

**Our First Meritorious Inductee into the Class of 2013 is:  
Benjamin E. Wolfe**

Throughout high school, Benjamin was involved in a host of academic and extracurricular activities. On the academic front, he was consistently a member of the honor society and received high grades in all areas of his study. Ben was a member of the gifted program and in his junior year he attended the Pennsylvania's Governors School for Agricultural Sciences. He took his expertise and passion for the sciences and created an outdoor classroom as his senior project. Ben's goal for the outdoor classroom was to provide an active setting in which future students could experience and learn about biology and related environmental sciences occurrences.

To balance his academic studies, Ben harnessed his natural "musical ear" and learned to play the trombone. He was a member of the award winning Lake-Lehman High School Band starting in junior high and was an active member in the marching band, concert band, jazz band, and indoor guard throughout high school. Ben went on to achieve the accomplishments of playing in district, regional, state and all-eastern honors band (hosted at Carnegie Hall)

Ben is a microbiologist/mycologist at Harvard University, specializing in the microbiology of fermented foods. He has a B.Sc. from Cornell University and a M. Sc. from the University of Guelph. He earned a Ph.D. from Harvard University in December 2010 studying the ecology and evolutionary origins of mushroom-forming fungi.

He is currently a post-doctoral fellow with Rachel Dutton at Harvard's FAS Center for Systems Biology. He is working on several cheese microbiology projects including the ecology and genomics of staphylococci isolated from cheese rinds, high-throughput DNA sequencing methods for measuring fungal biodiversity in cheese rinds, and comparative genomics of the fungus *Geotrichum candidum*. Ben is a Scientific Advisor for Long Island Mycological Club, Long Island, NY and is also a Scientific Advisor for Momofuku Test Kitchen, New York City and has appeared on the PBS special to talk about his consulting work. Ben has taught food microbiology courses at San Francisco Cheese School, the Harvard Summer School and is a contributor to Lucky Peach magazine and numerous other published works.

Some of Ben's most recent honors include:

2010: Bowdoin Prize for Graduate Essays in the Natural Sciences, Harvard University

2007: Derek Bok Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University

2005: Soil Ecology Meeting – Student Oral Presentation Award (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)

2004-2009 : National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

2003: Richard Church Senior Service Award, Cornell University

2002: Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Research Scholar, Cornell University

2001-2002: Morris K. Udall Foundation Scholarship in National Environmental Policy

Accepting for Ben Wolfe is Ginny Ide