INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE AND APPAREL ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy 2026!

As we start the new year, ITAA Council members are working to ensure the organization meets your and other members' professional needs. Here's what they are working on:

Three Council members have started the final year of their three-year terms (2024-2026):

- **Ting Chi** from Washington State University serves as the **VP of Awards**. Working with the *Student Awards Committee*, he just completed coordinating the selection of undergraduate students for the University of the Arts London Award and Regent's University London (read below for the winners). Ting also supports several *Faculty Awards Committees* and the *International Scholar Award Committee.*
- **Jihyun Kim Vick** from Kent State University serves as the **Secretary**. J. keeps us all organized by maintaining the records

of bi-monthly Council meetings.

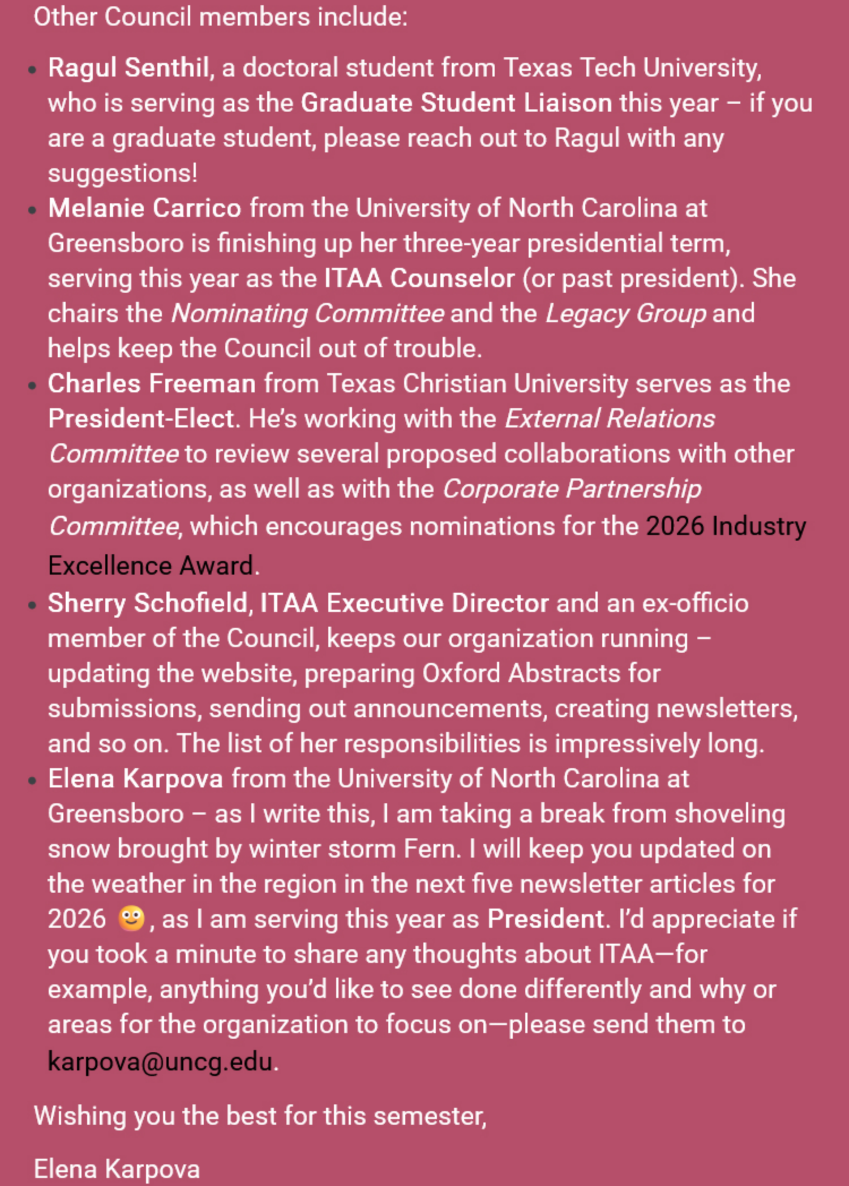
- **Jennifer Yang** from Marymount University serves as the **VP of Conferences**. She is working with the co-chairs of the https://www.itaaonline.org/2026-annual-conference-jacksonville, as well as planning ahead for the 2027 conference in the Dominican Republic.

Two Council members are in the second year of their current positions (2025-2027):

- **Tun-Min (Catherine) Jai** from Texas Tech University serves as the **VP of Publications**. She supports the *Publications Policy Committee* and *CTRJ Editors* to ensure the journal continues to be at the forefront of the discipline. She also works with the *Digital Communications Committee* to promote the organization.
- **Hye-Shin Kim** from the University of Delaware serves as the **VP of Education**. She works with several undergraduate and graduate education-focused committees, including the *Teaching Innovation Committee* and the *Philosophical Mission Committee.*

Three Council members are excited to begin their three-year terms, serving the organization in the following positions (2026-2028):

- **Julie Chang** from Texas Tech University serves as the **VP of Scholarship**. She is prepared to coordinate the review of Workshops and Special Topics proposals in February and leads the work of five committees focused on the peer-review process of abstracts, papers, designs, and curatorial scholarship.
- **Kelly Cobb** from the University of Delaware serves as the **VP of Professional Development**. She supports four committees charged with offering various professional development opportunities to our members.
- **Beth Myers** from Georgia State University serves as the **Treasurer** and oversees the organization budget and prepares reports for the Council and the members.



Other Council members include:

- **Ragul Senthil**, a doctoral student from Texas Tech University, who is serving as the **Graduate Student Liaison** this year – if you are a graduate student, please reach out to Ragul with any suggestions!
- **Melanie Carrico** from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro is finishing up her three-year presidential term, serving this year as the **ITAA Counselor** (or past president). She chairs the *Nominating Committee* and the *Legacy Group* and helps keep the Council out of trouble.
- **Charles Freeman** from Texas Christian University serves as the **President-Elect**. He's working with the *External Relations Committee* to review several proposed collaborations with other organizations, as well as with the *Corporate Partnership Committee*, which encourages nominations for the 2026 Industry Excellence Award.
- **Sherry Schofield**, **ITAA Executive Director** and an ex-officio member of the Council, keeps our organization running – updating the website, preparing Oxford Abstracts for submissions, sending out announcements, creating newsletters, and so on. The list of her responsibilities is impressively long.
- **Elena Karpova** from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro – as I write this, I am taking a break from shoveling snow brought by winter storm Fern. I will keep you updated on the weather in the region in the next five newsletter articles for 2026 🙄, as I am serving this year as **President**. I'd appreciate if you took a minute to share any thoughts about ITAA—for example, anything you'd like to see done differently and why or areas for the organization to focus on—please send them to karpova@uncg.edu.

Wishing you the best for this semester,

Elena Karpova

ITAA CULTURE AND INDUSTRY TOUR TO MOROCCO - MAY 19 to June 1, 2027

Join us for the ITAA Culture and Industry Tour May of 2027! Step into a world of vivid colors, ancient architecture, and vibrant markets as you experience the heart of Moroccan culture. Explore the blue-washed streets of Chefchaouen, wander through UNESCO World Heritage sites, and ride with the camel caravan across golden dunes. You'll take part in hands-on workshops that bring Morocco's timeless traditions to life -- from wool dyeing and Berber weaving to Moroccan cooking, rug making, and intricate zellige pottery. An optional extension to the coastal town of Essaouira adds even more magic to your adventure. Spots are all ready filling up, so don't wait -- reserve your place on this unforgettable journey today!

For more information or to register, contact Jana Hawley at jana.hawley@unt.edu.

WEBINAR: SUBMITTING TO THE EDUCATION AND PEDAGOGY TRACK OF *CTRJ*

We invite you to join us for an upcoming webinar, "Submitting to the Education and Pedagogy Track of *CTRJ*," design to support authors interested in publishing their scholarly work in the *Clothing and Textiles Research Journal* (CTRJ).

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Time: 4:00 pm Eastern / 3:00 PM Central

This session will provide insights into the submission process, expectations for high-quality manuscripts, and tips for strengthening your work for the Education and Pedagogy track. Whether you're a first-time author or an experienced researcher, this webinar will offer valuable guidance.

Presenters:

- Nancy Hodges, CTRJ Deputy Editor
- Tunmin (Catherine) Jai, ITAA VP of Publications
- Youn-Kyung (Lydia) Kim, CTRJ Editor-in-Chief
- Sara Marcketti, ITAA Publications and Policy Committee Member
- Ellen McKinney, CTRJ Associate Editor, Education and Pedagogy Track

We hope you'll join us for this informative session and encourage colleagues and graduate students to attend as well. To register, use the button below.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out by contacting catherine.jai@ttu.edu.

Webinar Registration

Fashion and AI x Policy Symposium

The **Fashion and AI × Policy Symposium**, hosted by the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design & Merchandising at Louisiana State University, will take place **April 9–11, 2026**, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

This international, interdisciplinary Symposium provides a platform to examine how artificial intelligence, culture, and policy are reshaping fashion design, retailing, supply chains, and creative practice. Submissions are welcomed in the following categories: Research, Teaching, Concept, and Creative Design.

Learn more from the event website: Fashion Symposium

Important Dates

- Abstract Submission: February 15, 2026
- Acceptance Notification: February 28, 2026
- Presenter Registration Deadline: March 13, 2026

Submission Portal

- Abstracts should be submitted via Oxford Abstracts: https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/80165/submitter

Journal Opportunity

The Symposium is aligned with a Clothing & Textiles Research

Journal (CTRJ) Focus Issue titled: “Fashioning AI × Policy: Rethinking Governance, Creativity, and Ethics in Fashion Futures.” Full manuscript deadline: July 31, 2026. Symposium attendance is encouraged but not required for CTRJ submission.

TSA Announces Spring 2026 Colloquium "(re)Membering" at MOLAA

TEXTILE SOCIETY of AMERICA
SAVE THE DATE
COLLOQUIUM
SPRING 2026
Hybrid Experience
In-Person & Virtual Access
APRIL 16, 2026
MUSEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN ART
LONG BEACH, CA
molaa
museum of latin american art

The Textile Society of America is pleased to announce its Spring 2026 Colloquium, “(re)Membering,” to be held at the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in Long Beach, California, on April 16, 2026.

This half-day gathering continues TSA’s multi-year journey of critical dialogue, placing the active, present-tense work of cultural memory at its center. Following “(re)Claiming Narratives” (2022) and “(re)Imagining Futures” (2023), the “(re)Membering” colloquium asks: *how do we actively piece Latin stories and identities back together today through material practice?*

The colloquium will feature a keynote address, a plenary presentation, and a panel discussion, bringing together voices from communities to explore textiles as profound expressions of identity, resilience, and belonging. In-person attendees will receive complimentary admission to MOLAA, and the event will be hybrid, with a live stream available to a global audience.

Save the Date

- Date: April 16, 2026
- Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM PDT
- Location: Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA), Long Beach, CA & Online

Registration: Opens February 16, 2026

Link to Register: https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/community/events/tsa-colloquium-2026-remembering#!event-register/2026/4/16/tsa-colloquium-2026-re-membering

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Celebrating Our 2026 Summer Award Recipients

ITAA is pleased to recognize this year's outstanding recipients of our summer awards and scholarships. These individuals exemplify creativity, scholarly excellence, and a strong commitment to advancing the fields of textiles, apparel, design, and merchandising.

University of the Arts Summer Award

This year's University of the Arts Summer Award honors both faculty and undergraduate excellence.

- **Faculty Award Recipient:** *Mary Ruppert-Stroescu*, Washington University in St. Louis
  Dr. Ruppert-Stroescu was selected for her continued contributions to teaching, scholarship, and creative practice. The Summer Award will support her ongoing professional development and creative exploration, further enriching her work with students and the field at large.
- **Undergraduate Award Recipient:** *Anna Loughlin*, Framingham State University
  Anna was recognized for her strong academic record and promise as an emerging professional. The Summer Award will provide her with valuable opportunities for experiential learning and growth during the summer months.

Will Conard Summer Scholarship in Design and Merchandising

ITAA is also proud to announce the undergraduate recipients of the Will Conard Summer Scholarship in Design and Merchandising, which supports students pursuing innovative and impactful summer experiences.

- Reese Schelp, University of Missouri
- Lucia Soldi Manchado, The University of Texas at Austin

Both students demonstrated exceptional potential in design and merchandising, along with a clear vision for how this scholarship will enhance their academic and professional development.

We congratulate all of our award and scholarship recipients and look forward to seeing the ways their summer experiences contribute to their future success and to the broader ITAA community.

Call for Textile Banner Images for the ITAA Newsletter

ITAA is seeking **textile-based banner images** to feature in the opening header of upcoming newsletters. We are looking for visually engaging images that reflect a **cohesive colorway**—one that can be carried throughout the newsletter design—and that clearly **represent the season** of the issue.

Appropriate submissions may include images of **quilts, textile prints, woven or knitted structures, surface designs, or other textile-based works**. Because the image will be used as a newsletter banner, submissions must work well in a **wide, horizontal format** and remain visually strong when cropped.

If you have images you believe would be a good fit, please email a **JPG file** directly to **itaasherry@gmail.com**. If your image is selected for use, **full credit will be given to the creator** in the newsletter.

We appreciate your creativity and look forward to highlighting the diverse and inspiring textile work of the ITAA community.

NEW POSITION OPENINGS

- Assistant Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University

- Instructor, San Diego Community College District
- Assistant Professor, Stephens College
- Assistant / Associate Professor, Louisiana State University
- Curator, Historic Costume and Textile Collection, Ohio State University

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