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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Handweavers Guild of America Announces  
2006 Scholarship Recipients  
Alison Cooper and Shelley Socolofsky***

AUGUST 5, 2006—The Handweavers Guild of America, (HGA), Inc., a not-for-profit fiber arts organization dedicated to encouraging excellence, inspiring creativity and preserving fiber traditions through education, introduces the Dendel and HGA Scholarship recipients for 2006.

**Dendel Scholarship Recipient for 2006: Alison Cooper**

A student at Kansas City Art Institute, Cooper is entering her fourth year toward a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Mentors Pauline Verbeek-Cowart, Carolyn Kallenborn, Jason Pollen and Tracy Krumm have encouraged Cooper in her fiber studies. “What interests me most about fiber arts,” she says, “is the control that I have over every element that I am working with. Being able to develop structurally a piece of cloth while making decisions on color, yarn choice, and the interaction of rhythm, movement, and drape allows for endless discovery, but also provides the capability to achieve an intended outcome.” After graduation, Cooper expects to use the knowledge obtained at KCAI to grow in her craft and become more skillful in the weaving process.

**Handweavers Guild of America, Inc., Scholarship Recipient for 2006: Shelley Socolofsky**

A fiber artist for the past twenty years, Socolofsky has promoted the fiber arts through teaching, exhibiting, and attending HGA’s Convergence whenever possible. “The slow rhythm of weaving combined with the more intuitive and rapid results of digitized layering results in a paradox that I find intriguing,” she says. “In Jacquard weaving, not only does this process allow me to continue developing images within cloth while simultaneously exploring a variety of woven structures and complex weaves within that imagery, but the use of the digitized CAD weaving system is a natural extension of my digital tapestry design work.” Socolofsky studied Jacquard weaving at Foundation Lisio, in Florence Italy, in 2004, and attended the Jacquard Center in

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Hendersonville, North Carolina, in 2005, where she studied *JacqCAD* MASTER® computer assisted design for Jacquard woven textiles. She began graduate studies in 2004, and textile professor Barbara Setsu Pickett has been her mentor. Socolofsky will complete her Master of Fine Arts at the University of Oregon in 2007. In the future Socolofsky would like to continue to weave commissioned pieces both in tapestry and in Jacquard weaving. She is also interested in writing a book and teaching workshops in color and design for both tapestry and Jacquard weaving, as well as teaching fiber arts at the college level.

Established in 1995, the Dendel Scholarship Fund, a gift of Gerald and the late Ester Dendel, is administered by HGA to support a student or students, in the study of handweaving and related fiber arts at an accredited institution in the United States or Canada. The HGA scholarship is dedicated to furthering education in the fields of handweaving and related fiber arts, including training for research, textile history and conservation. Students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs in accredited schools in the United States and Canada are eligible for the HGA scholarship, which applies toward tuition.

The Fall issue of *Shuttle Spindle & DyePot*, HGA's quarterly award-winning magazine, will contain a feature article about the 2006 recipients and color photographs of their work. For more information about HGA's scholarship and grant opportunities, go to <[www.weavespindye.org](http://www.weavespindye.org)> or mail to HGA Scholarship & Grant Opportunities, 1255 Buford Highway, Suite 211, Suwanee, GA, 30024.

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