

International Relations Committee

Committee Members: B. H. Blake, J. Campo, I. Castro-Arellano, S. L. Gardner, J. Goheen, L. C. Hester, C. A. Iudica (co-Chair), D. Kelt, W. Z. Lidicker, Jr., A. V. Linzey, I. Martinez-Serrano, S. Reeder-Carroll, R. K. Rose, K. Rowe, D. A. Schlitter (co-Chair), A. T. Smith, S. Solari, J. M. Taylor, 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: In collaboration with the Membership Committee, a number of sponsored memberships and subscriptions have been awarded since this program started. The Committee has continued to receive nominations and requests, and has worked towards expanding the geographical distribution of these memberships. Currently we have created a subcommittee charged with the task of developing a set of guidelines to manage the program and maintain a waiting list of potential recipients. This program started under the visionary guidance of Enrique Lessa, and now is continuing with Serena Reeder-Carroll and Kevin Rowe. They are coordinating this great initiative and are working on developing formal guidelines for this program to grow into the next step. Once these guidelines are ready, they will be posted on our website.

b) The Buddy System: The Committee has worked in using a "buddy system" to help international authors prepare their manuscripts for submission to the *Journal of Mammalogy*. An *ad hoc* subcommittee for this program continues working in finding better ways to advertise this service and to coordinate efforts. We are very fortunate that Barbara Blake, Bill Lidicker and Alicia Lindsey are working to promote and coordinate this important program. Nine "buddy" pre-reviews were done during the Volume 90 year.

c) Links to Mammal Societies of the World: Committee members have continued to serve as links with mammal societies throughout the world, providing information on mammal meetings that 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, which will be posted on our website in the future. This is an on-going task. Ivan Castro-Arellano has been leading this group and we are looking for volunteers to assist in this interesting and important task

(collecting and maintaining an up-to-date list of links (on the web) to the mammal societies of the world). Please contact the IRC-chair if interested.

d) International Meetings and the International Federation of Mammalogists

(IFM): Bill Lidicker (IFM president) coordinated and informed our committee about the IMC (10th, in Argentina, 2009) and Winston Smith will be doing the same on the next ASM/AMS meeting in 2011. Also, very exciting times are ahead as the IFM has established a new organization under the leadership of a group of fantastic people. The IMC-11 is scheduled for Belfast in August 2013. For more details, please see the separate report of the IFM representatives on the ASM website.

e) ASM Student Membership Award: In 2008, the SAREM (Argentina Mammalogist Society) and the ASM Board established an annual award to the best student presentation at the SAREM Annual Meeting. The award is “a student - developing country – online only” for ASM publications. This award has been chosen annually since its initiation by the SAREM committee.

(2) New Initiatives:

The Committee welcomes new initiatives from any members as new task forces may develop in the future. The co-Chairs would like to thank all Committee members for their support and commitment.

a) African National’s Graduate Research Fund: A developing initiative involves a group of members with an interest in supporting African mammalogy led by Jake Goheen and Duane Schlitter who are attempting to establish an African Nationals Graduate Research Fund. This fund would emulate the existing ASM’s Latin American Student Field Research Fund but support research by African nationals. Once the infrastructure of the fund is determined, Board approval will be sought. If Board approval is received, solicitation of funds for the initiative will begin in earnest. At this time this initiative is clearly in the developmental stage and input from any members with an interest in African mammalogy would be welcome. If interested, please contact any member of the IRC for directions on how you can help establish this new research fund.

Action Items:

(1) That one of the unattached Sponsored Memberships be directed to cover the “ASM Student membership Award” at the SAREM (Argentina) Annual Meeting (to pay for a student from a developing country, online membership).

Respectfully submitted,

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