

## International Relations Committee

**Committee Members:** R. P. Anderson, B. H. Blake, G. R. Bronner, J. Goheen, E. Gutiérrez, D. A. Kelt, 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. 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. As a result of the co-chairs 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 in developing countries, a large pool of names of deserving young mammalogists was generated. These candidates have been successfully sponsored. During the past year one individual from Brazil was submitted for sponsored membership. 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 always 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. There are currently 54 people who have agreed to act as buddies when needed. 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.

In 2012, three manuscripts (from Finland, Argentina, and Italy) were reviewed by three “buddies.” Of these three manuscripts, two were accepted and published, and one was rejected. So far in 2013, a single manuscript from Italy is currently under buddy review.

The IRC would like to recognize the following people for serving as buddy reviewers in 2012 and 2013: James Patton, Susan Loeb, Gerald Zuercher, and Paula White.

Several members of the IRC as well as other international members have helped the editorial staff of the *Journal of Mammalogy* by proofreading foreign language summaries. The IRC would like to recognize the following proofreaders for foreign language summaries for *Journal of Mammalogy* articles: Ricardo Ojeda, Nicté Ordóñez-Garza, Miguel Pinto, and Eliécer Gutiérrez (Spanish); Margarete Mattevi and Alexine Keuroghlian (Portuguese); and Serge Larivière (French). Barbara Blake is looking for additional proofreaders for Portuguese summaries but can always use more proofreaders for other languages as well. Please contact Barbara Blake directly ([bhblake@uncg.edu](mailto: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 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 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.

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):** Bill Lidicker continues as IFM president. The IMC-11 is scheduled for Belfast, Northern Ireland, from 11–16 August 2013 at Queen's University, Belfast. There is an official IMC-11 website with a link at [www.qub.ac.uk/sites/IMC11/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/IMC11/) with details on registration, programs, and lodging. For more specific details, contact the Conference organizer directly at [i.montgomery@qub.ac.uk](mailto:i.montgomery@qub.ac.uk).

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 is "a student – developing country – online only" for the ASM's publications. 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 2012 awardee for best student paper at the Annual SAREM Meeting is Marcos Dario Ercoli, who is from Argentina.

**(f) African National's 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. Approaches for support of this fund continue to be 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 make a contribution or solicit contributions to this new research fund.

**(2)- New Initiatives:**

**(a) ASM Student Travel Award for IMC-11 in Belfast, Northern Ireland:** The Board of Directors of the Society set aside \$1,000 at the last Annual Meeting in Reno to be used in support student travel costs in attending the IMC-11 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in August 2013. The IRC was assigned the task of selecting suitable students to receive the awards. Two travel awards of \$500 were to be given. An ad-hoc committee of five IRC members was assigned the task of judging the applications. Fifteen completed applications from international undergraduate and graduate ASM student members were received and two winners were selected with one alternate in case either of the winners was unable to attend the meeting in August. All of the applications were of outstanding quality. Because of the impressive quality of the applications, the ad-hoc committee decided to raise money for an additional travel award for the alternate winner so that three students could be supported. The committee members, together with ASM President Ed Heske, raised an additional \$500 for the third award. The three winners of the student travel awards are as follows: Molly McDonough, Texas Tech University; Silvia Pavan, American Museum of Natural History and City University of New York; and Jeremy Hsu, Stanford University.

**(b) Endowment Fund for an ASM Student Award for the Colombian Mammal Society:** Because of its international reputation, international students place a high value on being associated with the ASM. The IRC received a request from the Colombian Mammal Society to develop an ASM student membership award for the outstanding student presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Colombian Mammal Society. This award would be patterned after the ASM award given to the outstanding student presentation at the Annual SAREM Meeting, namely a three-year on-line sponsored student membership in the Society. Preliminary efforts for such an award involve finding a source to establish an endowment fund to support this award similar to what was done for the ASM SAREM student award so the award can be funded in perpetuity from sources other than the General Budget. Anyone interested in supporting this effort or who might know of a potential source for such support is asked to contact the IRC. If we are successful in raising funds for this award and receive ASM Board approval for it, the award will be comparable to the SAREM award.

**(c)** The Committee welcomes new initiatives 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,**

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