

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Winter Meeting	1
A Message from the Chair	1
IFT Membership	2
Food Evolution Movie Recap	2
IFT Joint Suppliers Night and Culinary Challenge	2
2018 IFT-A Election Nominations	3
Student Update	3
IFT-A Silent Auction	3

Upcoming Events:

- **January 23 | IFT Speaker Series—** Grant Prentice at Blue Sushi
- **April 9 | IFT-A Silent Auction** Scriptown Brewery

Upcoming Winter Meeting

The IFT Aksarben Section will be holding the Winter Meeting on **January 23rd, 2018** from 5:30-8:00PM at BLUE Sushi in Downtown Omaha.

As part of the **IFT Speaker Series**, our section is pleased to welcome Grant Prentice, a Senior Vice President of Strategic Insights at FoodMinds. FoodMinds provides consulting and communications services specializing in harnessing science, public affairs, food values and communications to meet business and public health objectives. Grant specializes in strategic marketing and market research and has extensive experience in building marketing and issues management programs that utilize nutrition and agricultural science-based intellectual property.

His topic is FoodMinds' hypothesis that taste, price and convenience—although still important attributes—are no longer the sole or even primary drivers of food choice. Based on signals from the consumer marketplace, and changes in the structure of the food industry, it appears that a wide range of food values now have a significant impact on the availability and selection of foods and beverages.

The presentation will touch on our approach and will outline the set of food values that is comprised of interrelated social, political, regulatory, agricultural and technological factors that are changing the way food is

produced, distributed, marketed, regulated, sold and consumed. We will also discuss the growth of certification programs used by food manufacturers to signal “shared values” to consumers and other stakeholders in the food value chain.



The evening's agenda is listed below:

5:30-6:15PM: Join us for appetizers, drinks and social hour. Appetizers include sushi platters, edamame hummus, mango crab Rangoon, and vegetarian lettuce wraps.

6:15-7:00PM: Buffet dinner with options of Citrus Salmon, Anthosan's Chicken, and Vegetarian Sesame Tofu. Side dishes such as: Stir-fried rice and Grilled Vegetables.

7:00-8:30PM: Grant Prentice: Global Food Values Impact on Consumer Food Purchase and Consumption

The cost to attend the event is IFT Members: \$20, Non-members: \$25, Students: \$10

Please RSVP using this [Eventbrite Link](#) by January 9th!

A Message from the Chair

IFT board members conducted a planning session for the new year which resulted in some new and exciting opportunities, including the movie screening of Food Evolution in Lincoln in October and co-hosting the Supplier Night Expo in Iowa last month. We also discussed ways to increase member and volunteer engagement. We have a fantastic group of leaders who volunteer their time to make our events happen. Note that we have nominations due in early January. If you have a desire to expand your network, develop your leadership skills and contribute to your profession, please don't hesitate to contact one of us to see how you can be involved!



Jennifer Mancuso, Ph.D., IFT-A President

IFT Membership

This summer, the Aksarben IFT board members met with IFT's Mike McCarthy and Tom Foley for a leadership off-site in Omaha. We had a chance to review National's 2017-2018 Strategic Initiatives and learn how this impacts our section. One of the key programs is the new membership model that rolled out in October. We now have a Premier level that offers greatest access, along with a Premier Early Career level, and the newest, Networking & Engagement, which is more affordable and encourages greater participation in local sections.

Food Evolution Movie Recap

Approximately 60 people attended the movie screening of *Food Evolution* that was hosted by IFT Aksarben and UNL Food Science Department at the Ross Theater in Lincoln on October 24th. Directed by Academy Award nominated Scott Hamilton Kennedy and narrated by Neil deGrasse Tyson, *Food Evolution* covers the controversy surrounding GMOs and food. The movie was funded by IFT to inspire discussion and show the critical role science and innovation play in building a safe, nutritious and sustainable global food supply. A discussion followed the movie with an engaging group of panelists, led by UNL's Dr. Curtis Weller.



IFT Joint Suppliers Night and Culinary Challenge

The Iowa and Aksarben chapters of IFT held a joint Suppliers' EXPO and Culinary Challenge on November 16, 2017 at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny, Iowa. Over 35 exhibitors participated along with two student teams competing in the culinary challenge. This year's challenge theme was "Tailgating" featuring appetizers prepared using Dupont's Plenish high-oleic soybean oil. Following the vendor show, there was a cocktail hour and reception sponsored by Prinova. Thank you to this year's major sponsors: MidWest Laboratories (Gold Sponsor), Univar (Silver Sponsor), Perten Instruments and First Choice Ingredients (Bronze Sponsors), as well as the Cocktail Reception Sponsor – Prinova and the Culinary Challenge sponsor – Plenish High Oleic Soybean Oil. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this a success: Krista Gent, Laura Weigel, Brittany Bailey, MacKenzie Russo, Jennifer Mancuso, David Gaebler, Michael Cooper, Jace Lee and Lynnda Nelson for all the hard work they put into making this event a success!



IFT Aksarben Election Nominations!

Are you interested in getting involved with your local Aksarben Section of IFT? Do you want to help organize professional development and social activities for your fellow food scientists? Do you know someone who would make a great local IFT leader?

Nominate yourself or someone else for an IFT Aksarben leadership position!

For the 2018-2019 fiscal year (starting in September 1, 2018), IFT Aksarben has the following positions available:

- President-Elect: Part of a 3-year leadership term (President Elect, President, Immediate Past President)
- Secretary/Co-Secretary: 1-year term
- Member-at-Large: 3-year term

To volunteer or make a nomination, please email iftaksarben@gmail.com. Please submit your nominations by **January 12, 2018**. Feel free to reach out if you have questions about any of the positions.

We look forward to hearing from you!
IFT Aksarben Board of Directors

Student Update from Leo Ernst

This year, our club had a fundraiser at the annual AppleJack Festival in Nebraska City, selling Dairy Store Ice-cream from our trailer. In September, we had ConAgra speak at our club meeting, and in October, Ardent Mills spoke. Over Fall break in October, 8 of us went to Kansas City, MO to tour GIPSA, and have a fun weekend away from campus. In November, we had graduate students talk at our club meeting about why we should consider graduate school. We're also participating in an IFTSA Secret Santa, and we gifted Wisconsin some food items that embody the state of Nebraska.



IFT Aksarben Silent Auction

The Second Annual IFT Aksarben Silent Auction is planned for Monday, April 9th, 2018 at Scriptown Brewery in Omaha, NE. The event will feature a local appetizers, wood-fired pizza, craft ice cream and beers! Join us as we raise funds to support UNL students through schol-

arships. Tickets will be available on EventBrite in Spring 2018.



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