

SHARING A LOVE OF GEMS SINCE 1974



TUCSON CONFERENCE

JANUARY 31, 2024



RECORDED CONFERENCE



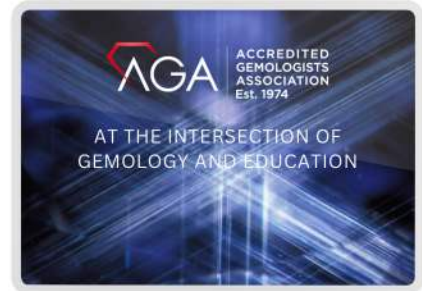
All conference attendees will receive access to on-demand recorded sessions.

Attendees will be notified by email when the recordings are published by AGA.

AGA TUCSON CONFERENCE

January 31, 2024

Marriott University Park Hotel. Tucson, AZ



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The AGA Board and I welcome you to the 2024 Tucson Conference and celebration of our 50th anniversary. With a rich history of education, activism, and fellowship, AGA stands tall as The Association for gemologists. Today, we honor and celebrate the people who are the AGA Community.

Sonja Schwartzman, Tomiko Butler, Jim Rosenheim, Rob Daube, Dale Feringer, Janet Post, Teresa Zook, and Joel Arem, inspired by their dynamic instructor, Antonio C. Bonanno, founded the Accredited Gemologists Association, from what was initially a small study group. For over five decades, scores of passionate gemologists have donated their time and energy to guarantee the continued success of AGA. True to our roots, AGA remains dedicated to providing platforms for continuing education, sharing discoveries and theories, networking opportunities, and holding its members to the highest ethical standards.

We appreciate our conference presenters, all leaders in their respective fields, for sharing their significant knowledge and time with us today. We hope you will discover some valuable nuggets of information to add to your collection during today's talks.

Thank you to our generous AGA Sponsors for their commitment to learning and support of AGA. Please consider these fine companies and institutions for your business needs.

Thank You to AGA members for your participation in today's event. And to those of you who are not yet members, I'd like to personally invite you to consider joining some of the world's brightest gemological minds and supporting the gemological community by becoming an AGA member. Please visit our website to apply.

Leading this venerable association of gemological minds into another decade is an honor.

Please enjoy the conference,

Teri Brossmer, AGA President

AGA Leadership Board 2023–2026

AGA is led by the Board of Governors, a group of members who volunteer their time and talents to steer and grow the Association. Officers and Governors serve three-year terms.



PICTURED (L TO R): TOP ROW: OFFICERS. BOTTOM ROW: GOVERNORS.

OFFICERS

Teri Brossmer	President
Çiğdem Lüle	Vice-President
Adam Ostrow	Secretary
Heidi Harders	Treasurer
Stuart Robertson	Immediate Past President

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Gina D'Onofrio	Alberto Scarani
Donna Hawrelko	Martin Fuller
Antoinette Matlins	Gary Roskin

AGA members are encouraged to communicate their interest in potentially serving the association.



AGA Executive Director

Kate Donovan, as Executive Director of the Accredited Gemologists Association, works with the AGA Board of Governors to grow AGA membership, benefits, and initiatives, and manages the administration of the Association.

Kate Donovan
Executive Director - AGA

AGENDA

- 8:30 am AGA Welcome & Opening Remarks. 50th Anniversary Recognition
- 9:00 am GIA Fancy-Shape Diamond Cut Research - by Al Gilbertson (GIA)
- 10:00 am Discovery of the First Pearl from a Saccostrea cucullata Oyster in the Kingdom of Bahrain by Fatema Almahmood (DANAT)
- 11:00 am Break. Refreshments. Vendor engagement.
- 11:30 am Geologically Mixed Signals: Mogok Sapphires and Crustal Metasomatism by Rachelle Turnier, Ph.D. (GIA)
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 1:45 pm Diving deeper into Mindat.org and Gemdat.org for gemmological research by Jolyon Ralph (Mindat/Gemdat.org)
- 2:30 pm Lost Cuts of History: Exploring Forgotten Gemstone Designs through Antique Jewelry & Art by Justin K. Prim (Magus Gems)
- 3:15 pm Break. Refreshments. Vendor engagement.
- 3:45 pm Behind-the-scenes highlights at the Smithsonian NMNH by Gabriela Farfan, Ph.D. (Smithsonian)
- 4:30 pm AGA Closing Remarks

Live Q&A will follow each presentation. Participation is encouraged.

AGA Gala Evening

6:00 p.m. Cocktails
7:00 p.m. Dinner

Networking. Dinner. Silent Auction. Raffle. Dancing.
 2023 AGA Antonio C Bonanno Award recipient recognized



AGGA SILENT AUCTION

BIDDING CLOSSES AT 8:00 PM

PLACE YOUR BID

GIA Binocular Gemological Microscope (recently refurbished, 3-year warranty)
 OPL Teaching Spectroscope & Virtual Spectroscope Course
 Presidium PRIM II Refractive Index meter with box and papers
 Gem-Master 1.81 R.I. Liquid - 1 bottle

One year subscription to the GemGuide

Handmade wallet in calfskin, gold 0.68 gram and diamond 0.03ct
 Two oversized jeweled ornaments - (6 & 8") 1 Asscher cut, 1 Emerald cut
 Decorative glass globe w/stand, 7 1/2" circumference

Antique Cameo - black and white hardstone (16 x 12mm) oval
 Cameo - red and white laser hardstone (20 x 15mm) cushion
 Opal - 0.56ct (6mm) Heart Shaped cabochon
 Chrome Tourmaline - 0.60ct (6mm) trillion
 Cat's Eye Chrysoberyl - 1.56ct (6.5 x 5.5mm) oval cabochon
 18" graduated white pearl strand with 14K white gold clasp

Book - 18th Annual Sinkankas Symposium - Alexandrite and Other Color-Change Gemstones
 Book - 19th Annual Sinkankas Symposium - San Diego County Gems and Minerals
 Book - The Master Jewelers, Edited by A. Kenneth Snowman, 2002 (paperback)
 Book - Diamonds: Their History, Sources, Qualities & Benefits Jewelry Handbook
 Book - The Complete Handbook for Gemstone Weight Estimation
 Book - Gemstone Enhancement

Signed photo print (17" x 22") by Robert Weldon
 Aquamarine on albite with quartz cathedral center - Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan

Signed photo print (17" x 22") by Robert Weldon
 Sunstone carving by Darryl Alexander, named "The Rose"

Diamond Rough with Garnets (20" x 20") Aluminum Print, Diamond Trignons Mouse Pad, and
 Gemstone Microphotography Calendar: A Year in Crystalline Splendor

1 night Stay & Breakfast - Tucson Marriott University Park Hotel (for two people)

Additional items may not be listed due to print deadlines

OPPORTUNITIES



AGA CONFERENCE VENDORS

Conference attendees are encouraged to visit, engage, and learn from the vendors set up around the conference ballroom during conference breaks and lunchtime.



AGA TUCSON AUCTION

Check out the many generous donations and BID!

The 2024 AGA Tucson Silent Auction offers valued items (to the highest bidder!) such as gemstones, gemological books, equipment and services, as well as unique gemology related experiences. Auction items will be on display at the conference & gala. Bidding is open at both events.

Bidding closes at 8:00 pm. tonight



AGA TUCSON RAFFLE

Tickets available for \$10 each or \$20 for (3) tickets.

Secure your spot for a GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.

Win registration for the 2025 AGA Tucson Conference and Gala.

Raffle tickets are available for purchase at the conference and gala.

AUCTION DONORS

AGA extends our thanks to the individuals and organizations who generously donated to 2024 AGA Tucson Silent Auction.

- Arizona Gemological Laboratory, Inc.
- Melissa Scarani, Gemology Resources
- Chicago Gem Evaluation Services, Inc.
- Terry Davis, Towne Square Jewelers, Inc
- Teri Brossmer, Gem Appraisals Unlimited
- Charles I. Carmona, Guild Laboratories, Inc.
- Michael Romanella, Commercial Mineral Co.

- Kerry Gregory, Gemmology Rocks
- Juanita Addeo, Addeo Jewelers LLC
- David Nassi, 100% Natural
- Çiğdem Lüle, Kybele LLC
- Martin P. Steinbach
- Renee Newman
- Bruno Martinez
- Kate Donovan
- GIA Library
- GIA

Additional donors may not be listed due to print deadlines

SESSION 1

GIA Fancy-Shape Diamond Cut Research

In this brief session, we will provide a peek into what comprises coordinated research for cut analysis and why observations of tens of thousands of diamonds matter. What does the human eye see or not see? We will provide a glimpse of GIA’s carefully orchestrated research initiative for cut analysis. We will talk about steps GIA is taking to assist manufacturers with rough allocation software as it prepares to link its cutting-edge research at the pre-polish and post-polish phases. Yes, you read that right -- we’re talking about providing cutters with guidance to achieve the best face-up qualities. This emanates from the exciting work that GIA’s team is doing to develop advanced modeling techniques for fancy-shaped diamonds (most of which are still under wraps). Finally, this will be implemented into new cut-related laboratory products and services (think Facetware™ for fancy shapes and millions of cutting solutions for manufacturers).



Presenter

Al Gilbertson



GIA®



Al Gilbertson, currently the Project Manager of Cut-Research at GIA’s Carlsbad Laboratory, was raised in the lapidary (gem-cutting) business and eventually managed a high-end AGS retail jeweler whose shop employed several custom goldsmiths. He later owned a high-end trade shop specializing in several areas, including platinum fabrication and antique jewelry restoration, and owned an appraisal practice servicing over seventy jewelers. Al holds a Graduate Gemologist Diploma (1979) from GIA and an American Gem Society Certified Gemologist title (1979).



2017 RECIPIENT
AGA BONANNO AWARD
FOR
EXCELLENCE IN GEMOLOGY

Al is best known for his work in the understanding of gem and diamond appearance. Al was on the gemological committee that helped set up the AGS lab. Tools he patented became the core of the AGS ASET light performance model. GIA hired him in 2000, and he is one of GIA’s researchers who created GIA’s cut grading system for the round brilliant. His name is on several of GIA’s patents for the cut grading system as one of the inventors. He is currently part of the GIAB team studying the influence of proportions and other factors on the appearance of fancy-shaped diamonds, working towards a cut grading system for fancy-shaped diamonds. His book, *American Cut –The First 100 Years*, is highly regarded as the standard work on the subject. More recently, Al wrote the course on Jewelry Forensics for GIA.

SESSION 2

The Discovery of the First Pearl from a *Saccostrea cucullata* Oyster in the Kingdom of Bahrain

DANAT announces the discovery of the first pearl on record obtained from the oyster *Saccostrea cucullata* in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The shell and pearl were subjected to examination using advanced instruments such as, x-ray microradiography, x-ray luminescence, x-ray computed microtomography, Raman spectroscopy, UV-VIS-NIR spectroscopy, and LA-ICP-MS which aimed to assess their structure, define their chemical characterization, and provide data that contributes towards distinguishing the *Saccostrea cucullata* pearl from those produced by other bivalves. This research will be a unique addition to the pearl oyster database used for origin determination.



Presenter

Fatema Almahmood



Fatema Almahmood is a senior gemmologist at Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT) and has been working there since its establishment. She is an accredited gemmologist (FGA), with a background in physics.

Her passion for learning has led her to publish gemmological research regularly, with a particular focus on pearls—in which she specialises. Fatema has published papers and lab-notes in periodicals such as 'Minerals' and 'Gems & Gemology'. She has delivered lectures to gemmologists and traders from across the globe.

She has a wide range of experience testing pearls, gemstones, and diamonds at DANAT's headquarters and at several international exhibitions through DANAT's mobile laboratory.



SESSION 3

Geologically Mixed Signals: Mogok Sapphires and Crustal Metasomatism

Dr. Turnier's presentation will explore some of the complex oxygen isotope systematics of sapphires from different mines in Mogok, Myanmar and connect these features to the challenges of understanding the geologic origin of blue sapphires. Mogok, Myanmar is one of the most famous localities for producing high quality blue sapphires. Convergence between two major tectonic plates created favorable geologic conditions to promote the formation of gems. Yet, the details of sapphire formation at Mogok deposits are enigmatic—the timing of genesis and contributions of crustal sediments versus syenite are poorly understood.

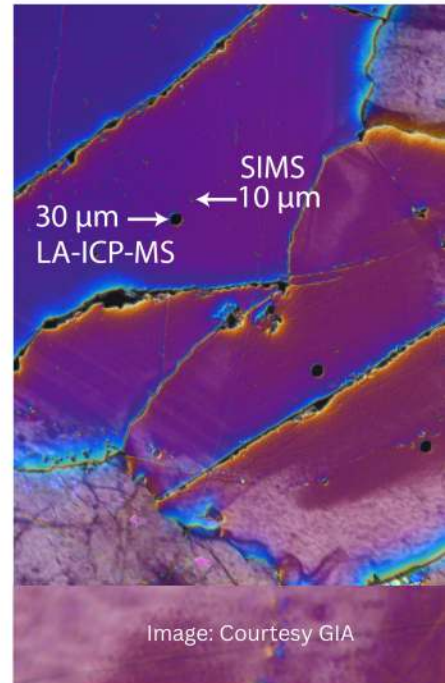


Image: Courtesy GIA

Presenter

Rachelle Turnier, Ph.D.



GIA®



Dr. Rachelle Turnier is a Richard T. Liddicoat Postdoctoral Research Associate at GIA, Carlsbad, CA. She earned her PhD in Geoscience at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying under Dr. John Valley. Her dissertation, entitled "Views on Corundum Genesis from Zircon Inclusions, SIMS Oxygen Isotope Analyses, Geochronology, Trace Elements, and Spectroscopy," is a revolutionary tome on the application of in situ analytical techniques to studying gem corundum formation in different settings.

As a geochemist with a penchant for fieldwork, Dr. Turnier has collected research samples from several important localities, including Naxos (Greece), Mogok (Myanmar), and Montana (USA). Applying detailed analyses at the micron-scale to samples collected directly from the source allows us to answer large-scale questions about the geologic conditions of corundum formation.

Having won numerous awards for academic achievement and contributed to peer-reviewed research, Dr. Turnier continues her research on geochemical and spectroscopic characteristics of sapphires and rubies at GIA, utilizing a variety of analytical techniques such as hyperspectral imaging, trace element geochemistry, and Raman spectroscopy to advance our understanding of gem corundum.

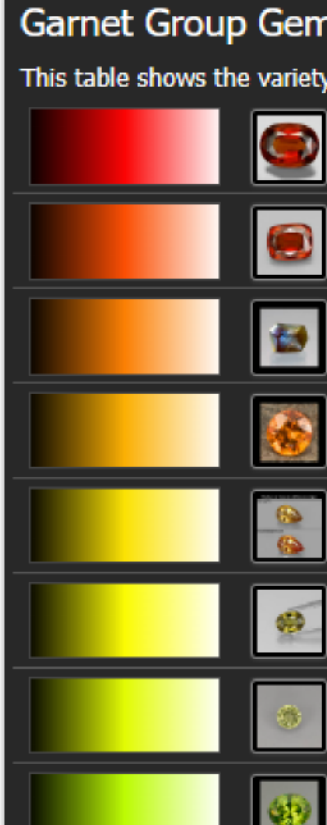
SESSION 4

Diving deeper into Mindat.org and Gemdat.org for gemmological research

Mindat.org is the world's leading online mineralogy database and Gemdat.org is a sister site devoted to gemmological data. In this presentation Jolyon Ralph, the founder of both sites, will walk you through some of the hidden depths of the site to see how more powerful search functions can help you find the gemmological information you need, explain new features that you might not be aware of, and discuss the plans for the future.

Highlights include the new Digital Library which contains nearly 500,000 downloadable PDFs.

NOTE: This presentation includes an interactive demonstration.



Presenter

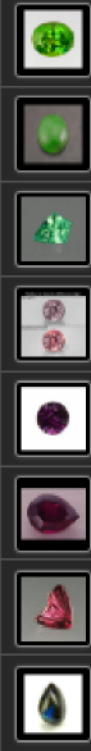
Jolyon Ralph



Jolyon Ralph is the founder of the mindat.org and gemdat.org online databases. He was born in Wimbledon, UK, and as a child discovered a passion for both minerals and computing. Despite studying Geology at Imperial College, London, he decided to enter into the computing world for a career, keeping minerals as a hobby.

It was, of course, inevitable that the two interests would collide, and this happened during the 1990s when he built his first iteration of the mineral database 'mindat', which would later become the mindat.org website, launched in October 2000. This would be followed in 2010 by the gemdat.org website for gemmology.

Jolyon still lives in South London, UK, with his wife, Katya, and young son, Roman.



SESSION 5

Lost Cuts of History: Exploring Forgotten Gemstone Designs through Antique Jewelry and Art

In this talk, author and gemcutter Justin K. Prim will present an exploration of gemstone history and design. Using surviving jewelry as well as painted depictions, Justin will examine undocumented and forgotten gemstone designs that have been lost through time. Ranging from Medici financed paintings to Queen Elizabeth I's tiara to the Cheapside Hoard and more, Justin will analyze experimental designs, transitional cuts, and once popular cutting designs that have been replaced by newer designs. Through this visually striking journey, the viewer will also get an overview of the technological progression of gem cutting tools that made these cuts possible, giving us context for these historic designs, and helping us to understand why they were important at the time and why they still have relevance and the power to inspire us today.



Presenter

Justin K. Prim



Justin K Prim is an American gemcutter and author. He has studied gemcutting traditions all over the world as well as attending gemology programs at GIA and AIGS. Justin has taught gemology and gemcutting at AIGS and IGT in Bangkok and he has recently published his first book, *The Secret Teachings of Gemcutting*. He is the founder of Faceting Apprentice, an online gemcutting school, and he also writes articles, produces videos, and gives talks about gemcutting history.


 Magus Gems

SESSION 6

Behind-the-scenes highlights at the Smithsonian NMNH

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) has one of the world's most significant gem collections. Beyond the Hope Diamond and the treasures that the public gets to see on exhibit, the curators and collections managers at NMNH are always working to build the collection behind-the-scenes. Come learn about some of the newest acquisitions and highlights of the National Gem Collection, as well as some of the scientific research being done by Dr. Farfan and others in the Department of Mineral Sciences.



Image: Courtesy Smithsonian

Presenter

Dr. Gabriela Farfan



Dr. Gabriela Farfan is the Coralyn Whitney Curator of Gems and Minerals at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (NMNH). Like many gem and mineral aficionados, she began collecting gems and minerals at an early age—which led her to a career in mineralogy. She has visited over 30 mines across the US, Canada, and Chile and has enjoyed meeting miners, gem artists, and scientists during these adventures.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in Geological and Environmental Sciences from Stanford University, she earned her PhD in Geochemistry from the MIT-WHOI Joint Program and did a brief postdoc at the Smithsonian before starting a curatorship there. As a research curator and mineralogist, she studies the crystal structures and chemistry of minerals formed under varying conditions in order to answer questions in environmental mineralogy, biomineralization, and gem science. Her research primarily focuses on how aquatic biocarbonates (like coral skeletons, mollusk shells, and pearls) record shifting aquatic environments using crystallography coupled with trace element and isotope geochemistry.

In her new role as curator-in-charge of the National Gem Collection, she is honored to be a steward of this legendary collection and looks forward to building the collection, making it accessible to researchers and other museums, and using it to inspire future generations of gem scientists and enthusiasts.



Smithsonian

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Generous financial support from these organizations helps us deliver the superior level of education and participant experience attendees have come to expect from AGA Conferences.

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Gem Trade
Association

EMERALD SPONSORS



GemA
The Gemmological Association of Great Britain



THE SCOTTISH GEMMOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



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Learn about AGA Sponsorship [opportunities](#) and [year-round benefits](#)

AGA Membership

AGA members improve gemological skills and earn recognition through active participation in educational programs and industry forums while gaining the personal satisfaction of contributing to the profession.

AGA membership includes some of the world's leading gemologists. Membership options are available for all experience levels from students to professional gemologists.

Learn more about membership
Submit your application



AGA GLOBAL NETWORK

#BecomeanAGAMember



MEMBER BENEFITS

- AGA Member Designations
- AGA Certified Gem Lab
- AGA Member Profile on website
- Find an AGA Member on website

- AGA Member Community
- AGA Member-only Education Events
- AGA Member Savings

MEMBERSHIP LOYALTY

The value of AGA membership and affiliation is recognized by our members worldwide, as seen by the membership's years of loyalty.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Join AGA for virtual events* or benefit from their recordings.



AGA VIRTUAL LIBRARY

AGA HOSTED WEBINARS, CAREER FORUMS, AND CELEBRITY GEMOLOGIST INTERVIEWS ARE RECORDED AND CAN BE VIEWED VIA THE AGA VIRTUAL LIBRARY. ACCESS IS OPEN TO ALL.

WATCH ON DEMAND:

[HTTP://BIT.LY/AGAHOSTEDWEBINARS](http://bit.ly/AGAHOSTEDWEBINARS)

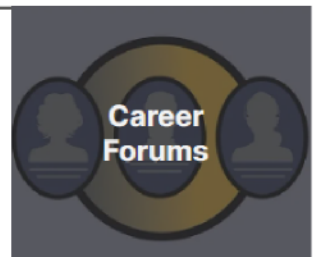
AGA HOSTED WEBINARS

DELIVERED LIVE EXCLUSIVELY TO AGA MEMBERS*, WEBINARS FEATURE GEM AND JEWELRY RESEARCHERS, EXPERTS, AND HISTORIANS.



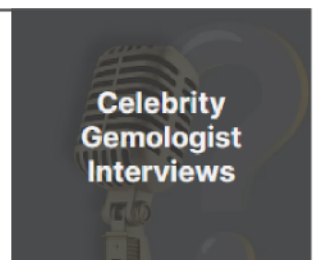
AGA CAREER FORUMS

LIVE AND INTERACTIVE, FORUMS HOST INDUSTRY EXPERTS IN THE WORLD OF GEMOLOGY. PANELISTS SHARE THEIR CAREER INSIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL JOURNEYS WITH THE ATTENDEES.



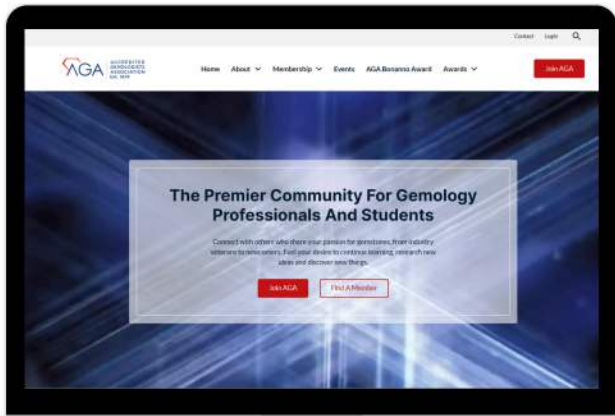
AGA CELEBRITY GEMOLOGIST INTERVIEWS

THIS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES FEATURE LIVE INTERVIEWS WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS AND LEGENDS.



*Select events offer live participation for AGA members only

AGA to Launch NEW Website



EXCITING NEWS!

A launch date has been set, and we are thrilled to share the shiny new AGA website!

Engagement, information, function, and convenience were key to the design and content decisions for the new website launching in late March 2024.



MEMBER PROFILES

Personal profile
Professional listing



NEWS AND EVENTS

Latest from AGA
Professional development



APPLY ONLINE

Membership, scholarship,
grants, and more



FIND A MEMBER

Public search tool
Find AGA professionals

Questions or curious about the new website? Please visit us here in Tucson, at the AGA booth (#27) located at AGTA Gem Fair Galleria level or email AGA at aga@accreditedgemologists.org

Calling All AGA Members

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: MARCH 19, 2024

Watch for your email invitation to the AGA annual membership meeting where you'll have the opportunity to see and learn the features and benefits of the new website before the launch.



AGA Scholarship & Research Grant

AGA is dedicated to promoting and supporting gemological education and research.



2024 AGA GEMOLOGICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

AGA awards educational scholarships in the field of gemology to need and merit-based recipients around the globe. If you are pursuing a career in gemology and need assistance with your education then we encourage you to apply.

[accreditedgemologists.org/scholarship](https://www.accreditedgemologists.org/scholarship)



2024 AGA GEMOLOGICAL RESEARCH GRANT

Are you developing a scientific gemological research project? AGA may be able to help.

In keeping with our mission to encourage and support gemological education and research, the AGA Gemological Research Grant provides funding of up to \$10,000 for approved gemological research as authorized by the AGA Board of Governors.

[accreditedgemologists.org/research-grant](https://www.accreditedgemologists.org/research-grant)

Questions about the scholarship or grant? Please visit us here in Tucson, at the AGA booth (#27) located at AGTA Gem Fair Galleria level or email AGA at aga@accreditedgemologists.org



Important Dates

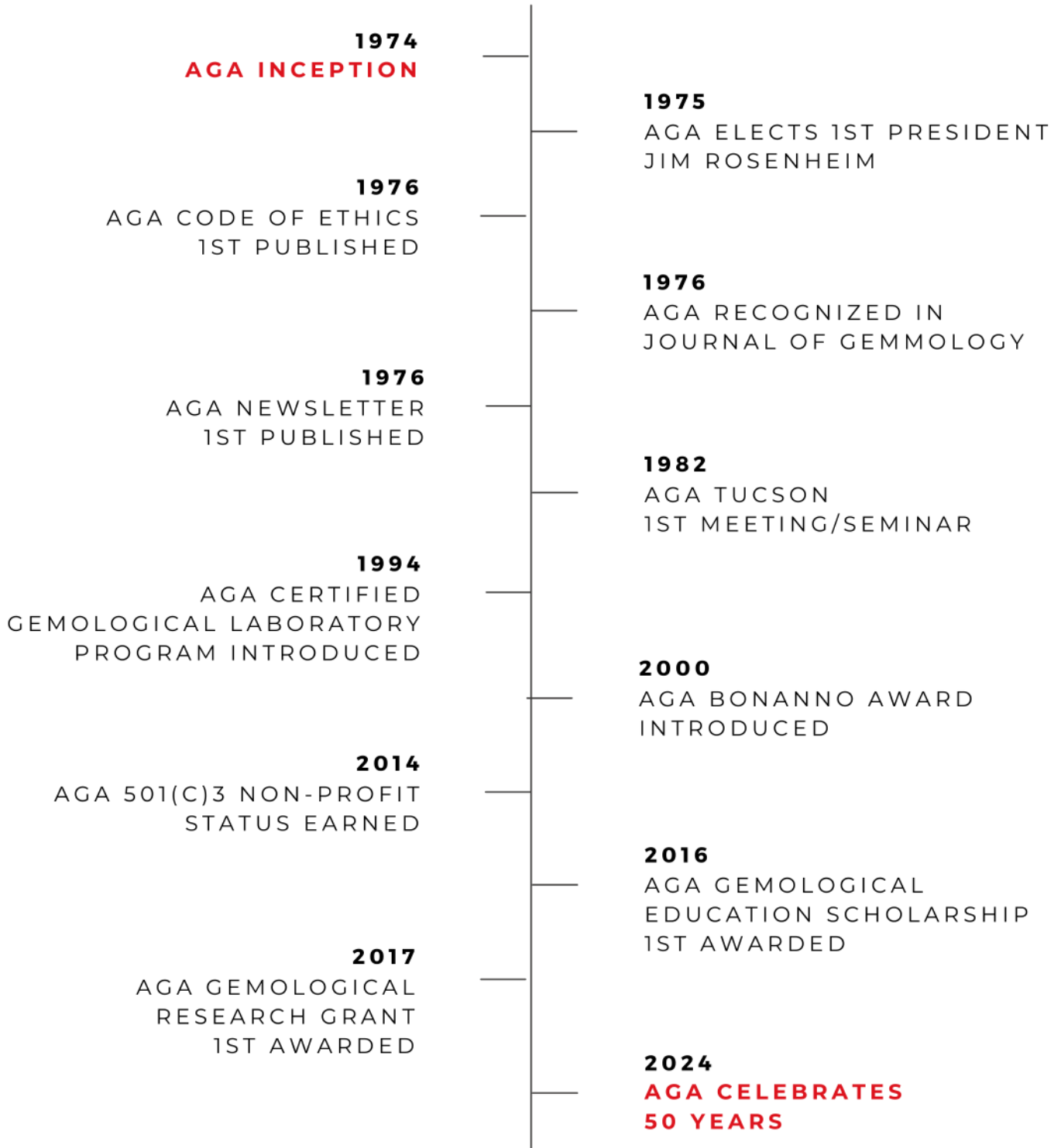
2024 AGA SCHOLARSHIP

Feb 1 - Application period opens
 Apr 15 - Application deadline
 June 1 - Recipient notified

2024 AGA RESEARCH GRANT

April 1 - Application period opens
 June 15 - Application deadline
 July 1 - Recipient notified

AGA TIMELINE



AT THE INTERSECTION OF GEMOLOGY AND EDUCATION



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About AGA

AGA is an independent, international, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in gemology and upholding the highest ethical and professional standards in:

- Gemological education
- Scientific gemological research
- Identification & quality determination of gem materials & jewelry

Established in 1974, the Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA) was envisioned as a network for sharing gemological information and skills. Today's Accredited Gemologists Association proudly counts some of the world's leading gemologists among our members.

Governed by standards, the association and our members abide by: AGA [Code of Ethics](#), [Bylaws](#), and [Constitution](#)

AGA LEGACY

SHARING A LOVE OF GEMS SINCE 1974

AN IDEA WAS BORN

AGA was born out of the recognition that nothing is as constant as change.

In the early 1970s, Sonja J. Schwartzman and Tomiko Butler organized informal gatherings for gemologists to keep abreast of the latest developments in gemology, learn about new gemstones, work together on research projects, discuss new equipment and procedures in gem testing, discuss new books, and exchange ideas in general.

It didn't take long for attendance at these gatherings to grow. They knew it was time to take their idea to the next level.

THE NEXT LEVEL

The American Alumni of F.G.A. was formed in 1974, with the vision of Joel Arem and inspiration of Antonio C. Bonanno, and under the auspices of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain.

In July 1976, AGA issued its first newsletter. Later renamed Cornerstone, the monthly newsletter was published for nearly two decades and included contributions by giants from the gemological community covering new gemological techniques, gem treatments, and recent gem deposits.

The first AGA conference launched in 1983 and has evolved over forty years to become the much anticipated annual event where cutting edge gemological news is shared.

Recognizing AGA's unique position as a provider of gemological education to the gemological community and the public, the AGA Board incorporated the Association as a nonprofit public benefit organization or 501(c)(3) in 2014.

TODAY

AGA members hail from around the globe, including many of the brightest minds in gemology. Our members share their knowledge and experience through AGA-hosted conferences, webinars, interviews, and forums.

A large, stylized blue '50' with a glowing effect, set against a background of numerous small, golden gemstone-like particles scattered across the bottom of the page.

AGA LEADERSHIP

AGA PRESIDENTS

1974	JIM ROSENHEIM	1994	CAP BEESLEY
1977	JOEL AREM	1995	LEO J. SCHMEID
1980	ANTONIO C. BONANNO	1997	THOM UNDERWOOD
1981	JOSEPH TENHAGEN	2002	DAVID L. HARRIS
1985	NEIL COHEN	2005	JOE DUMOUCHELLE
1987	ROBERT ROSENBLATT	2008	DONNA HAWRELKO
1989	CORTNEY BALZAN	2014	STUART ROBERTSON
		2020	TERI BROSSMER



WITH GRATITUDE...

SINCE 1974, MORE THAN THREE-HUNDRED AGA MEMBERS HAVE SERVED THE ASSOCIATION AS VOLUNTEERS ON AGA BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND EVENT VOLUNTEERS. WE ARE EVER GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT.

AGA MEMORIES



JOEL AREM

AGA PRESIDENT 1977-1980

MY VISION IN CREATING THE AGA WAS AN ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD BE MUCH AS IT HAS BECOME TODAY - INTERNATIONAL, ACTIVE, PROGRESSIVE, TECHNICAL, AND DIVERSE - CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IMPOSED BY ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY.



CORTNEY BALZAN

AGA PRESIDENT 1989-1993

AGA PLAYED A BIG PART IN MY VARIED PROFESSIONAL CAREER. AGA HAD THE EARS AND EYES OF INDUSTRY ON WHAT WE WERE DOING. THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC) GAVE AGA AN OPEN COMMUNICATIONS LINE WITH GEM SCAMS, MISUSE OF GEMOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE.



THOM UNDERWOOD

AGA PRESIDENT 1997-2001

IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO HAVE SPENT MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE PRACTICING GEMOLOGY AND I AM INDEBTED TO AGA FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROFESSIONAL STRUCTURE AND PROVIDING THE PEER SUPPORT THAT HAS LED TO MY SUCCESS.



STUART ROBERTSON

AGA PRESIDENT 2014-2019

AGA WAS FOUNDED AS A PEER GROUP TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND KEEP ABREAST OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN GEMOLOGY. THEY WERE CORRECT. TODAY, WE SEE THAT THE FIELD OF GEMOLOGY IS A GIANT CLASSROOM. WE KEEP LEARNING OR WE FAIL OUT OF THE FIELD. WE NEVER TRULY MASTER IT. BUT THAT'S WHAT KEEPS THIS PROFESSION INTERESTING.

AGA Lifetime Achievement Awards



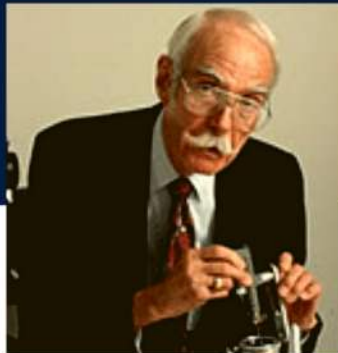
2015 DONA DIRLAM



2013 ALICE KELLER



1991 CAP BEESLEY



1991 ROBERT CROWNSHIELD

#AGALifetimeAchievement

AGA Lifetime Achievement Awards are bestowed on individuals whose dedication to the gemological field is unparalleled. These individuals, who often work behind the scenes, have left their indelible mark on the gemological community nonetheless.

HONORARY AGA LIFETIME MEMBERS

Bill Boyajian

Dr. Peter Keller

Roy E. Morris, III

David J. Callaghan

Kenneth A. Martin

Dr. Kurt Nassau

Alan Hodgkinson

AGA FOCUS ON GEMOLOGY

GEMOLOGY IS BEST WHEN SHARED WITH OTHERS

1974	U.S. FGA "STUDY GROUP" FORMED	
1975	GROUP INVITED GIA GC'S TO JOIN	
1976	AGA INCORPORATED - 30 MEMBERS	
1979	AGA GROWS TO 10 U.S. CHAPTERS	
1980	AGA MEMBERSHIP 300+ GLOBALLY	
1982	1ST AGA ACCREDITED GEM LAB LIST	
1983	1ST AGA TUCSON CONFERENCE	
1980S	AGA REGIONAL MINI-CONFERENCES	
1994	1ST AGA BOOTH AT AGTA TUCSON	
2000S	AGA JOINS SOCIAL MEDIA	
2021	1ST AGA CAREER FORUM	
2021	1ST VIRTUAL AGA CONFERENCE	
2024	AGA PREPARES FOR ANOTHER 50 YRS.	

AGA FOCUS ON GEMOLOGY

GEMOLOGY REQUIRES A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

1976	AGA INITIATES MEMBERS' CODE OF ETHICS	
1976	AGA PUBLISHES 1ST NEWSLETTER	
1979	AGA TAKES ON GEMSTONE PRICING SCAMS	
1982	AGA ANNOUNCES PROGRAMS MASTER GEMOLOGISTS APPRAISER	
1983	AGA PUBLISHES 1ST ACCREDITED LABORATORY LIST	
1986	AGA INTRODUCES CORNERSTONE PUBLICATION	
1990	AGA ORGANIZES CONFERENCES ON RADIATION & FRACTURE FILLING	
2008	AGA ESTABLISHES LIGHTING TASK FORCE	
2009	AGA ADDRESSES LEAD GLASS RUBY COMPOSITES	
2012	AGA CONTRIBUTES TO FTC COMMISSION GUIDES UPDATES	
2020	AGA INTRODUCES WEBINARS	
2021	AGA LAUNCHES VIRTUAL LIBRARY	
2024	AGA DEBUTS NEW WEBSITE + MEMBER PROFILE VIA PUBLIC SEARCH	

AGA Loves To Dance!

Let's fill up the dance floor like its 1974 tonight! Dust off your dancing shoes and enjoy the tunes from the decade AGA began.



AGA Loves To Gather!

Since AGA's inception, it has been about community, professional knowledge, networking, and friendships.





AGA ANTONIO C. BONANNO AWARD

For Excellence In Gemology



Inaugurated in February 2000, the Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology honors recipients for their significant contributions to the gemological field and their work to establish and maintain high professional standards.

Bonanno award recipients are recognized during the AGA Gala Awards Ceremony & Dinner following the AGA Conference in Tucson, AZ.

Nominations are open to the global gemological community. AGA membership is not required for nominations or nominees. [Learn more about AGA Bonanno Award.](#)

#AGABonannoAward

#AGAexcellenceingemology



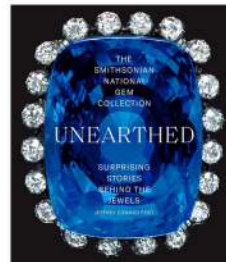
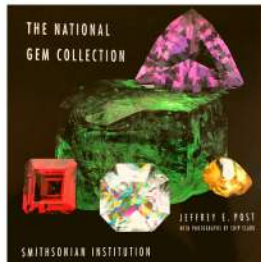
AGA ANTONIO C. BONANNO AWARD

For Excellence in Gemology

CONGRATULATIONS - 2023 AWARD RECIPIENT

DR. JEFFREY E. POST

Dr. Jeffrey E. Post is the recipient of the 2023 Antonio C. Bonanno Award, joining a distinguished group of past awardees. Post's gemological career and significant contributions truly epitomize the criteria and definition of the Bonanno Award.

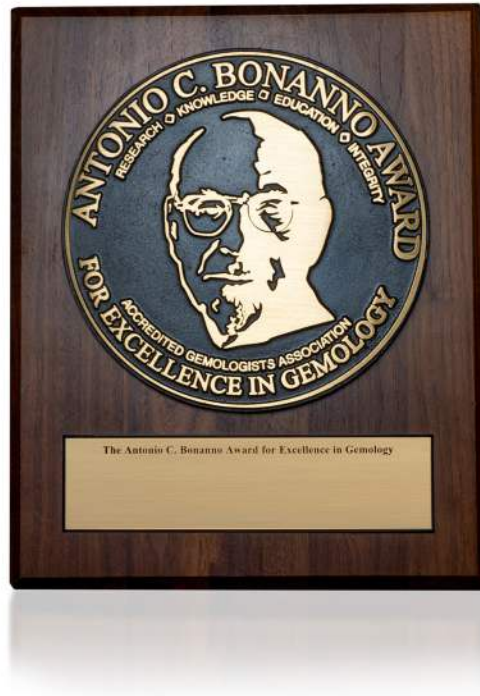


Dr. Jeffrey Edward Post, a native of Wisconsin, received Bachelor of Science degrees in geology and chemistry from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville, and his Ph.D. in chemistry, with a specialty in geochemistry, from Arizona State University. Prior to joining the Department of Mineral Sciences at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History in 1984, he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for three years in the Department of Geological Sciences at Harvard University. He was Chairman of the Department of Mineral Sciences 1989-1994 and 2014-2019, and from 1991 to 2023 served as Curator-in-Charge of the U.S. National Gem and Mineral Collection. Dr. Post was the lead Curator for the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals that opened in 1997. In May 2023, he was appointed Curator of Gems and Minerals, Emeritus, and Research Associate for the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

His areas of research interest include mineralogy, gemology, and geochemistry. He has published more than 150 scientific articles in these fields. He is the author of The National Gem Collection, and the recently published The Smithsonian National Gem Collection—Unearthed: Surprising Stories Behind the Jewels.

AGA BONANNO AWARD

FOR EXCELLENCE IN GEMOLOGY



SUBMIT A NOMINATION

The AGA Antonio C. Bonanno Award encourages and rewards advances in gemological research, education, innovation, and ethical practices in the field of gemology.

AGA membership is not required to nominate or to be nominated.

Selected by a majority vote of the AGA membership, the recipient receives global recognition, a specially commissioned plaque and medallion, and an honorarium funded by AGA members.

Past recipients of the AGA Bonanno Award include leading research gemologists from world-renowned laboratories, educators, market analysts, and developers of innovative equipment and software solutions for the gemological field.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: JULY 15, 2024

LOOKING AHEAD...



ACCREDITED GEMOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION

2024 AGA EVENTS

MARCH AGA ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING
(NEW AGA WEBSITE LAUNCH)

APRIL AGA VIRTUAL CAREER FORUM

MAY AGA HOSTED WEBINAR

JUNE AGA VIRTUAL HALF-DAY DIAMOND CONFERENCE

AUGUST AGA GEMOLOGICAL CELEBRITY INTERVIEW

OCTOBER AGA HOSTED WEBINAR

NOVEMBER AGA VIRTUAL CAREER FORUM



FEBRUARY 2025

AGA TUCSON CONFERENCE & GALA AWARDS DINNER*
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025
TUCSON, AZ

**AGA BONANNO AWARD RECIPIENT RECOGNIZED*



**ACCREDITED
GEMOLOGISTS
ASSOCIATION**

Serving the Gemological Community Since 1974