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Section of Merit 2017-2018

We are pleased to announce that our section is being recognized as a 2017-2018 Section of Merit! This recognition symbolizes the section's commitment to IFT, section members, and the food science and technology profession. The events held throughout the year, exemplary volunteer service, excellence in leadership and dedication to the food science and technology profession demonstrate ongoing devotion to ensuring that the sections will flourish for years to come.



Spring/Summer Great Lakes Section Event Highlights

New Professionals Paella Cooking Class

February 21, 2018 (Grand Rapids, MI)

We had a great time at the Paella cooking class organized by the GLSIFT New Professionals committee! Everyone left with a paella pan and ingredients to recreate this amazing dish at home!



Connect with us on Facebook! Search "Great Lakes Section—Institute of Food Technologists"

Spring/Summer Great Lakes Section Event Highlights

“Food Evolution” Movie Screening

February 25, 2018 (Grand Rapids, MI)

On a chilly but beautifully sunny Sunday afternoon in late February, about thirty GLSIFT members gathered at the Grand Rapids downtown market with their food industry colleagues to view the movie “Food Evolution”. Traveling from Hawaiian papaya groves to banana farms in Uganda to the cornfields of Iowa, the film, narrated by esteemed science communicator Neil deGrasse Tyson, wrestles with the emotions and the science driving one of the most heated arguments of our time. In the GMO debate, both pro- and anti- camps claim science is on their side. Who’s right?

For those who were not able to attend the section-sponsored screening, the movie can be found on Amazon Prime viewed for the very reasonable price of \$4.99. Well worth the money and 1.5 hour investment.





Spring/Summer Great Lakes Section Event Highlights

Student Recognition Night & Guest Speaker Dr. Roger Clemens

March 20, 2018 (East Lansing, MI)

Thirty-five of our members gathered on March 20th at the Kellogg Conference Center in East Lansing to celebrate the achievements of the many students (~55) in our local IFT section. Following a delicious dinner coordinated by the food science club, the group was treated to an interesting and enlightening presentation by Dr. Roger Clemens entitled



"Weapons of Mass Distortion"! This engaging presentation addressed evidence-based communications, and how many in media outlets and even scientists distort the preponderance and quality of clinical (aka statistical) evidence, touching on such popular topics as saturated fats and CVD, meat and CRC, sugar (pick your favorite NCD), carrageenan and even proteins.

Congratulations to all of the students that applied for scholarships this year and, in particular, to the 2018 GLSIFT Scholarship Recipients listed below (order is as they appear in the photo below).

1. Amber Bassett, GLIFT Active Student Member Scholarship, MSU Plt Breeding Genetics, Biotech
2. Rie Sadohara, GLIFT Diversity Scholarship, MSU Plt Breeding Genetics, Biotech
3. Gayathri Gunathilaka, Ph.D Achievement Scholarship, MSU FS PhD. (Wayne State MS)
4. Margaret Snyder, Clifford Bedford Scholarship, MSU FS
5. Augie Evered, Undergraduate Achievement, MSU FS
6. Elizabeth Kurburski, GLSIFT Active Student Member Scholarship





Spring/Summer Great Lakes Section Event Highlights

1st Annual “Speed Networking” Event

April 4, 2018 (East Lansing, MI)

The Great Lakes Section IFT and the MSU Food Science Club sponsored the 1st Speed Networking event on April 4th. Ten professionals from the Great Lakes section volunteered to participate in the networking event. These food industry professionals from different areas of expertise, different companies and varying experience in the food industry shared their career path and current position. Each student met with each professional for five minutes and was able to ask questions and gain insights into their background. The event mirrored a speed dating event where each student met with a professional and the “moved on” to the next professional. In all 19 students participated in the event.

Student feedback was very positive:

“The speed networking event was a great way for students to meet professionals in the industry of varying backgrounds and interests. It was a successful event that I would definitely go to again!”

- Maisie Snyder

The students appreciated this unique opportunity for networking:

“The speed networking event was a great way to talk to people in the field, and learn more about the day to day life of a food scientist. Any chance to talk to a representative from a company, no matter who they may be, could be a gateway to a big opportunity in the future. I would encourage anyone to take advantage of such an event, and I thank the food science club E board for putting on yet another successful activity”

- Larry Stec

All of the students and professionals also had a chance to talk in a more informal setting during the break



over some refreshments. The professionals also enjoyed the event; Jennifer Elegbede from Kellogg commented:

“This was a great opportunity! The time flew by quick and we were able to reach so many students, which is nice. I enjoyed speaking to the students and getting to know them all.”

And Robin Dickmann from Nestle added *“It was a lot of fun – and insightful. This type of event keeps our network healthy with MSU and helps us attract good intern candidates! Hopefully one of these students will consider a food safety internship with Nestle Nutrition next year.”*

Thank you to the professionals who volunteered: Lynda O’Neill (Nestle), Jennifer Elegbede (Kellogg), Andrea Kirk (Consultant), Madison Hocker (Dawn Foods), Alicia Dickenson (Meijer), Robin Dickmann (Nestle), Jhaelynn Elam (Amway), Sue Riippa (H&W Ingredients), Carla Kuesten (Amway), Grant Kleinert (Nestle) and to Natasha Sloniker (MSU), Andrea Gerstle and Cynthia Lopez-Pena from Nestle who organized the event.



Spring/Summer Great Lakes Section Event Highlights

40th Annual GLSIFT Suppliers Day & Wine Dinner

May 2, 2018 (Battle Creek, MI)

The 2018 Great Lakes IFT Suppliers night on May 2 was very successful. There were 158 registered booths, with over 500 people attending the show. Over 200 attended the wine dinner at FireKeepers Casino after the show. Winners of the best decorated booths were Mane and Tree Top. The 2019 Suppliers Night will be on Wednesday April 17, with a Mardi Gras theme. Hope to see you there!



Traverse City Wine & Food Weekend

May 11-12, 2018 (Traverse City, MI)

On May 11th, 28 members and guests of the Great Lakes IFT arrived at Black Star Farms, Suttons Bay for a property tour, speaker and wine pairing dinner. The full property tour was interactive, informative, and was given by the owner's daughter Sherri Campbell Fenton. She shared the history of Black Star Farms and the company's initiative and methods to being a true Farm to Fork property. To top it off, the attendees were able to go to the wine cellar and purchase wine. The speaker for the night was Kerm Campbell, the owner of Black Star Farms. He walked the guests through why Traverse City, Michigan is an ideal place to grow wine grapes. Traverse City, Michigan, Willamette Valley, Oregon, and Bordeaux, France all sit at the 45th parallel North, making these ideal places to produce wine. His passion for wine making and growing the business truly shined throughout his presentation. For the wine pairing dinner, a glass of selected wine was paired with each course from appetizer to dessert.



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Fall/Winter Great Lakes Section Events Highlights

On Saturday May 12th, the group was up bright and early to attend a breakfast and presentation with the owner of Grand Traverse Pie Company, Mike Busley. He and his wife started Grand Traverse Pie Company 15 years ago, and now have 22 locations across the Midwest. His passion for serving people and his community were beyond evident and even attracted a few people sitting in the restaurant that were not a part of the group. We left there filled with great breakfast pie and feeling extremely fortunate that we were able to hear the inspiring story.

Saturday afternoon consisted of hopping on a bus to visit 5 wineries on the Leelanau Peninsula. Each winery was unique and had a variety of wines for the group to try. We were also able to enjoy an afternoon snack with cheese and crackers from the Cheese Lady (a perfect wine pairing!).

Overall the weekend was filled with great wine, food, and inspiring and successful entrepreneurs that have made a difference in the Traverse City community. Everyone felt the passion and heart behind the businesses the moment we stepped in the buildings. It was truly a successful weekend!

Please review our website to keep up to date with our activities, and sign up to volunteer! We also have a Facebook page; make sure to check it out!



Upcoming Events



MSU Reception @ IFT18

Monday, July 16, 2018 at 5:00pm- 7:00pm

Hilton Hotel—Marquette Room (Chicago, IL)



Please join us for a reception at the IFT18 Expo! Welcome to all MSU Alumni, Supporters, and Friends. Register online and get your tickets now! Register at www.iftevent.org. GO GREEN!

34th Annual IFT Golf Scramble—The Bev Simpson Memorial Golf Outing

Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 9:00am-4:00pm

The Medalist Golf Club (Marshall, MI)

Start the morning with registration, a continental breakfast, then get ready for our shotgun start, four person scramble. Complimentary driving range available until 8:45. Following golf, enjoy an early buffet dinner as we announce our event winners and draw for prizes.

If you'd like to donate snacks or items for the "goodie bags" please let us know by Monday, July 16th!



Deadline for registration is Monday, July 17 or until full (max 36 foursomes). If you haven't received the email invite, please contact John Bailey (jbailey@fona.com) or Maria Ruhlman.

Interested in Volunteering?

Our Section is always looking for volunteers to participate in a variety of committees! Here are some of the areas you can help out:

- New Professionals
- Scholarship Committee
- Education and Outreach
- Food Ambassadors

If you are interested in getting involved, send us an email at greatlakesift@gmail.com.

