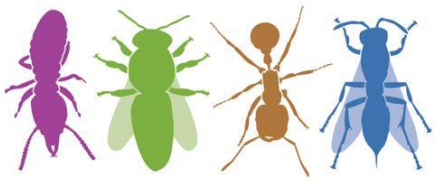

The George C. Eickwort Student Research Award recognizes a graduate student for distinguished research and scholarly activity in the field of social insect biology. The award consists of a certificate, an honorarium, and a one-year subscription to *Insectes Sociaux*. This year the Awards Committee reviewed a strong group of nominees, and those who were not successful this year are encouraged to re-apply next year if still eligible. As for this year's award, one nominee was the clear consensus top choice. The North American Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects is proud to announce that **Waring (Buck) Trible of Rockefeller University** is the recipient of the 2018 George C. Eickwort Student Research Award. Buck is expecting to finish his Ph.D. in Spring 2019 under the direction of Daniel Kronauer. He graduated with separate B.S. degrees in Ecology and Entomology from the University of Georgia.

Buck's references both spoke to his amazing intellect and intellectual maturity. They used terms like, "enormous intellect and creative energy", "truly outstanding", and "ambitious, innovative, thorough, focused, and persistent." He has all of the attributes of the most successful and influential scientists – he is a leader, a thinker, a synthesizer, and has an attention to detail. And while his research has already produced results that can be considered foundational for a mechanistic understanding of insect societies (or social evolution, more generally), his references suggest that this is really only the beginning of what we can expect from Buck. Indeed, when describing Buck's penchant for biological exploration and travel, one of his references stated, "Such bold exploits in the name of scientific discovery remind me of the young Edward Wilson and Bill Hamilton."

The main focus of Buck's current research is queen-worker caste determination, the fundamental process producing the reproductive division of labor that defines the eusocial insects. The volume of work on this topic is impressive, but Buck has already produced a synthesis review on the topic that yielded a fresh perspective and a new model with clear, testable, mechanisms. Stay tuned – Buck is combining his theoretical understanding of caste determination, the *Oocerea biroi* system, interesting natural variation, and his noted attention to detail and don't give up attitude.

We are proud to have Buck as a member of our society and we are happy to announce Buck as the next Eickwort award recipient.

IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee
Rebecca Clark, Christina Kwapich, Hongmei Li-Byarlay, Jürgen Liebig, Juliana Rangel, and Chris R. Smith (Chair)