



Message from the Chair

March 12, 2015
John Budin, Ph.D.
Chicago Section IFT 2014-2015 Chair
FONA International Inc.

Dear CS-IFT Members, Students and Friends,

This past Monday the Chicago Section IFT hosted our annual Student Night event. The Student Event started by having 71 students participate in a tour of Silliker at their Crete (Illinois) facilities. Joe Capp, VP of Human Resources for Silliker, held a question and answer session for students, which was followed by a lunch funded by Silliker.

Students then went to the Carlisle, site of our dinner meeting, for speed networking with industry members. Our social hour and our March dinner meeting followed. Students were rewarded for the long day by receiving gift bags – items in the gift bags were generous donations from the food industry.

A day of this magnitude can only be accomplished by the dedicated efforts of our volunteers. The Hospitality Committee, led by Keith Schafer (Power Packaging) and his committee of Laura Saran, Wendy Mosier (Sage Food Company), Dennis Ferenelli, CH-Marie Loewen (Bloomer Chocolate) and Ivonne Litwin (Silliker) volunteered many hours and did a fantastic job. The donations for the student gift bags came from several food companies – THANK YOU to all the volunteers, their employers that allowed them time to volunteer, the food companies that gave donations and to Silliker for a providing a wonderful experience for students!

Students represent the future of the food industry, yet a disturbing trend is the continued degradation of state and federal funding towards our Universities. The Chicago Section IFT currently gives \$29,000 annually in different forms of scholarships and awards to students pursuing a career in the food industry. But in order to maintain the integrity of educating our future industry colleagues, more support is clearly needed. The Chicago Section IFT has taken this to heart, where a proposal for more support is being developed that will soon be discussed and voted on at an upcoming Executive Committee Meeting.

While pursuing my B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in food science at the University of Minnesota, I was fortunate to have received several scholarships and other academic awards. Many of these awards were channeled through IFT. These awards had a considerable impact on me to achieve my academic goals where this impact was not just financial, but also in the form of



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encouragement to finish what I had started. For me, it then felt the best way for me to to show my appreciation of those awards, and to honor those that made those awards possible, was to volunteer my time to support, and further enhance, programs that encourage others to pursue a career in the food industry.

It is my hope that our students of today remain dedicated to the food industry – so when they become leaders of the food industry - they volunteer their time and talents to support the next generation of students pursuing careers in the food industry.

Kind regards,
John Budin, Ph.D.
Chicago Section IFT Chairman 2014-2015
FONA International, Inc.
Phone: (630) 578 8588
email : jbudin@fona.com