

Revere Academy Passes On the Skills

What began as a single class for locals has evolved into an internationally recognized training facility for jewelers, offering dozens of classes and diploma programs annually and now marking its 25th year. The Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts, founded on April 1, 1979, is an initiative founded, directed, taught and attended by jewelry professionals.

"I had no idea where it was headed," says founder and master goldsmith Alan Revere. "After returning from my training in Germany, local bench jewelers began to ask if I would teach them. I was committed to passing on the skills I learned in Europe along with my passion for working with my hands."

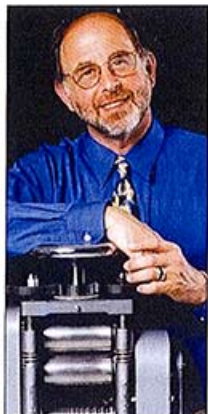
A stint at a local college and private lessons led Revere to make the leap and open a formal training center. It has since

grown physically eight times, taking over more space in San Francisco's landmark Phelan Building.

Master artisans such as gem designer Bernd Munsteiner are recruited to teach with Revere, who has also won international awards for his designs and written several books on jewelry. The academy (www.revereacademy.com) pioneered instruction in fully equipped studios featuring live video blow-ups so that students each get an over-the-shoulder look at the instructor's demonstrations.

Revere estimates that 10,000 people have taken classes there since 1979. About 300 are currently enrolled.

"I was fortunate as a young wannabe



Revere Academy founder Alan Revere and one of his jewelry designs.

jeweler to discover the Revere Academy at its infancy," says Catherine Hylands, who worked as a bench jeweler for 13 years and opened her own studio in 1998. "Without the Academy I would never have gained the skills as quickly, if at all." —N.W.