Chapter News

February 2012

Activity: Recognition by Mayagüez municipality

On February 1st, the chapter was invited to a recognition ceremony during Mayagüez municipality’s annual “fiestas patronales”, which are traditional celebrations held in Latin American countries in honor of patron saints or virgins. Representatives from Mayagüez’s and UPRM’s administration recognized the chapter’s recent accomplishments, including the award for Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year and the 1st place award in the Student Chapter Poster Competition at the 92nd AMS Annual Meeting. Chapter members who attended the Annual Meeting were extremely honored to receive an official proclamation from Mayagüez municipality (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Chapter members who attended the 92nd AMS Annual Meeting were given a proclamation acknowledging the awards received at the conference.

Monthly Meeting

The monthly meeting was held on February 9 at 10:45 a.m. A total of 30 members attended. Chapter officers offered a summary of past activities, a financial report, and an update of the preparations for the annual Weather Festival to keep the members informed and on track. All of the chapter’s committees had been meeting regularly in preparation for the Weather Festival, and members were assigned specific tasks. Other future events, such as the upcoming SKYWARN Weather Spotters training, the blood
drive, and the monthly Weather Today, were also discussed during the meeting. The members were encouraged to suggest other activities of their interest to relax from a stressful semester.

Activity: “Love is in the air”

On February 9, immediately after the monthly meeting, the chapter celebrated Valentine’s Day with this exciting event. Chapter members were able to share experiences over refreshments under a relaxed atmosphere. The officers recognized the work of a chapter friend and collaborator, Alexander Rodriguez, a theoretical physics student and former historian of the Society of Physics Students at UPRM. Alexander has provided tremendous support to our activities by helping design flyers, banners, the chapter’s 2012 Weather Festival logo, the chapter’s weather channel Juracán TV’s digital studio, and the award-winning chapter poster. The chapter recognized his ability to transform the members’ ideas into striking promotional material, often also granting us ideas of his own. This acknowledgment was followed by an amusing candy exchange among the members (Figure 2). After randomly drawing names, each member mentioned a good quality of the person whose name they had drawn before giving off the candy. They then mentioned other distinctive qualities of the person so that the other attendees could guess who the person was. The members got better acquainted and learned good qualities about each other while filling the room with laughter. Cards with amiable messages that were sold among members for fundraising were delivered during this activity.

![Figure 2. Chapter members learned about each other during an amusing candy exchange.](image-url)
Activity: SKYWARN Training

The first SKYWARN Weather Spotters training hosted by the chapter at UPRM was held on February 11. About twenty members of Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency participated with the chapter in this innovative effort to serve the community. Ernesto Morales, lead forecaster at the National Weather Service-Weather Forecasting Office (NWS-WFO) in San Juan, kindly agreed to offer the training at Mayagüez. The purpose of this NWS initiative is to prepare volunteers to provide real-time weather reports to the agency. Morales’ training was focused on Puerto Rico’s weather, emphasizing our region’s typical events and particular needs of our community. He provided guidance on the delivery of reports to the NWS and highlighted their relevance. At the end of the activity, a total of 27 enthusiastic members were officially certified as SKYWARN Weather Spotters. They are now well prepared to help the community by serving NWS’s mission to protect life and property.

Activity: Interview with “Prensa RUM”

On February 16, UPRM media station, Prensa RUM, interviewed the chapter officers and the director of the Atmospheric Science and Meteorology Program, Dr. Hector Jimenez. Although the interview was mainly focused on the chapter’s recent accomplishments, the interviewer also asked about the chapter’s mission and endeavors. The interview served as a means of sharing information with the UPRM community about the chapter, AMS, and the Atmospheric Science and Meteorology Program. The article appeared on UPRM’s home page (www.uprm.edu) for a week and can be currently accessed at: http://www.uprm.edu/portada/article.php?id=2138.

Activity: Blood Drive

On February 27, the chapter jointly hosted a blood drive with the UPRM chapter of the Society of Physics Students. The extensive propaganda spread throughout UPRM paid off when 70 individuals showed up at the Physics Building to donate blood. Chapter members who were unable to donate were asked to find and bring someone who could. Fifty of the attendees were able to donate, allowing the chapter to exactly meet its goal. A total of 200 lives could be saved with the blood collected during this event.

Activity: Visit to the Puerto Rico Seismic Network

The chapter’s Weather Today committee scheduled a visit to the Puerto Rico Seismic Network (PRSN) on February 28 as their monthly activity. Fifteen members took advantage of this opportunity to learn about earthquakes, tsunamis, and the PRSN instrumentation and data acquisition processes. The attendees received educational material and polished their preparation for non weather-related natural disasters.

Activity: Hot Dog and Donut Sales

Hungry students passing through the Physics Building were satiated when the chapter reconvened its popular hot dog and donut sales. Chapter members were even more active than before in participating in these fundraising efforts. In total, three sales were held during this month (February 6, 13, and 21).