

# **NAS/IUSSI**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **August 23, 2008**

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#### **NAS/IUSSI Officers**

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President: Marla Spivak

President-elect: Blaine Cole

Past President: Bob Vander Meer

Secretary-Treasurer: Colin Brent

Archivist: Chris Starr

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Dear NAS members:

As my early-morning bicycle commute to work now necessitates a long cold shower afterward, it occurred to me that the time is ripe for a summer newsletter (and a better antiperspirant). The principal thrust of this missive is to get members signed up for the breakaway meeting in Puerto Rico. We had a bit of a hiccup in the registration process as various details were being worked out, but those issues have now been resolved. In particular, while you will register by email with the folks in PR, please send your registration checks to me (address below), payable to NAS/IUSSI. You can also pay any outstanding membership dues at the same time (form attached), or send donations to help fund student awards. We are ready and eager to get everyone to register for what promises to be a very fun meeting. And I want to remind all the interested but impoverished grad students and post-docs, or the impoverished advisors that would like to send their advisees but aren't sure about finances, that we still have travel awards available that are worth \$250 each. The percentage of grant applicants funded is significantly higher than with the NSF, so don't lose out on this great opportunity to pad your resume and your wallet.

Speaking of meetings, the Entomological Society of America early-bird registration deadline is September 19. There will be a short meeting of the NAS/IUSSI on the evening of Tuesday, November 18. Marla Spivak, our illustrious president, will be giving a brief presentation on her research followed by an equally succinct business meeting. And for conferences a bit further in the future, there is now a website online for the 2010 IUSSI conference in Copenhagen ([www.iussi.org/iussi2010](http://www.iussi.org/iussi2010)). Although the website content is still sparse, keep watching for updates over the next several months as they make some organizational strides.

I have also included the Eickwort and Nutting Award announcements. The nominations for these are in less than a month. Make sure that a deserving student doesn't go unrecognized because of poor time budgeting. Get those nominations into Kenna McKenzie today! OK, give yourself the weekend off, but after that...

Finally, it is my pleasure to report that the same anonymous benefactor that generously provided the principal funding for the Nutting Research Award has made another sizeable contribution with the promise of more to come. The intention is to allow the IUSSI to provide more substantial funding for the most promising termite research. Additional details of these developments will be made available at the NAS meetings in Puerto Rico and Reno.

Please let me know if you should have any announcements you would like to make about upcoming events, grants, scholarships, job postings or important developments. In addition to conveying the news by email, it will also be posted on our web page (<http://iussi.bees.net/>).

I hope you are all having an enjoyable and productive summer.

Colin

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## The North American Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects Announces its 2008 Breakout Meeting in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, USA

- **When?** October 24-27, 2008
  - **Where?** Mata de Plátano Field Station and Nature Reserve, Arecibo Puerto Rico
  - Call for papers and posters
    - Papers: 15 min talks (Power Point Presentations)
    - Posters 4'x3'
- NOTE: Limited spaces available for talks and posters

### Register by e-mail to [prbreakout@gmail.com](mailto:prbreakout@gmail.com)

Please include:

- Name
  - Institution
  - Type of Membership
  - Type of Presentation (Paper/ Poster)
  - Abstract (no more than 200 words)
- **Registration Fee:** \$150.00
    - Please make checks payable to NAS/IUSSI and send to:  
  
Colin Brent  
Research Entomologist  
US Department of Agriculture  
Arid-Land Agricultural Research Center  
21881 N. Cardon Lane  
Maricopa, AZ 85238
    - Includes:
      - Ground transportation between San Juan International Airport and the Station
      - Lodging (including tents, showers and bathroom facilities)
      - Food and drink at the station
    - Bring your sleeping bags
    - No on-site registration
    - **Extended Registration deadline is September 10, 2008.**
  - **Travel Awards**
    - Provided for 33 students or recently graduated post-docs who will be presenting at the meeting and are current members of IUSSI **(10 awards remain)**
    - Awardees will have their registration fee waived and will receive an additional \$100 towards travel expenses
    - Must submit an application letter signed by an advisor or department chair to:  
Tugrul Giray  
Department of Biology

University of Puerto Rico  
PO Box 23360  
San Juan, PR 00931  
or  
[prbreakout@gmail.com](mailto:prbreakout@gmail.com)

- **Tentative Program:**

- Friday – travel day; check in at Mata de Plátano, dinner and refreshments
- Saturday – morning and afternoon talks; business meeting; evening poster session
- Sunday – morning talks; trips (Arecibo Radio Telescope; bat cave); evening mixer
- Monday – travel day; breakfast, followed by departure for the airport or field trip to El Yunque Tropical Rain Forest and the Luquillo beach

**For more information** contact Tugrul Giray (787) 764-0000 x 7662 or at (787) 449 8522, Bert Rivera-Marchand (787) 279-1912 x2187 or the e-mail above

**Sponsors to date:**

Student Registration Awards: Center for Applied Tropical Ecology, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR.

Student Travel Awards: North American Section of the IUSSI.

Facilities: InterAmerican University, Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

Other Support: College of Natural Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: William L. and  
Ruth D. Nutting Student Research Award**  
***Due September 19, 2008***

**Purpose:** To support research by graduate students in the field of basic termite biology. The William L. and Ruth D. Nutting Award is named in honor of the late Bill Nutting, an outstanding termite biologist who made major contributions to termite biology, both through his own research and mentoring of students, and in honor of Ruth Nutting for her support of Bill's work.

**Nature:** For 2008, the award shall consist of a plaque and a research grant of \$1,000. The recipient of the award will be announced at the 2008 NAS/IUSSI meeting to be held in association with the ESA annual meeting Nov.16-19 in Reno, NV.

**Eligibility:** The award will be given to the NAS/IUSSI graduate student member, who in the opinion of the Nutting Award Committee, shows the most distinguished record of research and scholarly activity in the area of basic termite biology. Any student member of NAS/IUSSI may be nominated. The student shall not have received a Ph.D. or terminated studies earlier than 12 months prior to the award. Students continuing beyond a master's degree will remain eligible. Previous award recipients are not eligible for a second award.

**Nominations:** Nominations may be made by the student or by others familiar with her/his work. Each nomination must include in electronic form: name of the nominee; CV of the nominee; title and brief (not to exceed one page) description of the work; a short biographical sketch; reprints of up to *two* publications (published or accepted preferred, although submitted manuscripts and/or thesis/dissertation summary also accepted); and at least one letter of recommendation. If possible, a single PDF file containing all information except recommendation letter(s) would be preferred. ALL documents must be **received by** the Chair of the NAS/IUSSI Awards Committee by September 19, 2008: Kenna MacKenzie, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 32 Main St., Kentville, NS B4N 1J5 Canada; fax: 902-679-2311; e-mail: mackenziek@agr.gc.ca.

**Nutting Award Committee:** One member of the IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee with an expertise in Isoptera will chair the Nutting Award Committee. For this year, Michael Haverty will be the chair. The Nutting Award Selection Committee shall consist of five members, including Micheal Haverty, Kenna MacKenzie, Ruth Nutting, and two other members selected by the chair of the Nutting Award Committee.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: George C.  
Eickwort Student Research Award**  
***Due September 19, 2008***

**Purpose:** To recognize research by students in the field of social insect biology for graduate or undergraduate work accomplished in North America or by a student member of NAS/IUSSI pursuing studies elsewhere.

**Nature:** The award shall consist of a certificate, an honorarium, and a one-year subscription to *Insectes Sociaux*. The award will be presented at the 2008 NAS/IUSSI meeting to be held in association with the ESA annual meeting September 19, 2008 in Reno, NV.

**Eligibility:** The award will be given to the student who in the opinion of the award committee shows the most distinguished record of research and scholarly activity in the area of social insect biology. Any student doing work in North America or any student member of NAS/IUSSI may be nominated. The student shall not have received a PhD or terminated studies earlier than 12 months prior to the award. Students continuing beyond a baccalaureate or masters degree will remain eligible. Previous award recipients are not eligible for a second award.

**Nominations:** Nominations may be made by the student or by others familiar with his/her work. Each nomination must include in electronic form: name and curriculum vitae of the student nominee; title and brief description (not to exceed one page) of the research; reprints of no more than *five* publications or submitted manuscripts; biographical sketch of the nominee; and two letters of recommendation. If possible, a single PDF file containing all information except recommendation letters would be preferred. ALL documents must be **received by** the Chair of the NAS/IUSSI Eickwort Student Award Committee by September 19, 2008: Kenna MacKenzie, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 32 Main St., Kentville, NS B4N 1J5 Canada; fax: 902-679-2311; e-mail: mackenziek@agr.gc.ca

**Eickwort Award Committee:** Kenna MacKenzie (Chair), Phil Starks, Ulrich Mueller, Bryan Danforth, and Andrew Suarez.



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2008**

**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE  
STUDY OF SOCIAL INSECTS  
NORTH AMERICAN SECTION**



**Your dues must be received before the end of 2008**

Note: the NAS no longer handles subscriptions to *Insectes Sociaux*. Subscriptions are handled directly by the publisher, Birkhauser. For information contact [petra.stromberger@birkhauser.ch](mailto:petra.stromberger@birkhauser.ch)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW ADDRESS (ONLY IF NEW OR CHANGED SINCE 2007, PLEASE):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NEW TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE **CIRCLE** YOUR CHOICE BELOW

Regular Member: \$22.50

Student Member: \$9.00

Please add \$5.00 for Household Membership

Students – have your advisor or chair certify your status below

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Advisor's signature, printed name, & Title

\*\*Contributions (please include donations in your check and indicate amounts below):

- for student awards (Eickwort Award; Nutting Award; etc.): \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable (in US funds) to NAS/IUSSI (sorry, credit cards not accepted). Send it and this form to:

Colin Brent  
Research Entomologist  
Arid-Land Agricultural Research Center  
21881 North Cardon Lane  
Maricopa, Arizona 85239