

Education Grant Report

Eileen Crawford applied for and received a \$500 grant to study at the Master Weavers Program at Olds College. Although Olds College is located in Olds, Alberta Canada, they offer an off-site Master Weaving Program at the Yadkin Valley Fiber Room in Yadkinville, North Carolina. Eileen participated this past October in the Level 1 section of the program. She presented her work at the March meeting and also wrote a summary of her time at the Program in the Winter 2016 Bulletin. Please see the following description taken from their website:

The Master Weaver Program consists of five progressive levels of classroom and independent study involving skill development, research studies and project assignments. It provides an educational environment in which an individual can acquire the skill to become an independent weaver.

Each level includes 5 consecutive days (30 hours) of a face-to-face workshop, followed by 125-175 hours of independent study on homework assignments. The face-to-face workshops take place annually at our Fiber Week event, and the homework assignments are due a year after the workshop is completed. This allows students to then enroll in the next level at the next Fiber Week.

The Board is also offering two \$150 grants for NEWS workshop or class participation. No requests have been received for this to date (5/1/17).

The Education Grant's "Fiber Arts Student" free one-year membership to WGB was launched last September to the three colleges in the New England area that offered Fiber Arts Programs to ascertain interest. We had suggestions from two, UMass Dartmouth and RI School of Design. It was suggested by RISD that students were too consumed with study and work to be able to participate and it was suggested that the program be expanded to recent graduates of the programs. This was adopted by the Board and Lyza Baum sent in her application for membership, although she has not been able, as yet, to attend a meeting, despite her interest in doing so. Anthony Beal had accepted as a student, but unable to participate due to time needed to complete his thesis.

Since the start of this new program was after the start of the new Guild year and several months in, it was decided to extend the membership to the two "students" through 2018, giving more time to think about and prepare for the November Sale, if interested.

Communications with Lyza and Anthony continue and new attempts to identify additional students or recent grads continues with the Colleges/Universities.

Time/work/study commitments appear to be roadblocks for encouraging new "younger" weavers for participation in the Guild.

A new student member from Mass College of Art and Design is a graduating senior:

Lily Nicolazzo
70 Manning Street
Hudson MA 01749
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Loom: Ultex 4-harness

Interests: Concept-driven weaving installations; weavings that will be used and seen in daily life.

Submitted,
Martha Rossman
Education Grant Program Chair
2016-2018