

# SPDG Newsletter

Student Professional Development Group-IAFP

## What is SPDG?

The overall goal of the IAFP Student PDG is to bridge the gap between food safety professionals and students. The Student PDG accomplishes this goal by offering networking opportunities for both students and professionals, encouraging and maintaining an active student membership population within IAFP, and serving as the voice for communicating the interests and needs of the student population to the IAFP executive board. In short, we seek to offer the most rewarding and enriching IAFP experience possible for students as they make the transition into a professional lifestyle.



## SPDG MISSION

The mission of the Student PDG is to provide students of food safety with a platform to enrich their experience as members of IAFP.



## Greetings from the Chair Jessica C. Butler

Hello fellow SPDGer's!

I want to thank each and everyone one of you that participated at last year's meeting. It meant the world to us, and the meeting would not have been a success without you. Our student symposium was very well attended and audience engagement was at a high. All of the invited speakers for the symposium received their very own IAFP 2011 t-shirts for their involvement and were very honored to be involved. It was also good to see everyone at the lunch for Gordon Hayburn's talk and brainstorming session for next year's symposium ideas.

This year we are joining forces with Benjamin Chapman from the Education PDG to contribute to websites such as Wikipedia, to correct misinformation that is floating out there about food protection. We will be distributing more information about this initiative as we plan, and certainly welcome any students that want to contribute.

This year has been an exciting one for your SPDG board which has hit the floor running with plans for the upcoming meeting. As always, we are planning a fun and exciting student luncheon and mixer for the meeting in 2012. But be sure to also check out our symposium, held in conjunction with Dairy PDG, entitled "Tales from the Food Safety World: A Collection of Extraordinary Stories From Our Profession" which is sure to be an interactive session filled with zany stories sure to gross you out and blow your mind. Most of us have been shuffling around changing schools as our educations progress, moving to such exotic places as Texas, North Carolina and Washington, D.C.! But no fear fellow IAFPer's, all the moving has not deterred us one bit from our commitment to bring you a show stopping 2012 IAFP adventure.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank my fellow board members. Without them this year would not have been possible. Normally, this is where someone would end a letter, but I feel that I need to tell you each specifically how much you've helped me this year. VP Chip- though I am not fond of my nickname "J-But" I am quite fond of you; you keep me posted on all things IAFP and always contribute to discussions with thought and inspiring ideas. Sec. Lorraine, oh Lorraine. Where would we be without you? I am so happy IAFP students gifted you to us this year! (Deadlines and IAFP as a whole are thankful for the same.) You're quiet, but when you speak, you always bring up something insightful that needed to be thought out. Social Chair Jessica- Thank you for making sure Helen and I don't hurt ourselves in our pursuit to make everyone laugh. You keep the ball rolling and I am forever grateful. Treas. Anna (we also call her Helen because she's both blind and deaf!) who knew I had a long lost sister all these years? You somehow manage to make sure things go smoothly and keep everything light hearted at the same time. You are my muse.

Now that all that gushiness out of the way....

We cannot wait to see each of you at this year's meeting in Rhode Island! Please come ready to participate, learn and above all else...have FUN!!

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## 2011-2012 SPDG Board Members



Jessica C. Butler  
**SPDG Chair**

Jessica earned her B.S. (2005) in Poultry Science at Texas A&M, her M.S. in Poultry Science (2009) at Auburn University. Currently, she is completing her Ph.D. in Food Safety and Microbiology at Auburn University.



Clyde "Chip"  
Simmons Manuel  
**SPDG Vice-Chair.**

Chip earned his B.S. (2008) in Food Science and Technology at Clemson University, his M.S. in Animal Science at Colorado State University (2011). Currently, he is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Food Science at North Carolina State University.



Anna Van Stelten  
**SPDG Treasurer.**

Anna earned her B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (2007) and M.S. in Animal Science at Colorado State University (2009). Currently, she is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Animal and Food Science at Texas Tech University.



Lorraine D.  
Rodriguez-Rivera  
**SPDG Secretary.**

Lorraine earned her B.S. in Microbiology (2008) at the University of Puerto Rico-Humacao. Currently, she is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Food Science at Cornell University.



Jessica Chen  
**SPDG Social Chair**

Jessica earned her B.S. in Food Science at Cornell University (2007), her M.S. in Animal Science at Colorado State University (2010). Currently, she is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Animal and Food Science at Texas Tech University.

# IAFP Student Luncheon



# Poster Session



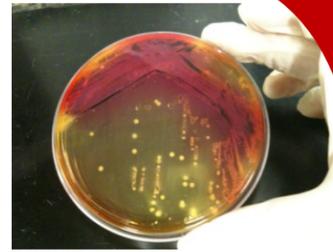
# Banquet & Student Awards



# SPDGMixer



# Secrets of successful professionals in the field of Food Protection



We asked 2 accomplished scientists, Dr. Donald Zink and Dr. Kathryn J. Boor, 5 questions about their successful careers.

**Dr. Zink's Favorite quote:** "HELL BEGINS THE DAY GOD GRANTS YOU THE VISION TO SEE ALL YOU COULD HAVE DONE, SHOULD HAVE DONE AND WOULD HAVE DONE -- BUT DID NOT." –Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German painter, author, scientist (1749-1832)

**Dr. Boor's Favorite quote:** "OPPORTUNITY IS MISSED BY MOST PEOPLE BECAUSE IT IS DRESSED IN OVERALLS AND LOOKS LIKE WORK." –Thomas Alva Edison, American scientist and inventor (1847-1931)

**Where do you work?** I work at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition – the part of FDA that regulates food, food additives and cosmetics. **What is your job title?** Senior Science Advisor – this a bit like being the Chief Scientist at CFSAN, although we do not use that term since there is a Chief Scientist at the agency (FDA) level. Organizationally, I am part of the Center Director's office and report to the CFSAN Center Director.

**If you do research, What are your research goals?, If you do not do research, Please describe your job responsibilities.** I do not do research, although I occasionally collaborate with researchers at FDA and sometimes CDC in designing projects and experiments and in writing research papers. My main responsibility is strategic oversight of CFSAN's research programs – what research do we need to do and where and how will we get that research done. Also, I am the primary spokesperson for CFSAN on scientific issues and I am responsible for presiding over the resolution of scientific disputes should they arise.

**What do you enjoy the most about your job?** I enjoy the variety of issues that I get to deal with. Although my training is in microbiology and in biochemistry and biophysics, I have to deal with a range of scientific issues from the fields of epidemiology, toxicology, analytical chemistry, etc. I can't possibly be an expert in all of these areas so I rely heavily on our scientists in the fields and I am constantly learning.

**In three sentences, What advice do you have for young scientists and professionals in the field of Food Safety/Protection?** First, I think you have to be certain that you enjoy what you do, whether it is as a laboratory scientist or as a scientist working in an office or food production plant. You might enjoy the lab and not the factory or perhaps the reverse – find a niche that makes you happy to come to work each day. Second, take time to learn – food processing and food safety is not learned in the classroom, it is heavily dependent on experience – take time to get that experience

**Where do you work? What is your job title?** I am the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. My primary office is in the college's main administration building, but my laboratories are in the Department of Food Science's Stocking Hall.

**If you do research, What are your research goals?, If you do not do research, Please describe your job responsibilities.** I am the chief academic and administrative officer of Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. As such, I am responsible for developing and implementing the strategic direction of the college, which has about 360 faculty, 500 non-professorial academics, 140 postdoctoral associates, 1,300 staff, more than 3,500 undergraduate and 900 graduate students. In addition, I work with an outstanding research team. The overall objective of our work is to understand the factors – genetic and physiological - that enable bacteria to be transmitted through foods to humans. Our more fundamental work investigates the genetic mechanisms used by *Listeria monocytogenes* to respond to and survive changing environmental conditions and subsequently, to express virulence factors essential for pathogenesis. On the applied side, our team examines the bacterial microflora transmitted from farm to refrigerator in dairy products.

**What do you enjoy the most about your job?** The most satisfying aspect of my work is the opportunity it affords to create an environment that enables my students, staff and colleagues to achieve their intellectual potential. It is tremendously rewarding to help launch a young person's career. I love making things happen.

**In three sentences, What advice do you have for young scientists and professionals in the field of Food Safety/Protection?** Pursue opportunities when they come along – and don't be afraid to take calculated risks, in terms of exploring career avenues that are not mainstream. Take full advantage of professional meetings - walk up to other scientists and ask them about their work, regardless of the person's title or reputation. And finally, it helps a great deal to love what you do for a living – that makes going to work a pleasure.

## Announcements

### Symposium

The Student PDG is hosting a symposium at the IAFP 2012 annual meeting in Rhode Island, entitled *Tales from the Food Safety World: A Collection of Extraordinary Stories From Our Profession*. This symposium will showcase a collection of interesting and exciting stories from the food safety world. It will be an interactive symposium and chosen speakers will present topics from a variety of areas within food safety. Topics will be presented in a manner that may "gross" attendees out, will provide multiple opportunities for "I didn't know that!" moments, and will encourage audience participation, all leading to a very engaging symposium.

### Conveners

Clyde Manuel (North Carolina State University), and Dawn Terrell (Bentley Instruments, Inc., Chaska, MN)

### Speaker Information and Tentative Presentation Titles

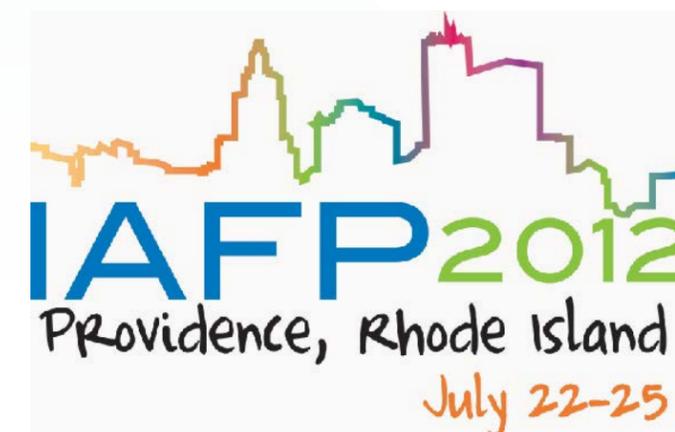
1. The Case of the Numb Nuts: Unsavory Toxins in a Savory Snack Food, **Paul Hall**, AIV Microbiology & Food Safety Consultants, Inc, Overland Park, KS.
2. Tales from BarfBlog: Weird Stories from the Front Lines, **Benjamin Chapman**, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
3. Behind Kitchen Doors: Tales From Your Local Health Inspector, **Jeannine Riess**, Environmental Health Services, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.
4. Tales from the Chicken Coop: Case Studies in *Salmonella* Reduction in Poultry Plants, **Scott Russell**, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
5. Spicing Up *Salmonella* Diversity: Reflections from Studies in Mexico and Honduras, **Mindy Brashears**, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.
6. Taking One for the Team: A Historical Perspective on Human Challenge Studies, **Mark Carter**, QC Laboratories, Southampton, PA.

### Elections

Do you want to be a Student PDG officer? Here is your opportunity! We invite you to nominate yourself or a colleague to run for vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, or social chair. Remember, the vice-chair position consists in a two-year commitment, as the vice-chair will assume the position of Chair the following year. Please send your nominations to Chip Manuel, [csmanuel@ncsu.edu](mailto:csmanuel@ncsu.edu)

### Student Travel Scholarships

The IAFP recognizes that students from around the world are the future leaders in the field of food safety. For the 2012 program year, a minimum of eight qualified students will be supported to attend IAFP 2012, to be held July 22–25 in Providence, Rhode Island. The applications must be submitted by February 28<sup>th</sup>. For more information please visit our website: [www.foodprotection.org/students/student-travel-scholarship/index.php](http://www.foodprotection.org/students/student-travel-scholarship/index.php)



For more information about the IAFP annual meeting please visit: <http://www.foodprotection.org/events/iafp-annual-meeting/>