

OVIFT Newsletter

January 11, 2023

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A Letter from Our Chair

Dear OVIFT Community,

It is my absolute pleasure to serve as the section chair for the 2022-23 year, and I have to say we have an extremely energized board who is working hard to plan learning, networking, and service opportunities for all our members across the Ohio Valley. The past few years have been difficult for forming connections in many areas of life, but I hope that you feel like OVIFT can be a resource for you to build and rebuild those connections that are so important for all our personal and professional lives.

A little bit about myself. I have been happy to call the Ohio Valley home for the past 27 years since my family moved to Montgomery outside of Cincinnati in 1995. I am a three-time graduate of Ohio State, earning my B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. all in food science. It was during my time as a student that I found IFT, first as a product development team leader and eventually as Student Association (IFTSA) President. After a few years in product development at Abbott Nutrition, I rejoined Ohio State to help lead an interdisciplinary research initiative focused on the intersection of food and health. I also work with 614 Magazine to showcase all the great places to eat in Central Ohio as host of their web series 'Tasting Columbus'- talk about a dream job!



I recently moved to the Merion Village neighborhood on the south side of Columbus with my dog, Huckleberry, and enjoy playing in LGBTQ+ sports leagues throughout the city.

Through my previous involvement in the organization, I have been able to see the immense value that IFT provides to members. It feels like my professional home-away-from-home, and my goal is to provide opportunities that will allow you to feel the same way. I am particularly energized by IFT's latest efforts in diversity and inclusion. It is rare to see a professional association make such a conscious and overt effort in this space, and it is just one of the many reasons I am proud to be an IFT member.

We have an exciting year ahead with events planned almost every month. I hope to meet many of you in person, but please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email in the meantime. I am looking forward to working with you!

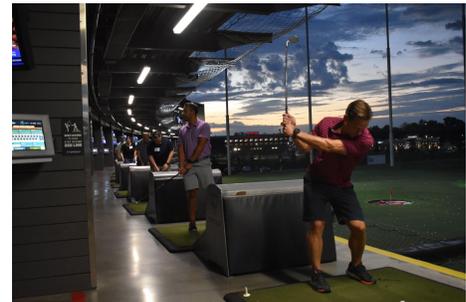
All the best,



Matt Teegarden

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It was great to see you again!



In September, we hosted our annual Top Golf Networking Event. It was great to see everyone in person! Top Golf was a big hit and everyone had a great time golfing or just enjoying sitting back and relaxing.

The Supplier's Expo took place on September 22 at the Savannah Center and we hosted 250 attendees and 70 exhibitors this year. This annual event is a great opportunity for vendors to network with potential customers and also our biggest fundraiser for student scholarships. Thank you for your support, we couldn't provide the scholarships for food science students without your help. Be on the lookout for new events scheduled for the year and if you have an idea for an event, we'd love to hear it: ohiovalleysection.ift@gmail.com.



Make a Difference

Have you wanted to make a difference in the future of the food industry? Now is your chance, we are actively recruiting volunteers for the 2022-2023 OVIFT Board. There are many opportunities throughout the year to volunteer and it does not have to be a big time commitment - join a committee that interests you or volunteer to help at one of our events- whatever works best for your interests and availability. The Chair Elect position on the Board is also currently open if you are interested please reach out to ohiovalleysection.ift@gmail.com for details!

Save The Date: 2023 Suppliers' Expo

September 23, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Visit our [website](#) for the latest information and registration details.

Don't miss out on our latest events and news.

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