



*Mid Hudson Food & Wine Society*  
*2024 Scholarship Recipient*  
*Jillian Swain*

MID-HUDSON FOOD AND WINE SOCIETY - JILLIAN SWAIN

Dear Mid-Hudson Food and Wine Society members,



I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing with profound gratitude for the remarkable honor and support you have graciously extended to me through the 2024 scholarship for the Culinary Institute of America. Accepting this scholarship fills me with immense appreciation as I recognize the significant impact it will have on my educational journey and future aspirations.

Your generosity goes beyond financial assistance; it serves as a symbol of belief and encouragement in my pursuit of a bachelor's degree in food business management with Baking and Pastry Arts at the Culinary Institute of America. This invaluable support not only eases my financial burden but also reflects your confidence in my dedication and potential within the culinary field.

The scholarship holds a pivotal role in allowing me to concentrate on my studies without the weight of financial stress. With this support, I can invest in resources, educational materials, and experiences that will enrich my learning. Additionally, it alleviates the financial constraints associated with pursuing higher education, enabling me to fully immerse myself in the program and seize every opportunity.

Your belief in my dreams and aspirations is deeply meaningful. With your support, I am more motivated than ever to excel academically, expand my knowledge in food business management, refine my skills in baking and pastry arts, and find my voice. I am not only committed to making the most of this educational opportunity but also aspire to contribute positively to the culinary community in the future.

Please extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in the selection process and to all the members of the Mid-Hudson Food & Wine Society.

Your generosity and belief in aspiring culinary professionals like me are truly priceless. I assure you that I will work diligently, strive for excellence, and make the most of this incredible opportunity that you have bestowed upon me.

Once again, thank you for believing in me and supporting my educational endeavors. I am deeply honored and humbled to be a recipient of the 2024 scholarship, and I am dedicated to making the most of this opportunity.

With sincere thanks and warm regards,

Jillian Swain [jillian.r.swain@cia.culinary.edu](mailto:jillian.r.swain@cia.culinary.edu)



**Please share your story. Describe what inspired you, including any early experiences (if applicable), to come to the CIA and pursue a career in the foodservice and hospitality industry.**

When I reflect on my journey, I can identify specific moments that led me down this path. Fond memories emerge of baking pizzelles and biscotti with my mother during the holidays, using recipes passed down from her grandmother. I also cherish the evenings spent making pizza dough with my father and sister on Friday nights.

In essence, it's a combination of these experiences that first piqued my interest in baking and pastry. But it wasn't until I embarked on my first semester of bakeshop classes at The Culinary Institute of America that I truly realized this was my calling. Learning from seasoned professionals and my peers, discovering the endless possibilities, the sense of accomplishment derived from practice and achieving the desired results, and the joy on people's faces as they tasted my creations – all of this was unlike any other feeling.

**Please describe any challenges you have had to overcome to pursue or complete your education. If there have been challenges specific to the pandemic that have put obstacles in the way of you pursuing your education, please provide details.**

I've been actively working on finding my voice, starting with addressing smaller concerns. This way, when more urgent matters need to be shared, I'll be better equipped to notify my team of the issue. A good starting point, for me, is simply allowing my thoughts to be shared. Accepting this scholarship holds profound significance in this journey, serving as a cornerstone for expressing my gratitude and thoughts freely, particularly in an environment where I won't be judged for speaking my mind. I am genuinely and extremely grateful for the generosity of the scholarship donors. Your support not only aids my education but also empowers me to embrace my authentic voice. This act of benevolence amplifies my determination to contribute meaningfully to my field and the community at large.

**What program are you currently enrolled in?** Bachelor's degree in food business management with the Baking and Pastry Arts track

**What is your expected graduation date for your current program?** 2025

**Please list the name of the location where you have completed, will complete, or hope to complete your externship or internship.**

Kalahari Resorts and Conventions