

Date Specific

more information can be found on the ATPI web site at www.atpi.org

10.14-16.2006

TAJE Convention
San Antonio, TX

10.27.2006

ATPI Fall Contest deadline

11.9-12.2006

JEA/NSPA Convention
Nashville, TN

12.6.2006

PIEA International Student-Faculty Contest deadline

2.16-18.2007

ATPI Winter Conference
Austin, TX

3.2-4.2007

SIPA Convention
Columbia, SC

3.7-11.2007

PIEA
Las Vegas, NV

3.14-16.2007

CSA Convention
New York, NY

4.12-15.2007

JEA/NSPA
Denver, CO

4.21-22.2007

ILPC Convention Austin, TX

Do you know of some other important dates? If so, e-mail us at info@atpi.org and we'll pass them on.

Imagemakers Adopts New Guidelines

Contest will create better definitions for students to compete

by Rebecca Plumley

Top ten lists are all the rave in honoring and rating things that go above and beyond the usual competition, and the ATPI has its own top ten list to honor student photographers: the Imagemaker contest.

To be named as one of the top ten photographers in the state, students must stay busy racking up points by placing in various photography contests throughout the year. Then, in April, right around the time of the Hal Fulgham Memorial Scholarship deadline, students may simply download an entry sheet from the ATPI web site, tally up points for the year, and mail the form as an entry in this free contest.

While this contest has been around for years, contest criteria have been updated this summer to make guidelines clearer and to encourage students to maintain good records of their winnings throughout the year.

CORE COMPETITIONS

The first major change to the competition is the institution of three core contests, which include the ATPI Fall Contest, the Photo Imaging Education Association's annual international contest and the TAMU-C Texas Shoot Out. These contests create a strong foundation for the Imagemaker by offering a variety of structures and categories in which all styles of photography can be successful. Other perks of these contests include small membership and entry fees and the ability to mail in the contest materials instead of traveling to a competition site. While entry into each of these contests is not required to become an Imagemaker, we encourage your students to take advantage of the vast placing opportunities that these contests offer. And, to encourage entry in the core contests, links to the contests' web sites will be available on the ATPI home page at least two months before photography entries are due.

ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS

Since some may believe that the core is limiting in nature, more contests can be added to the approved Imagemaker contest list by following a simple process. A web site link must be submitted to mmurray@atpi.org. This link will be handed over to a contest committee that will decide if it meets the following criteria.

First, the committee will decide if all student photographers in the state may enter the contest. Please make sure the contest isn't open to people in a particular region and make sure prior publication of the photographs is not a requirement.

Then, the committee will make sure that students don't lose their photographic rights by entering the contest and that the contest has a quality judging panel,

not membership voting. To simplify this process, no online contests will be accepted.

Next, the committee will determine if the membership fee and entry fee are in a reasonable range for schools. Membership fees over \$75 and entry fees over \$15 per entry will limit some schools, so contests with fees such as these will not be accepted.

Finally, the committee will make sure that the link was submitted in time to post on the ATPI homepage two months prior to the entry deadline.

After the approval process, it will be easy for all ATPI members to know about approved competitions. Just check the ATPI homepage for updates. Any approved competition will be linked to the web site at least two months before entries are due.

ENTERING PROCESS AND SCORING

Please note when helping students score their work, that first, second, and third places are weighted more than superior, excellent, and honorable mention. Also, international contests, such as PIEA, and collegiate contests are weighted higher than state and national competitions.

After racking up points in the approved competitions, the Imagemaker entry process is simple. Print out an entry form from the ATPI web site, fill in information about places in approved contests, tally up the points, and send in the form by the deadline.

Don't be afraid to send in entries with totals in the teens and twenties. The number of Imagemaker entries varies each year, and sometimes the winning point spread will surprise you. Anyway, what you do you have to lose? The contest is free and the hard work has already been accomplished by entering the other competitions.

Just note, after you and your students have done your work, the contest committee will take over.

JUDGING BY COMMITTEE

A three-person contest committee will review each entry form that was received by the entry due date. The committee will make sure that only approved contests are scored and will double check the math for the point total.

Get Started Now

Now is the time to get students in gear for this free competition. Start having students enter competitions and keep good records. We look forward to seeing your entries in the spring.

Check out the Points List on page 4.

Summer Workshop

story page 2



Photographer Anne Day gave instruction during the Working Photographer class.



Before the summer heat took over, Craig Coyle enjoyed the early morning session at the Commerce pool.



Tracy Csavina, Sedona Red Rock HS, created this composite image in the Photoshop class.

Summer Workshop Bursting Out at the Texas Border

Sixty-five teachers from nine states travel to Commerce

With record numbers and participants coming from both coasts, the annual ATPI Summer Workshop for Instructors held June 28-July 1 on the campus of Texas A&M Commerce once again provided educational opportunities, fun and fellowship.

The Working Photographer, led by professional photographers Skeeter Hagler and Ann Day along with John Knauer from Olympus, provided participants the chance to photograph various "community" assignments and get feedback editing their work. Some of the sites visited this year were downtown Commerce, a local hangout to drink "cowboy" coffee and a small town rodeo.

"The Working Photographer was exactly what I needed to re-ignite my passion for photo-journalism," said Mario Garcia from McCollum HS in San Antonio.

Marking round two, *Road Trip*, taught by Jeff Grimm from Trinity HS and Tom Delaney from Fort Worth Country Day School, was a popular choice. Traveling in caravans, the group hit the road every morning by seven and stopped when and where the urge hit them.

"Being in the Road Trip class motivated and challenged me as an artist/photographer," Shanda Young from Pflugerville HS said. "It was a great opportunity to brainstorm creative assignments for my students."

Two technology-based classes were offered: *Photoshop* taught by Mark Murray and Stan Godwin and *Convergent Media* taught by Jake Palenske from NCompass Media. The Photo-shop class provided teachers a chance to get

more comfortable with the software while learning techniques to improve their photographs. Convergent Media offered instruction in state-of-the-art multimedia software as teachers created their own videos and slide shows.

"This workshop gave me time to *play* with important software, rather than *work* with the software. Because of this I can again approach the programs with a fresh childlike zeal rather than a feeling of dread and work," Rebecca Plumley from McKinney North HS in McKinney, TX said.

Dave Brommer from B&H Photo showed up with backpacks for each participant and presented an amazing breakout session. Stern Hatcher from BWC in Dallas offered special pricing on their services to the teachers at the workshop. And thanks to Jackie Miller at Apple Computers, teachers in the Convergent Media class were able to work with the latest hardware and software from Apple.

Offering teachers on all skill levels something, the workshop reached a record attendance of 65 with participants coming from as far west as Washington State, as far east as Virginia, as far north as Minnesota and as far south as Florida.

"After years of hearing about ATPI, I made the trek from Seattle. The workshop totally exceeded my expectation," Susan Ferguson from Mount Si HS in Snoqualmie, WA. "It's a long way from Seattle, but it was more that worth a few hours on a plane. I can't wait to come back."

"This is the absolute best place to network and exchange ideas, not only about taking good pictures, but teaching strategies."

Jimmie Bellah

Memorial HS - Victoria, TX



Special Thanks to:

Texas A&M University
- Commerce
Stan Godwin and
Chad Smith

Olympus
John Knauer, Anne
Day
and Skeeter Hagler

B&H Photo and Video
Dave Brommer

Jake Palenske
NCompass Media

Jeff Grimm
Trinity HS

Tom Delaney
Fort Worth County
Day School

Apple Computers
Jackie Miller

PIEA
Ken Lassiter and
Tom Crawford

BWC Photo Imaging
Stern Hatcher

Mark Murray
and
Craig Coyle

Teachers in the Working Photographer class spent the week finding stories in and around the community of Commerce, TX. Students at swim practice, a moment with an instructor and hard at work around the pool at the hotel all captured the attention of the photographers.



Starting the year off - where do I begin?

Film or digital: does it make a difference? by Sue Jett

When I finally convinced my school to let me teach a Digital Photo Class I was both excited and well, worried. That old cliché, “look before you leap” kept coming to mind.

I started wondering where do I begin? Finally it came to me, digital or film, it was all photography and I’d start the same place I started with my film classes-the beginning.

Covering the basics such as camera parts, rules of composition, and camera care fell into place.

While my film classes learned about ISO, shutter speeds, aperture/f-stops on their SLR cameras, my digital class posed the problem of 20 students and 20 different cameras in all shapes, sizes, colors and capabilities.

I found that, in my case, a totally different type of student took digital opposed to Photojournalism. They are a little more “artsy” and didn’t always see things in black and white. (sorry)

Oh we covered all the things that go into taking a successful exposure, but I also introduced the vocabulary of megapixels, resolution, DPI, PPI and JPEG just to name a few.

Next, came the problem of getting their images

onto the computer. I have various card readers, but one or two of the students had cards or cameras which just wouldn’t conform. I found the local office supply stores different “readers” which hold a memory card and convert them into a flash drive. The down side is each card size and type needs a different “flash drive.” Of course if one can convince their students to bring the cable which connects the camera to the computer or simply burn a CD at home many of the problems will be solved.

Archival and editing is something to which my students don’t want to give much attention. They loved to take the pictures and look at each other’s LCD screens, the storage issues were not as much fun.

While I believe and try to teach my students to use a photographic eye and all the “rules” we covered on how to take a good picture, most of them can’t wait to open-up Photoshop.

At last we arrive at the place they have all been waiting for-manipulation! I try to find various projects which cover the basic Photoshop functions, but since this is not my strongest point each semester I am always lucky enough to get that student

who knows more than all the rest of us and is not afraid to share.

And of course this is the final step-sharing. We run around the room looking over each other’s shoulders a-h-h-ing over what we have created. It is also nice when Open House rolls around if the parents can open up folders students have prepared and see their work.

Since printing can be costly, we create slide shows portfolios and on the day of the final spend the class sharing and critiquing their work.

Another way my digital classes “share” is by creating greeting cards for the Assisted Living Home down the street. We try to hit the major holidays and a few we create on our own.

One thing I still have not worked out completely is grading. Since I am not grading prints I can hold in my hand, I found creating folders on the server for specific assignments usually works. Hopefully the students label and save their photos in the right place.

So whether digital and film it is all photography and the students are always proud of their results.

Imagemaker Contest Points

National and International

Honorable Mention - 4 points
Third Place - 6 points
Second Place - 8 points
First Place - 10 points
Grand Prize/BOS - 12 points

State Wide

(First, second, third, etc.)
Honorable Mention - 2 points
Third Place - 4 points
Second Place - 6 points
First Place - 8 points
Best of Show - 10 points
(Excellent, superiors, etc.)
Honorable Mention - 2 points
Excellent - 4 points
Superior - 6 points

Our thanks to the Imagemaker Committee, who spent many hours this summer working on this plan -

Chair - Rebecca Plumley, McKinney North HS

Members - Deanne Brown - Westlake HS, Jeff Grimm - Trinity HS, Lisa Van Etta - Cy-Falls HS, David Veselka - The Kinkaid School.

Save the date

**ATPI Winter Conference
February 16-18, 2007**

UT Austin

On-site Photo Contests

ATPI Quiz Bowl

College and Vendor Show

Student Portfolio Reviews

Classes covering topics like:

Lighting
Architecture
Documentary
Design
Portrait
Video
and many others!



Jeff Grimm, Trinity HS, works with students in the Beginning Portfolio Review.

Association of Texas Photography Instructors
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Imagemaker

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