

## International Relations Committee

**Committee Members:** C. Chimimba (Vice Chair), P. Busher, M. Diaz, M. R. Gannon, S. Gardner, M. E. Hopton, C. Iudica, E. P. Lessa (Chair), W. Z. Lidicker, Jr., A. V. Linzey, D. Lunde, R. A. Medellin, , J. Parsons, L. Ruedas, J. A. Salazar-Bravo, D. A. Schlitter, A. T. Smith, R. Stevens, J. Mary Taylor, S. Vignieri, S. Weyandt

### **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) In collaboration with the Membership Committee, 41 sponsored memberships and subscriptions have been awarded since the Society's meeting in Arcata. This represents a significant increase from the 23 sponsored memberships awarded in the previous year. The Committee has continued to receive nominations and requests, and has worked towards expanding the geographical distribution of these memberships. The Committee maintains a waiting list of potential recipients, again in collaboration with the Membership Committee. It is now possible to become a sponsor through the ASM business page.

(2) A few problems remain in the sponsored membership program, and we have received emails from members whose sponsoring efforts are not reflected in our records. In addition, some members wish to retain membership but see their issues of the *Journal of Mammalogy* sent to a worthy international recipient, and have found it difficult to see this implemented. The Committee will work with our business office to find solutions to these problems.

(3) Last year, the Committee reinstated the "buddy system" to support international authors interested in submitting their manuscripts to the *Journal of Mammalogy*. A revised and updated list of buddies was sent to the Journal Editor, Dr. Barbara H. Blake. Dr. Blake informs us that she finds the system useful and has matched international authors to buddies with good results. About 9 manuscripts have made use of the system over the last 14 months.

(4) Committee members have continued to serve as links with mammal societies throughout the world and provided information on mammal meetings to appear in the *Journal of Mammalogy*. The Committee plans on expanding this line of action, as mammal societies are seen as natural links to strengthen the international dimension of ASM and further the development of mammalogy internationally. Progress in this direction, however, has been slower than anticipated.

(5) The Committee has initiated gradual changes in its membership, to allow the participation of additional members of the society in our activities.

(6) The Chair would like to thank the support of all Committee members, especially the continuing efforts of Mike Gannon to ensure the success of the sponsored membership program.

**Action Items:** None

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Enrique P. Lessa, Chair  
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