Chapter News

August 2011

Chapter Officers’ Meetings:

The entering chapter officers held meetings before the beginning of the fall semester, both long-distance and in person. These meetings had two main purposes: to establish the agenda for the 2011-2012 year, and to appoint the new chapter committees’ leaders and co-leaders. The appointment of a co-leader to each committee is a new initiative that allows more of the members to hone their leadership skills. As part of the discussion, the officers identified lessons learned from past years, and anticipated challenges for the year ahead. The chapter endeavors will continue to be organized in four main categories: opportunities, professional development, education and community outreach.

Our members in action during the hurricane season!

On August 2, heavy rains and floods due to Tropical Storm Emily affected Puerto Rico. Ada Monzón (Chief Meteorologist, WLII-DT) recruited chapter members to assist with operations and communications at Univision TV during this difficult time. Their participation helped keep the public well informed and safe.

Activity: UPRM New Student Orientation

In the morning of August 9, we participated of the traditional UPRM orientation to enthuse new students about meteorology and encourage them to join the chapter. Chapter members gave weather-related demonstrations and gathered contact information from interested students. The chapter vice-president gave a short talk to the freshmen of the Physics Department. She described our mission, accomplishments, and activities, and presented a video clip in which these are portrayed (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25aJ7ndWxCY).

Activity: “Huracanes y Casa Segura” (Hurricanes and Safe Homes)

“Huracanes y Casa Segura” is an annual activity organized by meteorologist Ada Monzón (Chief Meteorologist, WLII-DT) and architect Astrid Díaz. The event is held at Plaza Las Américas (San Juan), Puerto Rico’s most visited mall. Its main purpose is to provide the community information about natural disasters and how to protect their houses and belongings from damage during such events. On August 13, we helped the
organizers by giving educational weather-related demonstrations to the public. On August 14, we also gave demonstrations, shared information about our chapter, and participated of a special session dedicated to students, teachers and parents of students interested in meteorology. Broadcast meteorologists, UPRM alumni, meteorologists from the National Weather Service, and professors from both UPRM and University of Puerto Rico at Carolina accompanied us during this session.

![Figure 1. Chapter members Irmaris Rivera (left) and Ana Patricia Torres (right) teach weather-related concepts to kids.](image)

**Monthly Meeting:**

The first regular meeting of the academic year was held on August 18 at 10:45 am. A total of 31 members attended, and 1 member participated via Internet videoconference. The chapter officers shared with the rest of the members what they had planned and discussed during their previous meetings. Also, they introduced the newly appointed committee leaders and co-leaders, and encouraged the members to join the different committees. Future activities were also discussed and include: promoting the chapter around school, the 6th General Assembly, the 6th Student Chapter Initiation, valuable workshops for professional development, community service, and weekly hot dog sales for fundraising.

**Hot Dogs Sale**

The first fundraising activity of the semester was held on August 29. Chapter members donated the ingredients for this sale, and this team effort proved to be the key for the success of this activity.