



IUSSI - North American Section

The Robert L. and Louise B. Jeanne Social Wasp Research Grant supports graduate student research on any aspect of the basic biology of social wasps. The award is given annually to a student whose proposed research has the greatest potential to make a substantive contribution to our understanding of the basic biology of this group.

The 2023 winner of the Jeanne Grant is **Laura Miller**, who will receive a \$2,500 grant to support her research. Laura received her Bachelor's Degree in Neuroscience and Biology from University of Scranton, and she is currently a Ph.D. student at Drexel University under the direction of Sean O'Donnell. The title of Laura's project is "Identification of cellular pathways responsible for fecundity variation in temperate *Polistes*". She plans to use the *Polistes* caste system to investigate the cellular mechanisms of ovary de- and re-activation, and this work will extend germ cell studies in ovaries beyond the model organism, *Drosophila melanogaster*. This study combines field work for wasp collection, starvation assays for germ cell responses, and immunohistochemistry tools for ovariole imaging. The Award Committee was impressed with Laura's pilot work and her dedication to addressing a knowledge gap in the cell biology of social wasps.

IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee

Qian "Karen" Sun, Olav Rueppell (co-chairs)

Matina Donaldson-Matasci, Etya Amsalem, Elizabeth Tibbetts, Joshua King