

International Relations Committee

Committee Members: R. P. Anderson, B. H. Blake, G. R. Bronner, B. Buttler, G. N. Cameron, J. R. Goheen, E. Gutiérrez, D. A. Kelt, F. A. A. Khan, A. V. Linzey, R. A. Ojeda (Co-Chair), N. Ordóñez-Garza, M. Pinto, K. Rowe, D. A. Schlitter (Co-Chair), A. T. Smith, S. Solari, M. V. Vieira.

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. Contacting heads of numerous national and regional mammal societies in developing countries, board members of the International Federation of Mammalogists, and colleagues at universities and museums has resulted in another pool of names of deserving young mammalogists. Processing of worthy candidates continues. During the year, emphasis was placed on potential candidates from countries in the Eastern Hemisphere, especially Africa. Eighteen new members from 15 developing countries in Africa, Madagascar, and Latin America were successfully sponsored. Members are encouraged to nominate suitable potential young individuals for sponsored memberships. Multiple-year sponsorship commitments from donating members are always helpful and additional sponsorships by members are especially welcome.

(b) The Buddy System: The Buddy System was set up to provide assistance to international authors who are not speakers of English as a first language. 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. An *ad hoc* subcommittee for this program continues to work 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.

The details of the Buddy Program are covered in the Publications Committee Annual Report. See that Annual Report for details of manuscripts that were reviewed by buddies, countries of origin of manuscripts, and an acknowledgement of the buddy reviewers.

In addition, Nicté Ordóñez-Garza, Miguel Pinto, and Eliecer Gutiérrez of the IRC as well as other international members such as Marylène Ricard continue to help the editorial staff of the *Journal of Mammalogy* by proofreading foreign language summaries. For details of this service

to the Publications Committee, once again check that Annual Report. Note that Barbara Blake is always looking for additional proofreaders for foreign language summaries. Please contact Barbara Blake directly (bhblake@uncg.edu) if you have such native language skills and are willing to help with this valuable service.

The list of buddy reviewers is constantly being updated and refined so the system works better for contributing authors. 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 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. 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 that requires constant website up-dating 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 you are interested.

For more interactions with international activities, among others, in mammalogy, members are also invited to join Facebook's ASM site at:

<http://www.facebook.com/American.Society.of.Mammalogists?fref=ts>

(d) International Meetings and the International Federation of Mammalogists (IFM): A very successful and well attended IMC-11 was held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, 11–16 August 2013 at Queen's University. During the meeting, invitations to host the IMC-12 were received from China and Australia. The invitation from Australia was accepted with IMC-12 scheduled to be held in Perth, Australia, in 2017. During IMC-11, our member William Lidicker, Jr., completed his term as Federation President and was replaced as President by our member Ricardo Ojeda from Argentina, also Co-Chair of IRC. We extend a sincere thank you to Bill for his services to international mammalogy and our congratulations to Ricardo on his election as President.

The IFM maintains a presence on Facebook which can be accessed at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/197157050399156/>. Members are invited to join this site for more information on the Federation's activities.

(e) ASM-SAREM 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 goes to a student from a developing country and is an online subscription to ASM's publications, *Journal of Mammalogy* and *Mammalian Species*. 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 2013 awardee for best student paper at the annual SAREM meeting is

Liu Idarraga Orozco, National Council for Science and Technology fellow (CONICET) at the National Museum of Natural History "Bernardino Rivadavia", Buenos Aires, Argentina.

(f) African 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. An *ad hoc* Committee has been established for this fund. Details of the progress for the year can be found in their separate Annual Report. Chair of the *ad hoc* committee is Jacob Goheen. If interested in the efforts to establish this endowment fund or to work on its activities, contact Jacob R. Goheen jgoheen@uwo.edu. Starting an endowed research fund is a slow process that requires persistence and patience. Any help with its activities or contributions to this new research fund would be greatly appreciated.

(g) Endowment Fund for an ASM Student Award for the Colombian Mammal Society. This initiative is waiting for more progress in the development of the Colombian Mammal Society before efforts begin again on fundraising for a student award.

(2) New Initiatives:

(a) Review of Sponsored Membership Program: The Sponsored Membership Program is being reviewed at this time, focusing on retention of the newly sponsored members beyond the initial sponsorship effort, finding sponsors who take on a personal relationship with the new members, and encouraging contributions to a pool of funds to pay sponsored dues for selected candidates that will be handled by the IRC. The criteria for which countries are designated as developing countries are based currently on the International Monetary Fund criteria. Currently, to qualify for sponsored membership, an individual must be a citizen of any country except the U.S., Canada, Western Europe, Australia, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, or Taiwan. As new details for this program are developed, they will be posted on the ASM website either under the link to the IRC or the link to the Sponsored Members page.

(b) The Committee welcomes new initiatives or ideas 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,

Ricardo Ojeda, Co-Chair & Duane A. Schlitter, Co-Chair

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