

GreenWeaver™ Update

Developing environmentally friendly regalia was one way Oak Hall felt that we could help to insure a sustainable future for generations to come. In January 2008 we started exploring options in eco-friendly fabric. We discovered the following:

- ♦ Fabric made from Trees (Acetate) - After carefully exploring this process we realized that harvesting trees to make fabric had no positive affect to our environment. Not only would this not reduce waste in our landfills, but we would be using a natural resource to produce a product.
- ♦ Bamboo – Although bamboo can be harvested with no ill affect to our environment, it also has no positive impact on our earth.
- ♦ Plastic Bottles Made into Fabric- After learning that millions of plastic bottles go into landfills daily and remain there for generations, reengineering this waste into a usable product was the right thing to do.

After 14 months of development, Oak Hall Cap and Gown proudly introduced a new concept in the collegiate market, regalia made entirely from recycled plastic. GreenWeaver, made from 100% post-consumer plastic bottle pellets, has been embraced by colleges and universities. **To date, 3.5 million plastic bottles have been reclaimed from landfills to produce GreenWeaver.**

Some important features of GreenWeaver are:

- ♦ An average of 23 plastic bottles removed from landfill for each gown made.
- ♦ CO2 gas emissions are reduced by 54.6% in the process of manufacturing fabric from plastic verses virgin polyester.
- ♦ Using thermal recycled energy (like used to produce GreenWeaver fabric) saves energy use by 52.6% over petroleum.
- ♦ Softer to the touch and more breathable than traditional polyester fabric.
- ♦ “Tag less” size labels stamped with soy ink.
- ♦ GreenWeaver passed the color fastness test with a 4.5 in both wet and dry testing. A passing score is between 3 and 5, with 5 being the best. The fabric also exceeds all requirements for flammability.
- ♦ Plastic bags used to store the caps and gowns are made from recycled plastic.
- ♦ Shipping cartons are produced from recycled cardboard.
- ♦ Used regalia can be turned in after commencement and it will be recycled into new fabric.
- ♦ For every gown purchased, Oak Hall will make a donation to an on campus sustainability program of the college/universities choice.