

International Relations Committee

Committee Members: B. H. Blake, S. R. Carroll, J. Goheen, D. A. Kelt, W. Z. Lidicker, Jr., 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: At the last annual meeting, the Membership Committee turned over the sponsored membership program to the IRC. 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. After review, suitable candidates were selected to fill any unfilled opening for sponsored positions. During the year, 31 sponsored memberships were filled as follows: Philippines (1 full), Tanzania (2 full), Ethiopia 1 online), Peru (4 full), Uruguay (1 full), Bolivia (2 full, 1 online), Chile (1 online), Argentina (2 full, 4 online), Kenya (1 full, 1 online), Guatemala (1 full), Costa Rica (1 full), Viet Nam (1 full), Mexico (2 full), Nicaragua (1 full), China (1 full), India (1 full), Brazil (1 full), and Swaziland (1 full). We have been unable to fill the sponsored membership for a Russian student even though we have solicited help from numerous Russian colleagues including those on the IFM Board. We are currently working to fill one full membership and two online memberships. We have numerous names of worthy students from various countries and desperately need more donations from members. Multiple year commitments from donating members would be helpful.

(b) The Buddy System: The Committee has worked with the Publications Committee 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. Barbara Blake, with the assistance of Bill Lidicker and Alicia Lindsey, promotes and coordinates this program. In 2010, five manuscripts were reviewed by "buddies" and one was accepted for publication. Seven buddies reviewed manuscripts. Geographically, one manuscript was from Latin America, two were from Europe and one from Asia. So

far in 2011, four manuscripts are in the review process. Three of these manuscripts are from Latin America and one is from Asia.

- (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 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. An initial list with links has been submitted to be posted on the newly developing web page for the Society. 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 and will report on IFM activities. 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 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 this year 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.

(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 the support and commitment of all Committee members. Thanks to all!

- (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 National’s Graduate Research Fund. The development of this fund was approved by the board at the last meeting. Approaches are being 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 solicit contributions to this new research fund.

Action Items: None.

Respectfully submitted,

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