



# Precious Metals News

A Publication of the International Precious Metals Institute  
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## IPMI's First Endowment to be Presented at the 41st Conference

By JP Rosso, IPMI President

It's with sadness that we recall the passing of our friend, colleague, and staunch IPMI supporter, George Benvegno Sr, 1 year ago. We continue to send our heartfelt sympathy to Mary and George, Jr. and all the rest of the Colonial Metals 'family'. Though George, Sr. is gone, he will never be forgotten.

For those of you not familiar with the Colonial / Ames history, here is a brief synopsis.

- 1971: Colonial Metals founded by partners, George J. Benvegno, Sr, Ron Davies, and Jack Manley.
- 1979-1985: The partners started Ames Goldsmith, a JV between CMI and DF Goldsmith.
  - During this time they purchased Ames UK from Kodak.
  - And then started Ceimig Ltd in Dundee, Scotland.
- 1986: George and Ron purchased full ownership in both CMI and Ames
  - They then purchased the Handy & Harman contact business and moved it to Glens Falls, NY
- 2009: George and Ron purchased remaining shares in Goldsmith from family
- 2009 to present, George ran Colonial Metals and Ron Davies ran Ames.
  - Started Ames, Asia Pacific, in Taiwan, to refine EO catalyst.
  - Started Catalyst Refiners in Charleston, W. Va.
  - Purchased Ferro's Plant in New Jersey, now Ames Advanced Materials.

As you can see, George and Ron have always been looking to the future. Whether it was focused on the development of new approaches to old ways of doing things, or to developing new products and services, George and Ron knew that a key element to success was to be looking and planning ahead.

They also both recognized that for the industry to grow and thrive, bright new talent needed to be supported and encouraged to enter the precious metals industry. They were both always willing to give an energetic young person a shot at developing a career in precious metals. George was very generous with his time, patiently answering questions, guiding younger people as they began to learn 'the ropes' necessary to the effective and profitable operating of precious metals chemical products manufacturing company.

So to continue his legacy, George's long-time dear friend and co-founding partner of Colonial Metals, Ron Davies, has graciously established the, "George J. Benvegno, Sr. Memorial Scholarship". In a wonderful display of long-term commitment to the memory of his friend and partner, Ron Davies has established this annual scholarship through the vehicle of an 'endowment'. Ron established this scholarship with an initial starting fund of \$250,000.

This type of gift was the vision and dream of the IPMI founders. It's why they organized the IPMI as a 501(c) 3 non-profit, charitable association; to encourage members of the industry to donate money in such a way so as to insure that scholarships were funded for the long-term. It's taken 40 years, but thanks to Ron Davies' generosity, the IPMI now has its first endowed scholarship. This will insure that the IPMI will always have the funding available to insure that the "George J. Benvegno, Sr. Memorial Scholarship" is funded for decades to come. Assisting and encouraging new young talent to pursue their education in precious metals science and technology. And then taking their place within this wonderful industry to which we belong.

Thank you, Ron; thank you very much. And thank you, Mary and George, Jr.; for attending our 41st Annual Awards Banquet to give out the very first Scholarship in person.



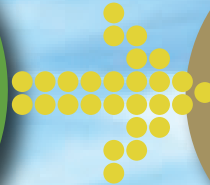


## 4th Annual “Wine Tasting” Event Hosted by IPMI Europe Chapter

The IPMI Europe Chapter hosted its 4th Annual “Wine Tasting” event at the Bentley Hotel, London. As always, the Chapter organized a delightful event. More than 75 guests attended. And we were led through a delightful tour of white and red wines by IPMI’s own “sommeliere”, Dr. Jonathon Jodry of Tanaka/Metalor. His knowledge of wines from around the world is amazing and quite delightful. He explains the regions where the wine comes from, the type of grapes, and makes it very enjoyable for all. Everyone’s looking forward to Wine Tasting 2018!







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## Industry Trade Advisory Committee Meeting Report

By Mike Riess, Materials Management Corp.

The May 24, 2017 ITAC meeting was one of the most interesting we've had. The Department of Commerce speakers were 100% enthusiastic about Wilbur Ross. He seems to be all business and a strong and inspirational leader. I always enjoyed listening to his economic and investment comments on TV, and he also seems to be a very capable manager. Gary Stanley says there are 27 political slots between him and the Secretary that are yet to be filled. He thinks nearly all will remain empty because the Secretary prefers to work directly with the career officers that have the expertise. He says he has had 11 meetings with the Secretary, all of them fruitful.

Gary Stanley and Salim both emphasized that, if anyone wants to get something done in Commerce, right now is the time to do it. We should convey this to the membership. There is a 90 day deadline for Commerce and the USTR to submit recommendations to the President. **The public comment period closes June 12, and the ITACs will submit recommendations June 16.** (Sorry for the short notice) There are 20 items posted for comment. Emphasis should be not only what might be changed but also what should be retained. If members cannot meet the deadline, they can send them to JP Rosso at IPMI HQ or me and I will shepherd them through Salim and Gary.

The first presentation covered NAFTA. Robert Lighthizer has just been confirmed as US Trade Representative, and immediately had to travel to the Far East. His first meeting was yesterday afternoon, and NAFTA was to be the main agenda item. The impression is that the Treaty will be re-examined, with the intent of keeping the parts that have served the country and changing those that have fallen short. . That is, it will not be discarded with the intent of starting from scratch. The main concern within ITAC was use of both Canada and Mexico to transship Chinese goods, particularly aluminum.

There was extensive discussion of the "Buy American/Hire American" executive order. Commerce is charged with implementing "Buy" and Justice with "Hire." Ross is establishing annual evaluation and enforcement provisions to assure Government agencies are complying. A central problem is that so much basic manufacturing has already left the country and the technology with it. For instance, it is apparently no longer possible to buy nuts and bolts made in the USA. Its focus is on incentives to buy American, how to bring back technologies and how to prevent dumping.

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## BASF Doubles Precious Metals Milling and Sampling Capacity at Seneca, SC Site

BASF has completed the installation and start-up of new high-performance equipment at its Seneca, South Carolina operation, which will more than double the precious metals milling and sampling production capacity there.

The Seneca site serves as BASF's global production hub for the recycling of end-of-life automotive and chemical catalysts, allowing for the efficient recovery and recycling of platinum group metals (PGMs.)

"Our investment in this high-performance equipment allows us to increase precious metals recycling at the Seneca site to meet growing market demand," said David Freidinger, BASF Vice President, Precious Metals Recycling & Refining. "This also supports our strategy to offer superior quality in our recycling services."

Automotive catalytic converters are one of the largest industrial applications for PGMs, accounting for more than half of the world's annual mining output. When a catalytic converter is scrapped, the precious metal contained inside can be recycled, creating a sustainable secondary supply source for such limited global resources.

BASF is a leading global manufacturer of precious metal products which are used in a variety of industrial applications, including automotive catalytic converters. The company is committed to growing its position in the PGM recycling market and providing customers with a high-quality source of these metals for the long-term. Additional information on BASF's metals recycling operations can be found at: [www.converter-recycling.basf.com](http://www.converter-recycling.basf.com).



## IPMI® NEWS

### Update to Events at the IPMI Conference

**The Keynote Speaker on Sunday at the IPMI Annual Delegate Lunch, sponsored by Republic Metals, will be TJ Dawe.**

TJ Dawe is an award winning (and published) writer/performer/director. His current projects: *Burn Job*, *Post Secret: the Show*, and *One Woman Sex and the City: a Parody on Love, Friendship and Shoes*. Various credits include *Medicine*, *Marathon*, *The Slipknot*, *The Power of Ignorance*, *Lucky 9*, *52 Pick-up* and *Dishpig*.

He did a **TEDx talk**, details of which appear on page 7. He co-wrote the play *Toothpaste and Cigars*, which has been made into the movie *The F Word*, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

**IPMI Special Reception & "Town Hall" with J. Steven Hart: "An Update on Washington"**

J. Steven Hart has been named one of Washington's top lobbyists by Washingtonian magazine and the Hill newspaper. He was

listed by Chambers USA as one of the nation's top government affairs lawyers at one of the nation's top government affairs firms, Williams & Jensen. During the first administration of Ronald Reagan, Mr. Hart was the Justice Department Special Assistant in charge of processing Federal judicial nominations. He also served at the Office of Management and Budget on the President's Reorganization Task Force on ERISA, at the Labor Department in the Pension Welfare Benefits Program, and at the Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation.

This event will take place Sunday evening June 11 with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres starting at 5:00 PM to 5:45 PM followed by the presentation & "Town Hall" style Q&A from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM.





TJ Dawe writes, performs, directs, and creates new theatre pieces. Based in Vancouver, he's been touring theatre and comedy festivals in Canada and the US for thirteen years, with no signs of slowing down. He has six published plays and a humour book. He perpetually juggles a dozen or so new projects, and blogs a lot at [beamsandstruts.com](http://beamsandstruts.com)—a magazine for hungry brains and thirsty souls. He has been a featured speaker at TEDx talks. This link will take you to his talk at TEDx in Winnipeg, Canada. <https://tedxwinnipeg.ca/speaker/dawe/>

### What motivates you?

Intuitive leaps motivate me: that moment when the synapses fire and one thing connects with another (or with a whole bunch of other things). I stop what I'm doing, my eyes widen, and I think "I've got to get this out there."

### What do you do for a living and why?

I explore ideas and share them with people. For the past decade or so this has meant writing and performing one-person shows, standing on a stage, telling audiences autobiographical stories and related thoughts. Now I also co-edit and write for a group blog. I'm screenwriting and creating plays. I do all of this because it's satisfying. There's nothing like presenting people with what you've created, and having them get it, and respond. A room full of strangers becomes a single person.

### What is your idea worth spreading?

How smart are you? How smart are we as a culture? How much can your brain juggle? Are we getting smarter or dumber? We have the capacity to wrap our brains around increasing levels of complexity. It takes effort, but we can do it, and it's easier than most of us assume. And technology can help. It can also dumb us down. But it's our choice whether we let it sweep us into complacency or use it as a ladder.

### An Idea Worth Spreading

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## 27th Annual Jewelry Design Awards and 33rd Annual Meeting of the IPMI® New England Chapter

The 27th Annual IPMI Jewelry Design Awards and 33rd Annual Meeting was held May 11th. This event, sponsored by the IPMI New England Chapter, recognizes the talents and designing skills of students.

The winner of the IPMI President's Award sponsored by National, received a cash prize of up to \$1500.00; Richard (Dick) Casey, Sr. Memorial Award winner received a cash prize of up to \$1000.00; and the New England Chapter award winner also received a cash prize of up to \$1000.00. The Technical Merit Award winner and Alumni Artist Award winner each received a cash prize of up to \$500.00. At the discretion of the jury, additional entries may be awarded Honorable Mentions of up to \$250.00 each. The award winning entries become the property of IPMI (New England Chapter) and are then auctioned and raffled to raise funds to support the award program for future years.

This year the Chapter awarded over \$13,350 in scholarships and grants to students and schools. All (5) of the participating schools received a grant directly supporting their qualifying programs. The

Chapter is proud to announce that Catherine Rubery of Rhode Island College won the "Carol Tyler Memorial Award" and prize of \$2,500. There were again two repeat winners from prior years, Leah Holmes and Chloe Leigh. Avery Lucus and Julian De La Garza, prolific award winners while students, again returned as judges. The Chapter is pleased that RISD (Rhode Island School of Design) returned as a participant, winning the "Alumni Artist Award" after an extended hiatus. Congratulations to all the award winners!

This program year featured a comprehensive presentation by Tim Murray, Global Sales Director Johnson Matthey on *Platinum & Palladium Fundamental or Financial?*; a membership drive/networking event that had near capacity attending at a favorite venue "Iron Works Tavern". The March event had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. The scheduled presentation on Cyber Security by Frank Motta, CAI Associates, will be presented at a later date. Programs such as these could not occur without the support of IPMI International, Special Sponsors, Members and Supporters.

### Carol Tyler Memorial Award

#### *Linked Bracelet*

Designed by:

**Catherine Rubery**

**Rhode Island College**

### IPMI Chairman's Award sponsored by National

#### *Silver Bell*

Designed by:

**Elisabeth Gerald**

**Massachusetts College of Art & Design**



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## R&D Park of Krastsvetmet

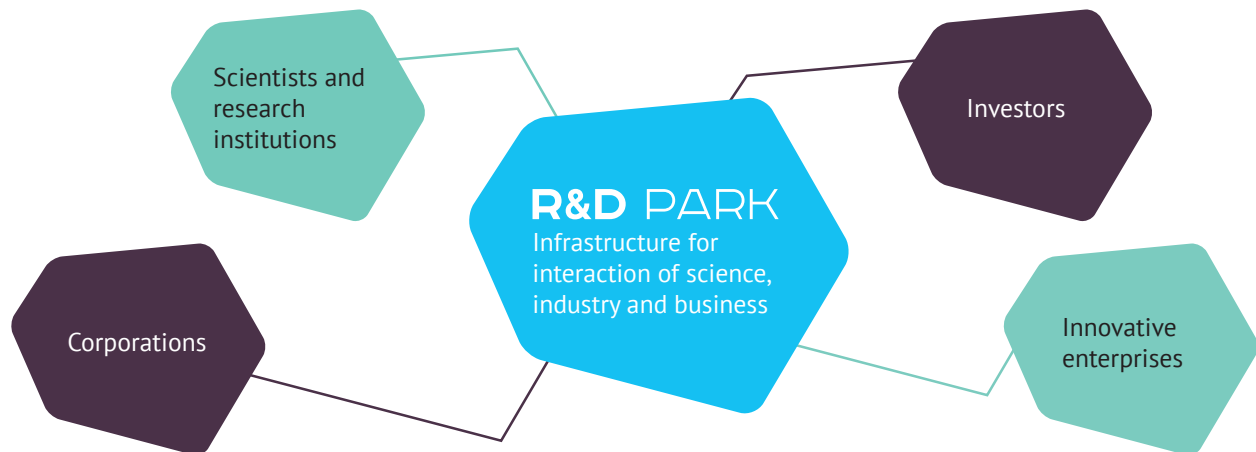
[rndpark.com](http://rndpark.com)

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R&D Park was launched by Krastsvetmet, Russia's biggest refinery. It provides comprehensive support for the R&D Park's residents, including funding the projects and participation in major Russian and international tenders.

Innovation projects in the following areas are launched and implemented at the R&D Park:

- processing raw materials containing precious metals
- metalworking and manufacturing industrial appliances that use precious metals
- environmental protection technologies and creation of an environmentally friendly production (recycling, catalysis, energy efficiency, gas emissions control, industrial wastewater treatment)
- modeling, design and engineering
- new applications for precious metals



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R&D Park is launching the Startup Development Program to find the best technologies that could be implemented in Krastsvetmet or startups Krastsvetmet can invest in.

The best projects will receive ample opportunities for growth and development. The program is open to innovative companies as well as individual researchers.

The Program topics: metallurgy, refining, use of non-ferrous metals (including medicine), additive manufacturing, environmental protection technologies, materials and technologies intended to replace the use of precious metals, etc.



# IPMI® CHAPTER NEWS

Jewelry Design Winners, continued from page 8

## Richard (Dick) Casey, Sr. Memorial Award

*Splash*

Designed by:

**Leah Holmes**

Rhode Island College



## New England Chapter Award

*Crown of Horns*

Designed by:

**Anne Schneider**

University of Mass. Dartmouth



## Technical Merit Award

*Origami Necklace*

Designed by:

**Michelle Yun**

Massachusetts College of Art and Design



## Alumni Artist Award

*"Switching"*

Designed by:

**Yue Tan**

Rhode Island School of Design



continued on page 12





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Jewelry Design Winners, continued from page 10

## Honorable Mentions

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### *"The Last Snowfall"*

Designed by:  
**Leah Holmes**  
Rhode Island College



### *"Hunting Under the Moon" Reversible*

Designed by:  
**Hailey Angione**  
University of Mass. Dartmouth



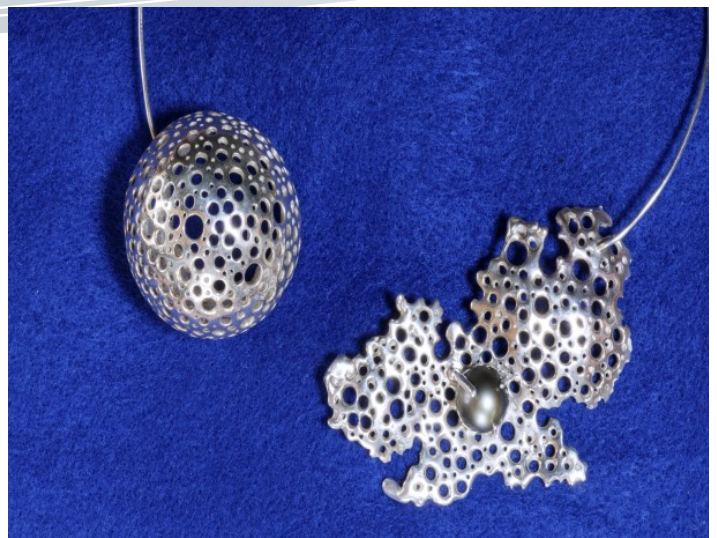
### *"The Hidden Unmasked" Necklace*

Designed by:  
**Chloe Leigh**  
Massachusetts College of Art and Design



### *Curved Spacetime Necklace*

Designed by:  
**Olivia Russell**  
School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts





**Correction:**

In the ISRI article in the April issue we misidentified Frank Ferro as Frank Reddon. Our apologies to both Mr. Ferro and Mr.Reddon.

## IPMI Special Interest Groups to Meet at Conference

- The IPMI Sampling and Analytical Group will meet on Monday June 12 2pm-4pm in Marbella 1 at Grande Lakes Resort.
- The IPMI PRC will meet on Sunday June 11 2pm-4pm in Marbella 1 at Grande Lakes
- The EHS Committee will hold at Meet and Greet Sunday June 11 2:30pm-4:00 pm in Marbella 3 at Grande Lakes

Special Interest Groups are open to All IPMI Members

## IPMI® Calendar

2017	June 10-13	41 <sup>st</sup> Annual Conference • JW Marriott Grande Lakes, Orlando FL
	June 11	PRC Meeting • JW Marriott Grande Lakes, Orlando FL
	June 12	Sampling and Analytical Group Meeting • JW Marriott Grande Lakes, Orlando FL
	Sept 13	NY Chapter Seminar and Cocktails • Museum of American Finance
	Sept 14	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual IPMI Platinum Dinner • New York Palace Hotel, New York NY
Nov 13-14	Europe Chapter Seminar • Prague, Czech Republic	
2018	June 9-12	42 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference • JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country, San Antonio TX
	Sept 13	6 <sup>th</sup> Annual IPMI Platinum Dinner • New York Palace Hotel, New York NY