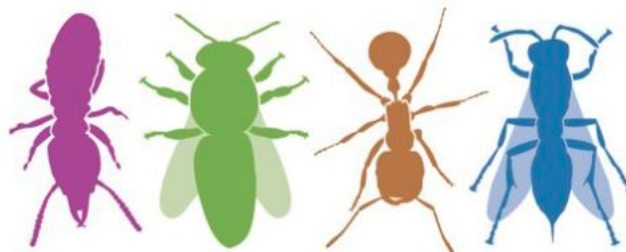


# IUSSI-NAS

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

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The **Charles Michener Bee Research Grant** supports graduate student research on the basic biology of bees, defined broadly as the Anthophila. The award is given annually to an IUSSI-NAS graduate student member whose research has the greatest potential to make a substantive contribution to our understanding of the biology of this fascinating group.

The 2024 winner of the Michener Grant is **Morgan Moore**, who will receive a \$2,500 grant to support her research. Morgan is currently a Ph.D. student at Iowa State University under the direction of Dr. Amy Toth. The title of Morgan's project is "Phenotypic traits related to bumble bee disease: Correlation or causation?". She proposes to search for morphological traits that could serve as disease markers in wild bumble bee populations. In prior work, she developed a panel of morphological health indicators that can be measured non-destructively in wild bumble bees, which she now plans to assess for association and causal relationship with parasite infection. The success of this project will provide a new way to sensitively monitor the health of wild bees of conservation concern. The Awards Committee wishes to recognize Morgan's compelling proposal, whose novelty and potential impact make it an excellent fit for the Michener Grant.

## **IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee**

Matina Donaldson-Matasci, Etya Amsalem (co-chairs)

Elizabeth Tibbetts, Joshua King, Scott Powell, Natalie Lemanski (committee members)