Chapter News

October 2011

The Award for Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year notice

On October 5th, around noon, the chapter president received an unexpected message from AMS president Mr. Jonathan Malay. Malay wanted to convey this excellent news: we were selected to receive the AMS award for Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year for the first time since our founding. Later, AMS officially released the news, stating that we received the award “for building a regional community of weather awareness through communication with educators, contributing to a variety of local charities, and instituting novel approaches to membership integration.”

We thank our founders, current and former chapter officers and members, professors, school officers, and professionals, all of which have made invaluable contributions to our success. We are extremely honored to receive this recognition, and will continue working together to accomplish AMS objectives within UPRM and our community at large.

Special Meeting

A special meeting was held on October 6 at 10:45 am. A total of 21 students, including active and prospective members, attended. The president started the meeting by officially announcing that the chapter was selected as Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year. The award will be received in January 2012 at the 92nd AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA. This introduction fit perfectly within the main topic of the gathering, which was an orientation about the AMS Annual Meeting. A panel of four members who had attended the conference discussed their individual experiences and funding situations. They represented four different perspectives:
(a) attending as a student assistant
(b) attending as a freshman student
(c) self-funded attendee
(d) attending as a presenter
All of them considered attending this conference an excellent opportunity for networking and increasing their knowledge about meteorology and related sciences. Different funding opportunities were mentioned, including the AMS Assistantship Program. The members were encouraged to seek different alternatives to participate in this experience. The panel was followed by a discussion of the logistics of the upcoming Pre-Halloween Party for fundraising.

Monthly Meeting

Thirty students, including active and prospective members, attended the monthly meeting on October 13 (10:45 am). Following the traditional agenda, the chapter officers began by summarizing past activities and accomplishments. Then, they moved on to the main topic of the gathering, which was the upcoming 6th Student Chapter Initiation to be held on November 5th. As established by our constitution, the members were asked to vote for this year’s honorary member nominees who were selected by the chapter officers. Both of the nominated honorary members were approved, and the officers reviewed other details of the activity. Finally, they gave the financial report and discussed other upcoming events, such as the Pre-Halloween Party and the monthly Weather Today.

Activity: School Visit

On October 13, the Demonstrations Committee leader and an enthusiastic potential chapter member visited the Antonio González Suárez Regional Bilingual Elementary School in the western town of Añasco. Students from 5th and 6th grade were amazed by the
weather-related demonstrations presented, and the teachers were excited about how these demonstrations complemented their classes.

**Activity: Interview at Univision PR, WKAQ and El Nuevo Día**

The chapter officers were invited by broadcast meteorologist Ada Monzón (Chief Meteorologist, WLII-DT) to be interviewed for Univision’s local news in PR. The interview aired live on October 25, at 12:50 pm. Monzón asked about the recently announced AMS Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year award, and about our various endeavors. She also asked about the AMS scholarships received by two of our chapter officers:

- Rosimar Ríos-Berrios (president): Werner A. Baum Endowed Scholarship
- Diamilet Pérez-Betancourt (historian): Howard T. Orville Endowed Scholarship in Meteorology

This exciting experience was followed by an interview with journalist Normando Valentin at WKAQ 580 AM radio station, which was scheduled by Monzón. Monzón also put the officers in contact with Mario Alegre, journalist and editor of the Science and Technology section from local newspaper *El Nuevo Día*. Alegre and the officers had an amiable conversation that same day, which will be published as an article in the section he leads.

![Figure 2. Interview by Ada Monzón at Univision PR (left), and by Normando Valentin at WKAQ 580 AM radio station (right).](image)

**Activity: Pre-Halloween Party**

The Pre-Halloween Party was held on October 19, serving both as a social gathering and a fundraising activity. The members had the opportunity to get to know each other better and relax in a friendly environment as they crossed over into the latter half of the academic semester.

**Activity: Résumé Writing Workshop**

The chapter’s Weather Today committee invited Margarita Carlo, employment interviewer at UPRM’s Placement Office, to teach our members how to prepare an effective résumé. The workshop, held on October 25 and focused on students in scientific fields, provided helpful tips to the 12 attendees. These guidelines will serve as excellent tools as our members progress in their professional careers.

**Activity: Hot Dog and Donut Sales**

Our traditional hot dogs were accompanied by delicious glazed donuts during the four sales that were held during this month (October 10, 17, 24 and 31) as part of our fundraising efforts.