

NORTH AMERICAN SECTION

## NAS/IUSSI Winter Newsletter • November 25, 2015

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### NAS/IUSSI Officers

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President: Amy Toth  
President-elect: Sean O'Donnell  
Past President: Christina Grozinger

Secretary-Treasurer: Karen Kapheim  
Web Master: Colin Brent  
Archivist: Chris Starr

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Dear NAS/IUSSI members,

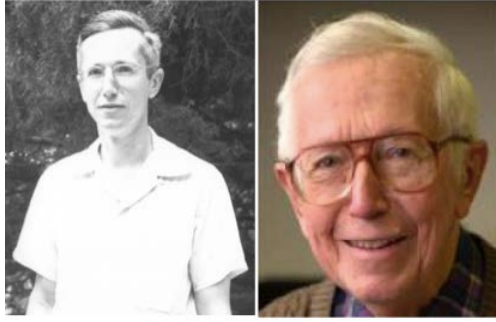
It has been an exciting and eventful year for the social insects community and members of the NAS/IUSSI.

In May 2015, close to 100 members of the social insect research community gathered at the Cold Spring Harbor meeting on the Biology and Genomics of Social Insects. This meeting was organized by Juergen Gadau, Guy Bloch, and myself. It featured talks and posters on the latest and greatest in social insect biology with a focus on genomics, from a refreshingly wide variety of social insect species. We also received generous conference support from the USDA and CSHL, which allowed us to provide travel grants to nearly 30 graduate student and postdoc participants.



Bob Jeanne (4<sup>th</sup> from right) and speakers for the symposium "Social wasps, the model 'non-model' organisms: Celebrating the Synergistic Contributions of Robert Jeanne" at the Entomological Society of America Meeting in November 2015.

Earlier this month (November 2015), social insect biologists had a strong presence at the Entomological Society of America meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Our members organized numerous symposia on bee health, social insect castes, genomics, and a special symposium (co-sponsored by the NAS/IUSSI) recognizing the contributions of Bob Jeanne to the study of social wasps. At the close of the symposium, Bob Jeanne (along with his wife Louise) announced a new fund to the IUSSI-NAS to support graduate student research on social wasps.



Charles Duncan Michener  
University of Kansas  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus and  
Emeritus Senior Curator, Biodiversity Institute  
(September 22, 1918 - November 1, 2015)

In addition to the many excellent symposia at ESA, we conducted our annual business meeting, summarized in the minutes below. The business meeting this year included a heartfelt tribute to eminent bee biologist Charles Michener, who recently passed away at the age of 97. This tribute featured photos, personal statements, and contributed words of remembrance from former students and colleagues. Thank you to our members for putting together such a meaningful tribute to Mich, whose legacy will live on through his impactful mentorship and foundational contributions to social insect biology.

Through generous donations, this year NAS/IUSSI was able to recognize three graduate students' excellent work with the Eickwort Award (to Sabrina Amador), Nutting and LaFage Awards (both to Qian Karen Sun), and the Tschinkel Award for Ant Research (to Brendan Boudinot). Thank you to our donors and congrats to these deserving students!

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all at the 2016 NAS/IUSSI section "breakout" meeting. It will be held in conjunction with the joint International Congress of Entomology/Entomological Society of America Meeting in Orlando, Florida in September 2016. Many social insect related symposia are already on the program, and along with the section meeting, this massive entomology mash-up promises to be a very stimulating meeting. Hope to see you there!

None of this year's happenings would have been possible without the energy and enthusiasm of our members and officers. It has been a pleasure working with the NAS/IUSSI officers (listed below) this past year—you're a hardworking and jovial bunch. I would like to especially thank our Secretary-Treasurer Karen Kapheim for her tireless and excellent work for the society!

And finally, a general thanks to NAS/IUSSI members for your participation in elections, symposia, conferences, meetings, and for being "highly social" at our business meeting after-party in Minneapolis (photos above).



Thanks for the opportunity to serve our great society! And congrats to our newly elected officers. I'll let Sean take it from here. Wasps rule (yet again)!

With wasplove,  
Amy Toth  
President, NAS/IUSSI  
amytoth@iastate.edu

*From the Secretary/Treasurer:*

Dear NAS/IUSSI members,

Below are the minutes of our section business meeting held at the Entomological Society of America meeting in Minneapolis, MN.

***NAS/IUSSI Section Meeting at ESA 2015***

*Tuesday November 17 7:30-8:30pm*

*Meeting Room 200D, Minneapolis Convention Center*

*Minneapolis, MN*

Officers in attendance: Karen Kapheim (Sec-Treas), Amy Toth (President), Sean O'Donnell

*Members in attendance: ~90*

Call to order (Amy Toth) 7:32 pm

I. Conference Reminders (Amy Toth)

a. ESA/ICE 2016

Next year's Entomological Society of America (ESA) meeting will be held in conjunction with the International Congress for Entomology (ICE) in Orlando, FL 9/25-9/30, 2016. It will feature many symposia related to social insect biology, and the plenary speaker will be Rob Page (Arizona State U).

**Abstract Deadline February 1, 2016**

A list of symposia can be found at the following website:

<http://ice2016orlando.org/scientific-program/symposia/>

b. NAS/IUSSI breakout meeting 2016

This is also the year we would traditionally hold our NAS breakout meeting. These meetings are typically smaller, single-session meetings that allow for more intimate discussions and sharing. The NAS membership voted last year to combine our breakout meeting with ESA/ICE. We will hold a one-day meeting at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando the day before ESA/ICE. The Rosen Plaza is close to the conference center and has many restaurants nearby. The cost will be very low – from \$0-\$25 per person. We will feature 1-2 plenary speakers, and a mix of student/professor talks and posters in a single session throughout the day. Discussion centered on the question of how to choose talks. Several members supported the idea of following a datablitz format, featuring 3-5 minute talks. We also discussed having a social the night before the meeting when folks are arriving in Orlando. Stay tuned for more details (such as abstract deadlines, announcement of plenary speakers, etc.) on the NAS/IUSSI website and listserve.

c. 2018 IUSSI International Congress – Brazil

The next international congress will be held in Guarujá, Brazil in 2018.

II. Treasurer's report and membership update (Karen Kapheim)

<b>Accounts</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>As of Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bank of America Business checking	\$ 6,736.05	11/13/15	see below
Paypal	\$ 1,052.99	11/13/15	I transfer \$500 per month to our BofA account
Wells Fargo Investments (brokered by Doug Bowcock)			We have earned \$2,182.06 on these funds so far this year.
Nutting Award Fund	\$ 42,380.79	10/31/15	Stocks, Capital Income MF, American Balanced MF, cash
La Fage Award Fund	\$ 14,329.88	10/31/15	Dodge & Cox Balanced MF + cash
Tschinkel Award Fund	\$ 19,780.66	10/31/15	Allianz MF + cash
<b>Total Net Worth</b>	<b>\$ 84,280.37</b>		
<b>Bank of America Balance Sheet</b>			
<b>Starting balance</b>			<b>\$ 8,981.05</b>
<b>Inflows</b>			
Paypal transfers			\$ 1,000.00
Membership check deposits			\$ 240.00
Transfer from Wells Fargo (Glastad La Fage Award)			\$ 500.00
Donation to Nutting fund (Mike Haverty)			\$ 200.00
		<b>Total inflows</b>	<b>\$ 1,940.00</b>
<b>Outflows</b>			
<b>Awards</b>			
Eickwort Award (Lawson)			\$ 1,000.00
La Fage Award (Glastad)			\$ 500.00
Nutting Award (Sun)			\$ 2,000.00
Tschinkel Award (Boudinot) – hasn't been cashed			* \$2,000.00
Facilities fees for 2015 business mtg (Doubletree hotel, Portland)			\$ 485.00
Transfer donation to Wells Fargo (Nutting fund)			\$ 200.00
		<b>Total outflows</b>	<b>\$ 4,185.00</b>
		<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>\$ (2,245.00)</b>
			<b>\$ 6,736.05</b>

## Membership (1/1/15-11/13/15)

Membership dues	
Regular (71 memberships)	\$ 1,440.00
Student (41 memberships)	\$ 415.00
Household (2 memberships)	\$ 50.00
Donations	\$ 130.00
	<b>Total Membership</b>
	<b>Dues</b> <b>\$ 1,905.00</b>

\* 33 new members added to the listserv

\* Note that not all those that registered for membership paid dues.

- III. *Insectes Sociaux* Update (Mike Breed)
  - a. Royalties from our society journal go to the main IUSI, and are distributed to the sections to support breakout meetings and student travel awards. It is therefore in our best interest to elevate the status of *Insectes Sociaux* as much as possible. The impact factor recently dropped from above 1 to just slightly below 1. The Editorial board has implemented a few strategies to try to improve the impact factor and turnaround time. Please consider following submitting your research and (especially) review articles to *Insectes Sociaux*. Also, consider following the new blog ([www.insectessociaux.com](http://www.insectessociaux.com)). You can now 'like' us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/InsectesSociaux/?ref=bookmarks>) and follow us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/inssociaux>).
- IV. Student Awards (Terry McGlynn)
  - a. Eickwort Award – **Sabrina Amador**
  - b. Nutting Award – **Qian Karen Sun**
  - c. La Fage Award – **Qian Karen Sun**
  - d. Tschinkel Award – **Brendan Boudinot**
  - e. Thanks to the awards committee – **Terry McGlynn, Michele Lanan, Stephen Pratt.**
- V. Election Results (Hollis Woodard)
  - a. President-Elect – **Olav Rueppell**
  - b. Awards Committee – **Chris Smith**
  - c. Nominations Committee – **Jennifer Jandt**
  - d. We had very high turnout for our recent elections. Thanks to the Nominations Committee – **Sarah Kocher, Hollis Woodard, Mike Goodisman**
- VI. Tribute to Charles Michener (Amy Toth)
  - a. Charles Michener died November 1, 2015. We heard from former students Mike Breed, John Wenzel, Bryan Danforth, Sydney Cameron. They shared memories and stories of their time with Dr. Michener. Deborah Smith also shared thoughts from his colleagues at University of Kansas. Noah Wilson-Rich and Gene Robinson contributed perspective on how Dr. Michener influenced their own careers. Many contributed pictures.
- VII. Transfer of the gavel to the new President Sean O'Donnell

- a. Tremendous amount of thanks to Amy Toth for all of her hard work as President.

Adjourn 8:31 pm

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns about the society or your membership. Also, it is never too late to pay your [membership](#) dues!

Sincerely,  
Karen Kapheim  
Secretary-Treasurer, NAS/IUSSI  
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