



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 certificate and an honorarium. Those who were not successful this year are encouraged to re-apply next year if still eligible.

The winner of the Jeffery P. La Fage Student Award for Applied Research on Social Insects is **Maggie Shanahan**.

Maggie received her B.S. from University of Puget Sound in Biology. She has spent time as a Fullbright Research Scholar and Bee Team Research Staff Member at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur under the mentorship of Dr. Rémy Vandame, and is currently a Ph. D student in Entomology at the University of Minnesota under the mentorship of Dr. Marla Spivak. Maggie's research is fundamentally formed around the intersection of beekeeping, bee health and social immunity. For example, Maggie investigated the importance of plant resins to a species of stingless bee in Chiapas, Mexico, *Scaptotrigona mexicana*. She is exploring how the antimicrobial resins that these and other stingless bees incorporate into their nest architecture affect individual bee and colony-level health and survivorship. Given ongoing threats to stingless bee populations, this is a critical question to explore and deserves research attention.

The awards committee wishes to recognize her well-rounded approach to research, outreach and the dissemination of her results via both publications and presentations. We are proud to have such excellent applied student research being done by Society student members.

Sincerely,

The Awards Committee:

Sarah Bengston, Kaitlin Baudier (Co-Chairs)

Rachelle Adams, Floria Mora-Kepfer Uy, Olav Rueppell, Qian Sun