



IUSSI - North American Section

The Robert L. and Louise B. Jeanne Social Wasp Research Grant supports graduate student research into any aspect of the basic biology of social wasps. It is given annually to the student whose proposed research shows the greatest potential to make a substantive contribution to our understanding of this group. The winner of the 2017 Jeanne Grant is **Katherine Fiocca**, who will receive a \$2,300 grant to support her research. Katherine is a member of the IUSSI and holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Biology at Drexel University under the direction of Sean O'Donnell. Her Jeanne Grant proposal is entitled "Nutritional ecology of caste: stable isotope analysis of trophic levels and reproductive division of labor in adult social paper wasps (*Mischocyttarus mastigophorus*).” Her work will test the hypothesis that wasp castes differ in nutritional ecology, such that reproductives are fed from higher trophic levels. Her well-planned study will gather data simultaneously on dominance behavior, ovarian development, and the isotopic composition of wasps and their food. She plans a thorough analysis that examines tissue composition at multiple developmental stages and in the food brought in to the colony. The awards committee agreed that Katherine is well qualified to carry out this interesting project. Its melding of chemistry and biology will contribute to a better understanding of how caste distinctions emerge in social wasps.

IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee

Terry McGlynn and Stephen Pratt (Co-Chairs)

Rebecca Clark, Hongmei Li-Byarlay, Juliana Rangel, and Chris Smith