



Uwe Nienaber, 2011-2012 Chair

Message from the Chair

Dear CSIFT Members,

Thank you for casting your vote in the election of our new officers and executive committee members for the 2011-2012 season. The results are in, and I encourage you to read the announcement in this newsletter. I also sincerely appreciate the commitment of all the candidates who participated in the election. They made a conscious decision to volunteer their time and experience to help the Chicago Section move forward.

But volunteers definitely reap many benefits from their engagement. They stay connected with a vast community of food industry professionals, academic members from universities and research institutions and old friends they can rely on for advice and help. This is important at all stages of your life; whether you are new to the field, looking for business opportunities or a new position or whether you are retired and want to stay active.

Our Student Night was another well attended event with about 130-140 members, students and guests this year. Our guest speakers from Tula Foods gave an inspiring presentation on how they developed and successfully launched a new brand and product into the marketplace. This was followed by a lively discussion with many questions from the audience. Hopefully, it might have encouraged some of the students to consider becoming an entrepreneur in their future career. Many thanks again to the Program, House, Hospitality and Student Night committees for organizing an event that connected students from the University of Illinois, Purdue University, Dominican University and the Illinois Institute of Technology with our members.

Spring is here a bit early this year, but I have not heard any complaints. As you are making plans for the summer, please make sure to mark 2 more Mondays on your calendar. Our next dinner meeting on 9 April will be sweet. It is jointly held with the Chicago Section of the American Association of Candy Technologists Supplier's Night. This means exhibits and chocolate demonstrations starting at 3 pm. So come a bit earlier and enjoy the exposition before the cocktail hour and dinner meeting. Look for more details in this month's newsletter. This will be followed on 14 May with another sweet topic. This year's recipient of the Tanner award Dr. Richard Hartel will speak about the science of ice cream and we can all look forward to a frosty treat.

Have you already made travel arrangements for the IFT Annual Meeting & Food Expo? Your section has sponsored the IFTSA/Feeding Tomorrow Fun Run/Walk for many years and we are doing it again at the \$6,000 platinum level. We are currently allocating about \$26,000 annually for scholarships and we are in the process of expanding this even more. Part of the money comes from the proceeds of our Golf Outing. The exact date will be announced soon, but it most likely will be sometimes in August.

Let's keep the section growing and I hope you will be a part of it.

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