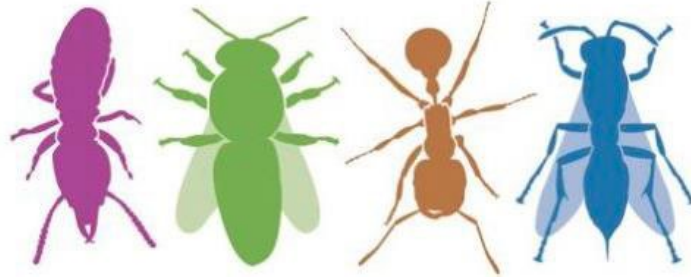


# IUSSI-NAS

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL INSECTS, NORTH AMERICAN SECTION

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Re: Winter Newsletter Jan 2022

Dear Members of IUSSI-NAS,

It is my pleasure to deliver the news of our society as my last official act as President. We are so fortunate to have Christina Kwapich step in as our new President, with Juergen Liebig in line as President-Elect.

While we have all missed out on the opportunity to socialize with one another in person over the past couple of years, our society remains strong thanks to active participation of our members in elections, service, and even attending business meetings on zoom! I am hopeful that our social isolation is drawing to a close as we look forward to the [19<sup>th</sup> International Congress of IUSSI](#), to be held in **San Diego July 3-7**. Thanks to the dedicated work of many volunteers and a large organizing committee lead by Jennifer Fewell, we have an outstanding program planned that provides top-notch science, art exhibits, workshops, and plenty of opportunities to socialize. Abstracts are due **Feb. 14** and early bird registration ends **Mar. 31**. Up to 20 travel grants of \$1,500 each are available for graduate students and other early-career members to attend the meeting. [Applications](#) are due Feb. 14.

Another indicator of the strength of our society is that our membership is constantly looking for ways to give back. Appended below is a partial list of **over 50 members** who donated to one or more of our student awards or the general fund this year! (Note some donors wished to remain anonymous.) This is such a powerful indication of how much support there is for our student members from across the society.

We also have a [brand new student award](#) this year, named in honor of Mary Jane West-Eberhard. This award was made possible thanks to very generous donations from Joan Herbers and Mike Breed, a major gift from Mary Jane herself, and ultimately over 30 donations from IUSSI members and colleagues of Mary Jane. The fund will recognize the best paper published

by a graduate student in the areas of social behavior and evolution in the preceding year. Look for a call for nominations this coming spring.

This year's winners of our other student awards include:

- Robert L. and Louise B. Jeanne Social Wasp Research Grant: **Ryan Fortune**
- Charles Michener Bee Research Grant: **Kate Hunter**
- William L. and Ruth D. Nutting Termite Research Grant: **Zach Balzer**
- Tschinkel Ant Natural History Research Grant: **Phoebe A. Koenig**
- George C. Eickwort Student Research Award: **Maddie Ostwald**
- Jeffery P. La Fage Student Award: **Maggie Shanahan**

Thanks to our awards committee (Kaitlin Baudier, Sarah Bengston, Rachelle Adams, Floria Mora-Kepfer Uy, Qian Sun, Olav Rueppell) who selected winners of each award from a highly qualified pool of nominees.

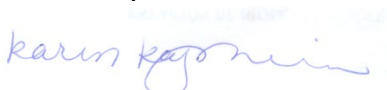
I am excited to announce that members of all IUSSI sections have been invited to nominate promising postdoc and early career members from any section for the new The Mary Jane West-Eberhard Prize for a Junior Scientist. [Nominations](#) to the IUSSI-NAS Awards committee are due by **Feb. 28**. The winner will be announced at the IUSSI Congress in San Diego.

This year was also marked by sadness with the passing of the founder of sociobiology, Edward Osborne Wilson on December 26, 2021. I think we would be hard-pressed to find a social insect enthusiast who was not in some way influenced by the work of E. O. Wilson. Our members have written several moving tributes to Wilson, including those by long-time friend and co-author, Bert Hölldobler in [Nature](#) and [PNAS](#). There is talk of a special issue of *Insectes Sociaux* as a tribute to Wilson. Please contact Walter Tschinkel for more details.

Finally, I would like to thank outgoing Secretary Sarah Lawson and outgoing Treasurer Chris Smith for their dedicated service over the past three years. Our society is more vibrant than ever thanks to their handling of our business affairs. Please welcome Kate Ihle, our new Secretary, and Mike Goodisman, our new Treasurer.

It has truly been a highlight of my career to be involved with IUSSI. Thanks to all of you for making this such a collegial and welcoming community. I can't wait to see you in San Diego!

All the best,



Karen Kapheim  
Past-President, IUSSI-NAS

**From Sarah Lawson (outgoing Secretary):**

Secretary

- IUSSI-NAS membership directory = 227members (299 in 2020; 238 in 2019; 224 in 2018)
- Listserv membership = 648 members (629 in 2020)
- Please remember to update your membership for 2022
  - <https://iussi.cyberbee.net/membershipx/member/>

IUSSI 2022 updates July 3-7 in San Diego

- Website is live: <http://burkclients.com/IUSSI/meetings/2022/site/>
- Early bird registration March 31
- Abstract submission deadline Feb. 14
- Plenary speakers announced
  - **Geraldine Wright**, Oxford University
  - **Peter Kofi Kwapong**, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
  - **Raghavendra Gadagkar**, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
  - **Leticia Aviles**, University of British Columbia
  - **Corrie Moreau**, Cornell University
  - **Sylvia Cremer**, Institute of Science and Technology Austria

Student Awards

- Robert L. and Louise B. Jeanne Social Wasp Research Grant: Ryan Fortune
- Charles Michener Bee Research Grant: Kate Hunter
- William L. and Ruth D. Nutting Termite Research Grant: Zach Balzer
- Tschinkel Ant Natural History Research Grant: Phoebe A. Koenig
- George C. Eickwort Student Research Award: Maddie Ostwald
- Jeffery P. La Fage Student Award: Maggie Shanahan
- New **MARY JANE WEST-EBERHARD AWARD**
  - To honor the legacy of Mary Jane West-Eberhard, this award is presented for the best paper published by a graduate student in the areas of social behavior and evolution in the preceding year.

Election results

- President-Elect: **Juergen Liebig**
- Secretary: **Kate Ihle**
- Treasurer: **Mike Goodisman**
- Elections committee: **Hongmei Li-Byarlay**  
Social Media: **Maya Saar**
- Awards Committee: **Matina Donaldson-Matasci & Etya Amsalem**

At the next business meeting, we will vote to an official Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) Committee

**Thank you to our 2021 IUSSI-NAS Donors!**

**Supporting Members (\$1-\$99):**

Andrea Lucky  
Brendon Boudinot  
Chris Smith  
Christine Nalepa  
Deborah Smith  
Deby Cassill  
Floria Mora-Kepfer Uy  
Gary Umphrey  
John Longino  
Joshua Gibson  
Karen Kapheim  
Kennedy Omufwoko  
Kevin Haight  
Matina Donaldson  
Michael Haverty  
Robert Higgins  
Samuel Beshers  
Sandra Rehan  
Sara Cahan  
Theresa Pitts-Singer

**Sustaining Members (\$100-\$999):**

Amy Toth  
Andrew Suarez  
Berthold Hölldobler  
Christina Grozinger  
David Queller  
Deborah Gordon  
Gard Otis  
Joan Strassmann  
Marla Spivak  
Naomi Pierce  
Peter Nonacs  
Raghavendra Gadagkar

**Visionary Members (\$1000+):**

Gene Robinson  
Jim Hunt  
Joan Herbers  
Mary Jane West-Eberhard  
Mike Breed  
Sarah Hrdy  
Sydney Cameron  
Walter Tschinkel  
Bob Jeanne