



# The Perpetual Food Scientist

RUTGERS FOOD  
SCIENCE ALUMNI  
UPDATE



## Welcome Message from the Chair

2024-2025 COMMITTEE CHAIR - AKINO TOMIZAWA (SEBS '21)

Happy Summer, Alumni Community! As the current Chair of the Rutgers Food Science Alumni Committee, I would like to welcome both returning and new members to this wonderful alumni community and family!

I have had the honor of being a member of this committee since my days as an undergraduate IFT representative and have enjoyed seeing the committee grow and its continued track record of success!

Given that there are several new members of the committee/community, I wanted to utilize this newsletter to highlight the mission of the committee, my vision as a chair, and provide a quick recap of the events and alumni speakers we have had the honor of inviting back to Rutgers!

The photo above, taken at NYIFT's Supplier Expo, along with the upcoming photographs, showcases the success of our committee. This achievement is thanks to the dedicated members who have volunteered countless hours to support our mission. Their commitment has created a remarkable support network for current Rutgers Food Science students (undergraduates and graduates) and the Food Science department as a whole.

I'm excited for another fantastic year of making memories, forging friendships, and strengthening connections with the Rutgers Food Science program and the friends we've made. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the alumni community. I'm eager to lead and collaborate with all of you!

In this update  
you can expect:

Welcome Message  
from the Chair

Our Mission  
Statement

Alumni  
Committee Recap  
(2021-2023)

Interested in  
Learning About  
Upcoming  
Events?



Follow us on our socials!  
[@rufoodsciencealumnsig](https://www.instagram.com/rufoodsciencealumnsig)



## Our Mission

Our mission is to champion the enduring legacy of a Rutgers Food Science education by empowering our graduates to excel in their careers, actively support current students, and foster a vibrant, inclusive community of alumni. We are dedicated to raising the profile of Food Science as both a major and a career path through close collaboration with the Rutgers Food Science department. Together, we strive to educate and inspire the broader community about the transformative impact of Food Science



## My Vision

For the upcoming academic year, my vision is to leverage the collective strengths and vibrant networks of our esteemed alumni committee to enhance the academic and professional development of Rutgers Food Science students. With the committee's support, I aim to transform our programming into a more responsive and student-centered initiative, closely aligned with their evolving needs and aspirations. I envision raising our department's profile by showcasing the unique strengths of our Food Science major, thereby increasing awareness and drawing a new generation of enthusiastic students to the Rutgers Food Science program.



## Fall 2022 and 2023: IFT Resources @ Seminar

Sept. 16, 2022 & Sept. 15, 2023

Traditionally, the Fall Semester begins with a presentation on **IFT's tools and resources** for graduate students during an early Graduate Seminar. Previous Alumni Members who have participated include:

- **Joe Light**, Founder and President, Food Loving Ventures, National IFT Board Member
- **Dr. Marc Meyers (GSNB '84, '85,'87)**, Managing Principal, Meyers Consulting, LLC, NYIFT Director at Large



## Fall 2022 and 2023: Career Prep & Alumni Networking

The flagship fall event, a tradition of the alumni committee, features a **Career Workshop**, an **IFT introduction for all Food Science students**, an **Alumni Networking Mixer with Speed Networking** and the **Alumni Awards!** Previous speakers include:

- **Dr. Peggy Poole (DC '79, GSNB '83, '86)**, Vice President of Tea Division, Bigelow Tea Company, President- Elect of IFT
- **Joe Light** - Founder and President, Food Loving Ventures, National IFT Board Member
- **Debbie Levine (CC '81)** - Director of Global Scientific & Regulatory Affairs, Ingredion
- **Ron Pagaoa (CC '90)**- Senior Marketing Manager, Savory Segment



# Spring Recap



## NYIFT Student Night

Although this yearly tradition is a NYIFT event, the alumni committee has been involved in providing students with additional networking and career development opportunities. This has been achieved via resume reviews and mock interviews. 2024 also featured alum, **Sarah Waxman (SEBS '16, GSNB '23)**, who spoke about the **intersection of academia and industry**.

## Suppliers Expo + IFT FIRST

In 2024, Rutgers Food Science alumni started a new tradition with a group photo at NYIFT's Supplier Expo. This tradition continued at IFT FIRST 2024, where the alumni committee enjoyed light refreshments and lively conversation, culminating in another memorable group photo. Our active involvement in IFT and the alumni committee highlights our enduring passion for food science and our joy in reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

## Past Alumni Award Winners



- 2013** Glen Suter Apostolos Pappas, Patricia Verduin
- 2014** James Paul Zallie, Kris Kristbergsson, Kenneth S. Marsh, Charles H. Manley
- 2015** H. Louis Cooperhouse, Thomas Hartman, John J. Specchio, Steve Gomez
- 2016** Mukund V. Karve, George Carman, Carol Christensen, Jennifer C. McEntire, Thomas J. Montville
- 2017** Leslie Herzog, Peggy Poole
- 2018** Sy Gilbert, Geraldina Cecere Crisantiello
- 2020** Marc A. Meyers, Beatriz Dos Santos
- 2021** Clare Dus, Stephen Dus, Laura Rokosz
- 2023** Mohamed Badaoui Najjar, Janice Bryson, Debbie Levine, Dr. Beverly Tepper, Akino Tomizawa

Interested in nominating someone for this upcoming year's Alumni Awards in October? Submit your nomination to the email linked below!



## Inspiring the Future

This spring, several members of the alumni committee, including **Rebecca Dengrove (GSNB '05)** and **Dr. Marc Meyers**, served as judges for the NJ Youth Institute's World Food Prize competition, which focused on global food security. This opportunity allowed us to highlight the role and importance of food science in addressing food security to local high school students and teachers, showcasing the value of our major.

## Rutgers Day (Ag Field Day 2024)

Rutgers Day (or Ag Field Day) truly comes alive with the excitement of students selling their homemade ice cream! This year, with perfect weather, the community came together to savor the delightful results of the students' hard work.

In line with the committee's new initiative to promote food science as a dynamic career path, we hosted two inspiring presentations: one by Rutgers alum **Dr. Laura Rokosz (CC '84, GSNB '86, '92, '93)** and the other by our own **Dr. Donald Schaffner**. These sessions aimed to educate the community about the exciting opportunities in food science and inspire more students to explore and embrace our cherished major.

Interested in being more involved or attending future events? Reach out to us at our email or on our new socials!

Email: [rutgersfoodsciencealumni@gmail.com](mailto:rutgersfoodsciencealumni@gmail.com)

