

Local Chapter of the Year Award Application Form

Regular Chapter Student Chapter Pre-College Chapter

Applications for the Local Chapter of the Year Award must be completed by an officer or member of the local chapter seeking the award. Keep in mind that no one knows your chapter's accomplishments as well as you, so it is up to you to make sure this application is as thorough and complete as possible. The award will be given for chapter activities conducted during a 12-month period from 1 May through 30 April of the year the application is submitted. Two awards will be given, one to a student chapter, and one to a regular chapter. The complete application package must be received by 1 May of the same year, to:

American Meteorological Society
Local Chapter of the Year Selection Committee
45 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108-3693

If you have any questions, contact Kelly Savoie at 617-226-3983; e-mail: ksavoie@ametsoc.org.

Basic Chapter Information

The chapter must be in good standing and must meet the minimum requirements outlined in the Local Chapter Officers' Handbook to be considered for this award.

- 1) President/Chair must be a member of the national AMS.
- 2) The chapter must have reported election results during the period.
- 3) Applicants must have submitted their meeting minutes for publication in the *Bulletin* or on the Chapter section of the AMS Web site in a regular and timely fashion during the evaluation period.

Name of Chapter: University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM)

Person responsible for completion of this application

Name: Suheily J. López Belén

Address: Physics Department, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

PO Box 9000, Mayagüez, PR 00681-9000

E-mail: suheily.lopez@upr.edu

Chapter officers:

President: Suheily J. López- Belén

Other Officers

Vice President: Zuleimary Vélez-Rodríguez

Historian: Ana P Torres-Vázquez

Secretary: Imarís Rivera-Llavona

Webmaster: Dennis Negrón-Rivera

Treasurer: José A. Algarín-Ballesteros

Magazine: Lizxandra Flores-Rivera

Number of active (dues paying) members in the chapter during the evaluation period: 50

Number of chapter members who are all also AMS national members: 50

Number of meetings of the chapter during the evaluation period: 13

Activities for Evaluation

A major consideration under this award is the extent to which your local chapter furthers the mission of the American Meteorological Society; especially activities that serve to educate and involve the local community regarding scientific issues. The human and material resources available to your chapter will be considered along with your accomplishments in the evaluation process. When filling out the award application, please be sure to include any new activities and improvements that your chapter has undertaken over the past year. For guidance on what your chapter should consider when completing the award application, please go to:

www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/awardguidance.html

www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/LCAC%20COY_Sample.pdf

Answer each of the following questions on a separate sheet of paper, limiting each response to 500 words or less. There is a 3 page MAXIMUM for the award application.

1. In the past year, what has your chapter done for your members? (500 words or less)
2. In the past year, what has your chapter done for your community? (500 words or less)
(questions 1 and 2 are not limited to activities of a scientific nature)
3. In the past year, what has your chapter done for the national AMS? (500 words or less)

For question 3, activities that should be highlighted include, but are not limited to, regular submission of meeting minutes to AMS Headquarters, and displaying a chapter poster and abstract at the annual meeting that falls within the evaluation period.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Local Chapter Affairs Committee and their recommendations will be forwarded to the AMS Council through the Awards Oversight Committee. The Council will make the final award selections at its fall meeting, as it does with all other Society awards. Award winning chapters will be notified by late October and will be presented the award at the following annual meeting at the Local Chapter Breakfast. The award will consist of a banner indicating the year of the award, along with certificates for each officer serving during the year for which the award is presented. The chapter(s) who receive the award will also be listed in the annual meeting award's brochure.

Those chapters who do not receive an award for a particular year may, at the discretion of the Local Chapters Affairs Committee, be added to a "Local Chapter Honor Roll" for meritorious service. The Honor Roll will be maintained on the AMS Web site. Special notation of chapter of the year and chapter honor roll status will also be made on the AMS Website near the chapter's local news submissions during the 12 month period following the award.

A chapter may not win the Local Chapter of the Year Award more than 2 years in a row. After receiving the award 2 years in a row, there will be a one year hiatus before that chapter will be eligible to apply for the award again. Chapters, however, will be eligible for Honor Roll Status during this hiatus.

The awards approval process takes quite awhile. You will receive notification of the final outcome in October following your submission in May. Please provide additional contact information if necessary for awards communications next fall.

AMS UPRM Student Chapter email

uprm.ams@gmail.com

Carlos U. Pabón-Ortiz – Advisor

cupabon5@gmail.com

I. In the past year, what has your chapter done for your members?

The Student Chapters affiliated to the American Meteorological Society (AMS) provide students who are completing studies in Atmospheric Studies and Meteorology with a great opportunity to further their academic and professional goals. The Chapter at Mayagüez considers the improvement of member's future professional and academic skills one its foremost missions and so it have worked hard this year to provide members with new ways to personal improvement. Some of these new opportunities were the implementation of the National Weather Service (NWS) Shadowing Program, sponsoring various conferences by earth sciences professionals, coursework and internship orientations, and visits to potential work places for our future meteorologists.

The Chapter began the school year with the implementation of the NWS Shadowing Program. This project let students experience closer than ever before the daily activities of a local weather forecasting office. Every Saturday during the fall semester of 2012, several chapter members had the opportunity to shadow a forecaster for the duration of one shift during which they got a sense of the work done at the office and the professional skills needed to work there. Some 24 members took advantage of this opportunity, and the Chapter received very positive feedback from the Weather Coordinating Officer, Ernesto Morales, and other forecasters from the WFO.

Throughout the year, the Chapter was proud to host various speakers, who presented eye-opening and innovative projects and concepts. Among them was Dr. Rafael Rodrigo Montero, an eminent astrophysicist from Spain. Dr. Montero was involved in the study of atmospheric and geological conditions in nearby planets. As such, he presented his investigation "Missions to Mars: A Historical Perspective and Ongoing Investigations". His conference about Mars was intriguing and thoroughly educational for our members. Opportunities like this were greatly appreciated by Chapter members.

The Chapter also organized various orientation talks about successful college life. In these, professors and upperclassmen with Chapter members about topics like organizing the semester, choosing the best electives, and applying for internships. Chapter members also visited local news channels and the weather forecasting office in San Juan, allowing them a chance to meet professionals and getting to know the working environments.

Many other activities were held during this academic year, some geared towards members, others more focused on community outreach. Nevertheless, the Chapter and its members worked strenuously to make the year as balanced and varied as possible. The members benefited from this and, because of it, were more eager to contribute to the Chapter. The Chapter gave them useful tools, which members were able to use during their academic year. Hopefully, they will carry these tools into the professional world and make a better world for all of us.

II. In the past year, what has your chapter done for your community?

Seldom there is anything as exciting as sharing your knowledge with others. Sometimes, weather surprises us, and what we want is to avoid disasters. We want the people to be up-to-date with the latest information about atmospheric phenomena, and by sharing our knowledge with them; they feel much safer and well oriented. Our Chapter had wonderful experiences while teaching and talking about meteorology, as well as other related sciences, during our outreach activities during the past year. Visiting schools, community events, and even our traditional Weather Festival, were excellent examples of commitment. Our passion for meteorology helped us enjoy the time we spent helping others.

Members of this AMS Student Chapter are filled with love and charity. In addition to the educational activities, we also participated in many activities during the year that helped us be more conscious about our surroundings and which led us to support good causes. Some of these activities are listed below:

- **Orientation at the 2012 PR Weather Camp, held in Magueyes Island, Lajas, PR** – Members shared demonstrations with the campers. Campers were also oriented about the membership of our Chapter and how they can become members of the American Meteorological Society.
- **“Hurricanes y Casa Segura” or “Hurricanes and Safe Homes”, held in San Juan, PR** – Members helped the chief meteorologist of Univision Puerto Rico TV station, Ada Monzón, to distribute information about hurricanes and how to prevent disasters before, during and after an atmospheric event. We enjoyed presenting some demonstrations front of hundreds people during a weekend.
- **Beach cleanup, at Jardines del Caribe beach in Mayagüez, PR** – A union between Scuba Dogs Society and other organizations – Our members participated helping to collect more than 100 bags of garbage for a grand total of 2,000 pounds of garbage.
- **“Hay un Héroe en Ti” or “There’s a Hero in You” Blood Drive** - An event organized by our members. Students and employees of our University helped to recollect 55 pints of blood.
- **“Walk With Me” marathon** – hosted by SER of Puerto Rico, held in Ponce, PR– members shared and helped people who have different disabilities to complete this marathon.
- **UPRM Open House** – Members of our chapter gave a presentation to an audience of high school students and their teachers.
- **Beach cleanup – RIP CURL Surf event at Jobos beach, Isabela, PR** –We helped to collect recyclable materials.
- **6th Weather Festival** – Approximately 600 students from around the Island attended our signature event. They were oriented about meteorology and other related areas.
- **Weather Briefings** – approximately 50 weather briefings were prepared by some of our members and were shared with the community.
- **School visits** – The Demonstrations Committee members visited two schools and performed different scientific experiments related to the atmospheric sciences.

III. In the past year, what has your chapter done for the national AMS?

The Chapter's new leadership was selected, as four new Student Chapter Officers were elected on the last meeting of the academic year. As soon the results were in, they were reported to AMS Headquarters.

As an integral element of the educational area, around 20 Student Chapter members participated in different summer internships throughout the U.S. These experiences gave them the opportunity to spread the word about the Society. Chapter members were also involved in the Puerto Rico Weather Camp, where high school students were exposed to several talks on current issues on the atmospheric sciences.

As one of the Student Chapter's commitments with the AMS, every student member of the Chapter is required to be an AMS member. The new academic year started with innovative ways to attract new student members to the Chapter and, as a consequence, to the Society. By the end of August, a General Assembly was held, in which current members provided an orientation about the Chapter to potential new members. AMS membership and its benefits, both professional and educational, were emphasized. Thanks to this, 20 new members were welcomed to our Student Chapter, and to the AMS family. Our commitment also includes the general community, as the Student Chapter attended and developed several activities throughout the Island. These activities served as a key platform to encourage new Society members. An example is the traditional Weather Festival, which was held at our Campus during the month of March. After an island-wide media campaign, students from different school levels, from this campus and the general public attended. One of the booths provided information to visitors about our student chapter and the AMS.

Our Student Chapter was present at the AMS Annual Meeting. A total of 16 members represented the Chapter in Austin, leaving their footprints in many ways. Our Chapter's activities were displayed in the chapter poster during the Local Chapter Poster Session, and several members presented their summer research projects at the Student Conference's (SC) Poster Session. Three members helped the AMS staff, serving as Student Assistants. Also, two former and two current Chapter members took part in organizing the SC, as they joined other students in the Planning Committee. Another highlight of the Meeting was that, Ada Monzón, an honorary member from our Chapter was recognized as an AMS Fellow, reaffirming our commitment to give the best of the best to the Society and to the scientific community.

As part of the Chapter responsibilities, regular activities were reported through its monthly chapter's news submission. In these, the Chapter summarizes its new initiatives, fundraising efforts and special events such as scientific talks, and social gatherings. This way we keep the AMS up to date of what's happening in our group.