



Wisconsin Section  
Institute of Food Technologists

# Wisconsin IFT News

December 2021

## President's Message

As this is my first letter as President of the Wisconsin section of the Institute of Food Technologists, I wanted to introduce myself to the group. My name is Kara Mikkelson-Baldus and I am currently the Food Safety Program Manager at Hydrite in Brookfield, WI. My background is in food safety and microbiology and I often respond to people with the standard microbiologist answer "it depends because it's complicated." This past year for WIFT has been a bit complicated. We have been working behind the scenes, working virtually on internal organizational structure and procedures, formalizing documentation to allow easier onboarding for those willing to participate on the WIFT board. It has had its challenges, but the system and the board will be better for it. It is an exciting time to be a part of the WIFT board.

I'd like to take this opportunity to outline a few events that were held and will be held in 2021 and 2022. First, we were unable to have our Student Night for the second year in a row but were still able to award the scholarships to a talented group of students. Please see the overview of their impressive resumes later in the newsletter. We are hopeful that our Student Night will be able to be held in April or May of 2022. The date is to be determined and of course must be flexible given the uncertain circumstances. As I said, it depends.

We were able to hold our 2021 WIFT golf outing at the Western Lakes Golf Club in Pewaukee, WI on Thursday, September 21, 2021. Through your support, we were able to raise \$15,000 for our student scholarships. It was a fun time and a great turn out. We are planning our 2022 golf outing for Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at Western Lakes Golf Club. Mark your calendar!

We will be hosting a volunteer night at the Lakefront Brewery in Milwaukee, WI on Thursday, January 20, 2022 from 5:30-9 p.m. The event will include dinner and a brewery tour (for the first 30 people). Check your email for an invitation!

As always, if you have any ideas or want to get involved, I encourage you to reach out to my email listed below. And finally, a big thank you for continuing to support the Wisconsin IFT.



Best Regards,

**Kara Baldus**

President, Wisconsin IFT  
president@wisconsinift.org

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## 2021-2022 WIFT Board



**Kara Mikkelson-Baldus**  
President  
Hydrite



**Jake Parr**  
Past President  
Food Safety Net Services



**Skyler Kontio**  
Treasurer  
Kelly Supply



**Sean McCormack**  
Secretary  
JCB Flavors



**Laura Williams**  
Director-at-Large  
First Choice Ingredients



**Caitlin Donohue**  
Director-at-Large  
Deerland Probiotics & Enzymes

## Welcome New Board Members



**Brad Day**  
Director-at-Large  
Food Safety Net Services



**Mat Bartkowiak**  
Director-at-Large  
Nelson-Jameson, Inc.



**Ligia da Cunha Moreira, Ph.D.**  
Student Representative  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



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## 2021 WIFT Scholarship Winners

Each year WIFT host Student Night to award and support Wisconsin-based student in food science and related fields. While we weren't able to host Student Night this year, we're thrilled for the opportunity to continue supporting our hard-working students through the scholarship program. Please congratulate our WIFT 2021 scholarship winners.



**Mallory Brask**  
Graduate Student  
University of Wisconsin - Stout



**Sam VanWees**  
PhD Student  
University of Wisconsin - Madison



**Zoe Sullivan Atkins**  
Undergraduate Student  
University of Wisconsin - Madison



**Myder Yang**  
Graduate Student  
University of Wisconsin - Stout



**Cameron Wicks**  
Undergraduate Student  
University of Wisconsin - Madison

## Upcoming Events 2022

As we look ahead to 2022, we're looking to safely plan industry events to network with industry colleagues, expand our food technology knowledge and raise money to support WIFT scholarships. Below are the events we have planned so far. To stay up to date on additional event details, follow our social channels and emails for further communication.



**Lakefront Brewery Volunteer Event**  
Thursday, January 20, 2022  
5:30 - 9:00 pm  
Register here: [eventbrite.com/e/wift-volunteer-networking-event-and-dinner-tickets-224375161147](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wift-volunteer-networking-event-and-dinner-tickets-224375161147)



**WIFT Annual Golf Outing**  
Tuesday, September 20, 2022  
Western Lakes Golf Club  
westernlakes.com



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## Sponsor Appreciation

Thank you to all of our sponsors for the 2021 WIFT Golf Outing! We appreciate your support of our scholarship and look forward to another golf outing next September!

2021 Sponsors

### Gold Sponsors



### Silver Sponsors



### Hole Sponsors



### STAY CONNECTED

To stay connected, visit [wisconsinift.org](http://wisconsinift.org) and follow our social channels.



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