



A small propane blow torch was used by Lincoln students to create hand crafted silver jewelry. PHOTOS BY AMANDA THOMPSON

Molding talent

Lincoln Students Shine with Silver Jewelry Designs

Amanda Karioth Thompson
Council on Culture & Arts

What if you could manipulate metal as easily as modeling clay? That question occupied the mind of Dr. Masaki Morikawa in the early 1990s. A Japanese metallurgist working at the Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, his mission was to increase production of highly refined gold for use in microchips.

He challenged his team to think differently about their work and the result was a new material that would revolutionize metalsmithing, particularly for fine art jewelers.

Precious metal clay (PMC) is comprised of microscopic metal flakes, water and an organic binder to provide malleability. When fired at high temperatures, the water and binder burn away, leaving a 99.9% pure metal object. Unlike traditional metalworking, PMC doesn't require years of training, physical strength, specialized tools, or large workspaces.

Its ease of use makes it popular with professional and amateur jewelers including some enthusi-



Casey Hoogerheyde shows off her simplified PMC ring designs.

See **JEWELRY**, Page 8C

LIMELIGHT EXTRA

'Highway Queen' cruises into Midtown

Get a jump on your weekend entertainment plans every Wednesday, and pick up the Limelight section on Friday

Mark Hinson
Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Movies

IT'S ABOUT 'TIME': An adolescent girl travels across dimensions in space to rescue her astrophysicist father, who is being held captive on a distant planet, with the help of guardian angels (Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon) in the Disney-made adventure tale "A Wrinkle in Time." It's rated PG and opens Friday at AMC 20 and Governor's Square.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER: During a business trip to Mexico that involves medical marijuana, an American businessman (David Oyelowo) is kidnapped by drug dealers who have a beef with his company in the action-comedy "Gringo." It's rated R and opens Friday at AMC 20.

KILLER SOLUTION: Two teenaged friends (Any Taylor-Joy, Olivia Cooke) living a comfortable, spoiled life in suburban Connecticut decide to murder a domineering step-father in the dark

See **LIMELIGHT**, Page 3C

25 WOMEN YOU NEED TO KNOW

Judge Angela Dempsey values learning

Nada Hassanein
Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

During the day, Leon County Circuit Judge Angela Dempsey is on the criminal justice "treadmill."

The momentum is always there. Cases keep coming and they don't stop.

She's currently responsible for the disposition of about 600 cases.

Dempsey is one of the 25 Women You Need to Know for 2018. Now in its 12th year, the program is the Tallahassee Democrat's way of honoring women who lead. Meet the women every day during the month of March in print and on tallahassee.com.

But it's work she loves. She's always valued fairness. Balancing the "moving parts" intrinsic to the position is a several-time daily feat for Dempsey.

"It was always just an ultimate goal of Privacy Rights", updated March

See **WOMEN**, Page 8C
Powered by TECNAVIA

Jewelry

Continued from Page 1C

astic Lincoln High School sculpture students.

Faced with an expanding number of art students and an auxiliary space that can't keep up with the demand, Lincoln art teacher Marilyn Proctor-Givens has downsized her projects. Though she's working on a smaller scale, she's committed to offering her students unique learning opportunities.

Brainstorming potential projects, she thought back to an inspiring PMC class she took several years ago.

"When I had that experience, I was like 'this is the coolest thing I've ever seen.' It was intense but I realized we can do this at school and when the COCA grant came up, I thought now we can really do this at school." Proctor-Givens applied for and received an Arts Education Grant from the Council on Culture & Arts (COCA). With the grant funds supplied by Kia of Tallahassee, she was able to purchase silver PMC and all the tools and materials necessary to work with it.

PMC is not a material typically included in a school's art supply budget. In comparison to regular clay, it's a high-cost item, a fact that was understood by the students. "My biggest fear was the price," admitted 12th-grader Tyrese Matthews. "I didn't want to mess up. That's the biggest challenge is to be careful with it."

Tyrese has worked with regular clay before and found PMC to behave similarly. He explained "you've got to roll it out to the thickness of four playing cards. From there, you can cut it out, mold it and make any design you want. You let the clay dry out and then it's ready to fire." He is happy with the ring he made but upon reflection, he said "I rushed it maybe a little bit. I should have put more thought into my design before I made it."

David Moore put a considerable amount of thought into his design. The 10th-grader used SketchUp, a 3D modeling software program, to create a prototype. "I printed my original design with our 3D printer and made a practice one with regular clay. I used that as a template for the PMC one. I had to make a bunch of different versions of it and I learned that it's better to go through all the steps and read all the things you need to know before you do the final project."

Tenth-grader Casey Hoogerheyde said working with PMC "wasn't as scary as I originally thought but it did dry out really fast." She had to revise and simplify her original design and after firing with a blow torch, the pieces were polished with three sequential grits of sandpaper from coarse to fine, then polished in a tumbler, a process called burnishing. "Burnishing scrapes off any remaining clay and you're left with the shiny metal," Casey explained.

This project taught students more than metalsmithing skills. Though the initial investment is significant, many artists build a career creating high end, custom, fine art jewelry from PMC. Successful jewelers are focused, precise, conscious of cost and waste, and thoughtful about design. Pieces should be innovative and wearable but also well made in order for them to survive.

"I knew these students would be meticulous," said Proctor-Givens. "I knew they understood the concept of craftsmanship but this took it to a whole other level. Instead of a thing that sits on a shelf, they can wear their work and show it off. This isn't just the school grade clay that we do all our other projects with. It's real silver."

Amanda Karioth Thompson is the Assistant Director for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area's umbrella agency for arts and culture (www.tallahasseearts.org).