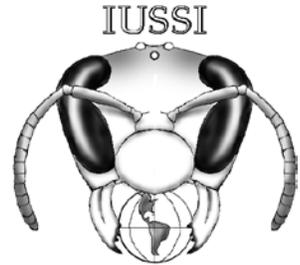


NORTH AMERICAN SECTION

# **NAS/IUSSI NEWSLETTER December 1, 2013**



NORTH AMERICAN SECTION

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## **NAS/IUSSI Officers**

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President: Colin Brent

President-elect: Christina Grozinger

Past President: Theresa Pitts-Singer

Secretary-Treasurer: Jay Evans

Web Master: Colin Brent

Archivist: Chris Starr

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Dear NAS members:

A blind pig and cake were highlights of this year's annual business meeting. We tried to get some Chinese acrobats and a juggling clown, but they were priced way outside our budget. We convened on December 12 during the ESA meeting in Austin, TX. If you haven't been to Austin before, it is worth the trip, especially if you like good food and music and a laid-back atmosphere (at least by the standards of Texas). The meeting was very well attended, and the room that I thought would be overly large when I made the reservation seemed inadequate to the task. I apologize to those of you who had to stand. I can only assume that such a crowd gathered to witness my famed oratory skills. I have been told that my combination of mumbling, awkward hand gestures and nervous ticks is not something to be missed.

Item one on the night's agenda was the treasurer's report, which is tacked on down below. In summary, Jay indicated that our balance sheet is healthy. Not triathlete healthy, but at least a daily brisk walk with the dogs healthy. Assuming that everyone renews their membership this year (this is especially important if you are or have a grad student/postdoc who plans on begging for funds), we should be able to dole out some serious Benjamins to help with travel awards for the upcoming IUSSI conference in Cairns, Australia. In other good news, the once withering stock in the Nutting fund has risen like a zombie and its belly has become distended on the "brains" of record corporate profits. It is now worth more than it had been prior to the financial crisis.

The second item discussed was a number of changes that have been made to our constitutional bylaws. Over the last five years, our section has gone through a number of changes in the way that it operates. Starting last year, the executive committee began making revisions to the constitution to reflect this new reality. First, the language throughout was made gender neutral. Second, the election process was revamped. Candidates are now selected by a representative committee (this year consisting of Mike Goodisman, Hollis Woodard and Mike Breed) that rotates by 1 member annually and is composed in such a way as to reflect the taxonomic breadth of social insects and where possible the diverse strengths of the membership. Third, the awards process is now governed by a committee (Sean O'Donnell, Terry McGlynn, Michelle Lanan) that is structured in the same way as the nominating committee. All three of these changes were discussed at the meeting then a show of hands passed each unanimously.

Our third item of business was that of awards. Thanks was given to the Financial Subcommittee of IUSSE, which awarded our section \$5000 that was used to support the travel of 10 students to the ESA meeting. In 2014, up to \$30,000 may be made available to our section by IUSSE so that we can sponsoring student travel to the Cairns Congress. An application for those funds will be out the door shortly. The Executive Committee will also pursue additional travel funding from NSF and USDA. Rebeca Rosengaus is looking into funding from corporate sources, like Terminix. There was a discussion of how much the section would like to spend of their projected treasury funds and how that money should be allocated. Given the high cost of the Congress (~\$3000!), it was generally agreed that we would spend the majority of our money, and that it would be partitioned out in substantial allotments to as many students as possible. Once travel awards were covered, Erin Cole (Northeastern Univ.), winner of the 2013 Nutting Grant, provided an overview of her funded work on transgenerational immunity in termites. Applications for the 2014 Nutting Grant will be due May 1.

Our fourth item of business concerned non-section IUSSE matters. First, individual travel grants may be made available to needy members for attending the upcoming Congress. A call for applications should go out early next year. They will also be soliciting nominations for the Hamilton Award around the same time. During the congress, they will also be looking to fill the posts of Secretary General (currently Joan Herbers) and editor of *Insectes Sociaux* (Johann Billen). Send any nominations along to the executive committee and we will forward them on to the higher powers. There is also a call for groups to begin organizing proposals to host the 2018 IUSSE Congress. Proposals will have to be presented in some detail in Cairns. If you find yourself already complaining about the meeting in Australia, and have a slightly masochistic streak you might be just the person to lead the organization effort on the next one.

The final topic of business was the announcement of the election results. Starting January 1, the Secretary/Treasurer (much deserving of your pity for the next three years) will be Karan Kapheim (kapheimk@illinois.edu), and the President-Elect will be Amy Toth (amytot@iastate.edu). Christina Grozinger (cmgrozinger@psu.edu) gets to push me aside as the new president. After I begrudgingly handed over the gavel, one last point of business was called for on the floor. One of our meeting attendees, Rob Page, was celebrating his birthday. Several of Rob's protégés banded together and snuck two birthday cakes and dozens of cupcakes past security into the meeting for everyone to share in celebration. Merriment was had by all, especially while singing a rousing round of "Happy Birthday to You." No, we did not pay Warner/Chappell Music the royalty fee, but it felt good being \$700 worth of naughty. Once we had a good sugar buzz going, we raced to the Blind Pig Pub to imbibe quantities of adult beverages and talk about our favorite social insects.

I would like to wrap up my term in office by saying what a pleasure and honor it has been serving all of you for the last several years. I have many fond memories to take away and hope that I have been able to give back some of the good that this organization has done for me. I would also like to thank Jay Evans for all his work on our collective behalves. I know that he is very eager to hand over the responsibility, and he has certainly earned the respite. Buy him a sympathy beer next time you see him.

Colin

## **2013 TREASURER'S REPORT: presented by Jay Evans**

Bank of America Checking	5,125
Wells Fargo checking (est.)	500
Paypal Balance	1,223
Transferred from Nutting, in progress	5,000
	<b>\$11,848</b>

### **Inputs**

	\$	#
Membership:		
Student	475	48
Full	2575	128
Family	35	7
Donations	432	
IUSSI Section Grant ESA travel	5000	
Grand Total In	<b>\$8517</b>	

### **Outputs:**

Student Support for ESA travel	5000
Eickwort Award	1000
Paypal fees	131
Total Out	<b>\$6131</b>

### **Nutting Fund Balance**

Wells Fargo Advisors Statement Sept 30, 2013	49,085
Debit for 2012 and 2013 Awards	5,000
Net Value	<b>\$44,085</b>