

IUSSI - North American Section

IUSSI-NAS Winter Newsletter

2017 IUSSI-NAS Officer:

President: Olav Rueppell

President-elect: Jay Evans

Past President: Sean O'Donnell

Secretary: Jenny Jandt

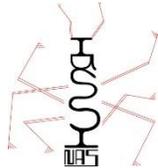
Treasurer: James Nieh

Archivist: Chris Starr

Dear Members of the North American Section of the IUSSI,

I consider the IUSSI with its taxonomic focus and interdisciplinary perspective my true academic home. So, it has been a true privilege to serve as the president of IUSSI-NAS over the past year! I have wondered how our society could better serve its members and a few things have come to mind. Since we all understand the power of swarm intelligence, I would like to invite every member to also think about how to improve our IUSSI-NAS and email me to give a comprehensive list to Jay Evans, who I know is going to be a very capable and dedicated incoming president. Even potential members that are deciding against an IUSSI-NAS membership might have some great ideas. After all, they must have some really good reasons for not joining. So please pass my invitation along!

As you can see above, some changes have taken place this year: We replaced our former IUSSI-NAS logo by popular vote and have adopted a more taxonomically inclusive and colorful one. This logo still does not represent the true diversity of our society and I want to clearly state that we may have to do better to encourage more diversity in all aspects. Nevertheless, I want to share also the other excellent submissions to the logo competition to show how much creative talent slumbers within our society. The actual winning entry on top of this page came from Andrew Hoadley working in James Traniello's lab at Boston University.



In addition, you may have spotted some additional changes in the line-up of our officers, and we actually elected our new president-elect for next year, which I am excited to say is Sara Helms Cahan. In addition, Juergen Liebig and Christina Kwapich were elected to the Awards Committee, which we are all trying to keep busy by making lots of nominations for our prestigious awards. Finally, our Nominations Committee also welcomes two new members: Michael Simone-Finstrom and Adam Dolezal. Perhaps most important, you may have noticed that the IUSSI-NAS now has a separate Secretary and Treasurer. While our last combined Secretary/Treasurer performed admirably, the split has worked well and split the burden of performing the heavy lifting for our society.

In a year without a scientific meeting, our business meeting at the fringe of the EntSoc Meetings in Denver was well attended and ran over time despite our best efforts to keep it short. We owe this in part to the wonderful presentations by our student award winners, which gave us at least the chance for some scientific thoughts about our amazing study subjects that might have otherwise been sidelined by the more mundane business meeting topics (for the full meeting minutes, please see below). The topics that grabbed everybody's attention are our future meetings and I want to end by alerting everybody to the upcoming IUSSI world meeting in beautiful Brazil next August: <http://www.iussi2018.com/> and the next IUSSI-NAS meeting, planned for Oct 16-18 2020 at the Southwestern Research Station in Portal, AZ. Look forward to those and another year with great discoveries to be made in social insect studies!



Olav Rueppell (outgoing president)

Professor of Biology

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

**IUSSI-NAS Business Meeting Agenda: 2017, Denver, CO
Nov 7, 2017, 8-10pm**

IUSSI Brazil 2018 – Klaus Hartfelder (video), Jenny Jandt

- Video Presentation by Klaus Hartfelder
 - o The financial subcommittee is working on a process to decide how funds will be distributed to support students and early career researchers to attend IUSSI2018. We aim to have guidelines ready by early next year
 - o Received 31 symposium proposals! Sending to International Scientific Committee for analysis
 - o Accommodation at Casa Grande Hotel includes three full meals
 - o Hotel reservations (not only for Casa Grande) will be available through a travel agency
 - o They will also arrange for transfers from the São Paulo International Airport to Guarujá.
 - o Check website (iussi2018.com) for more info
- Timeline
 - o Nov. 7 2017: Registration and abstract submission open
 - o January: IUSSI-NAS will apply for funding through IUSSI for student & postdoc travel
 - o January 2018: Call for IUSSI-NAS student & postdoc travel awards
 - o February 16, 2018: Abstract submission deadline
 - o February 15-28?: Student applications travel grants
 - o March: IUSSI-NAS will apply for funding through USDA for student & postdoc travel. We should hear from IUSSI re funding around this time.
 - o early April 2018: Announcement of IUSSI-NAS student & postdoc travel awardees. We should hear from USDA re funding around this time.
 - o April 15, 2018: Deadline for early-bird registration
 - o August 5-10, 2018: IUSSI 2018 in Brazil
- Travel Funding Available:
 - o Students & postdoc members of IUSSI-NAS can apply and ask up to \$1500
 - o Will alert students before April 15
- Conference Costs
 - o Casa Grande Hotel Contracted Rates
 - single occupation: R\$ 627 plus tax (~US \$198)
 - double occupation: R\$ 782 plus tax (~US \$230)
 - triple occupation: R\$ 1109 plus tax (~US \$326)
 - These daily rates include full meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets)
 - To the rates a tax (around 10%) will be added
 - o Registration
 - Student Member: ~\$280 student
 - Regular Member: ~\$450
 - o Transport
 - Travel agency will arrange transfers from São Paulo International Airport to Guarujá.
 - o Visa to enter Brazil
 - Fee \$160 for US Citizens: <http://cgwashington.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/>
 - Visa is valid for 10 years

IUSSI-NAS Breakout Meeting 2020

- Southwest Research Station, AZ – Oct 16-18, 2020
 - o Organizers: Sarah Bengston & Anna Dornhaus
 - o Room rates *includes 3 meals a day!* (All prices = per person/day)
 - Shared dorm (communal bathrooms & showers): \$69
 - Shared Triplex (have their own bathrooms & showers): \$92
 - All rooms come furnished and with linens
 - Campers (access to the dorm bathrooms and showers, must provide own equipment): \$47 (unlimited space for campers)
 - o Transportation
 - Anna & Sarah will arrange transport from the Tucson airport (~2.5 hrs)
 - Someone from ASU will arrange transport from Phoenix airport

- Shuttles available from Phoenix to Tucson
- Rental cars also available from Tucson and Phoenix airport
- Amenities
 - Pool!
 - Wifi in some areas (cell service is limited)
 - ~20 miles of hiking trails
- Registration rates to be determined
- Note that anyone can purchase a meal plan – even those not staying on the station

IUSSI 2022 – Does NAS want to put in a bid to host?

- Jennifer Fewell *might* be willing to organize another bid – if we can find the right place and team
- Potential locations
 - UCLA – good facility
 - San Diego
 - Utah? No alcohol
 - Boulder – could house enough
 - UCSD – possible
 - Canada – might be more acceptable than US locations (less visa restrictions) but we need a venue and a local co-organizer
- Checking with the society to determine if who else is putting in a bid.

Student 10-minute Presentations

- **Cameron Fay** (2016 Jeanne Award)
- **Mark Jowiecki** (2016 Nutting Award)
- **Kim Drager** (2017 Tschinkel Award)
- **Kaira Wagoner** (2016 La Fage)

Treasurer's Report – James Nieh (see below)

- Discussion
 - Why are we using Bank of America?
 - Multinational institution for transfers
 - Accessible across the US
 - Why are we using Wells Fargo?
 - Multiple major funds were set up with specific financial instruments (mutual funds and stocks) with Wells Fargo. These could be moved to a different institution, but this should be done with the consent of the major donors. Some fees would likely also be levied.
 - There is justifiable concern about Wells Fargo consumer banking practices. However, Wells Fargo Advisors is a separate unit, and no concerns have been raised about their practices.
 - Ethical investments?
 - The mutual funds and stocks for our major funds were chosen by specific donors. There may be concerns about some companies in our portfolio, though most of the funds are spread over a wide range of companies via mutual funds.
 - Switching investments to different funds/stocks should take place with consent of the major donors.
 - The creation of new funds (see below) could easily be made with ethical investing in mind.
 - Access to Insectes Sociaux as a member
 - We do not have a way to provide access code
 - Authors have pdf or link to paper
 - If you want a paper, email the author or contact Mike Breed

Insectes Sociaux Update – Mike Breed

- Insectes Sociaux has a blog (recent blogs are advertised on Facebook and Twitter)
- Encouragement to submit articles and reviews
- Subscription fees goes back to IUSSI for students/travel funding
- Encouragement to cite articles from 2017 to help increase citation index

Announcement of Elections results –Sandra Rehan

- President-elect:
 - o Sara Helms Cahan
- Awards Committee:
 - o Juergen Liebig
 - o Christina Kwapich
- Nominations committee:
 - o Michael Simone-Finstrom
 - o Adam Dolezal

Announcement of Student Research Awards –Stephen Pratt

- George C. Eickwort Student Research Award:
 - o Brock A. Harpur
- Jeffrey P. La Fage Student Award for Applied Research on Social Insect Pests:
 - o Elizabeth M. Walsh

Awards Discussion – Stephen Pratt

- Eligibility
 - o La Fage was restricted to students studying social insect pests. It has now been extended to include students studying applied aspects of social insects (eligibility: IUSSI-NAS or ESA student members)
 - o Eligibility (IUSSI-NAS membership requirement, ESA membership, No current membership) to be determined by the donor. Awards are one way to encourage membership to the society.
 - o We want to encourage qualified applicants. Some awards get more applicants than others. Remember that even if only one person applies for an award, that applicant still needs to meet the eligibility criterion of the award
- IUSSI-NAS awardees will also be awarded a 1-year membership to the society
- Advertise awards to a broader pool (beyond listserv), including ESA bulletins. However, whether the awards are limited to IUSSI-NAS members needs to be first clarified with the donors.

Other Business

- 2017 Membership renewal is up
 - o Possibly due to incentives – Membership directory (many people forget to renew – this is a good way to check status), free drink ticket at business meeting
- IUSSI Membership Directory
 - o Will be updated in January and June/July
 - o Members need to fill out Google Online form, and give permission to be included in online directory
 - o Online form will be very different next year – to allow people to click “No change from last year” but to also provide additional info and give permissions.
- Does IUSSI-NAS want to raise funds for a Student Bee Award (we have an award the other main social insect groups)?
 - o Mike Breed proposed the Michener Award, and suggested to contact his students (e.g., Paul Ehrlich), to see what we can recruit
 - o Open call to raise funds from the society
 - o Society could create a kickstarter fundraising campaign
 - Experiment.com (crowd funding – directed for scientists)
 - PayPal
 - o We need \$10-15k investment to support an annual \$500 award
 - If we raise a small amount, we don’t need to have an award every year or we could perhaps give a smaller amount such as \$50 as the award, with the main recognition being the honor.
 - o Can we allocate some of our IUSSI-NAS money?
 - Breakout meetings fund themselves. The extra money is for student funding.

- IUSSI-NAS supported symposia at Ent Soc
 - o There are a number of social insect symposium already at Ent Soc, maybe we don't need just one event
 - o A symposium might get more visibility if it is sponsored by IUSSI-NAS
 - o If someone has an idea for an Ent Soc symposium, and they want it to be listed as an IUSSI-NAS symposium, contact the officers and we will get a vote from the membership

Presentation by Representative of the Hymenopteran Society: <http://www.hymenopterists.org/>

- International Congress to be held in Japan, late July 2018
- Students encouraged to apply for travel awards (many are available)
- Student competitions at Ent Soc

Passing the gavel – **Olav Rueppell**

Concluding Remarks by Incoming President – **Jay Evans**

Treasurer's Report - November 2017			
Accounts	Balance	Date	Comments
Bank of America Business checking	\$ 10,530.16	as of 10/31/17	* see below
Paypal	\$ 250.37	as of 10/31/17	* I try to transfer \$500 per month to our BofA account
Wells Fargo Investments (brokered by Kevin Bowcock)			* We have earned \$2,182.06 income on these funds so far this year
Nutting Award Fund	\$ 43,528.36	as of 10/31/17	stocks, Capital Income MF, American Balanced MF, plus cash
Tschinkel Award Fund	\$ 39,612.17	as of 10/31/17	Allianz MF + cash (does not reflect \$2500)
La Fage Award Fund	\$ 16,525.01	as of 10/31/17	Dodge & Cox Balanced MF + cash
Jeanne Award Fund	\$ 43,304.84		AIGFocusedDiv
Total Wells Fargo Investments	\$ 142,970.38	as of 10/31/17	
<i>Unrealized Gain</i>	<i>\$ 6,561.38</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	
Total Net Worth	\$ 153,750.91	as of 10/31/17	
Bank of America Balance (as of 1/1/17)			
	\$ 13,920.05		
Inflows			
Member dues individual check deposit	\$ 25.00		
Paypal member dues transfer	\$ 1,000.00		
Paypal member dues transfer	\$ 1,000.00		
Transfer of funds to pay grant recipient	\$ 2,500.00		
Transfer of funds to pay grant recipient	\$ 2,300.00		
Paypal member dues transfer	\$ 1,000.00		
Member dues individual check deposit	\$ 50.00		
Member dues individual check deposit	\$ 25.00		
Paypal member dues transfer	\$ 1,000.00		
Member dues individual check deposit	\$ 25.00		
Paypal member dues transfer	\$ 1,000.00		
Total inflows	\$ 9,925.00		
Outflows			
Borowiec	\$ (1,000.00)	10/01/2017	
Nieh (travel costs, treasurer transfer docs, SSD drive)	\$ (239.83)	28/02/2017	
Hoadley (IUSSI logo winner)	\$ (100.00)	21/04/2017	
Drager	\$ (2,500.00)	2/06/2017	
Fiocca (Drexel)	\$ (2,300.00)	2/06/2017	
ESA business meeting bar service	\$ (395.28)	10/10/2017	
Total outflows	\$ (6,535.11)		
Net	\$ 3,389.89		
Balance	\$ 10,530.16		
Membership (1/1/17 - 1/31/17)			
Membership dues	\$ 3,800.00		
Regular (126 memberships)	\$ 3,150.00		
Student (42 memberships)	\$ 650.00		
Donations (special thanks to Walter & Victoria Tschinkel)	\$ 12,500.00		
Regular member donations	\$ 532.00		
Student member donations	\$ 20.00		
Total donations	\$ 13,052.00		
Listserv (16 new members, total of 499 people)			