Imagemaker
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A publication of the
Association of Texas
Photography Instructors



During the 2025 Winter Conference, Clint Smith (Texas HS) models for students at one of CADY studio's stations. CADY will host the optional Thursday night activity again this year. Photo by Andrea Negri (Cypress Woods HS)

UT-Arlington Hosts 40th Winter Conference

Planning Resources Inside:

Hands-On Classes
Pages 2-3

This year, options are marked with recommended skill levels. Attendees will choose two first-choice and two back-up options while registering.

Registration Planner
Page 5

Help keep track of students' hands-on class preferences and contest options with this resource. Note: This is not mailed in. Registration is online.

Thursday Event

Arriving early? Join us at CADY in Grapevine. Students and teachers will receive instruction in portrait lighting and posing, so bring cameras. Schools will register for the 6-7 p.m. slot or the 7-8 p.m. slot. The $5 cost per person includes snacks.

Upcoming Events

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

12.16.2026
ATPI Social Media Contest Deadline - Festive Fun

01.27.2027
ATPI Social Media Contest Deadline - That's New

02.05-10.2027
ATPI Winter Conference Picture Package, School Portfolio, Cropped Round 1

02.19-20.2027
ATPI Winter Conference, Arlington

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

schedule

Friday, February 5
Noon
Picture Package, School Portfolio, Cropped Round 1 prompts announced via social media

Wednesday, February 10
6 p.m.
Picture Package, School Portfolio, Environmental Self-Portrait, Cropped Round 1 photos due (upload to ATPI Contest site)

Thursday, February 18
Optional Thursday night activity at CADY - Grapevine

Friday, February 19
9:30 a.m.
Registration opens at UT-Arlington
10:30 a.m.
Information meeting (for students competing in on-site contests)
11 a.m.
Digital Image, Scavenger Hunt, Video, Faculty Digital contests
11:00 - 11:50 a.m.
Sessions
noon - 1:15 p.m.
Lunch (included in registration)
1 p.m.
Digital Image, Scavenger Hunt contests due
1:15 p.m.
Cropped, Digital Editing and Photo Relay contests
1:15 - 2:05 p.m.
Sessions
2:15 - 3:05 p.m.
Sessions
3:15 - 4:05 p.m.
Sessions
4 p.m.
Faculty Digital contest due
5-6 p.m.
Keynote Speaker
11:59 p.m.
Video contests due

Saturday, February 20
9 - 9:50 a.m.
Sessions
Portfolio reviews
10 - 11:50 a.m.
Hands-on classes
noon - 1 p.m.
Lunch (included in registration)
ATPI Business Meeting
1:15 - 3:05 p.m.
Hands-on classes
3:15 p.m.
Group photo
3:30-4:30 p.m.
Awards and conference concludes

in-depth classes

Key:
A - Advanced
B - Beginner
C - Combined

ATPI will offer 105-minute in-depth classes Saturday at 10 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Students and teachers should select two classes, plus two alternates, and fill in this information through the online registration form. Any class that lists "camera" as required means either a DSLR/mirrorless camera

H101 Portraiture in a New Light (C)

Learn about the benefits of LED lighting for capturing dramatic portraits for both video and still photography. Editing tips utilizing Adobe Camera RAW will also be demonstrated. *Materials: camera*

H102 – Advanced Photoshop Techniques (A)

This class assumes at least one year of experience with Photoshop and will look at additional techniques for editing images. *Materials: USB drive with 10-15 images*

H103 – Painting With Light (C)

Light. The raw material of photography. Come learn to use it as an artist uses oil paints to create their masterpieces. *Materials: digital camera, black/dark clothing*

H104 – Video Interviewing 101 (B)

Students learn the fundamentals of preparing for and conducting a video interview that includes more than just asking good follow-up questions but also includes framing and lighting. *Materials: video camera or DSLR with video capability, tripod*

H105 – AI and Photojournalism (C)

Artificial intelligence is changing every facet of a photographer's job from doing background research to editing. In this session, we'll explore how photographers can use AI as well as the legal and ethical aspects of AI particularly in photojournalism. *Materials: Photographers should have a generative AI tool such as Adobe Firefly accessible on the portable computers they bring with them*

H106 – Design and Composition (B)

After a brief discussion of photographic design and aesthetics, you'll participate in a walking tour on the UTA campus to examine ways of seeing photographically. *Materials: camera*

H107 – Studio Portraiture (A)

Lighting styles and lighting quality, posing tips and working with subjects in a formal studio setting will all be covered. *Materials: camera*

H108 – Pinhole Photography (C)

See the magic that entranced early photography enthusiasts by making and creating images with the most basic photographic device: the pinhole camera. *Materials: light-proof container with a close-fitting, light-proof lid, such as gift box, cookie tin, oatmeal box, etc. Must be completely opaque/light tight.*

H109 – Build your Camera Confidence (B)

Perfect for the first-year photo student! Learn how to be a master of your camera. This hands-on workshop is designed for beginning photographers who want to build confidence with their camera and learn how to make intentional choices in the field. Participants will review camera controls, explore lens choices, practice the exposure triangle, and experiment with settings for common student photography situations *Materials: camera*

H110 – Working with Shutter Speeds (B)

Blurring motion. Stopping motion. Panning. From Eadweard Muybridge's photos of a horse running to today's bursting balloons here is your chance to experiment with some of these techniques. *Materials: camera and tripod*

H111 – Mixed Media Photography (C)

Discover the creative possibilities that happen when photography meets mixed media! In this class, students will explore how to transform their photographs into expressive works of art by combining digital and traditional art techniques. Using photography as a starting point, students will experiment with collage, paint, drawing, and other materials to create layered, one-of-a-kind images. *Materials: participants will be asked to email some JPEG images to the instructor prior to the conference so that they can be printed for the class*

H112 – Architectural Photography (B)

After a short discussion about technique and logistics, we will go out into the field and practice some of those skills required for photographing architectural interiors and exteriors. *Materials: camera*

H113 – Lighting on Location (B)

Get the perfect lighting whether dealing with the bright sun of a daytime football game to the night lights. Learn how to control the lighting by balancing available light with fill flash as well as slow/rear curtain sync flash or how to avoid the use of flash at all with techniques for supplementing existing light. *Materials: amera and external electronic flash*

H114 – Working with Portable Flash (A)

Learn techniques for controlling multiple portable strobes using external flash and pocket wizards. *Materials: amera*

H115 – Sports Photography (B)

Learn ways to cover sports in the gym. *Materials: camera and extra lenses*

H116 – Fine Art Printing (C)

Work with different paper types and other techniques to enhance fine art inkjet prints. *Materials: USB drive with 8-10 images, preferably in RAW, PSD, or TIFF format*

H117 – Cyanotype Large Scale Imagery (C)

A classic alternative photography process that dates to the 1840's, this fun and inexpensive process produces a blue image on paper or fabric. Students will learn how to create a negative, coat, dry, and expose large pieces of fabric to create body portraits. Limited to one student per school. *Materials: none*

H118 – Table Top and Product Photography (C)

Lighting and set-up of table top and small product photography with studio flash combining both products and food on different sets. The students will be able to work with different products with different lighting requirements and learn to use studio flash equipment. *Materials: camera and tripod*

H119 – Advanced Studio Lighting (A)

For students with a working understanding of off-camera flash or who have taken the Studio Portraiture class at a previous Winter Conference, this class will work with gelled lights, multiple strobe setups and the use of specialty modifiers. *Materials: camera*

H120 – Cinematography (B)

Dive into important elements of camera craft in narrative filmmaking. We will break down how to plan and shoot coverage of a scene, important considerations when choosing shots and equipment and how to motivate these decisions to complement the story and the shooting environment. *Materials: video capable camera*

H121 – Food Photography Hacks (C)

Food always looks so yummy and perfect in commercial photos, but how do they do that? All secrets will be revealed in this tabletop hands-on workshop focused on commercial food photography and the tricks of the trade used to make food look like the superstar every time. *Materials: camera, tripod (optional)*

H122 – Working with Models (B)

Learn techniques for posing a model and working with light to capture the best portrait or advertising photograph. *Materials: camera*

H123 – Miniature and Action Figure Photography (C)

Small Models, but big scenes. We will focus on lighting, composition, posing and styling techniques that will take your skills to a level larger than life. *Materials: 18-55mm kit lens is fine, macro lens if available but not required. Tripods are helpful but are not required. Feel free to bring your favorite action figure or toy, but we will have some on hand.*

H124 – Tintype Photography (C)

Learn the process and technique of making a modern version of the Tintype, which was first produced during the 1850's. Students will learn how to pour, shoot and develop a portrait that they will be able to take home. Limited to one student per school. *Materials: none*

H125 – Adobe Photoshop Certification Mini Prep Course (C)

Need help on where to start to get Adobe Photoshop Certified? This class can help students and teachers learn what to expect from the Adobe Photoshop Certification Exam. Practice some Photoshop skills using some hands-on Photoshop tutorials to help prep for Adobe Certified Professional (ACP) certification. *Materials: laptop with Adobe Photoshop installed (make sure you can log into your Adobe account)*

H126 – Black and White Photograms (C)

Experience the sights and smells of the darkroom by creating your own images worthy of Man Ray. Learn how light and chemistry affects photographic paper. *Materials: personal items that are solid, translucent or transparent to use*

H127 – Storytelling Through Lenses (C)

In this hands-on workshop, students will learn to see the world through a filmmaker's eyes and discover how camera angles, framing and lens choices can transform an ordinary moment into a powerful visual story. Using your smartphone as a director's viewfinder, you'll experiment with different shots, explore how lenses and focal lengths change what we see and feel and learn techniques to make your photos and videos look more cinematic even when filming in vertical. Whether you dream of directing movies, creating amazing social media content or simply telling better stories, this workshop will help you think like a director and bring your creative vision to life. *Materials: students should download the free Magic Cinema Viewer viewfinder app (free for iOS and Android) or the paid apps Artemis of Cadrage (iOS).*

H128 – Mobile Filmmaking Workshop (C)

Learn how to use software and hardware to make great films with your mobile phone. *Materials: students should download the Black Magic camera app (free for IOS and Android)*

H129 – Writing for Video (B)

We will take a look at successful stories, talk about what made them successful, and break down some of the do's and don'ts of writing for the screen. Will also review and discuss some of the industry standard writing software that is available. *Materials: bring your own stories and time permitting, we'll look at them and give feedback*

H130 – DIY Photo Zines (C)

Students will learn how to create their own 1-sheet photo zine using their photography and creative design skills. Through exploration of layout, sequencing, and storytelling, students will discover how to turn their images into a cohesive visual narrative. *Materials: laptop, Folder with 10-15 photos, Optional: magazines/newspaper*

H131 – Class Hacks (Teachers)

Whether you're a new or veteran photo teacher, sometimes you need new ideas to bring to the classroom. In this class, teachers will swap lessons that have worked and advice on managing programs. Materials: Participants will be asked to share questions and ideas prior to the conference so they can be shared out.

Need A Hat?

As a special offer for our 40th convention, we will have available the famous ATPI baseball cap that is presented to our hands-on speakers. You can pre-order on the registration form a medium gray hat with the ATPI logo for $16. We may have a few extras available at the convention.

contests

Please read the rules carefully

Students may compete in one a.m. and one p.m. contest on Friday

Students and teachers should carefully note the requirements and supplies listed for each of the contests. Some contests will begin at 11 a.m. or 1:15 p.m. on Friday while the rest will be upload contests. **Students may only compete in one contest on Friday.** No teachers or advisers will be allowed to advise or instruct students during competitions. Entry fee: $10 per person per contest, except where noted.

Environmental Self-Portrait Contest (online)

Locate the flier included with the newsletter to see all of the details, but this is a online contest for both students and teachers. Entries are due by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10 and should be uploaded to the ATPI Contest site. Images must follow the formatting instructions found on the ATPI website. The entry fee is $1 per entry. Images must have been created by the student or instructor in the photograph. Students and teachers do not have to attend the conference to submit entries to the contest.

"The B.I.G. 72" Video Contest (pre-conference)

Get ready for a rollercoaster of challenges as you compete for bragging rights as the best on-the-spot program. Schools will be given a topic, via ATPI's social media accounts, on Thursday, Feb. 4, at 8 p.m. CST. Students and instructors will work together with the given theme within a 72-hour time frame. Teams will upload their entries to an accessible URL by Sunday at midnight and share them with ATPI. Total running time must not exceed 3 minutes. A thematic element will be given at the start of the contest which MUST be incorporated within the entry. Entry fee is $25 for the team.

N101 ATPI Picture Package Contest (upload)

This contest is an individual competition. Students will receive an assignment for their photographs Feb. 5 on the ATPI website and social media accounts. Students will have until 6 p.m. on Feb. 10 to assemble and turn in a three-image package of photographs that best captures the assignment. Images will be uploaded to the ATPI Contest site. No limit to the number of students a school can have compete in this contest.

ATPI School Portfolio Contest (upload) N102, N103, N104 (Teams 1-3)

A team of four students will compete in this contest. The school must have four students on the team. Students will receive a list of potential themes on Feb 5. The list will be posted on the ATPI website and social media pages. Students will have until 6 p.m. on Feb. 10 to upload their entries to the ATPI contest site under the teacher's account. Each student will contribute one image, which must be taken during the time period between receiving the list of themes and the upload deadline. Entry fee is $25 for the team.

ATPI Cropped Contest (online/on-site p.m.) N105 Students / N405 Teachers

Do you have what it takes to survive the Cropping Tool? Schools are limited to three students and three teachers. Contestants will be given an assignment, a required element and a specific amount of time (from 15-30 minutes depending on the round) to capture one image. After a quick critique from the judges, half of the group will be cropped and the remaining contestants will be given the next assignment. The topic for the first round will be announced on Feb 5. Participants should upload their photos to the ATPI Contest site by 6 p.m. on Feb. 10. The contest will resume at 1:15 p.m. Feb. 19. *Materials: digital camera*

N106 ATPI Digital Image Contest (on-site a.m.)

The contest will provide students with a list of categories and two hours to photograph on Friday. Students will need to bring a laptop to select contest entries and upload them to the ATPI contest site. No manipulation of the images in Photoshop will be allowed. Schools are limited to three contestants for this contest. This contest will be Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students must have a signed permission form (on the ATPI website) completed and turned in, in order to compete in this contest. *Materials: digital camera, card reader or cables to connect the camera to a computer for downloading, any special equipment, laptop*

N107 ATPI Digital Editing Contest (on-site p.m.)

Students will be given a series of scanned images and a period of time in which to use image editing software to create a contest entry. The emphasis of this contest is to see how creative the students can be. Students must provide their own laptop with their image editing program. Each school may have no more than three students in the competition. This contest will be Friday at 1:15 p.m. *Materials: computer with Adobe Photoshop, USB drive*

ATPI Photo Scavenger Hunt (on-site a.m.) N108, N109, N110 (Teams 1-3)

This contest will challenge the students' power of observation. The team of one to three students will be provided a list of items to photograph and 120 minutes to photograph with a single camera. No more than three students on a single team. The contest will start Friday at 11 a.m. By 1 p.m., the team must turn in a point tally sheet and the camera storage card, which will be returned Saturday afternoon. Entry fee is $25 for each team. Make sure the storage card is cleared prior to the contest. *Materials: one digital camera*

ATPI News Video Contest (on-site a.m.) N111, N112, N113 (Teams 1-3)

Students will be given a news topic for the video on Thursday evening, Feb. 18, and will have 28 hours to complete the assignment. This contest will emphasize strong journalistic skills. Teams may consist of one to three students. Students will have overnight to complete their videos. A mandatory meeting for all contestants will be at 11 a.m. on Friday morning. Students must upload entries to an accessible URL by 11:59 p.m. on Friday. *Entry fee is $25 for each team. Materials: digital video camera, editing laptop with your software*

ATPI Artistic Video Contest (onsite a.m.) N114, N115, N116 (Teams 1-3)

Students will be provided a theme for the video on Thursday evening, Feb. 18, and will have 28 hours to complete the assignment. This contest will emphasize creative storytelling. Teams may consist of one to three students. Students will have overnight to complete their videos. A mandatory meeting for all contestants will be at 11 a.m. on Friday morning. Students must upload entries to an accessible URL by 11:59 p.m. on Friday. Entry fee is $25 for each team. *Materials: digital video camera, editing laptop with your software*

Photo Relay Contest (on-site p.m.) N117, N118, N119

This contest is a team competition where teams are formed at the conference. Students from different schools will work together to photograph a single object through multiple perspectives. Each group of three photographers will be given the same object to photograph. Entry fee is $10 per person. The contest will be from 1:15 to 3 p.m. on Friday, February 19.

- each school will register up to three individuals
- students will be randomly grouped into teams of three on-site
- each team will be given an object to photograph
- each team member must contribute one photo to the package

Materials: digital camera

N400 Faculty Digital Contest (on-site)

All faculty members will be registered into this contest. There is no entry fee, but teachers must bring their own digital camera. Teachers will be given several categories to select from. Images must be submitted to the ATPI contest site by 4 p.m. Friday. *Materials: digital camera, any special equipment*

Registration planner

DO NOT MAIL OR SUBMIT
For planning purposes only

Instructor/Student Name	Date of Birth	On-site Contests 11 a.m. 1:15 p.m.	In-depth Session first choice	In-Depth Session first alternate	In-depth Session second choice	In-depth Session second alternate	Portfolio Review	Special Lunch Needs (gluten free, veg)	Personal Email
(Ex:) Andrea Negri	*03/11/---*	*N101*	*H102*	*H106*	*H115*	*H120*	*A200*	*GF*	*andreamnegri@gmail.com*

hotel

This year's hotel block will be at the Fairfield Inn & Suites in South Arlington along Interstate 20. The hotel is less than 15 minutes from the UT-Arlington campus.

The block contains singles and doubles. Rooms are available in the block on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. All rooms have coffeemakers, mini-refrigerators and televisions. Wi-fi, fitness center access and a breakfast buffet are included.

Rooms are $117/night. A credit card will be required to hold the rooms at booking. You will also need to provide your school's tax exempt form. Reservations MUST be made by Jan. 27 though the block may fill before that date. After that, the rooms will be released.

The link will be available on the ATPI website in mid-December.

rules

Because numerous people have worked hard to organize this conference, we ask that you share the following guidelines with your students.

• Students should be in their hotel rooms by midnight, making no excessive noise. The hotel reserves the right to remove disruptive guests.

• No students will be admitted without an instructor or chaperone approved by the school. At least one chaperone or instructor is required for every 10 students. Instructors and any other designated chaperones assume responsibility for their students' behavior during the conference.

• All students, chaperones and instructors are expected to wear their conference name badge at all times while at the conference.

• ATPI officials reserve the right to declare all fees forfeited and to send students home at their own expense for violation of these rules of conduct.

• No refunds can be provided after Friday, Feb 12. Substitutions are allowed.

procedures

All participants must be registered and students should have a completed permission form, found on the ATPI website.

Please pay close attention to the registration fees and deadlines. Submit the online registration form as soon as you have it completed, even if you are still waiting on a check from your school.

Students and teachers should select two in-depth classes and two alternates, along with any on-site contests on the registration form. Many of the in-depth classes are limited in space and fill up quickly. Registration for these classes will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Please be sure to pick alternate classes so that we can schedule everyone easier.

There will be multiple choices of 50-minute classes on Friday and Saturday that do not require pre-registration and offer a wide range of topics covering all curriculum areas.

keynote



Tadd Myers is a commercial photographer with over 25 years of experience. With clients including New Balance, American Airlines, and Lucchese Boots, Myers' impressive resume shows a photographer who specializes in the stories of individuals and businesses who value craftsmanship and detail.

While spending time in his father's Houston print shop as a child, Myers grew to appreciate both the technical and artistic aspects of not just his own photography but all worlds of craft. Over the span of his career, he has specialized in industrial, agricultural, and lifestyle content, with his signature style focusing on honest portraits that highlight human grit and skill.

As a high school student at Jersey Village High School, Myers attended the 1990 Winter Conference with his teacher, Mike Nebel. Myers won several awards for his work..

In 2025, Myers was selected for the Archive Magazine 2025-26 Best Ad Photographers Worldwide, won 1st place in the 2025 American Photographic Artists National Awards in the Nature/Animals category, and had two series accepted to the Dallas Society of Visual Communications Dallas Show.

"What I truly love about photography is both the technical and artistic sides. It's a balance between the two that creates images that resonate with the viewer," he said.

The keynote is sponsored by the Dallas Society of Visual Communications Foundation.

— Katie Dean, Lee HS (Baytown)

registration

The 2027 Winter Conference will utilize a WordPress plugin for registration. This plug-in requires a two-step process to register. Please follow these instructions closely and email info@atpi.org if you have any questions or problems. The registration form will be accessed from the Winter Conference page in early December. We will share the word on the ATPI social media channels when registration opens. Early bird registration is $45/person and includes both Friday and Saturday lunches. Early bird registration closes on Feb. 5.

Teachers will complete a Fees form first. This is where the number of teachers, students and speakers are indicated, along with the number of students in individual and team contests, the number of environmental self portrait entries the school plans to submit and any organizations that you are joining. If the teacher is a speaker they must register as a teacher and request a discount code from info@atpi.org in order not to be charged for registration.

Select "Add to Event Cart" and then "Proceed to Registration." Fill in the required fields and then click on "Proceed to Payment Options." If you have received a discount code for a teacher-speaker fill it in on this screen. You can choose to generate an invoice for a purchase order or check or you can pay with a credit card through PayPal or Square. If your district has to do the credit card payment you'll receive an email with a link that you can forward to your bookkeeper to make the payment. If you select the Invoice option, click on "Proceed to Finalize Registration." Then click on "View Full Order Confirmation Receipt." At the top of the window that opens up you MUST click on "Switch to Invoice" in order to download it as a PDF. The order confirmation contains a lot of extra data that isn't necessary.

Once you complete the fees form please look for an email that will contain a link and a password to access the second form you have to complete. This email begins with "Thank you for completing the Fees portion of the Winter Conference. To register for contests and classes…" This is where you provide names of everyone that is attending along with hands-on classes, contests and lunches. Registration is not complete until this second form is submitted. Be sure to complete Part 2 by Feb 5.

Please be sure to confirm students' class choices before submitting the form to ensure their are choosing appropriate classes for their skill level, role and ability to access the required materials.



portfolio reviews

R100 Beginning portfolio review

For those just getting started, this portfolio review will offer an opportunity for beginning students to have their work critiqued by other instructors from around the state. Scheduled for Saturday morning at 9 a.m. Portfolio reviews are $10/student. Portfolios must be uploaded to the ATPI contest site by 6 p.m. on Feb. 10.

Materials: No more than 5 images uploaded to the ATPI Contest site.

A200 Advanced portfolio review - Art
J200 Advanced portfolio review - PJ

A personal critique for juniors or seniors, this is an excellent warm-up for the Hal Fulgham Memorial Scholarship contest. Advanced students will receive their critique on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. Students may only sign up for one critique. Portfolio reviews are $10/student. Portfolios must be uploaded to the ATPI contest site by 6 p.m. on Feb. 10.

Port Neches-Groves students participate in portfolio reviews during the 38th Winter Conference in Arlington. Photo by Andrea Negri (Cypress Woods HS)

Teachers attending 2027 Winter Conference in Arlington!

RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences cordially invites you to join us for lunch on Friday, February 19 so we can share with you why our unique programs make us one of the nation's top-5 photo schools.







RIT | College of Art and Design
School of Photographic Arts and Sciences

Seats are limited to the first 25 registrants, so please send us your name, school, and all your contact info to wdspph@rit.edu and we'll send you the details for the lunch.

ATPI Board Looks Ahead: What's New for Members This Year

The ATPI board met on Aug. 22 to discuss updates and operations for the 26-27 membership year, with particular emphasis on membership, contests, and the 40th anniversary of the Winter Conference.

Membership

Last year, ATPI had 231 members. The board has set a goal to increase membership with efforts focusing on recruiting beyond traditional photography programs, with interest in reaching teachers in art, journalism, film, and CTE pathways. ATPI wants to grow its reach to make sure educators across all sorts of different creative pathways can find a professional community within our organization. Laura Veno, VP of membership, is exploring several new marketing strategies, including member spotlights and new ways of welcoming new members. If you are interested in being part of the membership committee, please contact Laura at vpmembership@atpi.org.

Contests

As you may have noticed already if you are already preparing entries for our annual Fall Contest, but the decision was made unanimously to increase the number of entries per category from 3 to 4. This decision was made to improve the contest experience while planning for the long-term sustainability of our digital infrastructure as our current developer is retiring. The need to find a new developer comes with an added cost, so before we increase entry fees, the board decided to offer more entries per person.

As for spring contests, the submission deadline will be April 9 for Rising Star, Top Program, and all scholarships. Small changes and better explanations of submission entries for the "Thematic" category will be announced once finalized. So add that date to your calendar so it doesn't sneak up on you and have your students already preparing their portfolios in advance.

If you have any thoughts, comments, or concerns about our contests, please reach out to our VP of Contests, Matt Koby and Alissa Godina, at vpcontests@atpi.org.

Winter Conference

Planning is underway for our 40th Winter Conference, to be held at UTA in February 2027. The board took a lot of time discussing ways to commemorate this huge milestone in the organization, including hats for sale, pins, and badge ribbons. While hands-on classes, the Thursday night activity, and several other details are still in the works, you can bet on it being a rewarding experience for students and yourself. If you are interested in helping plan or teach at the convention, please reach out to John Skees, VP of Winter Conference, at vpconference@atpi.org.

Summer Workshop

The summer workshop is going to have a new look this year. Details are still in the works, but you can plan on there being TWO location options this summer: North Texas and South/Central Texas. The decision to split up the workshop was made to offer more accessibility to educators throughout the state. But of course, the board is still in early planning. Dates, specific locations, instructors, and full class offerings are still in progress. Keep an eye out for all that information in our spring newsletter. If you are interested in helping plan the summer workshop, join the committee by emailing Laura Spray, vpworkshops@atpi.org.

Future Planning

With rising costs everywhere, the board discussed several ways to balance operating expenses, like the cost of a new website developer after our longtime developer retires, and still providing valuable programs and services to members. Items worth mentioning are using our newsletter to generate ad revenue and increasing price per entries for contests. At this time, no decision has been made to increase entry fees. It really will be the last thing we decide to do.

But with eyes looking forward, 2027 board elections are approaching. If you are interested in getting involved in leadership within the organization, feel free to reach out to myself at president@atpi.org or Mark Murray, Executive Director at mmurray@atpi.org.

President's Note

My first year as president was quite the learning experience. And missing out on my first winter conference as president due to maternity leave was even more gut-wrenching. Don't get me wrong, I love being a mom. But I also LOVE getting to be a part of this fantastic professional community, full of people that don't hesitate to respond to an email about what camera should I buy next for my yearbook program, or how to motivate your staff, or recently… have these contest submissions always required a caption?! The value in an ATPI membership is immeasurable when you think about the people that you connect with at the winter conferences and summer workshops. Your network will never be more important than when you need someone to bounce an idea off of, celebrate a student's success with, or remind you that you're not the only one navigating the sometimes-crazy world of scholastic photography. That's what makes this organization so special.

Should you have any feedback on what we do as a board, how we can improve, whether fee increases would affect participation, and what resources or benefits would make your membership more valuable, please don't hesitate to reach out to any one of us.

— Josette Coker, V.R. Eaton HS

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Imagemaker

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