

Cactus IFT

A professional group of IFT members in Arizona seeking to advance the science and technology of food through exchange of knowledge

A Quarterly Newsletter

October 2013

A Note from the Past Chair

The past Cactus IFT Chair, Lynn Abarr-Boubelik, reflects on the past year and welcomes our new Chair.

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Meet! Learn! Serve!

The new Chair of the Cactus Section, Holly Long, reports on the section's progress and her hopes for the future.

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Open Board Meeting

Our open board meeting was a complete success!

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Get Involved!

Find out how you can get involved in Cactus IFT.

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Meet the Board

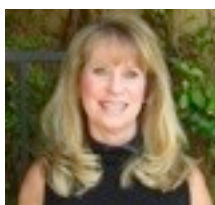
Say hello to our new board members.

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A Note from the Past Chair

As the outgoing Cactus IFT Section Chair, I would like to personally thank all board members and committees for an outstanding, fun, and educational year. We truly have an amazing group of professionals that have made the past year a complete success.



Lynn Abarr-Boubelik

There are so many milestones that have made my experience as Chair rewarding. One that stands out is the National IFT Meeting and Strategic Leadership Forum I attended in June. It was inspirational to be around so many passionate and

talented leaders, and I learned a lot of new ways we could strengthen our club.

The biggest take-away for me was that recruiting people is not just about increasing membership numbers; it's about engaging professionals who truly want to be involved, aren't afraid to take on leadership roles, and are willing to dedicate time to the section. In order to grow and become a prestigious club in the field, we must be willing to put in the work and time.

Another event that stands out from this past year was the Wine and Chocolate event held at My AZ Kitchen in Chandler. It was fun to see the talented chocolatier Mary Josephs create beautiful (and delicious!) truffles before our eyes and interesting to hear from Steven Granzow about how to pair wines with the rich taste of cocoa. Additionally, the turnout for the event was phenomenal. If you know me, you know I enjoy chatting and networking, so I thoroughly enjoyed that evening!

As my term as Chair of the Cactus Section of IFT comes to an end, I can truly say I have gained priceless experience and knowledge about the food and beverage industry. My hope is that I have been able to expose others to this insight as well.

Suppliers' Night - April 1, 2014
Save the date and let us know if you'd like to be involved!

This is a bitter-sweet moment for me. I will miss my role as the Cactus Section Chair; however, I am honored to be passing the torch to Holly Long as I know from the past that she is passionate and dedicated to Cactus IFT.

Please give Holly a warm welcome to her new position as Cactus Section IFT Chair as well as our new 2013-2014 board members.

— Lynn Abarr-Boubelik, Cactus IFT Section Past Chair



Meet! Learn! Serve!

A message from your new Chair

At a training for section leaders put on at the National IFT Meeting in Chicago this past summer, I was reminded that we all participate in IFT meetings for different reasons around some common themes. We come to meet and socialize with others, expanding our professional network in the process. We come to learn and develop our professional knowledge base. We come to serve others and build the organization by helping young professionals grow, helping each other find resources, and building a foundation for the future of the food industry and food industry professionals.



Holly Long

It's my hope that this year we can keep these three main areas in mind. I also hope that those who attend our meetings and participate in our section

see how their participation gives them a chance to meet others and build friendships, attend powerful learning opportunities and have a chance to give back to others.

With that in mind, we need your help! If you have ideas for great speakers and/or presentations, please send them our way. If you have ideas on how we can better network at our events, let us know. If you have some ideas on ways we can lay a better foundation going forward and want to help us do that, let us know. We want (and need!) your ideas and help.

We are all part of an amazing industry. It's an important one that feeds the world by keeping the food supply safe and beneficial. It's an industry I am proud to be part of and one that has brought me long-lasting friendships and excelled my career. Come join us and help us build an even better program as we move forward to Meet! Learn! Serve! in the coming months and years!

— Holly Long, Cactus IFT Section Chair



Flicker/Sean MacEntee

“Like” Us!

The Cactus IFT Section is now on Facebook! Be sure to “like” our page to stay up-to-date on the latest news and upcoming events!

Other ways you can stay in touch with the happenings of Cactus IFT:

- Visit our website: www.cactusift.org
- Follow us on Twitter @CactusIFT
- Connect with us on LinkedIn
- Come to events

Open Board Meeting

In an effort to grow and expand the Cactus Region Section of the IFT, the board held an open meeting to students and professionals interested in getting involved in the various committees offered. There was a great turnout with over a dozen new faces at the meeting at El Zaribah Shrine in Phoenix—where we will be holding the 2014 Supplier’s Night.

Many of the attendees were students from Arizona State University studying agricultural business. The students were enthusiastic about the networking possibilities IFT offers and even discussed creating a student section of IFT on the ASU campus. Having an IFT student section would be a huge benefit to the club in terms of acquiring new members and partnering for events.

A majority of the meeting was spent brainstorming ideas for how to increase membership, expand community involvement, and improve Cactus IFT meetings and events.

Some innovative ideas were generated, including:

- Seeking out professionals in interest groups related to the food science industry on the social media site Linked In as a way to increase membership
- Having a welcome committee to follow up on new guests who attend meetings
- Organizing charity events such as a golf tournament
- Creating IFT business cards that can easily be handed out to encourage people to attend IFT meetings and events

Additionally, the meeting served as a time to network and build relationships with fellow professionals while enjoying tasty appetizers—one of the best things about IFT events!

We really appreciate everyone who came and the ideas they shared. With new ideas aplenty and enthusiastic members, this is bound to be a successful year for the Cactus Section of IFT.



Students and professionals gathered at the open board meeting on September 10, 2013.

Get Involved!

Ever hear the phrase, “You get out what you put in”? Well, that’s our motto at the Cactus Section of IFT. To benefit from this club, it’s imperative that you get involved.

Listed below are some areas where we could use some help. Let us know if one of these positions matches your skill set and interests. We would appreciate your assistance!

Name Badge Specialist: This person would be responsible for planning and coordinating the creation of name badges, especially for Suppliers’ Night, and other IFT events.

Suppliers’ Night Floor Plan Coordinator This role is reasonable for assigning and organizing setup of booths for Suppliers’ Night and responding to vendors with specific requests.

Suppliers’ Night Program/Bulletin Coordinator. This person oversees all things related to the printed program and PowerPoint slideshow for Suppliers’ Night. They will need to contact companies regarding advertising for the program and collect the appropriate artwork to use from each company. It will also involve coordinating with the graphic designer.

Venue Specialist. This first step in hosting events is finding the location. This role oversees information needed for venue choices and is responsible for making final arrangements with venues prior to our events.

Advertising Copy Specialist. We need someone to write and review copy for meeting announcements and club emails to assure that content is accurate and attention-grabbing.

Social Media Guru. Social media is how we connect with others. This person will generate announcements for meetings and events in a timely manner and post them on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. They will also respond to comments and requests from people on these sites and provide them with the correct information.

WebMaster. The Webmaster makes sure the Cactus Section IFT website is always up-to-date with current meeting links and information.

Member List Master. This role involves cleaning up and updating the club member list as new members join or contact information of existing members changes.

Student Outreach Committee. One of our goals this year is to reach out to local universities and schools to invite students to our meetings. This person would plan IFT awareness events to educate students on opportunities in the food science field. They would also develop scholarship guidelines and programs for the

club to sponsor students. Additionally, they would work with Suppliers’ Night Committee to put together an activity that highlights students (such as a poster board event or product development competition) where they can share their ideas and research. It will also involve planning meetings around the busy schedules of students if possible and organizing a mentor-ship program.

Jobs Board Keeper. When employers ask us to announce open positions, this person will coordinate getting the word out with the help of the Social Media Guru.

Speaker Review Team. The Speaker Review Team will collect ideas from club members regarding speaker requests and review the credibility of the speaker (knowledgeable, good presentation). They will also make sure we get a balance of topics for our members that are anxious to “learn”. They will need to make arrangements and coordinate schedules with speakers.

New member recruitment. This person will focus on ways to find, reach out to, and invite new members that will benefit from our great organization. They will connect with individuals and let them know this is the place where they can meet great professionals, learn and grow professionally and scientifically, and serve others.

Please contact any of the Cactus Section IFT board members if you are interested in fulfilling a role!

Important Contacts

Are you interested in membership, sponsorship opportunities, contributing or advertising in this newsletter, or volunteering for Cactus IFT? Contact one of our section officers on the list below.

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Mark your calendars!

- Upcoming meetings will be held on Dec 3rd & Feb 4th. More details to come as the dates approach.
- We will be organizing our annual outing to a Spring Training game. Date and time are to be determined.
- Our biggest event of the year, Supplier's Night, will take place at the El Zaribah Shrine on April 1, 2014.
- You won't want to miss out on the tequila tasting & history event May 6th!



Section Officers

Holly Long — Chair
Kim Silva — Chair Elect
Lorraine Hansen — Treasurer
Victoria Fraizer — Secretary / Student Committee Chair



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