



The Jeffery P. La Fage Student Award for Applied Research on Social Insects recognizes a graduate student for distinguished research and scholarly activity on social insects, with an emphasis on applied projects. The award consists of a plaque and an honorarium. The North American Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects is proud to announce that **Pierre Lau, of Texas A&M University**, is the recipient of the 2019 Jeffery P. La Fage Award.

Pierre is now completing his Ph.D. research at Texas A&M under the direction of Juliana Rangel. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Systems from the University of California, San Diego. His doctoral work is focused on how to improve honey bee nutrition, with a focus on bees' preferences for specific ratios of protein-to-lipid within pollen resources. His findings so far suggest that bee pollen-to-lipid ratio preferences are substantially different from the ratios found in commercially-available pollen substitutes, which have traditionally been touted as being "high protein" to promote brood rearing. In addition, Pierre has explored variation in the types of pollen collected by bees at different places across the U.S.; characterized bee salt preferences; and developed an artificial honey bee diet that will set the stage for future tests of how bee diet nutrient content affects honey bee fitness.

Pierre's letter writers note that in addition to his critical research work focused on pollen, he is highly enthusiastic about education and outreach, helping beekeepers connect the dots between nutrition and colony health. The awards committee is pleased to have Pierre as an award-winning member of our society.

IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee

Rebecca Clark, Hongmei Li-Byarlay, Juliana Rangel, co-chairs; Kaitlin Baudier, Sarah Bengston, Christina Kwapich, and Jürgen Liebig