Chapter News

May 2011

Monthly Meeting: Officer Elections

The last monthly meeting of the 2010-2011 academic year was held on May 12 at 10:45 am. A total of 36 members attended. Candidates running for chapter officer positions had been asked to submit their platform statements via e-mail three days before the meeting. At the meeting, they briefly discussed their objectives as a final chance to prove why they deserved to be chapter officers. There was also a question and answer session before the election process started. The Chapter advisor, Dr. Carlos U. Pabón, and honorary member Waleska Cruz, counted the votes. They announced that the chapter officers for the 2011-2012 academic year are as follows:

- President: Rosimar Ríos-Berrios
- Vice-president: Fernanda Ramos
- Treasurer: José Algarín
- Secretary: Ashley Cruz

After the meeting concluded, the new chapter officers designated the rest of the positions:

- Historian: Diamilet Pérez-Betancourt
- Web-master: Juan P. Ramos
- “Juracán” Magazine Editor: Alexandra Ramos

Everyone left the meeting looking forward to the upcoming 5th anniversary celebration banquet. The banquet was the last planned activity of the year and promised to reward the members for all their great contributions to the chapter’s endeavors.

Activity: 5th Anniversary Celebration Banquet

Both the retiring chapter officers and the candidates participated in organizing this Hollywood themed event. It was held on May 19 at the Mayagüez Resort and Casino, the largest hotel resort in western Puerto Rico. The special guests included UPRM Physics Department faculty members Dr. Héctor Jiménez, Dr. Luis F. Bejarano, and Dr. Mark Jury. Administrative official Virginia Figueroa, as well as a chapter honorary member, Denisse Ramirez were also present.

An opening ceremony was held before the banquet. All of the aforementioned individuals, the past chapter officers, and other guests who could not attend were recognized for their broad contributions to the chapter during its first five years. Yaítza Luna, co-founder and first chapter president, sent a video in which she shared her experiences and her first president’s speech. She surprised everyone when two renowned scientists, Dr. Chris Davis (senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)), and Peggy LeMone (former AMS president and also a senior scientist at NCAR) congratulated the chapter in the video.
We then moved on to the next part of the celebration, which was the Weather Awards. Characteristics of some members had been matched with different weather phenomena. These members were awarded tornado-shaped prizes during this humorous section of the event.

![Figure 1. Some members were given tornado-shaped prizes at the Weather Awards.](image)

Following this, two retiring chapter officers introduced the new officers. Rosimar Ríos-Berríos, the chapter president, closed the ceremony with a speech and asked everyone to give a standing ovation to the graduating seniors. Delicious food, diverse music, a cake (Figure 2) and karaoke were some of the treats that followed the ceremony. The joy, positive energy and sense of friendship that filled the ballroom were the perfect way to conclude the academic year (Figure 3).
Figure 2. The members sang “Happy Birthday” to the student chapter.

Figure 3. The members celebrated the chapter’s 5th Anniversary with great enthusiasm.

We would like to thank Alexander Rodriguez, historian of the Society of Physics Students at UPRM, for providing the pictures of this event.