



2014 Jeffery P. La Fage Student Award for Research on Social Insect Pests

GENERAL STATEMENT

The LaFage award is given annually by the NAS/IUSSI to recognize a graduate student for innovative research that advanced or contributed significantly to the knowledge of the biology or control of a social insect species that is considered a pest. The award was established in memory of Dr. Jeffery Paul La Fage (1945-1989), a Professor of Entomology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Dr. La Fage studied the biology and control of the invasive subterranean termite *Coptotermes formosanus*. The award consists of a plaque and a \$500 honorarium. This year's NAS/IUSSI Awards Committee consisted of Sean O'Donnell (chair), Terry McGlynn, and Michele Lanan.

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

The committee is pleased to announce that **Karl Glastad** is the recipient of the 2014 LaFage award. Karl is a PhD student at the Georgia Institute of Technology, working in Mike Goodisman's lab. Karl is broadly interested in phenotypic plasticity, using termites and fire ants (both important social insect pests) as model systems. He combines genomic and epigenetic techniques to explore how environmental variation shapes diverse developmental outcomes. These approaches have strong potential to inform both basic biology and control methods for ecologically and economically important social insects. Karl has been successful at obtaining independent research funding from NSF, and he was last year's NAS/IUSSI Nutting research award winner. He has amassed an impressive publication record, with papers appearing in high-profile journals. A referee noted Karl, "is now truly an expert in insect science and genetics."