



2015 Jeffery P. La Fage Student Award for Research on Social Insect Pests

GENERAL STATEMENT

The LaFage award is given annually by the NAS/IUSSE 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/IUSSE Awards Committee consisted of Terry McGlynn (chair), Michele Lanan and Stephen Pratt.

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

The committee is pleased to announce that **Qian “Karen” Sun** is the recipient of the 2015 LaFage award. Karen is a Ph.D. student at the University of Kentucky, advised by Dr. Xuguo “Joe” Zhou. Karen’s dissertation focused on the biology of corpse management in termites, with an emphasis on behavioral, chemical, and evolutionary mechanisms in *Reticulitermes flavipes*. Her work has highlighted the importance of efficient and effective eradication of dead workers in social insect colonies, and her development of this research program advances our basic understanding of pestiferous social insects that contributes to the broader discipline.