



Chicago Section  
Institute of Food Technologists



***the First Section***

### **Know Your Emeritus Member: Faye M. Dong**

*Emeritus member of IFT and the Chicago and Puget Sound Sections of IFT*



Faye M. Dong attended the University of California at Davis and received a M.S. degree, secondary teaching credential, and in 1976 a Ph.D. degree in Nutrition. She then moved to the University of Washington in Seattle, where she started out in temporary positions, then moved into a tenure-track position and worked up the ranks to Professor in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences.

In 2002, she was recruited to the University of Illinois to be head of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, a position that she held from 2002-2012. She started her retirement in January 2013 and relocated back to Seattle this past October.



While at the University of Washington, Faye's research program focused on the areas of fish nutrition (aquaculture) and aquatic food safety. Her laboratory studied diets for fish: the feasibility of using alternate protein sources (e.g., soybean meal, canola meal, poultry by-product meal) to increase the sustainability of ingredients for fish feeds and reduce the usage of fish meal; low phosphorus fish diets to reduce pollution of fresh water systems; and high fat diets to increase growth rate of cold water fishes, such as salmon and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus* sp.).

In the area of aquatic food safety, Faye and her students collaborated with the Food and Drug Administration to investigate the time/temperature effects of frozen storage on survival of *Anisakis simplex* in Arrowtooth Flounder (*Atheresthes stomia*)—a question that needed to be answered because of concern about the safety of ingesting raw fish (sashimi). Faye enjoyed her research program because the projects involved both disciplines of food science and nutrition, and also because she worked with an interdisciplinary team of scientists from academia, government, and industry.

In IFT, Faye started to get involved at the national level by volunteering to be on what was then called the Program Committee. There she met food science professionals from all over the world who came together to review abstracts for the IFT Annual Meeting. What a wonderful way to meet and work with people in different areas of food science!!

Since then she has served on a variety of other committees (e.g., Nominations and Elections; Sections and Divisions; Career Guidance), and task forces and panels on education, and she helped to create the Education Division in 1997 and was the inaugural division chair.



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She received the William V. Cruess Teaching Award in 1997; elected an IFT Fellow in 2000; voted Outstanding Volunteer in the IFT Education Division in 2005; recognized as a Food Systems Leadership Institute Fellow in 2009; and awarded the Chinese American Food Society Professional Achievement Award in 2010.

It was through IFT that Faye met some members of the faculty from the University of Illinois that eventually led to her recruitment as department head, so the take home message is that being involved in IFT and meeting people can positively impact your future!

In Seattle, Faye and her husband are very much enjoying their transition into retirement, renovating their house, visiting with their grown kids, and rediscovering the Pacific Northwest!