

Name: David J. Kinneberg

Title: VP of Manufacturing Technology

Biography: After earning his B.S. and M.S. degrees in extractive metallurgy from the University of Utah, Kinneberg worked for Arthur D. Little, an international consulting company, for three years before deciding to return to the University of Utah for his Ph.D. in metallurgical engineering. After finishing his academic work, he joined Leach and Garner, a former ADL client and largest jewelry findings company in the world, starting up a new precious metal refinery. As the refinery business grew and was eventually bought out by Metalor, an international precious metals firm based in Switzerland, Kinneberg spent 23 years progressing from senior metallurgist to V.P. Manufacturing, responsible for U.S. operations in refining, powder production and chemical manufacturing. Ten years ago, he took a job with James Avery to develop a technology department for this well-known Texas jewelry company.

Name: Dejan Stojakovic

Title: Technology Manager – Materials and Processes

Biography: Dejan Stojakovic has earned his Ph.D. in the field of physical and mechanical metallurgy from the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA and B.S. in mechanical engineering with major in manufacturing from the University of Novi Sad in Serbia. Currently, he holds a position of Technology Manager – Materials and Processes at James Avery Jewelry in Kerrville, TX. Prior to this role Dejan was with Materion Corporation as Technical Manager at the Materion Advanced Materials Group in Brewster, NY. Dejan is passionate about materials, their properties and processing and resulting performance.

Abstract: Jewelry, always part of human culture, can be traced back 100,000 years. Jewelry was initially hand made from natural materials like stone, wood, shells, bones and later from metals, glass and gems. Early civilizations in Egypt and Mesopotamia set the standard in metallurgy and, with the Industrial Revolution, a market was created for mass production. While the human touch cannot be excluded from making jewelry, advancements in technology have extended product range, improved overall quality and reduced costs. In this presentation, modern jewelry manufacturing will be discussed along with several projects that demonstrate the level of technological advances that are still being made in this ancient yet vibrant industry.