

International Relations Committee

Committee Members: R. P. Anderson, B. H. Blake, S. R. Carroll, J. Goheen, D. A. Kelt, A. V. Linzey, I. Martinez-Serrano, R. A. Ojeda (Co-Chair), K. Rowe, D. A. Schlitter (Co-Chair), A. T. Smith, S. Solari, R. G. Trujillo, J. A. Wilson, S. M. Wisely.

Mission:

The Board of Directors established the International Relations Committee in 1960 to maintain and enhance communication between members of the Society and mammalogists outside North America. The mission of this committee is to advance the field of mammalogy by encouraging and facilitating international collaboration among members of the ASM and mammalogists from other countries.

Information Items:

(1)- On-going initiatives:

(a) The Sponsored Membership Program: This Committee has continued to receive nominations and requests, and has worked towards expanding the geographical distribution of these memberships. As a result of the Co-Chairs contacting heads of numerous national and regional mammal societies in developing countries, board members of the IFM, colleagues at universities and museums in developing countries, a large pool of names of deserving young mammalogists was generated. These candidates have been successfully sponsored. During the year, two additional candidates were nominated and sponsored, one from Nepal and one from Kenya, and a suitable candidate for an open sponsorship for a Russian was found. Currently 34 sponsored members from 20 countries are covered in the program. Members are encouraged to nominate suitable potential young individuals for sponsored memberships. Multiple year commitments from donating members would be helpful and additional sponsorships by members are always welcome.

(b) The Buddy System: The Buddy System was set up to provide assistance to international authors who are not native English speakers. The authors are referred to the Buddy System by editors after they have submitted a manuscript to the *Journal of Mammalogy* if the editor thinks that the English writing needs improvement. There are currently 54 people who have agreed to act as buddies when needed. An *ad hoc* subcommittee for this program continues working on finding better ways to advertise this service and to coordinate efforts. Barbara Blake, with the assistance of Alicia Linzey, promotes and coordinates this program with the Publications Committee.

In 2011, 7 manuscripts were reviewed by 8 “buddies” with one manuscript needing a second review. The outcomes of these 7 manuscripts were that 2 manuscripts were accepted and published, 1 was submitted after revision but rejected, 1 was resubmitted after revision and is awaiting a decision, and 3 were not resubmitted after review.

Geographically, these manuscripts came from Latin America (Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil), Europe (Poland), and Asia (China – 2, Japan). The accepted manuscripts were from Argentina and Uruguay. So far in 2012, only 1 manuscript from Finland has been reviewed and that author has not yet resubmitted the revised manuscript.

The IRC would like to recognize the following people for serving as buddy reviewers for 2011: Albert Beck; Nick Czaplewski; Elmer Finck; Enrique Lessa; Kirk Lin (Yu-Teh); Susan Loeb; Karen McBee; Robert Rose; and Monica Stevens.

The list of buddy reviewers is due for an update. It is especially helpful if buddy reviewers will list their area(s) of expertise when offering to serve as reviewers.

(c) Links to Mammal Societies of the World: Committee members continue serving as links with mammal societies throughout the world, providing information on mammal meetings to appear in the *Journal of Mammalogy* and other international publications as well. A specific subcommittee is working to maintain a list of international mammal societies and their web pages on the ASM website. This is an on-going task and we are looking for volunteers to assist in this interesting and important task (collecting and maintaining an up-to-date list of links to the mammal societies of the world). Contact the IRC Co-Chairs if interested.

(d) International Meetings and the International Federation of Mammalogists (IFM): Bill Lidicker continues as IFM President. The IMC-11 is scheduled for Belfast, Northern Ireland, in August 2013. There is now an IMC-11 website with a link at www.qub.ac.uk/sites/IMC11/. For more details, please see the separate report of the IFM representatives on the ASM website (see Report of the ASM Delegation to the International Federation of Mammalogists on page 75 of this document).

(e) ASM Student Membership Award: In 2008, the SAREM (Argentine Mammal Society) and the ASM Board established an Annual Award for the best student presentation at the SAREM Annual Meeting. The award is “a student - developing country – online only” for the ASM’s publications. The IRC was able to endow this award in 2011 through a generous contribution from Jim and Carol Patton so that henceforth the online membership award will be given to each outstanding student for three years and the funding of the membership award will no longer come from the general fund budget. The awardee for 2011 was César Bracamonte from Argentina.

(f) African National’s Graduate Research Fund: This Fund has been fully developed and added to the list of other funds found on the Society website and in the membership solicitations. Approaches for support of this Fund continue to be made to ASM members, corporations, foundations, societies, clubs, and individuals. It is a slow process that requires persistence and patience. If interested, please contact any member of the IRC for directions on how you can help make a contribution or solicit contributions to this new research fund.

(2)- New Initiatives:

(a) IRC Facebook presence: Discussions were held during the year on whether the IRC should develop a Facebook account. Since the Society was developing a Facebook page, the decision was to not do so with the IRC. But a Facebook page was set up for the IFM and is being managed by IRC Co-Chair Ricardo Ojeda of Argentina, a member of the IFM Board.

The Committee welcomes new initiatives from any members. The Co-Chairs would like to thank the support and commitment of all Committee members. Thanks to all!

Action Items: None.

Respectfully submitted,

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