

ARGENTIUM GUILD NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1, NOVEMBER 2011
ARGENTIUMGUILD.COM

SPECIAL EDITION FOR THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN SILVERSMITHS



DEAR ARGENTIUM GUILD MEMBER

We are delighted to announce that the Argentium Silver Guild Newsletter will be distributed to our Members bi-monthly - keeping you up-to-date with all things Argentium. If you have an Argentium related story to tell, article to feature or photos to share, please contact info@argentiumguild.com.

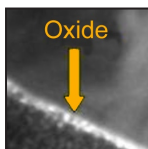
IN THIS EDITION



WHAT'S NEW?...
The Guild Members' Forum -
start posting today!



FEATURED MEMBERS
Eva Martin, Susan O'Leary,
Kristina Niedderer, Amy Bubes



INSIDE ARGENTIUM
Article: How does it work?
Latest research update



YOUR ARGENTIUM
Featuring Jewelry Studies
International (JSI)



COMPETITION
Send us your photos! Rio
Grande gift certificates and
advertising space to be won

WHAT'S NEW?...

THE GUILD MEMBERS' FORUM



The Forum is exclusively for our Guild Members and is a place to discuss topics, learn new skills, share experiences and knowledge and get to know one another. You can add photos too!

The Forum can be found in the Members' Area at www.argentiumguild.com. Simply register your details and you will be sent an email asking you to click on the link provided to complete the registration process. You are then ready to start posting.

You can personalise your account by uploading a profile picture and including a signature.

A few subcategories have been set up to get us started - some of these subcategories contain sub-forums that relate to common questions asked about Argentium silver. If you do not find a sub-forum that relates to your post, please feel free to start a 'New Topic'.

You can follow activity and latest posts by subscribing to daily updates.

We look forward to seeing you on the Forum!

KEEP IN TOUCH

You can keep in touch with us through Email, Facebook, Twitter and our Blog.



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FEATURED MEMBERS - (October)



Eva Martin www.evamartin.com

Eva trained as a jeweller and her extraordinary silversmithing skills have won her two Rio Grande - Saul Bell Awards. Her clever designs often incorporate a hidden feature - *"I love the idea of secrets within jewelry, of incorporating something known only to the wearer."* The Argentium silver Collider Bangle (above) may look as though there are two separate bangles, however Eva has cleverly formed this from one continuous channel with a single edge to contain the free-flowing gems.



Susan O'leary www.savoirfairecreations.com

Susan began creating chainmaille about five years ago and has been teaching the craft for a little over two years. Her intricate designs beautifully demonstrate how the technique of chainmailing, once used for creating protective battle garments, can be applied in a modern setting to make striking pieces of jewellery. Susan comments, *"Argentium silver gleams shiny white like no other. It has become the metal of choice for all of my upscale jewelry projects"*.

FEATURED MEMBERS - (November)



Dr. Kristina Niedderer www.niedderer.org

Kristina is a design researcher and craft practitioner, with a PhD in Design. She originally apprenticed as a gold and silversmith in Germany. Kristina's research studies has led her to explore the technical and creative possibilities of Argentium silver. The wonderful neckpiece shown above was created from explorations into the hardness and elasticity properties of thin, hard-rolled Argentium sheet, in conjunction with modern technologies such as CNC-cutting and laser welding.



Amy Bubes www.amybubesjewelry.com

Amy's commitment to superior quality, original design and working with sustainable materials, led her to create Amy Bubes Jewelry - a line of hand-fabricated jewelry made with Argentium silver. Amy states that *"Each piece is created by hand, so no two pieces can be exactly alike"*. ABJ pieces are designed to stand alone or mix beautifully with other jewelry in a woman's wardrobe. These designs are truly timeless, appealing to all ages through classic design and modern wearability.

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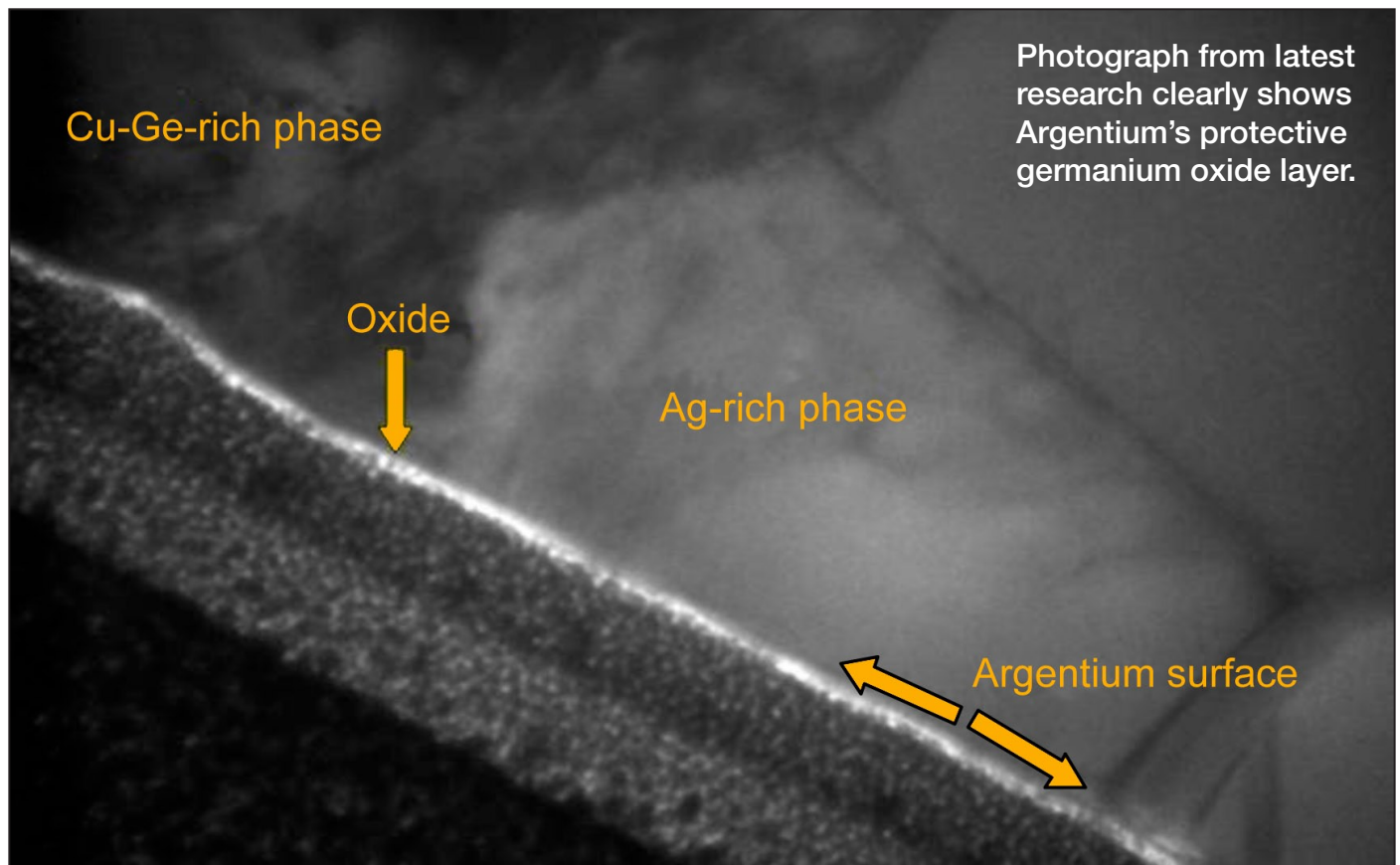


INSIDE ARGENTIUM - HOW DOES IT WORK?

The question we are always asked is: "How does Argentium work?" As part of our ongoing research to understand in greater detail how Argentium 'works' and also to optimise the properties of the Argentium silver alloys, we have carried out a series of investigations. Using the most sophisticated electron microscope techniques available, we have gained a better understanding of what happens at the surface of the Argentium silver.

Our investigations using a Transmission Electronic Microscope (TEM) have shown that a thin, dense layer of germanium dioxide (GeO_2) is formed at the surface of Argentium silver alloys. It is this layer that gives Argentium silver its protection against tarnish and firestain.

Although this oxide layer is very thin (about 10 nanometres, detectable as a thin, white line in the picture below), it is formed across both the silver-rich and the copper-germanium rich phases present in Argentium silver alloys and can be considered to act as a solid lubricant, similar to a very well known non-stick coating widely used on cooking utensils.



Photograph from latest research clearly shows Argentium's protective germanium oxide layer.

In addition, this germanium dioxide layer is self-regenerating. If the germanium dioxide is worn off due to abrasion, it will reform. When compared to the other coating techniques used to protect silver alloys (e.g. rhodium plating and e-coating), this ability to re-form its protective surface layer makes Argentium silver alloys unique.

Charles Allenden



ARGENTIUM GUILD NEWSLETTER



YOUR ARGENTIUM - FEATURING JEWELRY STUDIES INTERNATIONAL



Jewelry Studies International

*Argentium Techniques Certification offered
by one of the worlds leading Argentium
educators, Ronda Coryell, at JSI!*



When Ronda Coryell first told us that she was planning to establish her own jewellery school, specialising in Argentium silver, we were absolutely thrilled and in complete admiration at her vision and determination.

This is certainly not a task for the faint-hearted! An enormous amount of work has been achieved by Ronda and Vaskin Tanielian (Director of JSI), in order to bring the school to life... finding premises, getting permits, organising teaching curriculums, kitting out workshops which are fully equipt with benches, tools and materials... the list continues.

JSI offers a wide range of classes that are tailored for all abilities - from beginners to intermediate and advanced levels. Students also have the choice of signing up for individual classes or a full diploma program. Evening classes are also available.

Ronda's committment and enthusiam for her work has led her on an incredible journey. In a recent interview on 'Blog Talk Radio' she talks about her background and training, working at the Revere Academy, her introduction to Argentium and the opportunities this has opened up for her granulation and fusing work, teaching around the world and her latest achievement in establishing JSI. You can listen to the full interview here... www.blogtalkradio.com/whaleystudios/2011/11/03/metalsmith-benchtalk-on-blogtalkradio-with-ronda-coryell

We wish Ronda and Vaskin the very best for JSI - for more information please go to:
www.jewelrystudiesinternational.com

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Photographing silver can be tricky!
We are giving away two prizes
for photographs that beautifully
showcase your Argentium jewellery/
silverware.

**To enter, please send photographs
to: info@argentiumguild.com
by 31st Jan 2012.**

Winners will be announced the
following week.

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have an Argentium
related story to tell, would like
to be a Featured Member,
have photos to share, or if you
have any events coming up -
please contact:
info@argentiumguild.com

**We look forward to hearing
from you.**