



Emeritus Member Gerald W. Bard

Jerry was born and raised in Milwaukee and graduated from the University of Wisconsin as a Biochemical Engineer. He became interested in the food industry working part time for a food machinery company as a pilot plant technician performing heat penetration studies and continuous vacuum dehydration during his college days. All his elective courses were dedicated to a career in food engineering.

In 1955, Jerry was drafted into the army and served 16 of the 24 months at the Quartermaster Food & Container Institute on Pershing Road in Chicago (now in Natick, MA). He specialized in food dehydration pilot work. He was a registered Professional Engineer.

He joined IFT in 1952 and CSIFT in 1955. Jerry was on the IFT ad hoc committee that formed the IFT divisions. He also helped the American Institute of Chemical Engineers develop their Food and Bioengineering Division.

He joined the AKSARBEN Section of IFT when he became Asst VP of R&D for Butternut Coffee in Omaha. Upon transfer to Houston by the parent company, Jerry joined the Texas Section.

In 1964, Jerry joined Beechnut Lifesavers in Port Chester, NY as Manager of Engineering Development and was a member of the Nutmeg Section. Jerry earned his MBA.

He returned to Chicago in 1972 as General Production Manager for the Frozen Foods Division of Libby, McNeil & Libby and became Frozen Foods Division General Manager.

He joined Kraft when Nestle closed the Libby operations office in Chicago. At Kraft, Jerry was Director of Engineering for Grocery Products.

In 1984, he left the food industry to pursue a career in career counseling as VP for DBM, a well known international outplacement firm. He helped develop their entrepreneurial program. In 1990, he formed Matthew, Benjamin & Bard to assist in career decision making and new business startups.

Jerry delivered 2 day Career Continuation Workshops at the IFT Annual meetings as well as for the CSIFT. Jerry retired in 2007. Over the past few years, he has counseled new business startups for the Small Development Center at CLC and delivers a 3 hour workshop that he designed called Smart Start.

In 2009, Jerry was appointed chair of the strategic planning subcommittee of the CSIFT Long Range Planning Committee. He assembled a team of experienced CSIFT members. The 5 year strategic plan developed by the "team" was approved by the EXCOM and is in the process of formulating year 2 goals.

Jerry looks forward to continued activity in CSIFT.