



Chicago Section
Institute of Food Technologists

The First Section ★ Since 1941



Message from the Chair

January 18, 2015

John Budin, Ph.D.
Chicago Section IFT 2014-2015 Chair
FONA International Inc.

Dear CSIFT Members and Friends,

The January dinner meeting featured Laura Kalaras, Research and Development Project Manager for the Cocoa R&D team at Barry Callebaut as she spoke on Chocolate & Cocoa 101. Laura gave an extensive overview of chocolate and cocoa and provided several chocolate confections and brownie for attendees to evaluate.

The venue was at Everest, located in downtown Chicago. As most already know, Everest is world renowned for their Personal French Cuisine and has received many impressive accolades for their food, wine and dining experience and a premium dinner experience. The dining experience was fantastic – everyone I spoke with enjoyed the premium dining experience. Again thank you to all the volunteers that gave their time and talents to help make this event a success.

The attendance at the dinner meeting was 125 – which was the maximum we could handle and we turned a few people away. The attendance numbers support what our members have told us – that there is a need to have a dinner meeting downtown. Some people recall the previous dinner meeting the Chicago Section had downtown was also sold out. There will be strong consideration to return to downtown next year. The Chicago Section IFT was founded on January 15, 1940. It seems fitting to have premium dining experience next January in downtown Chicago to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Chicago Section IFT.

The upcoming events of the Chicago Section IFT include New Professionals activity to play WhirlyBall in Lombard on January 28 from 6-8pm – there is no registration fee! The February dinner meeting will be on February 9 at Maggiano's in Skokie where Goose Island's Brewmaster, Brett Porter will be speaking on "*The Science of Brewing Beer*". I hope you are able to attend these activities!

Best regards,
John Budin
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