

The IUSSI Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2016 winners of the Nutting, Jeanne, and Tschinkel awards. The committee consisted of Stephen Pratt, Terry McGlynn, and Chris Smith.

2016 William L. and Ruth D. Nutting Research Grant:

Mark Janowiecki

This award is named in honor of the late Bill Nutting and his ever-supportive wife Ruth. Bill was an outstanding termite biologist who made major contributions to termite biology, both through his own research and mentoring of students. The award's purpose is to support research by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the field of basic termite biology.

The winner of the 2016 William L. and Ruth D. Nutting Research Grant is **Mark Janowiecki**. He will receive a \$2,500 grant to support his proposed research. Mark is a member of the IUSSI and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Entomology, from Ohio State University and the University of Arkansas, respectively. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in entomology under the direction of Prof. Ed Vargo at Texas A&M University. Mark's Nutting Research Grant proposal is entitled "Inter- and intra-specific interactions in subterranean termites, *Reticulitermes*." In it he proposes to map colony boundaries of different *Reticulitermes* species and to determine the degree of aggression between colonies of the same and different species, as well as to assess patterns of avoidance behavior in field colonies that may minimize agonistic encounters. Mark has produced a compelling and well laid out research plan to answer a fundamental biological question that also has strong potential to contribute to improved control of termite pests. For these reasons, the awards committee was pleased to choose Mark as the recipient of the 2016 Nutting award.

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

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.

2016 Tschinkel Ant Natural History Research Grant:

Brian Haney

The Tschinkel Fund was set up by Walter and Victoria Tschinkel to encourage graduate student research into basic natural history and biology of ants (in the broad sense), areas that have often been neglected.

The winner of the 2016 Tschinkel Ant Natural History Research Grant is **Brian Haney**. He will receive a \$2,500 grant to support his proposed research. Brian is a member of the IUSSI and holds a Bachelor's degree from Trinity College in San Antonio, Texas, awarded in 2008. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Animal Behavior at Arizona State University in Tempe, under the direction of Prof. Jennifer Fewell. Brian's Tschinkel Grant proposal is entitled "The evolution and function of cooperation in unrelated ant queens." In it he proposes an impressive and well-designed plan to test the importance of resource availability to variation in reproductive output among monogynous and polygynous colonies of a behaviorally polymorphic species. Brian's proposal was judged the best of six strong candidates for its application of a rigorous experimental plan to a fundamental natural history question. With so many good proposals, the decision was not easy, but the committee agreed that Brian is the most worthy recipient of this year's Tschinkel Research Grant.