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from the society

Honorary Lifetime Membership awarded to James H. Brown

The International Biogeography Society (IBS) has established a third award, Honorary Lifetime Membership, given on the occasion of a special anniversary or event involving a prominent biogeographer. Honorary Lifetime Membership is intended to recognize someone who has made a large intellectual contribution to biogeography and also has played a prominent role in the IBS or contributed to similar public service roles that have fostered or promoted the discipline. It is intended that there should only ever be a small group of Honorary Lifetime Members—perhaps a half-dozen or so—reflecting the truly distinguished standing of recipients.

Honorary Lifetime Membership was first bestowed on Edward O. Wilson, in 2007¹, on the 40th anniversary of the publication of “The Theory of Island Biogeography”, co-authored with Robert MacArthur. IBS is privileged to announce that **James H. Brown** is the recipient of its second Honorary Lifetime Membership, on the occasion of his retirement from the University of New Mexico.

Jim is certainly among the best-known biogeographers of any generation. Beginning with his 1971 publication, “Mammals on mountaintops: nonequilibrium insular biogeography”, Jim has played a central role in the development of modern biogeography. His textbook, co-authored with Arthur Gibson and published in 1983, has been widely adopted and highly influential in the education of generations of biogeographers, and is now in its fourth edition (Lomolino et al., 2010). With his 1995 book, “Macroecology”, Jim defined a new term but more importantly a different perspective on biogeography, leading to a new and still prominent field of study. He served as one of the editors of the “Foundations of Biogeography” volume (Lomolino et al., 2004) that has helped to shape our understanding of the historical development of our field—a fitting contribution by someone who has himself contributed so much to its development. A quick search of “Google Scholar” with the keyword “biogeography” yielded over 125 titles

authored by Jim, an indication of his vast output. His research has been characterized by great breadth and inquisitiveness, with a healthy emphasis on testing the assumptions of earlier research and expanding the nature of the questions that are asked.



Jim also has played a central role in the development of IBS. He was one of the organizers of the workshop held at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) in Santa Barbara, California in September 2001. In addition to producing the “Foundations” volume, as planned, the workshop also resulted in the formation of the IBS. Jim then served as the first President of the IBS, including the period of the first IBS conference held in Mesquite, Nevada, in January 2003.

In recognition of this award, Jim has agreed to present a keynote paper at the Sixth Biennial IBS Conference, to be held in January 2013 at the Florida International University in Miami, Florida².

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Edited by Michael N Dawson

1. <http://www.biogeography.org/html/About%20IBS/awards.html>

2. <http://www.biogeography.org/html/Meetings/2013/index.html>