



## **2016 Robert L. and Louise B. Jeanne Social Wasp Research Grant**

### **Recipient - *Cameron Fay***

This grant was endowed by Robert and Louise Jeanne to encourage graduate student research into any aspect of the basic biology of social wasps. It is given to the student whose research has the greatest potential to make a substantive contribution to our understanding of the basic biology of the social wasps.

The winner of the 2016 Robert L. and Louise B. Jeanne Social Wasp Research Grant is **Cameron Fay**. He will receive a \$2,500 grant to support his proposed research. Cameron is a member of the IUSSI and holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in bioinformatics and computational biology under the direction of Asst. Prof. Amy Toth at Iowa State University. Cameron's Jeanne Research Grant proposal is entitled "Development of gene knockdown methods to study the genetic underpinnings of behavioral dominance in *Polistes fuscatus*." In it he proposes a novel plan to use RNA interference technology to test a hypothesis about the impact of a key target gene on dominance behavior. His research promises to advance the application of this technique to the study of adult wasp behavior and to provide important new insights into the genetic basis of an important behavioral component of eusociality. The committee agreed that this work is highly deserving of the award, and Cameron is well qualified to carry it out successfully.