Chapter News

March 2011

Monthly Meeting:

The monthly meeting was held on March 15 at 10:45 am. A total of 27 members agreed to gather at the Physics building lobby after a blackout affected the classrooms. The chapter officers discussed upcoming activities, such as a social gathering, a sale for fundraising, the Weather Festival, among others. The meeting was mainly focused on our participation in the upcoming Hurricane Hunter aircraft visit to the island. The logistics were coordinated to guarantee the success of this activity. The chapter officers emphasized the importance of commitment and teamwork in order to fulfill our responsibilities.

Activity: School Visit

On March 9, around 60 students from Antonio Paoli Middle School at Ponce visited the UPRM Physics Department. Chapter members joined members of the UPRM Society of Physics Students to present eye-catching demonstrations about Physics and Meteorology to our guests.

Activity: Weather goes Irish

Eleven students from Purdue University came to Puerto Rico over their spring break to take measurements for their Senior Experience in Atmospheric Research (SEAR) project. Four chapter members and their undergraduate research advisor, Dr. Mark Jury, helped the students and their advisors install and monitor meteorological equipment on the western coast of the island. Their objective was to understand the development of the land-sea breeze in the area.

The chapter wanted to welcome the visitors and have them meet more UPRM meteorology students. On March 16, we celebrated St. Patrick’s Day with the Purdue students, an unforgettable event where fun and laughter were the order of the night.

Activity: Poster Presentations

The chapter’s Weather Today committee organized a poster session on March 22. A total of 35 members attended this event where seven students presented their 2011 AMS
Meeting posters. The main objective was to motivate other chapter members to do research, and to give them some advice for their possible future projects and presentations.

Activity: Hurricane Hunter Aircraft Visit

The US Air Force WC130-J aircraft, its crew, and personnel of the National Hurricane Center (NHC) visited Puerto Rico on March 26, as part of the 2011 Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour. The Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency hosted this event, which was held at the José Aponte de la Torre Airport (former Roosevelt Roads Naval Station) in Ceiba.

![Figure 1. The attendees in front of the WC130-J Hurricane Hunter aircraft.](image)

Broadcast meteorologist Ada Monzón arranged for us to share the hangar with the Univision crew during the event. Chapter members gave weather-related demonstrations and hands-on activities to the public, which included people from all ages who were thrilled to see the aircraft and learn about meteorology.

The NHC director Bill Read kindly offered a talk exclusive to the chapter members, in which he mainly discussed the 2010 Hurricane Season and the lessons learned from it. Lt. Col. Jonathan Talbot, the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (the Hurricane Hunter crew) chief weather officer also gave the chapter a talk and a special tour of the aircraft.

We are very thankful for the excellent treatment we received from all the professionals participating in this event.
Activity: Donuts and Sandwiches Sale

On March 16, we sold glazed donuts and sandwiches again for fundraising purposes, motivated by the great success we had with the previous sales.