

Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure that we welcome you to Booth Library's newest major exhibit, *Wrapped in Pride: Ghanaian Kente and African American Identity*. How exciting it is to have such an impressive collection of artifacts and artisan works in Charleston as Eastern celebrates African American Heritage Month 2009.



There is much to learn from this exhibit. Few persons from our region will have previously seen so much African weaving close enough to touch. Many of us should review the rich cultural heritage of Ghana and the political developments of Western Africa over the past century. We can become more attuned to the art of weaving and use of raw materials to make cloth, skills highly prized in our local culture just a couple or three generations ago.

Notice the rich listing of local resources available to you, to your friends and students, found in this brochure. Booth Library resources come from many decades of collecting in areas relevant to this exhibit's theme. Materials from the array of topics are included, demonstrating the history and highlighting the changes which have taken place in America with respect to the understanding and maturity of race and culture.

Help us involve citizens of the region in this opportunity for enhanced understanding of African influences on Illinois culture. You, too, can make a difference by practicing the true oral tradition of spreading the word, incorporating new information into your vocabulary, and becoming fluent with kente, the history of Ghana, and additional African American writers and poets.

Our gratitude is extended to the National Endowment of the Humanities and their work with the Mid-America Arts Alliance and the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History. Their efforts to make available this traveling exhibit have been enormous; our community has been enriched through our participation.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Lanham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allen Lanham, PhD  
Dean of Library Services

