



Chicago Section
Institute of Food Technologists



the First Section

Know Your Emeritus Member: Raleigh Wilkinson



Raleigh Wilkinson
Emeritus Member of IFT and AACC

IFT: Raleigh joined IFT in 1962 when he joined the food science department at Michigan State University. He attended his first National IFT convention in 1963. He was a member for over 42 years and attended local Chicago Section meetings and National Conventions. He also attended the National Convention as an exhibitor for several years.

Education: Raleigh earned his BS in Agriculture in 1960 from Southern Illinois University and his MS in 1961, also from SIU. He received his PhD from Michigan State University in Food Science and Nutrition in 1965. Raleigh received his Masters of Business Administration degree from The University of Chicago in 1974.

Career: Raleigh's career started with The Quaker Oats Barrington Research Laboratory in 1965. He spent a total of 11 years with Quaker in research, product evaluation, and research services. He then joined a smaller company, JR Short Milling Company, as assistant vice president of research and development. This company's main business at that time was dry corn milling; they supplied most food, cereal, and snack companies that required corn as an ingredient. Due to the very competitive nature of dry corn milling the company diversified into extruded products. Many food companies were supplied with half product that they further processed into a finished snack product. While JR Short is no longer into dry corn milling they continue to provide food companies with the extruded half products.

Retirement: Raleigh retired from J.R. Short Milling Company in 2004 after serving as president for about 2 years. He continues to live in Homer Glen with his wife Kathy. Even with almost 40 years of working with food, he still enjoys creating gourmet food as an amateur chef. He also enjoys working on home projects and traveling with his wife and extended family members. He is a cancer survivor for the past three years and looks forward to many more!