

International Relations Committee

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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. The Committee maintains a waiting list of potential recipients, again in collaboration with the Membership Committee. Currently we have created a subcommittee charged with the task of developing a set of guidelines to manage the program. This program started under the visionary guidance of Enrique Lessa, and now is continuing with Serena Reeder (working with Mike Gannon (MC)) and Kevin Rowe). They are coordinating this great initiative and working on developing formal guidelines for this program to grow into the next step. Once these guidelines are ready, they should 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 is working in finding better ways to advertise this service and to coordinate efforts (see attached report from subcommittee). They recently updated the buddy list and sent a letter out to the Board of the International Federation of Mammalogists. We are very fortunate that Barbara Blake (a new member of the IRC), Bill Lidicker and Alicia Lindsey are working to promote and coordinate this great program.

Report to International Relations Committee from the Buddy System
Subcommittee Alicia Linzey and Barbara Blake 8/24/07

1. Need for service

- comments by *JM* editors and associate editors indicate that there is a definite need for this service and that it is underused
- we suggest that *Mammalian Species* authors also be given access, as there are many international authors

2. Mechanisms for maintaining and further developing the list

- update list once a year
- obtain additional information on specific interest and geographic area, as well as making sure we have email addresses for all participants
- report back to participants periodically, so that they feel as if they are part of an active enterprise
- solicit participants in specific areas of need (disciplines or geographic areas), with particular attention to individuals who may be bilingual (perhaps experienced international authors)

3. Mechanisms for advertising the service

- mechanisms already in place (*JM*, Allen Track, website), but need to advertise service in a more prominent and/or proactive way
- notification to Mammal-L twice a year
- notification to other mammal societies (members of the International Federation of Mammalogists and others)
- ask experienced authors to inform their graduate students
- use opportunistic situations to distribute information (e.g., meetings attended by committee members and others)

4. Implementation

a. pre-submission

- all advertising should include a statement about contacting either Barbara or Alicia for assistance in locating a buddy
- in the case of *Mammalian Species*, the availability of the Buddy System should be communicated to international authors at the time they sign up for species accounts

b. post-submission (see following flow chart diagram)

- for the *Journal of Mammalogy*, unless rejected on the basis of scientific content, re-submission following buddy review is expected. The manuscript would be withdrawn from AllenTrack when referred to the Buddy System and re-entered upon re-submission.
- for *Mammalian Species*, which lacks a rejection option and is currently not handled through AllenTrack, improvements to re-submitted manuscripts that have undergone buddy review are expected to significantly reduce editing time.

(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 upcoming mammal meetings for the *Journal of Mammalogy* and other international journals. A specific subcommittee had

recently updated a list of international mammal societies and their current web pages and will post it on our website soon. This is an on-going task. Ivan Castro-Arellano is leading this group and Ivan can request/recruit volunteers to assist him 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).

(D) International Meetings and the International Federation of Mammalogists (IFM): Bill Lidicker (IFM president) is taking the lead on coordinating and keeping us informed about the next IMC (10th, in Argentina, 2009) and the next ASM/AMS meeting in 2011. Also, very exciting times as the IFM has been established as a new organization under the leadership of a group of fantastic people. The ASM delegation (to the IFM) prepared an annual report and an announcement of the IMC-10.

(2) New Initiatives:

(A) Jake Goheen (University of British Columbia) contacted the IRC Chair to explore the possibility of the ASM becoming a partner with TBA (Tropical Biology Association, <http://www.tropical-biology.org/>) and matching TBA contributions to a training workshop in field mammalogy for East African undergraduates to be held at Mpala Research Centre. We see this as a unique opportunity for ASM to promote mammalogy internationally.

(B) "ASM Student Membership Award". Members from the SAREM (Argentina) last year explored the possibility of instigating an annual award for the best student presentation at their annual meeting. The IRC Chair was asked if ASM would be interested in participating in this award. The award will be "a student—developing country —online only".

*The Committee welcomes new initiatives as new task forces may develop in the future.

(C) The Chair would like to thank the support of all Committee members, especially the continuing efforts of Mike Gannon and Serena Reeder to ensure the success of the sponsored membership program, the solid work of Barbara Blake and Alicia Linzey to ensure the continuation of the "buddy system", the leadership of Ivan Castro-Arellano maintaining a current list of all links to mammal societies of the world, and the determination of Bill Lidicker, who wears many hats and is always available to wear an extra one. Thanks to all!

Action Items:

(1) \$20/year to be added to budget for an annual "ASM Student membership Award" at the SAREM (Argentina) annual meeting to pay for an award to a student in a developing country to have an online membership subscription. That award would be for one year to that student, and another student would be presented with the award the next year.

(2) **\$1,500** to be added to budget to support, in part, the IRC Chair's trip costs to the 2009 IMC10 (Mendoza-Argentina) as part of the ASM delegation for the IFM.

(3) **\$2,000** to be added to this year's budget to match TBA funds for a "Training workshop in field mammalogy for East African undergraduates" to be held at Mpala Research Centre (see Jake Goheen's request letter, in Section VI. Attachments.).

Respectfully submitted,
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