

Dr. Elwood Caldwell



Elwood Caldwell is currently an emeritus member of both the Chicago and Minnesota Sections. He joined CSIFT in 1953 upon appointment as a research project leader for The Quaker Oats Co. following his Ph. D. in Nutrition from the University of Toronto. During the ensuing 19 years he held several offices and Committee Chairmanships in IFT and in the Section while also advancing to become Director of R&D for Quaker Oats. In 1972 he moved to Minnesota to head the then-new Department of Food Science and Nutrition which had been formed by merging three smaller units. With the momentum gained under his direction for its first 16 years, that department has prospered and gained world-class recognition among such units.

A native of Canada, he first graduated from the University of Manitoba and held quality assurance chemist positions in flour milling, brewing, malting, vegetable oil processing and cookie and cracker baking in Canada. Prior to his Ph. D. in nutrition, he earned a M.A. in food science at the University of Toronto. After joining Quaker Oats, as a part-time student, he earned an M.B.A. in financial management at the University of Chicago followed by a second major in computer science.

A leading accomplishment during his 19 years with Quaker Oats was his discovery, first publication and gaining of legal recognition of the role of phenolic antioxidants in preserving the shelf life of ready-to-eat cereals; now used by most manufacturers and subsequently extended to products such as snacks, instant potatoes and rice. For the Chicago Section, he was present at and participated in the historic meeting in 1954 at which it was agreed upon (after much discussion, some of it vituperative) to incorporate the Appert Medal, originated by CSIFT, into the IFT system as its senior offering; with the actual medal to continue to be provided by the Chicago Section and the jury to be chaired by the Section Chair. He chaired the committee that originated the Tanner Lectureship (now approaching its 50th anniversary) and served as the jury for the initial offerings in 1963 and 1964. He also first established the funding of the Tanner based on investment of \$15,000 surplus from the Section's management of the 1960 IFT annual meeting, a section function since then preempted by IFT headquarters office.

Ever since 1963, funding of the Tanner, the Section scholarships and other service activities has continued to be based on endowment income from investment of the surplus generated by Suppliers Night, according to principles established when Dr. Caldwell was treasurer of the Section.

While rarely able to attend meetings since moving to Minnesota, he remains proud of the Section's accomplishments and has continued to be a CSIFT member as well as a Minnesota Section member. He has been responsible (despite initial apathy and borderline opposition) for the beginning and subsequent growth of Minnesota's equivalent of Suppliers Night with 250 exhibitors. He also chaired (and raised the initial funding for) initial establishment of Minnesota's Macy Award,

now in its 32nd year. As with Chicago, its continued funding (and that of scholarships awarded by the Section) comes from investment of the surplus generated by Section's Annual Suppliers Expo.

Although never chair of the Section, in 1975 Dr. Caldwell was the first recipient of the CSIFT Chairman's Service Award, and in 1988 a recipient of a similar award from the Minnesota Section. He is a Fellow of IFT and in 1991 was the recipient of the Calvert L. Willey award for distinguished service to the Institute. He is also a Fellow of AACC International and was the 1996 recipient of its William F. Geddes Memorial Award. In 2002 he was the recipient of AOAC International's Reference Material Achievement Award. He is coauthor/editor with Robert B. Fast of *Breakfast Cereals and How They Are Made*, published by AACC in 1990 with a second and enlarged edition in 2000.

Although no longer active in terms of regular meeting attendance, Dr. Caldwell retains emeritus status in both Chicago and Minnesota sections, and is seen occasionally at meetings in Minnesota. A major Minnesota Section scholarship awarded every year to a qualified applicant with demonstrated interest in volunteer activities has been named for him. And his continuing interest in education is evidenced by the fact that as a past president of a large retiree Kiwanis club in the north suburbs of St. Paul, he developed a program of college entrance scholarships for which seniors in three local high schools compete annually for scholarships to which his name has been attached by a subsequent program chair. At age 89, he lives quietly in a senior center in the suburban city of Roseville with his second wife, Flossie (91). His two sons are both employed in the travel industry. John is managing director of sales for Delta Airlines, in Atlanta and Keith is a senior software developer for MLT Vacations, in Eagan, MN.

