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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Handweavers Guild of America Announces
Scholarship Recipients for 2009:
Kristin Pesola and Anastasia Azure

November 18, 2009—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 2009.

Kristin Pesola: Dendel Scholarship Recipient for 2009

Kristin Pesola, from Minnesota, is in her second year of a three-year program in fibers at Oregon College of Art & Craft (OCAC). Kristen's mentors Teresa Paschke, the first Dendel Scholarship recipient, and professor at Iowa State University, and Professor Jiseon Lee Isbara at OCAC have encouraged her in her work. About her studies, Pesola says "I look forward to developing new design skills and broadening and refining my technique in fiber arts and weaving...." Future plans include developing international exchange programs built around weaving and other fiber arts, where study abroad among artists and institutions would include fiber arts and language.

Anastasia Azure: Handweavers Guild of America, Inc., Scholarship Recipient for 2009

Anastasia Azure, from Wellesley, Massachusetts, is beginning study in the graduate program at the Rhode Island School of Design with a focus in doublecloth in both jewelry and sculptural pieces. Past mentors Lia Cook at California College of the Arts (CCA) and Jeanne Brady at Appalachian Center for Craft (ACC) have been influential in her studies. Her work is "... inspired by the elegance of geometry and the beauty of pattern." Azure hopes to become an educator and continue the craft tradition of teaching the next generation of artisans.

Established in 1995, the Dendel Scholarship, funded by gifts from 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 Fund 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, contains a feature article about the 2009 recipients and color photographs of their work. For more information about HGA's scholarship and grant opportunities, visit <www.weavespindye.org> or mail to HGA Scholarship & Grant Opportunities, 1255 Buford Highway, Suite 211, Suwanee, GA, 30024.