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Author

Faller, Karen

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from the society

Your IBS peers – An overview

Over the past 10 years, the International Biogeography Society (IBS) has grown from modest numbers to a wonderfully diverse and expanding membership. As of February 29th, 2012, the IBS has 634 active members. About 29% of the membership base is made up of students, and the remaining are academics, professionals and post-docs. In terms of geographic make-up, the society is largely European (43%) and North American (38%) based but spans an increasingly wide number of countries. Central and South America makes up 9% of the remaining membership, the South Pacific 6%, Asia 3%, and Africa 1%.

One hundred fifty-three new members joined the IBS in 2011 – split almost exactly 50/50 between student and non-student members, with 3% taking advantage of the developing country reduced rates. The majority of new members came from Europe (44%) and the US (29%) but included memberships from a total of 35 different countries. Since the IBS' inception in 2001, a total of 67 countries have been represented by members of the society, which is impressive. One of the key topics being worked on by the IBS Board is increasing geographical diversity to make this truly a more international society. If you have suggestions on ways to reach out to under-represented areas, please drop us a line at biogeography.ibs@gmail.com – we always welcome the input!

The IBS changed its membership fee structure in 2011, offering decreased membership fees for people from developing nations, maintaining fee levels for students at the same low level, and providing a tiered fee structure based on income beyond student memberships. There have been a few issues that have come up with some people's renewals. If you're due to renew during the next half-year and run into any problems, please don't hesitate to contact me. And thank you for considering the new structure when renewing or signing up – your membership fees help the IBS continue to be a thriving society!

With the upcoming conference in Florida in January of 2013, we expect to see an influx of up to 200 more members later in the year. Thanks for helping to get the word out to your colleagues about the society and upcoming event – it's shaping up to be a fantastic conference!

Karen Faller

IBS Manager of Membership Services; karenfaller@gmail.com

Edited by Matthew Heard

Did you know that any member of the IBS may raise an issue or appeal a decision of the governing Board of Directors by placing a matter before the Board of Directors for discussion?

If there is a matter you would like discussed at the next Board meeting, write to the society's Secretary (check current list of officers at <http://www.biogeography.org/>).