

The Association of Black Professionals

Presents

THE DONNING OF THE KENTE XVIII

A CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 2007, 6 PM

BONNIE HURLBURT STUDENT CENTER

Light refreshments will be served

The origins of Kente cloth date back to 12th century Africa, in the country of Ghana. Kings, Queens, and important figures of state in Ghana's society wore the cloth, during ceremonial events and special occasions. Kente cloth received its name from the term "kenten", which means "basket", because of the cloth's resemblance to the woven design of a basket. Ghana's weavers used looms to make four-inch wide strips of Kente cloth, and wove the strips together to form larger garments. Their garments came in various colors, sizes, and designs, and behind each design was deep symbolic meaning.

Each Kente pattern was unique and had its own name. Weavers used vibrant colors and complex designs to portray the cloth's profound philosophical meaning. Kente cloth came to represent the history, philosophy, ethics, and moral values in African culture. Today as African Americans gain a renewed sense of pride for their motherland, Africa, they wear Kente cloth for more than just fashion. They wear it for inspiration, and as a reflection of the artistic nature of their African ancestors from Ghana.

Donning Ceremony

Both undergraduate and graduate students are invited to participate in the ceremony. The Ceremony is a symbol of achievement for graduating African-American students at RU. A graduate and a parent will be invited to address the assembly. Parents or selected family representative will honor the graduates by placing a Kente cloth around their necks.

History of RU Ceremony

RU's first ceremony was held at spring graduation, 1998. We had seven (7) participating students and their families. Our second Donning ceremony hosted fourteen (14) graduates and their families. The first winter ceremony was held in December 1999 at which time there were over fifty (50) family members and participants.

Registration

Those students wanting to participate in *Donning of the Kente XVIII* must complete the registration form and mail it to the address listed on the registration form. If you are purchasing a Kente cloth, send your payment with the registration form. Deadline is November 30, 2007.



Registration Form Donning of the Kente XVIII Ceremony

Please complete all sections. Return this form by November 30, 2007, to the address listed at the bottom of this page.

ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY!

Section I:

Graduating Student's Name: _____

Local Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Local Phone Number: _____

Degree and Major: _____

Section II:

_____ I will participate in Donning of the Kente XVIII, December 14th, 2007 at 6 p.m.

_____ Number of Family Members/Guests Attending

_____ **I have a Kente Cloth**

Section III: Check one.

KENTE Order Form



OR

_____ Year 2007 Kente

_____ Year 2007 Greek Kente
(Select One)



___ Alpha Kappa Alpha
___ Delta Sigma Theta
___ Zeta Phi Beta
___ Sigma Gamma Rho
___ Iota Phi Theta

___ Alpha Phi Alpha
___ Omega Psi Phi
___ Phi Beta Sigma
___ Kappa Alpha Psi

If you wish to order your Kente stole from another vendor, below are a few distributors that may be able to supply your need:

- <http://www.dobsonproducts.com/graduation.htm>
- <http://www.primeheritage.com/default.asp?contentType=personalizedkente>
- <http://www.primeheritage.com/default.asp?contentType=africanamericanheritage>
- <http://www.wilsdom.com/store/page36-ss3.html>

It is important for us to have an accurate count of students and parents who plan to participate in this ceremony. Please help us by completing this form as soon as possible. If you are ordering your stole through ABP, the cost of the **Kente Only** is \$25 and **payment is expected at the time of registration if you are purchasing a Kente Cloth.** Mail your registration form and payment (*check or money order*) to:

ABP
Box 7026
Campus Mail
Radford University
Radford, Virginia 24142

Deadline is **November 30, 2007,**

QUESTIONS? Carlotta Lewis (clewis@radford.edu) - ABP