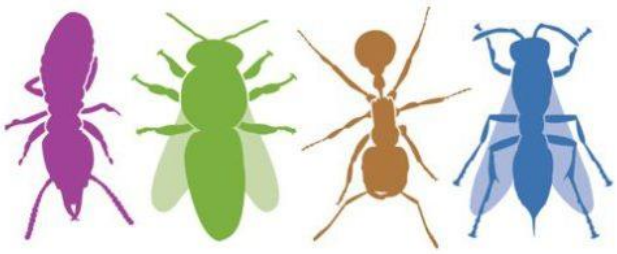

The William L. and Ruth D. Nutting Research Grant supports graduate student research in the field of basic termite biology. It offers funding to a student whose proposed research shows the greatest potential to increase our understanding of this important group of social insects. The 2018 winner of the Nutting Research Grant is **Reina Tong**, who will receive $2,500 to support her research this summer. Reina is a Ph. D. student in the lab of Nan-Yao Su at the University of Florida. She obtained both a bachelor's and a master's degrees from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Her research project is titled, "Trophic path of exuviae in colonies of subterranean termites." The awards committee had an especially challenging job in picking the winner of this award from a highly competitive pool of applications. Reina's project was selected as the winner because of its novelty and potential for producing transformative results. Wood is a poor source of dietary nitrogen. How termites obtain sufficient nitrogen in order to maintain the high biomass of their colonies has been somewhat enigmatic, yet it is a key to their ecological success. Reina's project will examine how, and to what extent, termite colonies recycle nitrogen from their exuviae. Reina has shown ingenuity in designing protocols for both tracing nitrogen flow from exuviae and in obtaining a sufficient supply of exuviae, perhaps the most daunting methodological obstacle. We are excited that such a challenging project is being pursued, and we all look forward to learning more about the exciting results of this project.

IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee
Rebecca Clark, Christina Kwapich, Hongmei Li-Byarlay, Juergen Liebig, Juliana Rangel, and Chris Smith