



## Program Committee Spotlight

The Program Committee identifies topics and speakers for Section monthly meetings. The committee handles arrangements and hosts speakers, as well as coordinates speaker arrangements with the House Committee.

For the year 2014-2015, the program committee had very interesting guests who spoke on a wide variety of topics.

- Steve Watts, partner of Prinova, spoke about “The World of Vitamins.”
- Dr. Devin Peterson, Director of Flavor Research and Education at University of Minnesota, spoke about “Understanding Alcohol Flavor and Opportunities to Modify Smoothness.”
- Anthony Ascombe, partner at Sedgewick LLC spoke about, “What’s cooking in Food and Beverage Litigation.”
- For the New Year dinner and discussion at Everest dining room, the committee had jazz guitarist Andy Pratt provide an absolutely delightful show, while R & D Project Manager at Barry Callebaut, Laura Karas spoke about “Chocolate and Cocoa 101.”
- For the following month’s dinner and discussion, Master Brewer at Goose Island Brewery, Brett Parker talked about the “Science of Beer Making.”
- For their last event, the committee invited Ron Sukenick, President and Founder of The Relationship Strategies Institute to speak about “The Power is Connection” that highlighted developing and utilizing professional connections.

### 2015-2016 Year Theme

In honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chicago IFT, the Program and House Committees are working together to create a year-long “**Celebrate Chicago!**” theme. Folks in the Chicago area Food and Beverage industry must keep an eye out for exciting events that are coming up next year, where Chicago will be represented at each meeting either in venue, speaker, or menu. Events will include something very Chicago- From Italian beef and hot dogs, to sports, politicians and comedy!

For the student meeting this upcoming year, Charlie Baggs will host a Chicago Pizza discussion. This will likely be a panel / interactive talk with representation from famous Chicago pizza companies, Lou Malnati’s and Home Run Inn, where they will discuss what makes Chicago pizza the best and what makes them unique from a food science / development point of view.

This year’s holiday meeting will showcase the wonderful work our scholarship committee has done over the years. Past winners and current scholarship students will be invited to present on their research and where they are currently, which will provide an understanding on how scholarship funds are benefiting the candidates. Being the season of giving back, there will probably be an award ceremony for the next winner.



**Programs that are in-planning include:**

- Dr. John Coulard, National IFT President-Elect as the speaker to kick off 2015-2016!
- **February will see a Sustainability Panel Discussion** at the delightful Latin fusion restaurant, Carnivale. This venue does not lend well to a traditional PPT presentation – which will be used as an opportunity to try out a different format: moderated panel discussion. The topic of discussion will be Sustainable Urban Agriculture. For this event, the Program Committee is working with National IFT to secure as guest speakers:
  - A FutureFood2050 contributor,
  - Adam Moody, a commercial sustainability farmer and co-founder of food company Husk
  - Janine MacLachlan, Strategic Communications expert and author of Farmers Market of the Heartland

**Other Potential Speakers and Events for the Upcoming Year Include:**

- Special Guest – January Meeting 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Guest Appearance
- Julie Burns – Nutritionist for the Chicago Blackhawks
- Second City – Interactive Comedy Show with speakers from the Professional Development workshop of Second City
  - The program committee is selling **4 x \$1,500** sponsorships from companies for this unique event. Sponsors will receive recognition, have branding / signage opportunities and be incorporated into the program material **and** use this opportunity to market their value through Second City – the Harvard of Comedy!

Companies interested in sponsoring can contact Joy Dell'Aringa at [jdellaringa@EMSL.com](mailto:jdellaringa@EMSL.com).