

NIFTY NEWS CENTRAL

A Joint Newsletter for New York Institute of Food Technologists and the Central New Jersey Subsection



March 4, 2025 Issue

A Message from the NYIFT Chair: Suzanne Mutz-Darwell



In alignment with IFT's Overall Mission: "Connecting global food system communities to promote and advance the science of food and its application," NYIFT is proud once again to support the local Food Technology Students in our section, from both Rutgers University and Montclair State University, who are working on projects that will truly help advance the science of food in the future!

The **Annual Student Night and Panel Discussion** was held on February 20, 2025 in the IFNH Building at Rutgers University. An open and lively discussion on the topic of "**Uncovering Artificial Ingredients: Risks, Regulations and Revolution**" was moderated by Dr. Donald Schaffner, Food Science Department Chair at Rutgers. There were three panelist presenters: Debbie Levine, Director of Global and Scientific Affairs at Ingredient; Dana Daneker Gasiorowski, Creative Director and Principal Flavorist with IFF; and Patrick Riolo, Product Development Manager with Allen Flavors.

The **NYIFT and CNJIFT Subsection Scholarship Committee** reviewed over a dozen applications from both graduate and undergraduate students, as well as their individual contribution to the Section. That evening we awarded 5 Graduate Student awards, valued at \$2,000 each, and 3 Undergraduate Awards valued at \$1,500 each. In addition, we also hosted a Poster Competition, where the scholarship judges reviewed all the posters and determined the three top winners for which they received a cash award of \$750 for First, \$500 for Second and \$400 for Third place. Find the names of all the award winners elsewhere in this newsletter.

In addition to the presentation and awards, there was also a career center where students could interact with Food Industry representatives from multiple potential employers. Finally, we have recently initiated a collaborative **pilot project** between IFT, NYIFT and Rutgers University to identify ways to encourage more active involvement of the students and faculty with IFT and our Section.

With Spring on the horizon, we look ahead to a busy and exciting schedule with the NYIFT:

Join us for an exciting evening of **NHL Hockey and NYIFT Camaraderie**, on Friday, March 7, 2025 when the New Jersey Devils will take on the Winnipeg Jets. NYIFT will host a "pre-game social" at 5:30 PM at the Prudential Center Skyloft, where we will have complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Game time is 7:00 PM on this weekend night, so come out and join us for a fun and exciting evening. Tickets are limited and we usually have a sell-out crowd. Link to purchase tickets: <https://nyift.org/event/new-jersey-devils-2025/>.

On March 13, 2025 our dinner meeting will be held, and hosted once again by **Mondelez** in East Hanover NJ. The topic will be **“Do More Recalls in the News Mean that the Food Supply Is Less Safe?”** presented by Dr. Donald W. Schaffner, Current Food Science Department Chair, a Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists, the American Academy of Microbiology, the Society for Risk Analysis and International Association for Food Protection (IAFP). The deadline for reservations was February 27; unfortunately, no walk-ins are allowed at this meeting.

A full agenda is planned for the **NYIFT Suppliers’ Day 2025**, which will once again be held at the New Jersey Expo Center in Edison NJ. A full **technical program session will run from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on “Sustainability in the Food Industry, From Farm to Fork”** which will feature multiple speakers on a range of subjects around sustainability: An overview of sustainability initiatives, product development for net zero carbon goals, the regulatory landscape, circular packaging management, AI tools, consumer insights, and the future of sustainable cooking will be among the topics covered. Additional details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

The **Supplier Expo will be open from 2:00 – 6:00 PM**, so please come and see the most recent product and ingredient advances from these companies. There is an interactive exhibitor map available at <https://nyift.org/events/suppliers-day/> so check out who and where you would like to visit!

Rutgers University students will showcase their work with a **Poster Session from 4:00 - 5:30 PM**, so come by and ask about their work. Finally, there will be a **Happy Hour and Cash Bar on the Expo floor, from 4:30 - 6:00 PM**. Admission to the Suppliers Expo is free, but we request that you register online <https://nyift.org/events/suppliers-day/>.

The **17th Annual CNJIFT Annual Golf Outing** is planned for Monday, June 2, 2025, at the Meadows at Middlesex in Plainsboro, NJ – stay tuned for updates on this event.

We look forward to your attendance at our upcoming events and dinner meetings. We also encourage your support and active participation in our section, so please consider volunteering for a position on the NYIFT/CNJIFT EXCOM! We welcome fresh input and insights!

Suzanne Mutz-Darwell
Chair, NYIFT