



Uwe Nienaber, 2011-2012 Chair

Message from the Chair

Dear CSIFT Members,

First of all I would like to extend a big thank you to all of you who attended our monthly dinner meetings, our technical workshops and our annual Suppliers' Night and Golf Outing in such great numbers. On average, 120 participants attended the dinner meetings and a new record was set for Suppliers' Night 2011.

This provides the necessary momentum and funds to enable the Section to maintain a professional business office, to support university programs in food science with scholarships, to pay for monthly meetings and other events organized by the Section and to ensure a healthy financial status that secures the future of the section.

I have been very fortunate to work with such a great team of volunteers that has supported me throughout the year. Our current past-chair Pam Vaillancourt made sure that I started my term well-prepared, and our current chair-elect Vijay Arora not only delivered a "smashing" program, but also ran the February and April meetings in my absence (due to my temporary assignment in the UK).

If you attended Suppliers' Night 2011 then you probably noticed that Jim Anderson took over from Joe Stout as the new chair. Mark your calendars now for the 50th Suppliers' Night on Thursday, 15 November 2012. We revised our structure to reduce the number of our committees to a more manageable 17. This included the formation of a Marketing Committee led by Bill Becht that combines the various aspects of communications, social media and sponsorships under one committee. Similarly we created a Professional Development Committee to encompass employment, support for members-in-transition and continuing education. Our Scholarship Committee led by John Budin was very active and our Executive Committee recently approved an additional Technical Assistantship in the amount of \$7,000 annually to support the food science program at the University of Illinois.

These are some examples to show that your Section is vibrant and its volunteers committed to move ahead. Of course we need to balance our contribution to the Section with our commitments to work and family. But at the end we choose to do it because we have fun doing it. Apropos fun: if you like golfing, then take note of our next Golf Outing on 21 August 2012.

A big thank you goes out to all of you who actively support the Mission of the Chicago Section of the IFT in various roles as volunteers, and an invitation to all those who would like to join this terrific group.

See you all in May for the Tanner Lecture Meeting.

Uwe Nienaber - CSIFT Chair – uwe.nienaber@kraftfoods.com – 847-646-4623

Section Mission

To serve the Chicago Section IFT by providing educational opportunities for members and future members by:

- *increasing awareness of the vital role of food science in everyday life;*
- *supporting causes to advance the profession; and*
- *providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, knowledge and information*