Chapter News

November 2011

Special Meeting

A special meeting was held on November 1st at 10:45 am to hand in the invitations for the upcoming 6th Student Chapter Initiation. Sixteen students attended this gathering, where the final details of the initiation ceremony were discussed.

Activity: 6th Student Chapter Initiation

The chapter’s sixth initiation ceremony was held on November 5 at UPRM’s Josefina Torres Torres auditorium. During this event, 11 enthusiastic students officially joined the chapter in the presence of 28 special guests, including parents and professors, and 19 active members. Dr. Héctor Jiménez, director of UPRM’s Atmospheric Science and Meteorology Program and chapter honorary member, and Dr. Carlos U. Pabón Ortiz, chapter faculty advisor, attended the event. They were joined by Dr. Luis Bejarano and Dr. Mark Jury, meteorology professors, and Dr. Erick Roura, physics professor and advisor of the Society of Physics Students. Each of these guests offered inspirational messages as they were introduced to the audience. Néstor Flecha, 2007-2009 chapter president and current meteorologist at WAPA-TV, surprised the audience by sending a video message from the TV station. Suheily López, 2010-2011 secretary, and Rosimar Ríos-Berrios, 2010-2012 president, also offered encouraging speeches representing the outgoing and the incoming chapter officers, respectively. The incoming chapter officers (Figure 1) and the new members (Figure 2) took an oath to commit to the chapter’s endeavors.
Figure 1. From left to right: Dr. Carlos U. Pabón Ortiz (chapter faculty advisor), Juan P. Ramos (webmaster), Diamilet Pérez-Betancourt (historian), Fernanda Ramos (vice-president), Rosimar Ríos-Berríos (president), Alexandra Ramos (Juracán magazine editor), Ashley Cruz (secretary), José Algarín (treasurer), and Dr. Héctor Jiménez (UPRM Atmospheric Science and Meteorology program director).

Figure 2. Newly initiated chapter members.
Virginia Figueroa, administrative officer of the Physics Department, was designated as an honorary member for her unconditional support and her initiative to communicate student opportunities of interest to our members. Dr. Luis Bejarano, meteorology professor, was also designated as an honorary member for his commitment to the advancement of meteorology, and the constant encouragement he offers to our members to further their education within the field.

Some of the treats of this event included a hurricane-themed decoration, musical performances, and a delicious lunch where parents, members, and professors mingled. Juracan TV, the chapter’s weather channel, prepared a special program with interviews to chapter members and the live transmission of the ceremony through their website, juracantv.webs.com. We would like to thank Alexander Rodríguez, past historian of UPRM’s Society of Physics Students chapter, for providing the pictures of this event.

Monthly Meeting:

The last meeting of the fall semester was held on November 10 at 10:45 am. A total of 30 members attended. The chapter officers summarized past events, gave the financial report, and discussed the final activities of the semester, including a second orientation about internships and scholarships, and the traditional Christmas Dinner. The officers also encouraged the members to continue actively participating in the activities during the spring semester, especially in the chapter’s top event of the year, the Weather Festival.

Activity: Home-schooled Students and Parents Visit

On November 17, students and parents from the homeschooling program “Homeschool del Suroeste” visited UPRM’s Physics Department with an interest to learn about meteorology and related sciences. The chapter vice-president offered them a talk accompanied by the Demonstrations committee members, who presented eye-catching weather-related activities. At the end, the parents and students expressed their delight to the chapter members who participated in this community outreach activity.

Activity: Interviews by Prensa RUM

The chapter was invited by UPRM’s press office, Prensa RUM, to be interviewed for their two programs, Foro Colegial TV and the homonym radio show.

Foro Colegial TV is transmitted by WORA-TV, a station located in Mayagüez and serving the western part of the island. Mariam Ludim Rosa, director of Prensa RUM, interviewed the chapter president and the historian at WORA-TV on November 21. Ludim Rosa asked the officers about the chapter’s history, mission, activities, and the recently announced AMS Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year award. In addition, she asked about the AMS scholarships recently awarded to the two officers, their experience as part of UPRM’s Atmospheric Science and Meteorology program, and their goals within the meteorology field.

On November 23, Ludim Rosa interviewed the two officers for the radio program Foro Colegial. Foro Colegial is transmitted in San Juan and Mayagüez by Radio Universidad, University of Puerto Rico’s radio station, and via internet. In this occasion, the chapter faculty advisor, Carlos U. Pabón Ortiz, accompanied the officers. He talked about the
growth of the chapter and the Atmospheric Science and Meteorology program in the short time since their founding, and about career opportunities within the meteorology field.

Activity: Meteorology Through a Lens II

On November 22, the chapter’s Weather Today committee conducted the second edition of the friendly photo competition “Meteorology through a lens”. Twelve chapter members submitted weather-related pictures for judging, while other members submitted pictures for exhibition. The activity also included presentations about weather-related phenomena prepared by the members. Virginia Figueroa, honorary member, and José Cordero, new chapter member, served as judges. The 16 attendants participated in a prize draw and discussed the weather phenomena captured by the pictures (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Chapter members discussed the weather phenomena captured by the exhibited pictures while the judges deliberated.

Activity: Hot Dog and Donut Sales

Our traditional hot dog sales, sometimes complemented with delicious glazed donuts, were held for fundraising on November 14, 21, and 28.