Chapter News

February 2011

Monthly Meeting:

The first meeting of the spring semester was held on February 10 at 10:45 am. A total of 36 members attended. The chapter officers opened the discussion by congratulating the members for the great accomplishments of 2010, and encouraging them to keep up the hard work. As usual, they addressed upcoming activities, such as a visit to the National Weather Service in San Juan, and to Univision PR, sales for fundraising, and a movie night. The members were excited to hear that preparations for the annual Weather Festival had already started.

Activity: Interview with “Prensa RUM”

Our chapter received the 1st place in the Student Chapter Poster Competition at the 91st AMS Annual Meeting for the first time ever. When UPRM media station, Prensa RUM, and their journalists found out about this accomplishment, they decided it would make a great front-page story. On February 9, they interviewed Dr. Héctor Jiménez, director of the Atmospheric Science and Meteorology Program, the chapter president and the chapter historian. Some of the students who went to the AMS meeting accompanied the officers during the interview. The article appeared on UPRM’s home page (www.uprm.edu) from February 18-25. It can be accessed at http://www.uprm.edu/news/articles/as2011021.html.

Activity: “Love is in the Air” Pizza Party

We had a pizza party on February 10 to exhibit our chapter poster while celebrating the award received at the AMS meeting, as well as Valentine’s Day. An exciting game and music were some of the treats of the evening. Cards with friendly messages that were sold both during the previous week and at the event were delivered near the end of the activity.

Activity: Valentine’s Day Sale

On February 14, we sold delicious brownies covered with hazelnut spread or bite-sized pieces of chocolate (with or without strawberries), and glazed donuts for fundraising purposes.
Special Meeting:

A special meeting was held on February 17 to discuss the transportation to the National Weather Service and Univision PR for the next Saturday. A total of 35 members attended. The UPRM Department of Geology lent us a van. The chapter’s faculty advisor, Dr. Carlos Pabón, kindly offered to drive it from the west side of the island to the Metropolitan Area and back to campus.

Activity: Visit to the National Weather Service and Univision PR

On February 19, around 50 people, including chapter members, friends, and professors, enjoyed the most highly anticipated activity of the month. The event started with the visit to the National Weather Service in San Juan, where the lead forecaster/meteorologist Ernesto Morales received us. He gave us an amusing talk about the benefits, the difficulties, and the importance of a career in operational meteorology. General forecaster Ernesto Rodriguez, and meteorologist interns Krizia Negrón and Rosalina Vazquez also kindly donated some of their time to show us the facilities and instruments, and to talk about their experiences and responsibilities.

[Insert Picture: UPRM_NWS.tif]

Figure 1. The attendees at the National Weather Service in San Juan, with Krizia Negrón, Ernesto Morales and Ernesto Rodríguez (to the right).

This exciting event was followed by the visit to Univision PR, where Ada Monzón, Puerto Rico’s first female meteorologist, received us. She showed us around while telling us the benefits, the pitfalls, and the significance of a career in broadcast meteorology.
Weather reporter Edwin Díaz interviewed the chapter president, Rosimar Ríos-Berríos. She talked about the chapter’s mission, the award received at the AMS Meeting and other accomplishments. The rest of the chapter officers and UPRM faculty members Dr. Héctor Jiménez and Dr. Carlos Pabón accompanied her during the interview, which was broadcasted throughout the island.

![Figure 2. The attendees at Univision PR, with Edwin Díaz, Dr. Carlos Pabón, Ada Monzón, and Dr. Héctor Jiménez (to the front).](image)

**Activity: Movie Night**

On the eve of February 22, 17 members attended a movie night organized by the chapter’s Weather Today committee. While watching the film *The Day after Tomorrow*, the attendees discussed how the movie distorted facts about weather and climate.

**Activity: Munchie Gras Sale**

A Mardi Gras-themed sale was held on February 28 for fundraising. The delicious menu included brownies, sandwiches and glazed donuts.