



Great Lakes Section
Institute of Food Technologists

Great Lakes IFT News

Winter 2015

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November Dinner Meeting—Menlo Innovations



On November 4th, 2015, the GLSIFT held their monthly meeting at Menlo Innovations, located in Ann Arbor, MI. A group of 24 student and professional members were treated to a “Joy, Inc.” factory tour at the Menlo headquarters.

Menlo is a designer of custom software for all types of industries. Their mission as an organization is to end human suffering in the world as it relates to technology. Our group gained insights about this how this culture and philosophy are applied through both the

tour as well as an informal presentation by two “Menlonians”, aka software developers. The attendees and speakers engaged in stimulating dialogue regarding their past experiences vs. the Menlo and how they felt these principles could be leveraged in our lines of work.

All attendees were also presented with a free copy of the Rich Sheridan’s book, “Joy, Inc.”, which describes how he created a joyful work culture at Menlo.

Upcoming Events:

- **February 25 2016 | GLS-IFT New Professionals Event**
Creative solutions and team building
Escape Room—Grand Rapids
- **March 30 2016 | GLS-IFT Dinner Meeting**
Speaker—Dr. Grace Douglas, NASA Food Scientist
Student Recognition Event, Lansing
- **April 20 2016 | 38th GLS-IFT Supplier’s Day**
Supplier’s Day & Wine Dinner, Battle Creek
- **May 16 2016 | GLS-IFT Dinner Meeting**
Guest Speaker—Jeff Grogg, Managing Director & Product Development
Food Entrepreneurship (JPG), Battle Creek
- **June 2016 | GLS-IFT New Professionals Event**



Congratulations to the Great Lakes Section of IFT for being recognized as an IFT Section of Excellence for 2014—2015!

GLSIFT Holiday Celebration—December 2015

On December 10, the Great Lakes IFT celebrated the Holiday Season at The Wine Loft in Kalamazoo. Sixteen members & guests joined the festivity and brought Toys for Tots donations that were collected by Sergeant Marc Brunick.

We shared fun times mingling and networking with friends old and new, and through the night we raffled three gifts baskets, and three gift cards. We had a very nice beverage & wine selection, along with delicious appetizers to choose from, such as goat cheese crisp bites, miniature crab cakes, mushroom and asparagus endive boats, hummus, two different types of meatballs, chicken skewers, and cheese & fruit platters. For dessert, three different miniatures – toffee chocolate torte, salted caramel cheesecake, and raspberry bars.



MSU Food Science Club Activities



On November 13th, MSU Food Science Club hosted a “Foodie Tour” in which members got to explore different tastes of East Lansing. The tour started with fancy appetizers at Red Haven, moved to Sansu for sushi entrees and ended at Chapelure Bakery for pastry desserts.

On November 18th, members of the MSU Food Science Club enjoyed an evening of Mozzarella making at the MSU dairy plant. Club members stretched curds into an assortment of shapes and were free to take home all that they made.



January 2016 Meeting—Founders Brewery



On January 26th, 2016, forty-four GLSIFT members, students and visitors were treated to an inside look at the recently expanded Founder's Brewery in Grand Rapids, MI. The group was split into three groups of 15 people and each was given an overview of the company history (and how the first 10 years were fairly unremarkable, followed by the next 8 year where the brewery has experienced nearly exponential growth). This was followed by a walking tour where our charismatic guides provided some colorful commentary and interesting insights about how the country's largest "craft beer" brewery manages to produce more beer per square foot than any other brewery in the world.

It seemed that one of the key lessons that the two "founders of Founder's" learned was to listen to your instincts and act like a leader rather than a follower. As stated on their company website---

"After some initial challenges, due to making well balanced but unremarkable beers, we were on the verge of bankruptcy. It was at this point that the original Founders team decided to brew the kind of beer that got them excited about brewing in the first place: complex, in-your-face ales, with huge aromatics, bigger body, and tons of flavor."

Following the tours, the attendees were treated to a buffet meal featuring various courses prepared with some of Founder's products and, for those interested, there was an opportunity after dinner to sample the vast range of Founder's beers.



February 2016 Meeting— New Professionals Escape Room Event



The day was Thursday, February 25th. The setting: a cold, dark night in an ominous edifice full of twists and turns that all but created a labyrinth – the first of many trials our protagonists would face. The agency, decorated to resemble the days of old, foreshadowed the challenges that would be encountered: puzzles, secret codes, and strategy games strewn in every corner, strategically placed for all partakers to see. Then, one by one, all were led into a room. Once inside and bursting with anticipation, our heroes watched in horror as a padlock secured the only exit in the room. Then, suddenly, the voice of none other than Sherlock Holmes himself stipulated the rubrics of the game. Armed with nothing but bravery and their wits, the saga began. Numerous puzzles, cyphers, and secret hiding spots were all decoded: our protagonists were victorious, defeating the odds and regaining their freedom, hungry to prove themselves once more.

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Recognition of Outstanding Volunteers

The section would like to recognize the invaluable contributions provided by the following volunteers. Their time and efforts have contributed in making the section better through their passion and commitment.

Ellen Johnston

Alyssa Parker

Todd Van Thomme

Call for Volunteers

Our Section is always looking for volunteers to provide many different services. Volunteers are needed this year to help with event planning, event photography, writing articles about recent meetings, Facebook updates, judging student scholarship applications, and more!

Email us at greatlakesift@gmail.com and let us know how you would like to serve your section.

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