Director

Diane Gannon graduated from The Ohio State University College of Agriculture with a degree in food science and technology. Her professional pathway and passion in the food processing industry kept directing her toward wheat, wheat milling, and analytical testing. Her career in cereals began with creating quality systems, quality testing methods, and flour mill vendor approval for Mountain Top Frozen pies in Columbus, OH. She went on to serve Nabisco in Toledo, OH, for 29 years as their flour mill quality systems and laboratory manager. She provided leadership in the company’s Flour Performance Task Force and the Kraft Flour Optimization Teams, serving as coordinator for local research activities to develop quality processes and analytical testing programs to support business needs. In addition, Diane partnered with Nabisco’s procurement and research groups to identify wheat cultivars and understand how their functional components could be optimized to meet the business needs of the Nabisco Toledo flour mill and grain procurement. Diane is named a co-inventor of two patented processes for fine-ground whole wheat flour.

Diane currently serves the food industry as a technical resource through her consulting business, with a focus on wheat flour functionality, quality systems for milling and baking operations, and analytical testing to support those systems. She has cochaired the AACC International Soft Wheat and Flour Products Committee for the past five years, served as the AACC International Cincinnati Section president, and assisted the USDA Soft Wheat Quality Laboratory in Wooster, OH, as an industry liaison with Kraft Foods and Nabisco.

Diane’s Views. The food processing world keeps turning, while the global market and the professionals working in cereal-based foods continue to become more diverse in their disciplines, yet intertwined. AACC International must be ready to integrate into this changing world, and migrate its programs, policies, and focus to support all individual contributors who collectively make the science behind our industry thrive. Although individuals may shine, it is through and with others that we can be successful in sustaining the world’s food supply.

My career successes have been achieved through my ability to understand and embrace objectives and be flexible, while providing strong direction for my team. I hope to continue to apply these skills for AACC International in a leadership role on the Board of Directors. I look forward to being an advocate for AACC International’s mission, vision, and programs and see my role as twofold:

Support the AACC International strategy by identifying innovative ways to strengthen AACC International’s business system partnerships between its members and other sectors of our industry globally.

Be an active champion for our association’s sustainability by reaching out to educational institutions to “spread the gospel,” so to speak, about what cereal chemistry and its processing sciences and AACC International can offer scientists in their career paths.

AACC International programs, publications, and members have been my foundation for scientific, professional, and technical support. While businesses and markets have changed, AACC International needs to continue to exist to promote new science and advocate the proven and unproven scientific tools for the professional’s toolbox, so scientists can achieve success and perpetuate the cereal and grain industry.

President-Elect

Dave Braun is senior account executive at Firebird Artisan Mills and has been employed in the flour milling industry for more than 35 years. During his career, Dave has worked in sales, marketing, business development, quality assurance, and various flour mill positions. Dave earned a B.S. degree in business administration and an MBA from the University of Findlay in Findlay, OH. Dave has been an active member of AACC International since joining in 1995. He is the current AACC International treasurer, the Finance Committee chair, and a Foundation Board member. Previously, Dave has held positions as chair, treasurer, secretary, and advisory board member for the Milling and Baking Division and as program chair for the Milling and Baking Spring Technical Conference. He has also held positions as chair, treasurer, and secretary for the Cincinnati Section. Dave has been a strong supporter of the Student Division, has served as a judge for the Student Product Development Competition, and is assisting with outreach development to bring new members to AACC International. Dave is an active member in a number of other professional and community-based organizations as well.

Dave’s Views. As a current member of the AACC International Board of Directors, it has been exciting to see the changes that have been put into motion that will help us grow and prosper for years to come. There’s a car marketing slogan, “It’s not your father’s Oldsmobile,” and in that same vein, we are not yesterday’s AACC International. The audience and landscape have changed—some may say for the good or for the bad, but they have changed. We, as an organization, need to adapt to these changes or be left behind. The pace at which things change today is faster than ever, and maintaining the position of the association as the relevant frontrunner in cereal science grows more challenging every year. If we are not “kicking the tires” on a regular basis, we will find that complacency will choose our path for us.

AACC International has a great message and brand, and we need to continue to build on our current audience and on new audiences, whether they are related to cereal sciences or to new global regions. Reaching out to new partners is our mission, to provide and exchange knowledge and advance innovations across the broad disciplines of cereal science by facilitating research, education, collaboration, technical service, and advocacy efforts. “Create Opportunities” is the first part of our mission statement—opportunities for people to get involved, to realize what an asset the AACC International organization and its members are. We are more than just a scientific society; we are in many cases family, friends, and colleagues bound by a common thread—a keen interest in grain science and industry. We are an organization that fosters relationships, collaborations, and friendships. We need to continue to provide opportunities where our members, old and new, have time to interact and form relationships that in many cases will last a lifetime.

Just because it’s the way we have always done it is not a good enough reason in today’s environment. It is an honor and a privilege to be nominated as a president-elect candidate. I have a real passion for the continued success of this organization. There is an audience out there who still does not know who we are, and that’s the audience we need to reach and recruit, while maintaining our current members.

I have enjoyed my membership and the opportunity to serve over the past 22 years or so and will continue to do so. I look forward to the opportunity to change a few tires.