

What a wonderful conference we had! I'm still inspired by the numerous discussions, presentations, and sessions I attended. I always enjoy going to the conference to reconnect with old friends, make new connections, and reinvigorate my love for research!



especially from the Remake team.

The “Best Practices in Teaching” panel was lively too, even for being later in the day. We learned so many great tips from the panelists. Dr. Catherine Leslie, Dr. Lynn Boorady, Dr. Amber Chatelain, and Dr. Tara Konya had excellent advice to share with us. Although the panel was only an hour and a half, many students stayed and continued to ask questions and get tips and best practices on how to excel in the classroom while maintaining an active and busy research program.

During the casual informal student gathering after the opening reception, I quickly realized how small the ITAA network is—I met a UTK undergrad alum and had a lively conversation with several Texas friends. On my way to the industry tour, I had great conversations with scholars and met and interacted with so many more throughout the week. The keynote speakers were so inspiring, and I was inundated with research ideas from the two talks. A colleague and I are already thinking up a yearlong research project based on some takeaways,



I was happy to see the number of graduate students attending the conference at what I think is an all-time high! While we may be in different stages of our graduate career, seeing students from other universities fosters a positive environment where we don't have to explain the importance to study textile and apparel, and we just know that we are in a safe place among future collaborators.

Although my year representing Graduate Students to council is coming to an end, my excitement and commitment to ITAA is only blossoming. ITAA is a fun, GROWING, organization and we are the next generation of scholars. I encourage you to get involved with committees, network at the conference, and continue to cultivate meaningful, long-lasting relationships. Join the graduate student group on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/103438323022645/>), invite other members in your departments who are not yet a member of the group. While the conference may only be a few days a year, we can live on the conference buzz and energy until the next year!



Feel free to reach out to me or the incoming Graduate Student Liaison, Jenny Leigh Du Puis (far right) to continue to build on the ITAA experience. I am glad to be a part of the ITAA family!

Thank you for all your support and lively conversation in person and online throughout the year.

Sergio Bedford