the global supply chain.

O'Regan's professional experience is strong in nonwovens. She has spent more than three decades in this industry in a variety of assignments, which include market development, research, marketing, strategic planning, and business management. Her market responsibilities included working with consumer and industrial markets on regional, national, and global teams. Over the past nine years, she has had the opportunity to apply her broad experience to developing new markets for cotton in non-traditional applications for cotton.

O'Regan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Textiles and Business, summa cum laud from Pennsylvania State University. She earned an MBA from New York University's Stern School of Business. O'Regan has also attended several executive education programs at Northwestern University.

Cotton Incorporated. 6399 Weston Parkway, Cary, NC 27513, USA.

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Cotton Incorporated

Adaptability is key to maintaining relevance in the modern marketplace. Cotton Incorporated is a not-for-profit research and promotion company dedicated to adapting cotton production, manufacturing and product innovation to meet the comfort and performance expectations of the today's customers and consumers. Among the many ways it serves the global cotton industry are: efficiency-focused farm and manufacturing research projects to help keep cotton businesses profitable; market and commodity analyses and fashion forecasts to inform decision-makers; and technical expertise in textile processing, textile chemistry and fabric construction to help keep cotton products functional and fresh.

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Website: <http://www.cottoninc.com/>.





Andrea Samber (Lange)

Andrea Samber is Co-Director of Consumer Marketing-Strategic Alliances for Cotton Incorporated. She is responsible for the development and execution of strategic marketing initiatives for Cotton, with a specific focus on the company’s consumer sustainability initiative, Blue Jeans Go Green™.

Samber has been with Cotton Incorporated for more than nine years. She began as Associate Director of Retail Marketing in 2002. She then filled a newly created position, the mission of which was to build relationships with retailers, to initiate retail programs that increase cotton sales, and to build exposure of the Seal of Cotton trademark on retailers’ private-label brands.

In 2005, during a departmental reorganization, Samber was promoted to the position of Director of Consumer Marketing-Strategic Alliances, where her efforts focused on further expanding relationships with key partners to extend Cotton Incorporated’s core messaging. In 2006, Samber transitioned to a strategic consulting role at the organization, which included a continuation of the same responsibilities. In 2012, she officially returned to the staff and took her current position.

Prior to joining Cotton Incorporated, Samber was promotions manager for Seventeen magazine, where she developed and executed magazine marketing programs for advertisers. Before working for Seventeen, she was the senior marketing manager during the re-launch of Teen magazine. In the late ‘90s, Samber was the Tourism Marketing Manager for The Galleria at Ft. Lauderdale, a super-regional shopping mall in Florida. Prior to her time at The Galleria, Samber was the Special Events and Marketing Manager for Dave & Buster’s of Philadelphia, PA.

Samber received a bachelor’s degree in Early American History with a minor in Journalism from Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. She also has a master’s degree in Business from The George Washington University School of Business and Public Management. Samber currently resides in Davidson, NC with her husband and two children.

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Email: asamber@cottoninc.com. **Website:** <http://www.bluejeansgogreen.org>.





Kandice Watson

Kandice Watson is Fashion Director for Rialto Jean Project. She was born in Texas and raised in the Midwest, where she grew up around antique warehouses and vintage-shop owners. She studied Marketing and Global Business at Manhattan College in New York City.

Watson began her career at Macy's Merchandising Group (MMG) and graduated from the Executive Development Program for Product Development. During that time, she worked on the Women's Juniors brands—Bar III, American Rag, and Material Girl. She also worked on the Men's Tailored brands Tasso Elba and Greg Norman.

After four years at MMG, Watson left to pursue brand management, product development, and e-commerce opportunities with emerging brands. She has worked such brands as Prabal Gurung, Donna Karan, ALIFE, Wu-Tang, RockSmith, Vintage Frames, Nifty Thrifty, and Ruby Lane.

Email: kandice@rialtojeanproject.com

 @kbwats and @denimdoinggood

  RIALTO JEAN PROJECT



Rialto Jean Project

Rialto Jean Project (RJP) is an eco-friendly, philanthropic denim brand that specializes in hand-painted, one-of-a-kind, vintage products. The garments are handcrafted in an art studio at South Street Seaport in New York City. The company counts top fashion editors, A-list actors, musicians, and supermodels among its steadily growing customer base, which includes 30-60 year-old women of conservative taste who are luxury-minded, philanthropic, trend-sensitive, and celebrity conscious. RJP sources rare, American-made vintage. Every piece is personally hand-painted, which creates a unique, fashion-forward experience for the wearer.

RJP benefits children through art, with proceeds going to support innovative, art therapy programs at Children's Hospital-Los Angeles and at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Art therapy helps young patients to find a sense of hope, self-esteem, autonomy, and competence during their healing process. The Rialto Jean Project's charitable platform—Denim Doing Good—exemplifies the company's work and dedication to this cause.

Kichay Luxury Goods, a division of RJP, works with local artisans in Ecuador and Peru to produce handmade luxury goods that are crafted in a conscious manner. These partnerships also encourage the continuation of craftsmanship. Because quality craftsmanship is vulnerable to being lost in modern times, Kichay helps to expand the creative horizon of these master craftspersons. Its missions are to help artisans to expand their creative horizons; to promote artisans who continue to use traditional techniques that are in risk of being lost; and to enable the supply chain that transports/interlinks several communities.

 @denimdoinggood

  RIALTO JEAN PROJECT



Michael E. Newman, Ph.D.

Newman currently serves as Director of the School of Human Sciences and is a professor of Agricultural Information Science and Education within the school. He has 13 years of experience with the Mississippi State University Extension Service as a Planning and Evaluation Specialist and 24 years as a faculty member at MSU, teaching primarily in program evaluation and research methods. He has been recognized as a Grisham Master Teacher at MSU and has won numerous awards for research and service. His primary scholarly interest is program evaluation in extension education. As the director, he strives to provide all students with access to courses, organizations, and study tours, regardless of income level.

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Phyllis Bell Miller, Ph.D.

Miller is a professor and the Fashion Design and Merchandising (FDM) Option Leader. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee in Design and Communications. She teaches computer applications for FDM, visual design, creative design techniques, portfolio development, cross-cultural design, and fashion design. Miller is author of *AutoCAD for the Apparel Industry* (1994), the world's first book on applying generic CAD software to the fashion industry. She holds more than 30 software copyrights for the fashion design and visual merchandising software that she developed.

Recent awards include Best of Show (2014), 1st Place (2011) & 2nd Place (2010) in the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences' (AAFCS) Juried Design Competitions; 2011 Design Creativity Award from the International Textile and Apparel Association (ITAA); selection for the 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2014 ITAA Juried Design Competitions; First-Place, Editor's Choice Award from *Knitter's Magazine* for original knitwear design (2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2014); the 2010 Ravelry Knitting Award (Best of Show); selection for the Costume Society of America's 2010, 2011, 2014, and 2015 Design/Research Exhibitions; and the 2010 MSU Faculty Diversity Award. Miller has also won Fulbright fellowships to Bulgaria, India, and Mauritius.

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Charles Freeman, Ph.D.

Freeman is an assistant professor in FDM. He received his B.S. and M.S. from Florida State University and his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. Prior to getting his Ph.D., he worked as a custom tailor for Tom James Clothiers. His area of teaching specialization is product development and innovation related specifically to merchandising and apparel manufacturing. Current areas of research specialization include creative design processes, innovative manufacturing and product development concepts, and creative pedagogy related to merchandising and apparel curriculums. Dr. Freeman additionally offers his expertise on innovation and product development to various non-student start-ups through connections with the Entrepreneurship Center. He has been awarded the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences New Faculty Teaching Award.

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Kobia is an instructor in FDM. She obtained her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising. Her teaching areas include textiles, textile and apparel economics, merchandising strategies and assortment planning, fashion merchandising, visual design, apparel design, and internship placement. Research interest areas include consumer behavior in relation to social media marketing, experiential learning, and entrepreneurship among minorities.

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Katie Brown

Brown is from Olive Branch, MS, and is a senior in FDM at Mississippi State University. She is currently a student researcher for Dr. Charles Freeman in the School of Human Sciences. She has helped to organize the Cotton Summit through an independent study course under Dr. Freeman. Brown did so in order to gain skills in event planning for the fashion industry. She will graduate in May 2015 and is interested in pursuing a career in event planning.

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Reynolds is a senior in Fashion Design and Merchandising. She is an Undergraduate Research Assistant for Dr. Charles Freeman. During spring semester 2015, she launched her cotton research project entitled "Get Moving with Cotton: Textile Analysis and Consumer Preference Assessment for Technologically Advanced Cotton Fabrics." Reynolds has also assisted Dr. Freeman and Katie Brown behind the scenes with the planning of the Cotton Summit.

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MSU Retail Merchandising and Cotton Product Development Research Center

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Retail Merchandising & Cotton Product Development Research Center

The Retail Merchandising and Cotton Product Development Research Center (RMCPDR Center) establishes and builds connections among the retail industry, cotton-focused product-development partners, and MSU. The overall mission and goals include:

- Education – to serve the needs of industry partners to develop and train a qualified, effective and productive workforce.
- Research – to promote continued research in the products, processes, practices, and innovations related to retail and cotton-focused product development.
- Service – to develop community outreach and service-learning, focused on the apparel and retail fields, between RMCPDR Center partners, undergraduate students, and area populations throughout Mississippi.

The RMCPDR Center provides seed money, matching funds, and/or undergraduate student support for research projects and teams related to technological innovation and entrepreneurship of retail and/or agricultural-based apparel product development.



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