



## 2009 Roger Briess Scholarship Awarded

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CHILTON, WISCONSIN— Alberto Jiménez-Díaz, a graduate student in the School of Food Systems at North Dakota State University, is the second recipient of the Roger Briess Scholarship presented through the American Society of Brewing Chemists Foundation.

Alberto received a B.S. Degree in Food Technology and Engineering with a minor in Business from ITESM Monterrey Tech. He is now completing his M.S. Degree in Cereal Science at NDSU and has plans to continue with a Ph.D. in the same field. A project he and the school's Barley Malt Quality Lab are working on intends to find out when the diastatic power of barley malt becomes a limiting factor in the amount of extract obtained in the wort, and the fermentability of that sweet wort.

Alberto explained that his interest in brewing dates back to his childhood. "My dad, a great chemical engineer and brewmaster, used to work for a brewery and I remember going with him on weekends when I was a kid," he said. "I believe the sweet aroma of the malt being mashed got into me ever since. Years later, it is a pleasure to do research aiming to improve malt quality in order to obtain the best beer. I really thank Briess Malt & Ingredients Co. for this scholarship. It is a great stimulus and a commitment to continue working hard in the lab."

The Roger Briess Scholarship was established to help keep alive Mr. Briess's commitment to malting and brewing. Roger Briess was a fourth generation brewer/maltster. From 1971 until his death in 2001, he was president of the family business that had been started in 1876 in Czechoslovakia by his great-grandfather, Ignatius Briess. Highly skilled in his trades, Mr. Briess was above all else a visionary who, in the 1970s, recognized the potential and unique needs of the young American craft brewing industry. Under his leadership the family business greatly expanded its specialty malt and malt extract product lines, and introduced innovations like 50-pound packaging and pilot brewing services for small and upstart breweries. Mr. Briess's energy and enthusiasm were contagious, and propelled the family business into its current position as North America's leading producer of specialty malts for the craft brewing industry. Today, Monica Briess, wife of the late Roger Briess, is CEO of Briess Industries Inc., which remains one of the few family-owned malting companies in the world.

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