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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Christopher P. Smith Elected to Fellowship of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain

**15 November 2010: NEW YORK –** American Gemological Laboratories (AGL): Following a presentation during the Gem-A conference recently held in London, England, Christopher P. Smith, President and Chief Gemologist of AGL was elected to Fellowship of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A). The presentation was made in the magnificent surroundings of Goldsmiths' Hall, London.

“FGA credentials and affiliation with the Fellowship of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain, is our industry’s oldest and one of the most widely respected gemological honors.” Smith stated, “I feel very privileged to have received this special consideration and I am proud to become a member of this famous organization.”

Dr Jack Ogden, CEO of Gem-A said “Chris is highly respected internationally for his gemological research and he has demonstrated his commitment to upholding the standards of the gemstone and jewelry industry and furthering the advancement of gemology over the many years of his career. We are pleased to welcome him into our association and for him to become an FGA.”

Smith earned his graduate gemologists degree (G.G.) from the GIA in 1986 and has worked for both the Gübelin Gem Lab (GGL) and GIA Laboratories, in addition to the AGL over his more than 20 year career. He has published and lectured internationally on a broad range of gemological topics, including gem identification, colored stone treatments and their detection, country-of-origin determinations, colorless and colored diamond treatments and identification, as well as others. In 2009, he was also awarded the Antonio C. Bonanno award for Excellence in Gemology from the Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA).



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American Gemological Laboratories (AGL) is the United States' most widely known and respected colored stone gem identification and quality grading laboratory. It was founded in 1977 and became the first gemological laboratory in the US to provide quality grading as well as country-of-origin determinations for colored stones. AGL has become an iconic brand for uncompromised standards and excellence in gemstone reporting and is regularly featured by the auction houses of Christie's and Sotheby's for important colored stones they are offering for sale.

The Gemmological Association of Great Britain, or Gem-A, is the world's longest established provider of gem and jewellery education. Their Diploma in Gemmology, the direct descendant of the gem course that was proposed for the UK jewellery trade in 1908, is now taught around the world and is recognized as a qualification of the highest status. At the end of 2009 the Board of Gem-A agreed to consider for election to Fellowship of the Association those who could demonstrate a significant contribution to the field of gemmology, or the promotion of gem knowledge, over no less than 10 years. Prior to this, the only route to FGA status was as a graduate of Gem-A's Diploma in Gemmology.

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