



Uwe Nienaber, 2011-2012 Chair

Message from the Chair

As incoming chair I am honored to serve the Chicago Section and invite you to become actively involved this year. Although a member of IFT since 1998, I only became really active in the Section as a volunteer in 2007. I grew up in Germany in a food-centered environment since my parents owned a grocery store where I spent many hours helping out with different chores. The best perk of course was the almost unlimited availability of sweets. So not surprisingly I decided to combine my passion for food with my interest in chemistry and studied food chemistry. For the last ten years I have been working at the Kraft Foods Technology Center in Glenview.

I want to say thank you to Pam Vaillancourt, our past chair, for all her passionate and tireless work to keep the section growing and our volunteers engaged. She has helped me a lot to prepare myself for this position and to ensure a smooth transition.

Over the last couple of years we have experienced a significant increase in attendance at our monthly meetings, the roll-out of a new website, the successful launch of additional technical meetings, a two-fold increase in the amount of scholarships awarded, very successful Suppliers' Night and Golf Outing events that are vital for our section, and a further improvement of our financial assets. All of our volunteers and our business office IAMI played a crucial role in this. Don't you want to be part of this and join our community? We always need help in many areas and it sure will look good on your resume. Don't be afraid, we don't expect miracles, just a bit of passion and energy. Look at it as part of your professional development plan.

So what can you expect from the coming year?

- Another season of well-attended monthly meetings with a diverse mix of timely topics that are relevant to all food professionals.
- Additional technical meetings and workshops to strengthen our professional development offerings.
- Further improvement of our communication efforts and social media engagement under the umbrella of a new marketing committee.
- Another successful Suppliers' Night and Golf Outing to raise even more funds for our scholarships.
- [placeholder for YOUR idea - think about what you can bring to the section and let us know]

So what are you waiting for? Why don't you sign up right now for our September kick-off meeting?

Join us for networking, a presentation from Dr. Roger Clemens our incoming IFT president, and some delicious food. If you are interested in volunteering or have any comments or suggestions, drop me a line.

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PS: As you are reading this message you might have noticed that our newsletter looks a little different. Hopefully you'll like the change. We tried to give it more of the look and feel of a printed version with less clicking and easier navigation.