

# ***North Atlantic Area Newsletter*** ***March 5, 2009***



## **Message from Area Representative**

Greetings Food Scientists!

Well spring is just around the corner and I hope that everyone is as excited as I am for the upcoming area meeting. In case you don't already know, it will be held at the University of Maine in beautiful Orono, Maine on April 3-4. Aside from the excitement of the college bowl competition, look forward to socializing with students from other departments. We will also tour Maine's happening new departmental facilities in Hitchner Hall which, and I quote their website, "contain spacious research laboratories, a commercial teaching kitchen, a Consumer Testing Center for sensory evaluation of foods, and a Pilot Plant food processing facility." I expect Maine to be beautiful and, well, snowy. Here are some pictures to pique your interest:



University of Maine, bird's eye view



Orono, Maine



Hitchner hall, location of Maine's food science department

**Upcoming competition deadlines:** (for more info:

<http://www.iftsa.org/competitions/>)

Chapter of the Year: May 1 entry forms due; May 31 finalists will be notified

If you're not aware, the rules have changed a bit. Importantly, chapter members **MUST** be IFTSA members, and ALL manually produced documents (attendance sheets with signatures, etc.) must be scanned, converted to pdf format. Also, scoring categories, specific point allocation, and activity definitions have been restructured and redefined.

<http://www.iftsa.org/competitions/coy/files/New%20Rule%20Changes.doc>

Product development competition: March 15 finalists notified; May 23 final proposal due

Excellence in Leadership Award: April 1 nominations due; May 1 nominated individuals will be notified

Undergraduate Research Paper Competition: March 15 abstracts due

Disney-IFTSA Product Development: May 1 final proposal due

Developing Solutions for Developing Countries: May 1 final proposal due

And remember, the annual meeting this year in Anaheim, CA is June 6-9, which is super early. Start making reservations now, as flights are under \$300 and the price will only go up as the date nears. If you want to go but don't know how you're going to pay for it, consider applying to become a session monitor, which provides free registration for the meeting and a complementary room that you get to share with three other people! Applications are due March 20. <http://www.iftsa.org/am/sm/#questions>

Finally... please vote for next year's North Atlantic Area Representative! We have three people running this year for area rep (which is two more than the one (me) who ran last year). Two are students from Cornell and one is a student from Rutgers. Go to the link so you can read their biographies and vote:

<https://eballot3.votenet.com/ift/login.cfm> FYI, to log in the username is your IFT member number without -0 and the password is your last name with the first letter in upper case.

Andrew Draganski  
Rutgers University

#### **Updates from chapters:**

##### **Rutgers University – José Antonio Maldonado**

Recent events at Rutgers include a product development workshop, where speakers from StartiTek (a consultant firm), Danisco, National Starch, Pepsi and Unilever came to talk about the R&D work their companies do. Halloween celebration started with a very successful fundraising bake sale, and finished with a potluck dinner where students got the chance to taste dishes from all over the world. On November 4 Giamarese farm in Central Jersey organized a gleaning, where students picked up unsold produce and fruit to donate to local food banks. Rutgers students went on November 8 to the NYC chocolate show, where there were more than 50 chocolate companies. The holiday party in December, in which 80 people among students, faculty and guests celebrated the end of the semester and the start of Holiday season with a dinner and a talent show, most of the students took a small break to have a fresh and strong start in 2009. Our teams for Product Development and Developing Solutions for Developing Countries have been very busy doing their final trials and writing their reports; our College Bowl team doesn't stay behind and is preparing very hard for the Area Meeting. Good luck to all the entering teams (but a little more for Rutgers). On February 10 we had our NYIFT student night; around 40 students attended an NYIFT dinner meeting hosted in Rutgers campus and many of them had the opportunity to present

their research to IFT members from the industry. Our Industrial Speaker program is continuing, in January we had a demonstration of a variable pathlength spectrophotometer by C Technologies and in February we'll have a presentation by the Resource Center for Graduate Student External Support to talk about getting external funding for research. On February 17 we elected the new officers for our chapter, who are Ke Shi (president), Meenakshi Khurana (vice president), Hayley Schultz (treasurer) and Elah Steltzer (secretary). You'll have the chance to meet them in the Area Meeting at U Maine, hope to see many of you there!



Student Night at Rutgers University

**University of Massachusetts-Kaitlin Ewald:**

We just had companies come and interview for internships. We had a great end of the semester with a Turkey Lunch for the department. This semester we will be holding a Departmental International Dinner in February and our College Bowl and Product Development teams are working hard!

**Penn State University-Lyndsay Bashore**

The Penn State Food Science Club kicked off the school year with our Annual Food Science Club Tailgate. Many of the faculty, staff, alumni, and students said that this was the "Best Tailgate Ever!!" The club members prepared the food at the Tailgate, which was mostly donated or sponsored by various food/ingredient companies throughout Pennsylvania. Overall, we had a great time at our Tailgate and we beat Oregon State (Go Lions!). The club members also enjoyed scooping Creamery ice cream for Harvestfest at Del Grosso's Amusement Park just a few weeks after the Tailgate. Our wrists may be sore after scooping for 3-4 hours, but it is one of our best annual fundraisers.

Many companies, such as Kraft, Nestle, Unilever, Dreyer's, Campbell's, General Mills,

and Heinz, have come to our club meetings to give presentations and interview students for internships, co-ops, or jobs. In November, we had the Keystone IFT Student Recognition Night to congratulate all of the students that received IFT scholarships. This year our distinguished speaker was Dr. Bruce McPheron, Associate Dean and Director of Research for the College of Agriculture at Penn State University. The Food Science Department social committee and Food Science Club worked together to prepare the annual Witches Brews, Soups, and Stews luncheon, where there was a costume contest and a prize for the best soup/chili. Other events we are planning are the annual Thanksgiving Potluck and Christmas Dinner for the faculty, staff, and students.

We have a lot of fun activities planned for the spring semester! Some service projects we are doing are donating/making food for the Penn State Dance Marathon (feeding about 1500 people), preparing food for people that donate blood to the Penn State Red Cross Blood Drive, and our annual food drive. Last year, we donated 125 pounds of food to the State College Food Bank, so our goal is to beat the total this year. For social activities, we are playing Broomball (basically, its hockey on ice without ice skates), bowling, snow tubing, and hiking Mount Nittany.



Food science students along with Dr. Naveen Chikthimmah at the College of Agricultural Sciences Scholarship Banquet

The annual Food Industry Day sponsored by the Penn State Food Industry Group (FIG) will be in April. We will be visiting 3 or 4 companies in Pennsylvania. In March, we are having a spaghetti dinner and bake sale to help raise money for the college bowl trip to Maine. There is also a possibility for selling soft-serve ice cream in our Creamery. We are formulating a blue and white twist soft-serve ice cream to sell during the Penn State Blue and White Weekend.

We are very excited for the long drive up to Maine for the Area meeting and college bowl competition this spring! Good luck to all of the seniors! We also hope to see all of you again at the IFT Annual Meeting and Food Expo in Anaheim, CA!!

### **University of Maine-Wyatt J. Marshall**

This winter the Maine winter arrived complete with below zero temperatures and record snow fall.

- Find good luck this Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> at our baked goods at Hitchner Hall.
- We're collecting canned food at Hitchner Hall for donation to the campus food pantry. In today's economy, a couple of cans a week will go a long way for a family in need!
- Our group is looking forward to attending the February NEIFT Meeting, Thursday, February 26, 2009, taking the tour of New England Confectionery Company (NECCO)
- University of Maine's Food Science Club is Hosting Annual College Bowl! The FS Club students have been practicing to compete in the upcoming college bowl. We have also been working hard to prepare for the arrival of the other schools.