Chapter News

January 2012

Activity: AMS Annual Meeting Briefing

A special meeting was held on January 17 for the attendees of the upcoming 92nd AMS Annual Meeting. The purpose was to prepare for the conference by having a brief discussion of the agenda and what to expect. The chapter president started the discussion by describing the activities to be held during the 11th Annual AMS Student Conference and Career Fair, and the main conference. Returning attendees gave some pointers to first time attendees on how to get the best out of the meeting. Virginia Figueroa, administrative officer of the Physics Department and chapter honorary member, kindly joined the discussion of the logistics.

Monthly Meeting

The first monthly meeting of the spring semester was held on January 19 at 10:45 a.m. A total of 30 students attended. The chapter president recapped the activities held during the previous semester, reflecting on both strengths and shortfalls. The treasurer presented the financial report and indicated general monetary needs of the semester. The vice-president offered an update on the preparation for the chapter’s top event, the annual Weather Festival. The Weather Fest Committee, as well as other supporting chapter committees, will be meeting regularly until the event.

On another note, the officers announced the first SKYWARN Weather Spotters training hosted by the chapter at UPRM. The purpose of this National Weather Service (NWS) initiative is to prepare volunteers to provide real-time weather reports to the agency. The members showed great enthusiasm about this novel way to serve the community and NWS’s mission to protect life and property. Other upcoming activities include: the monthly Weather Today, hot dogs and donuts sales, and a blood drive.

92nd AMS Annual Meeting

The chapter’s participation in the 92nd AMS Annual Meeting was marked by great accomplishments. A total of 15 members attended. Twelve members attended the Student Conference and Career Fair held from January 21-22. Eight members presented their research projects at the student poster session: Alexandra N. Ramos, Hector M. Crespo-Jones, Diamilet Pérez-Betancourt, Suheily J. López Belén, Fernanda Ramos-Garcés, Angela Michelle Ferra, Gian A. Villamil, and Dennis Negron-Rivera. The chapter poster was also available for viewing. Chapter president Rosimar Ríos-Berrios participated in the logistics of the judging component of the poster session as part of her duties as a member of the Student Conference Planning Committee (SCPC). She also served as a session chair during the conference. This was the first time a student from our chapter joined the SCPC.
Most of the attendees stayed for the main conference, which lasted until January 27. Five of the total attendees were first time attendees. Three members were selected to work at the conference as part of the Student Assistant Program: José Algarín, Iris Díaz, and Emmanuel A. Vázquez. Three members presented posters at the professional poster sessions: Suheily J. López Belén at the April 27-28 Tornado Outbreak session, and Rosimar Ríos-Berrios and Diamelit Pérez-Betancourt at the T.N. Krishnamurti Symposium. The last two aforementioned members were also recognized during the conference for being selected as 2011 AMS Scholars. The chapter’s website was used to host digital versions of all the posters presented during the conference (http://academic.uprm.edu/ams/posters/2012/). The presentations served as an opportunity for the members to discuss their career paths and make advantageous connections with peers and professionals.

At the Chapter Officers’ Breakfast, the AMS outgoing president Mr. Jonathan Malay officially presented us the award for Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year. The award consisted of a banner for the chapter (Figure 1) and a certificate for each officer.

![Figure 1. Some of the 2010-2011 officers display the Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year banner.](image)
In addition, the chapter was awarded the 1\textsuperscript{st} place in the Student Chapter Poster Competition for the second time in a row (\textbf{Figure 2}). We proudly received the award ribbon from Mr. Christopher Schultz, chair of the Local Chapter Affairs Committee (See: http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/20102011chapawards.html).

\textbf{Figure 2.} Some of the 2011-2012 officers pose with the chapter poster after receiving 1\textsuperscript{st} place in the Student Chapter Poster Competition.

Ada Monzón, the first female Puerto Rican meteorologist and great supporter of the chapter, accompanied the officers during the award ceremony. She arranged a phone interview with the chapter president on one of Puerto Rico’s main radio stations as a means to announce the awards to our community. The award for Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year was also announced at the Awards Banquet. Ada Monzón, Yaitza Luna, cofounder and first president of the chapter, and Dr. Héctor Jiménez, director of the Atmospheric Science and Meteorology Program at UPRM, accompanied the members during this celebration (\textbf{Figure 3}).

Also during the meeting, chapter members gathered at a local restaurant for the 1\textsuperscript{st} Puerto Ricans’ Dinner. The purpose of this event was to gather “boricuas”, including current graduate students and professionals, who share the same interest for a career in meteorology. Participants shared their experiences and goals within the field and made important connections during this activity.
On behalf of the attendees, the chapter would like to thank the sponsors for providing them this invaluable opportunity. These were: AMS, NOAA-UPRM Educational Partnership, NOAA Educational Partnership Program, NASA Space Grant (via meteorologist Ada Monzón’s project), NOAA Center for Atmospheric Science at Howard University, Purdue University, and the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science Program. We would also like to thank Alexander Rodríguez, past historian of UPRM’s Society of Physics Students chapter, for his tremendous contribution to the design of the award-winning chapter poster.

**Activity: Poster Presentations**

The chapter’s Weather Today committee organized a poster session on January 31st. A total of 18 students attended this event. Members and professors who did not attend the AMS Annual Meeting had the opportunity to see the research posters presented during the conference. The chapter poster was also exhibited. This activity has been successfully held for three consecutive years to motivate members to do research and to provide advise for future research presentations.