Chapter News

November 2012

Education opportunity: “Misiones al Planeta Marte” (Misions to Mars)

On November 1st, our Chapter had the honor of hosting Dr. Rafael Rodrigo Montero, a leading astrophysicist from Spain, as part of an effort to introduce our members to new topics in the atmospheric sciences. Dr. Montero is involved with studies concerning the atmospheric and geological conditions in different planets. His conference, aptly named “Missions to Mars: A Historical Perspective and On-going Investigations” and held in the UPRM Planetarium, focused on his findings in Mars, and students from various disciplines on campus gathered to learn about this scintillating topic.

![Figure 1 – Dr. Montero while speaking to students.](image)

Monthly Meeting

The monthly meeting was held on November 9th at 10:30 AM. In attendance were active members and members soon to be initiated. Some of the topics that were discussed were the upcoming Member Initiation, the NWS Shadowing Project, and the annual blood drive, among other upcoming activities. During the meeting we also had one of our bi-weekly weather briefings.
Member of the Month

During our Monthly Meeting, chapter members chose Raymond Guzmán as Member of the Month! His involvement in many of our day to day activities and his disposition to help out made him an excellent candidate for this honor. For more information about Raymond, please visit http://academic.uprm.edu/ams/MemberMonth.html.

Seventh Member Initiation

Our 7th Member Initiation was held on the morning of November 10th, at the Josefina Torres Torres Auditorium in UPRM. During this event, twenty enthusiastic students became part of our Chapter, while in the presence of active members, friends and family, and a few special guests. Among these guests were Ada Monzón, godmother to our chapter, certified broadcasting meteorologist currently working in Univisión Puerto Rico and newly elected AMS Fellow; Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade, manager of the NOAA National Weather Service Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program; Ernesto Morales, WCM (Warning Coordination Meteorologist) at the National Weather Service in San Juan, PR; and professors Hector Jimenez, Carlos U. Pabón-Ortíz and Henrik Ierkic.

During every Chapter Initiation, we like to honor people outside the Chapter who have helped us in ordinary or extraordinary ways and who have made our journey a possibility. This year, we chose two Honorary Members: Ernesto Morales, WCM of the NWS-San Juan, and Daisy Ayala, mother of active member Alexis Orengo. We are very thankful for all their help and support!

Figure 2 – Active and new members accompanied by professors, Honorary Members and special guests.
Activity: Blood Drive “There is a Hero in You…”

Our annual blood drive was held on November 14, in collaboration with the Banco de Sangre de Servicios Mutuos. During this day-long activity, we received more than 80 students willing to donate blood to help those who really need it. By the end of the day, 55 pints were collected with the potential to save more than 220 lives! This event was a very gratifying event, and it helped raise awareness among students.

![Vice-President of the chapter, Zuleimary Vélez, donates blood during the annual blood drive.](image)

Activity: Climate Change conference

As part of the COHEMIS International Conference on November 15, the UPRM campus was proud to host Dr. Franco Einaudi, former Director of the Earth Sciences Division at the Goddard Space Flight Center of NASA. Dr. Einaudi is an expert on climate change and the studies of changes in the climatic conditions of our planet. Our Chapter supported the activity and encouraged members to attend. Dr. Einaudi touched on some very interesting topics and details, and the conference was very worthwhile.
Weather Today: Meteorology Through The Lens III

We held our Third Annual Weather Today “Meteorology Through the Lens” on November 27. In the past couple of years, this activity was held campus-wide, with people submitting weather-related pictures in Puerto Rico, and members voting for the winning candidate. This activity has always been a favorite among our members, and this year, we gave it a twist.

Our Chapter collaborated with the AMS Student Chapter from Iowa State University to take Meteorology Through the Lens to the next level. Students from both schools exchanged photos, and on November 27, students in each university met in their respective campuses to view the pictures and chose the other school’s winner.

During the 93rd Annual AMS Meeting, both chapters came together to share experiences, exchange photos and announce the winners. Sharing with another Student Chapter was incredibly rewarding and we hope to continue doing so in the upcoming semesters.

Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinner

We celebrated the holidays on November 29th. Our members got together at the Eugene Francis Room in the UPRM campus and had a good time amidst good music, good food, and holiday decorations.