



# February Newsletter

Iowa Section

Institute of Food Technologists

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## Join Us For Happy Hour!

Happy 2017! I hope your year is off to a great start. IAIFT has been busy already to get things going for 2017. If you have been to our website lately, you may have noticed we have been making some updates on it to help our members and non-members learn more about who IAIFT is and what we do. Be sure to take a look if you haven't already.

We are excited to kick off 2017 with our happy hour event on February 16th. Aerotek is sponsoring our happy hour event at the Des Moines Social Club. Come enjoy drinks and appetizers while networking with fellow food industry members. We will have speakers from various companies talking with us about their role in the food industry as well.

See you in February,

*Mackenzie Russo*  
IA-IFT Secretary



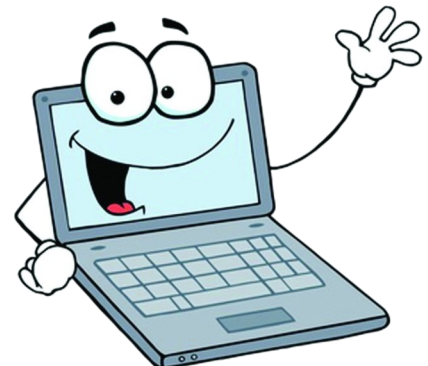
2016-2017

Event Dates:

- September 15<sup>th</sup>
- November 17<sup>th</sup>
- February 16<sup>th</sup>
- April 20<sup>th</sup>

## Help Us Grow IAIFT!

In the 2016—2017 fiscal year, IAIFT's theme is membership. One aspect of this theme, is growing our membership base, but we can't do it alone—we need our members' help. How can you help? IAIFT is working on some marketing materials, both print and digital, and we would like to have some member testimonials on them to show the benefits you have received from IAIFT. Has IAIFT helped you connect with industry professionals, developed you professionally or increased you industry education? If so we want to here from you! Email Mackenzie Russo at [mackenzie.russo@kemin.com](mailto:mackenzie.russo@kemin.com) today with your testimonial!





# MEET THE ★ CANDIDATES

IFT elections open on January 31st and close on March 2nd. All IFT members will receive an email with information on how to vote for your new IAFIT board. We have two positions to fill this year: President-Elect and Member-at-Large. Meet our candidates for these positions!

**Candidate: Laura Weigel**

**Position: President-Elect**

Laura has been active in Iowa Section IFT for several years and is currently serving as a member-at-large. She is currently employed with Aerotek in West Des Moines, IA as an Account Manager in our scientific division. In this role she work with various companies in the scientific industry to help recruit and place qualified candidates into companies open job positions. This role has expanded her knowledge of the scientific industry here in the state of Iowa. Outside of this current position at Aerotek, she obtained my BA in Biology and a minor in Chemistry from the University of Northern Iowa. She have been involved in IFT for about 2 years. She believes that becoming the President Elect would help further expand her knowledge and experience within the scientific industry specifically within the food science community!

**Candidate: Catherine Erickson, CFS**

**Position: Member-at-Large**

Catherine Erickson is a Food Engineer at Underwriters Laboratories (UL) with over 5 years of experience working on the development of commercial and residential cooking appliances. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biological Engineering from the University of Arkansas as well as a Master's in Food Technology and Nutrition from Lund University in Sweden. Ms. Erickson recently obtained her CFS certification. The things Catherine loves most in life are spending time with family and friends, cooking and international traveling. She is also involved with FIRST Robotics Competitions nationwide.



## Meet the Candidates Cont.



### **Candidate: Dr. Denys J Charles, PhD**

#### **Position: Member-at-Large**

Dr. Denys Charles is an extremely capable and focused Biochemist whose background includes: Research, Budgeting, Innovation, Quality & Regulatory, Sustainability, Marketing, Product development, Manufacturing, Cross-functional Team Leader. Dr. Denys Charles was the Director of Research at Frontier Natural Products Coop. Denys is an energetic individual who excels at managing, supervising and leading a team. Possess excellent writing skills as well as strong analytical and problem solving skills. Committed to accomplishing goals while meeting quality standards. Dr. Charles was involved and committed to the introduction and commercialization of new crops and development of new plant products, herbs, spices, medicinal and aromatic plants, breeding for health and nutrition, natural plant products chemistry, new applications of plants for foods, flavors, fragrances, health and nutrition, dietary supplements, quality assurance and quality control, botanical standardization. Expert in essential oil chemistry and quality control. Set up the quality control laboratory with GC, GC/MS, HPLC and other physico-chemical testing methods for essential oils, herbs, spices and other ingredients used in the food industry. Set up standards for the purity of essential oils, spices, herbs and all ingredients. Experience with biological test methods. Denys's expertise spans both the QA/QC and R&D areas and he has a unique understanding of the most pressing challenges impacting today's food and beverage manufacturers. Reviewer for scientific journals. Denys Charles is nationally and internationally recognized as one of the leading horticultural and medicinal and aromatic plant authorities with specialization in natural products and quality control. One of the leading experts on essential oils and herbs and spices. Charles has experience in international research in sub-Saharan Africa and other countries. I am interested in this significant organization and would love to help achieve its goals.



### **Candidate: Jace Lee**

#### **Position: Member-at-Large**

Jace is currently the Midwest Sales Manager for Fuchs North America, a custom seasoning and spice blend producer based out of Hampstead, Maryland. He has been with Fuchs for only a few months, but is excited to get back involved with the Iowa Section. Jace previously was with Viscofan USA, a producer of artificial casings for meat products. He started as a Field Technical Service Engineer and finished my time with Viscofan as the North Central Territory Manager. Jace have a Bachelor's Degree from Iowa State in Food Science, where he was heavily involved with the Food Science Club serving as the IFT Student Rep and President. He was also involved with the Iowa Section during my time with Grain Processing Corporation, where he got my feet wet in the industry as an R&D co-op/intern. I will also be involved with the Chicago Section and the Great Lakes Section, so he hope to bring perspectives from sections to continue to grow and improve the Iowa Section.



# February Happy Hour Details



**Join us for our February Happy Hour event for food, fun and networking with fellow food industry professionals and students!**

Who: Anyone in the industry! Invite your co-workers in marketing, sales, HR, etc.

When: Thursday February 16th, 2017

Location: Des Moines Social Club, Culinary Loft, 900 Mulberry Street, Des Moines, IA 50309

Parking: There are parking meter along the street you can use or there is a public parking garage across the street from Malo you may use as well.

## Agenda:

Come and go as you please from 5:00 pm—7:00 pm

- Free appetizers and fun activities
- Learn about Aerotek (our event sponsor)
- Hear from Genesys Corporation and Sethness Products Company about their roles in the food industry
- Come straight from work for appetizer and fun

## Registration Cost:

Free for all members and non-members to attend. A big thank you to Aerotek for sponsoring this happy hour.

SPONSORED BY:



**Please Register online at [www.iftiowa.org](http://www.iftiowa.org) by February 10th!**

**(just to help us with planning)**



## ■ ■ November Meeting Recap

In November, IAIFT headed to Norwalk, Iowa for a tour of Loffredo Fresh Produce. Students and members had the opportunity to learn about the fresh-cut produced industry through both the tour and from our tour guides who answered all of our questions.



Following our tour, we headed just down the street to Echo Valley Country Club for student night. Here we started the evening off with a college bowl competition. Students and industry members teamed up to test their knowledge of food science. It was a tough battle, but everyone had fun. Dr. Angela Shaw took the floor next with an educational session on FSMA and how it impacts the food industry. We then had our business meeting and dinner. During our meeting we awarded 7 scholarships to students and recognized our two volunteers of the year.



Student night was a great success. Thank you to everyone who donated coats or food for our annual drive and to those industry professionals who sponsored student meals.

## Food Science Club News



Food Science Club is back in full swing for 2017. We are getting ready for Fudgemia! The Food Science Club sells our delicious fudge to raise money for our club. We anticipate to make almost 200 pounds of fudge, all ready in time for Valentines Day! The club is also busy planning several outreach events, a club trip to Wisconsin and the regional IFTSA conference this semester!

## ■ ■ Meet Our New Student Representatives

Join us in welcoming our two new student representatives to the IAIFT board!



Nicole Gaudino is our Graduate Student Representative. Nicole is a Master's student studying Food Science at Iowa State University. She received her Bachelor's from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she was a member in their food science club. She has been involved in IFT for the past four plus years, participating in their Product Development Competitions, College Bowl and serving as a competition chair.

Kori Beisber is our Undergraduate Student Representative. Kori is a sophomore in Food Science at Iowa State. She has been involved with IAIFT by attending meetings for the past year and a half and she looks forward to getting more involved with the organization. Previously, Kori was the Food Science Club's representative for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council and she is currently planning this year's club trip.





## Scholarship Recipients

Our November meeting was student night. Part of our annual student night is awarding scholarships to some of the top students in food science. This year, between IFT and industry sponsors, we were proud to award \$6,000 in scholarships to deserving students.

Congratulations to all of our recipients and thank you to all our sponsors. The recipients and sponsors are as follows:

- Morgan Denzer—Iowa IFT Outstanding Undergraduate Student
- Delaney Webb—Andrea Weiss Scholarship
- Meghan Klatt—Kemin Industries Scholarship
- Joshua Nazareth—Iowa IFT Outstanding Graduate Student
- Kangzi Ren—Eurofins Scientific Scholarship
- Sumreet Singh Johar—Frontier Co-Op Scholarship
- Kelsey Choquette—Grain Processing Corporation Scholarship



## Industry Happenings

The food industry is always evolving. Here are some highlights from the last few months:

- President Donald Trump signed an executive order removing the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement
  - The agricultural committee has broadly supported T.P.P. since former President Obama signed it as the agreement would have added \$4.4 billion annual to the agricultural economy in exports
- Panera Bread Company achieves its 'no-no list' goal
  - Panera achieved its "no-no list" goal they first announced in May 2015 of removing all artificial flavors, preservatives, sweeteners and colors from artificial sources from its U.S. food menu and portfolio of Panera at Home products

# November Executive Meeting Minutes

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 via phone at 2:15 p.m.

Present: Bailey, Coleman, Gent, Russo, Shaw, Van Thomme

The November meeting of the IA Section IFT executive council was called to order at 2:18 by Shaw via phone call.

**1. Past President Report:** A survey was sent out to members, non-members and students to solicit member feedback on large events they would like to see. The industry professional survey has 27 responses to date and the student survey has one response to date. Approved rewarding four \$25 Amazon gift cards to a random selection of respondents from the industry professional survey. Another email will be sent out on Thursday to remind people to take the survey.

**2. President Report:** Conversations around rebranding of IAIFT have been had. Shaw will set up a branding conversation meeting. We will try to get as many people at the meeting if there is interest. A doodle will be sent out.

**3. President Elect Report:** So far we have 34 people signed up for the November meeting—15 are students, the rest industry. This is lower than expected for the Des Moines metro area. No one from two of our scholarship sponsors—Eurofins or Frontier are able to come. Next year it is proposed to move the meeting up a week in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

February meeting we will be doing a happy hour style with a location in Iowa City and Des Moines. Shaw had identified 5 companies that would be interested in presenting at the February meeting in one of the two locations. Barry Callbert would be interested in presenting at the April meeting. The April meeting is set. We will be doing a tour of Clark University up in Dubuque.

For Thursday's meeting the students will be doing the ice breaker. For the college bowl, we have seven buzzers. We will plan on doing 3—4 groups that mix up students and professionals. Loffredo is good to go. They have requested everyone to wear long pants, closed toed shoes, no fingernail polish and no jewelry. This should be communicated in the final email to attendees.

The food and coat drive will take place at the meeting. Motion by Russo to approve 3 \$10 gift cards to be given out for those who bring donations. Second by Bailey. Motion passes. Gent will pick up the gift cards.

At the venue each person will receive one drink ticket for alcohol or soda. The rest will be on the individuals to purchase.

**4. Treasurer Report:** Balance is \$22,696.76. No outstanding checks—everything has cleared so far for what has been submitted. Frontier, Andrea Weiss and Kemin scholarships have been received and put into our account. We have not received payment from Eurofins or GPC yet.

**5. Food Science Club Report:** No update, could not attend call.

**6. Scholarships:** Giving out 7 scholarships this evening—3 undergraduate and 4 graduate. During the Thursday meeting, past scholarship winners will provide an update as to how they used the scholarship. We need an industry sponsor for the undergraduate and graduate scholarship recipients. Bailey will sponsor the undergraduate student and Van Thomme will sponsor the graduate student. This year was one of our best years for scholarship donations so far—we received \$4,000 in outside donations. Applicant number was down this year, but this is likely due to the shift in timing of student night. Frontier agreed to put some of their donation towards student meals.

**7. Secretary Report:** We will be doing a website revamp. More will be discussed after branding call. For now each board member should send Russo a head shot and a short bio for the officers page.

**8. Other Topics:** Looking into ideas for next year, we have seen that other sections tend to do a social get together during the holiday times. Van Thomme and Coleman shared experiences with other sections. One example was during a holiday social they all went to a local bar, the section paid for appetizers and everyone brought a gift with them for Toys for Tots. Door prizes for those who came were donated by companies in the section. Other suggestions included inviting spouses to meetings. Another meeting included touring a culinary arts school and the speaker was a

## Officers of the Iowa Section

### PAST PRESIDENT (16-17)

Brittany Bailey  
National Pork Board  
1776 NW 114th St.  
Clive, IA 50325  
Office 515-223-2631  
Cell 515-537-0929  
[bbailey@pork.org](mailto:bbailey@pork.org)

### PRESIDENT (16-17)

Dr. Angela Shaw  
Dept. Food Science & Human Nutrition  
Iowa State University  
2577 Food Sciences Building  
Ames, IA 50011  
Phone: 515-294-0868  
Cell: 515-451-3243  
[angelaml@iastate.edu](mailto:angelaml@iastate.edu)

### PRESIDENT-ELECT (16-17)

Krista Gent  
Grain Processing Corp  
1600 Oregon Street  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
Phone: 563-264-4406  
Cell: 319-461-9691  
[krista.gent@grainprocessing.com](mailto:krista.gent@grainprocessing.com)

### TREASURER (16-19)

Shannon Coleman  
Dept. Food Science & Human Nutrition  
2545 Food Sciences Building  
Ames, IA 50011  
Phone: 515-294-9011  
Cell:  
[scoleman@iastate.edu](mailto:scoleman@iastate.edu)

### SECRETARY (16-19)

Mackenzie Russo  
Kemin Industries  
600 E. Court Ave., Suite A  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
Phone: 515-559-5284  
Cell: 913-375-6347  
[mackenzie.russo@kemin.com](mailto:mackenzie.russo@kemin.com)

### MEMBER-AT-LARGE (14-17)

Jenna Williams  
Aerotek Scientific  
1055 Jordan Creek Pkwy. Suite 220  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Phone: 515-657-5429  
Cell: 515-710-6531  
[jwilliams@aerotek.com](mailto:jwilliams@aerotek.com)

### MEMBER-AT-LARGE (15-18)

Laura Weigel  
Aerotek Scientific  
1055 Jordan Creek Pkwy. Suite 220  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Phone: 515-657-5436  
Cell: 641-990-6062  
[lweigel@aerotek.com](mailto:lweigel@aerotek.com)

### MEMBER-AT-LARGE (16-19)

Todd Van Thomme  
Nyemaster  
700 Walnut Street, Suite 1600  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
Phone: 515-283-8036  
Cell:  
[tvanthomme@nyemaster.com](mailto:tvanthomme@nyemaster.com)

### Student Reps:

Kori Beisber  
[beisber@iastate.edu](mailto:beisber@iastate.edu)

Nicole Gaudino  
[quadino@iastate.edu](mailto:quadino@iastate.edu)

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### Minutes continued:

chocolate chef.

For next year we do not have exact meeting dates set. Shaw will work on these. As for other ideas on locations, maybe we could go to DMACC Culinary center for a tour / meeting. We could also do a holiday social where we could bring back the dessert challenge and have the food / coat drive there instead of trying to cram it into Student Night in November. Then we could go back to having the February meeting as a social experience.

**9. Adjourn:** Shaw motioned to adjourn. Bailey second. The motion passes and the meeting is adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mackenzie Russo, IA IFT Secretary

### Edited by:

Mackenzie Russo | 515-559-5284 |  
[Mackenzie.russo@kemin.com](mailto:Mackenzie.russo@kemin.com)

Krista Gent | 563-264-4406 |  
[Krista.gent@grainprocessing.com](mailto:Krista.gent@grainprocessing.com)



Iowa Section  
Institute of Food Technologists