



Chicago Section
Institute of Food Technologists

The First Section ★ Since 1941



Message from the Chair

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CSIFT Chair 2015-16
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This month was the 75th Anniversary of the CSIFT. Joining us at our 75th Anniversary Celebration we had the President of IFT Colin Dennis, Long Standing Member Macey Feingold 67 years+, and new students who had been awarded scholarships from the CSIFT. The event was hosted at the Union League Club of Chicago on Jackson Street and the more I started learning about the ULC the more interesting it became. Inside of their halls and ballroom they have a number of original pieces of art which caught my eye and even included a Monet outside of our guest check-in area.

As I read up on the ULC after our celebration I found out that they have a very similar mission to the CSIFT, although not specifically food related, it was and is to better the culture of the Chicagoland area. As early as 1893, members of the ULC were critical in hosting the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In more recent years they were directly responsible for the establishment of some of Chicago's most iconic sites - Orchestra Hall, The Field Museum, and The Harold Washington Library to name a few. It's amazing what an organization can do in 140 years.

While the ULC Chicago has done some amazing things in their time, they have had almost double the amount of time to get it done. It leaves me wondering what achievements the CSIFT will leave in the history books at our 150th anniversary - opening new laboratories for R&D students at schools, Food Science Joint Venture Projects with major industry partners, financial aid for all food science candidates in the Mid-West? Even these ideas may be too humble for what our predecessors will achieve.

In any case CSIFT is moving in the right direction. As we saw from the presentations and toasts we have come a long way in our 75 years and I think we have the ambition to do much more. We have one of our largest student nights ever coming up with over 80 students attending. We have a new internship program being put together to help bridge the gap between college and working life. We have a new focus on career development both in certifications and training as well as direct job placement. We have new and larger scholarships, and partnerships with more schools than ever before. We are moving in the right direction to achieve the 150th Anniversary and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support of the CSIFT and we look forward to seeing you again soon at one of our upcoming events.

Glenn Bluemer