



June 1, 2006

Dear GIA Graduate:

We want you to be one of the first to know about some exciting changes in the GIA Alumni Association slated to begin in early 2007. We're pleased to report that we have recently launched a new initiative to benefit you and all GIA Alumni.

We will expand the GIA Alumni Association membership to include all graduates and will no longer require dues. Graduates will automatically be added to the membership when they pass a final examination in a program that awards a certificate or diploma. The Alumni Association has lingered at about 4,000 dues-paying members over the years. This number will increase to more than 65,000 once we launch the initiative in 2007, and will continue to grow as students complete their studies.

Many of the benefits and programs of Alumni Association membership will remain the same or be enhanced. Most importantly, GIA Education is developing an exciting new continuing education program, with a related recognition system, for those who have achieved their G.G. It will consist of a series of courses that will provide an overview of industry changes, gemological advancements and professional development.

If you are currently a paid member of the GIA Alumni Association and your membership expires after April, 2007, you may call 760-603-4135 or e-mail: alumni@gia.edu, for a pro-rated refund. If you do not contact us, your dues will remain in the Alumni general fund.

To locate the Alumni chapter nearest to you, please visit www.gia.edu and click on "Alumni Association," then "Worldwide Chapters," or contact Alumni Relations at 760-603-4135.

Look for details about the growth of the Alumni Association in upcoming issues of *The Loupe*, *Loupe Online*, *GIA Insider* and on the Alumni Association Web site.

Thank you for your continued support of GIA. We are excited about the direction the Alumni Association is taking and hope you are too. We look forward to meeting you at upcoming industry events.

Best regards,



Linda E. Harmeling

Linda Ellis Harmeling
Vice President
Institute Advancement



Brook Ellis

Brook Ellis
Vice President
Education

Join us for lunch at Symposium!

The 4th International Gemological Symposium is less than four months away; you can sign up, if you haven't already, at www.gia.edu.

We hope you will also join us for a complimentary Alumni Association luncheon from noon – 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 30 in the Ford Room at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in downtown San Diego.

To RSVP, please return the response form below; call the events hotline at 760.603.4204; or e-mail events@gia.edu.

Please detach and return in envelope provided

Welcome to the GIA Alumni Association!

- Yes! I (we) plan to attend the Alumni luncheon at Symposium on Aug. 30.
Name(s) _____
- Yes! I wish to receive:
 - Alumni Association e-news
 - *GIA Insider*, GIA's bi-weekly electronic newsletter
- My e-mail address is: _____
- Yes! I would like to be listed in the Alumni Online Directory
- Please note my address corrections at left