

George C. Eickwort Student Research Award

This award is given in memory of George Eickwort and is designed to recognize exceptional research and scholarly activity by students in the field of social insect biology. The award consists of a certificate, an honorarium, and a one-year subscription to *Insectes Sociaux*. This year's Selection Committee consisted of Phil Starks, Andy Suarez, Heather Mattila and myself (Kenna MacKenzie). Many thanks to the other members for their assistance this year – it was a very difficult decision.

General Statement

This year the nominees for Eickwort Student Award were outstanding, and it was very difficult to narrow the field to just one individual. While we finally come up with the top two – we agreed that either individual was deserving of the award - we really had to work to come up with just one name. If it were allowed, we would have given two awards this year – it was just that close between the two top nominees. Thus, we would like to recognize a runner-up. Seth Ament, PhD (2010) in Neuroscience from the University of Illinois studied the relationship between nutrition and social behavior at the molecular level in honey bees in Gene Robinson's laboratory. He used a broad set of techniques and perspectives including field behavior, physiology, genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics, cis regulatory analysis and systems biology to address the problem, and was able to demonstrate the role of insulin in the timing of behavioral maturation. More recently Seth has been examining gene expression profiles in bees of different behavioral states. His accomplishments are many and as one of his references put it “Seth is the complete package. He is an extremely talented young scientist who has all the skills, talents and drive needed for success and possibly, stardom.” Our congratulations, Seth.

The North American Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects is proud to announce that **Barrett Klein, University of Texas** was selected as the recipient of the **2010 Eickwort Student Award**. Barrett is not only a gifted scholar, but also an exceptional teacher, valued contributor to science outreach and an exceptionally creative artist with a number of exhibits at galleries. After a ten year career in scientific outreach producing scientific documentaries, illustrating scientific objects and preparing exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History, Barrett began his graduate studies in 2000 concentrating on the role of sleep in social insects. Speaking of Barrett, one of his references stated “Barrett stood out as a leader and an inspiration in a cohort of outstanding graduate students” during his time at the University of Texas.

Barrett Klein was a student of Larry Gilbert and Ulrich Mueller at the University of Texas in Austin. For his graduate research, Barrett focused on the study of sleep in social insects examining both *Polistes* wasps and honey bees. This research is the first to explore the interaction between sleep, learning capacity and memory consolidation in a social insect. Carrying out this research was a challenge as Barrett had to secure all his own funding and find a research location as the University of Texas was not equipped for honey bee work. Barrett worked in Tom Seeley's laboratory at Cornell University and the BEEgroup at Universitat Wurzburg, Germany led by Jurgen Tautz. The results of this research are ground-breaking, demonstrating among other things that sleep-deprivation in honey bees impairs precise

communication. Indeed, as a graduate student, Barrett was already recognized as an international figure in the field of insect sleep! Barrett has received numerous awards including an NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant, a Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst Fellowship in 2008 (a highly competitive fellowship to carry research in Germany), and the Mitchell Award for Excellence in Graduate Research at UT-Austin, and is a sought out speaker on many topics. One of his references described Barrett as "...an unusually gifted, congenial and altruistic scholar, someone who truly lives and breathes the Eickwortian enthusiasm for research and teaching of insect behavior and morphology". The Award Committee agrees and is very pleased to announce that Barrett Klein is the recipient of the 2010 Eickwort Student Award.