

**American Meteorological Society
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez Student Chapter**



**2016 – 2017
Annual Report**

Student Chapter of the Year Application



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 and may be sent electronically to Kelly Savoie by email ksavoie@ametsoc.org or fax 617-742-8718 or mailed 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.

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

Person responsible for completion of this application

Name: Iván L. Fontáñez Vázquez

Address: University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

PO Box 9000 Mayagüez, P.R. 00681 - 9000

Phone: 787-532-9762 E-mail: ivan.fontanez@upr.edu

Chapter officers:

President or Chair: Iván L. Fontáñez Vázquez Other Officers _____

Vice President or Vice Chair: Marcel Corchado Albelo Historian : Kevin Tardí Rodríguez

Secretary: Yidiana Zayas Rivera Web-Master: América Gaviria Pabón

Treasurer: Kayleen Torres Maldonado Magazine Editor: Manuel I. Ramos

Number of active (dues paying) members in the chapter during the evaluation period: 33

Number of chapter members who are all also AMS national members: 33

Number of meetings of the chapter during the evaluation period: 6

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. The distinction between core and new initiatives should be clear to the selection committee. Usage of bullet points to facilitate in the distinguishment is **HIGHLY** recommended. For guidance on what your chapter should consider when completing the award application, please go to: <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/about-ams/ams-local-chapters/local-chapter-awards/>

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, submissions to the Chapter Channel section of BAMS and/or the quarterly Local Chapter Affairs Newsletter, displaying a chapter poster and abstract at the annual meeting, and contributing to the chapter Wiki page 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.

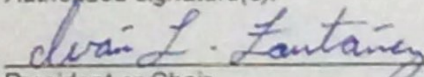
AMS UPRM Student Chapter e-mail

uprm.ams@gmail.com

Carlos U. Pabón Ortiz, Ph.D. - Advisor

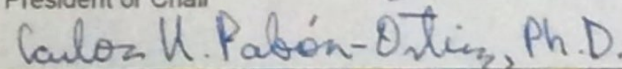
cupabon@uprm.edu

Authorized signature(s):



President or Chair

Date: 28-April-17



Faculty Advisor/Adult Advisor (for student and pre-college chapters)

Date: 28-Apr-2017



University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez Student Local Chapter 2016 – 2017 Local Chapter of the Year Award

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

During the past year, the Student Chapter of the AMS in the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez has carried out several activities, both educational and social activities for our community members. We have achieved a good relationship among active members, as well as an excellent communication between the members of the executive committee, as can be seen from the active participation of members in Chapter activities.

As part of the community's educational activities was *Weather Today*. These are workshops to which students from our Chapter attend and are educated on different aspects of their future professional career. It is not just for the Chapter members, also all those students of our Campus interested in attending can participate in the workshops that include how to prepare a Federal Resume for the US Department of Defense. Also, the Atmospheric Science Curricular Sequence has the Weather Casting course in which student members assisted a local TV Meteorologist, and created general science information capsules for the *Laboratorio de Comunicaciones Científicas (LCC)* TV program and have the experience of going out on television, presenting the weather report. Another good activities this year were the two Physics and Meteorology Symposiums. One at the beginning of the semester in August, and another in October in collaboration with the students of the Society of Physics Students. In these, the students were able to present to the audience their Summer research projects. Lastly, in collaboration with the JYE Studio program and the *Repaso Noticioso* segment we created a series of podcasts in which students have the experience of creating a weather forecast which is published on our official Facebook fan pages, *Sociedad Meteorológica de Puerto Rico/AMS Local Chapter*, and UPRM Laboratory.

Several monthly meetings are held in order to inform members of the activities that are being carried out, to organize their participation in these. At the beginning of the academic year, the Initiation Ceremony was held, in which we introduced the new members to the present public, which include: current members, parents and family of the new members, meteorology and physics faculty and university officials.

Among the social activities of the chapter members is the annual Banquet dinner, in which we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Student Chapter of the AMS in the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. In the same were present several of the past presidents, professors and administrative personnel of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. At the beginning of August, we made a *Movie Night* in which new members of the chapter could get to know each other better and interact. In addition, a *Salsa Night* and a camping in Jayuya were carried out in conjunction with other associations, including the Society of Students of Physics and Student Geological Society, both of the Mayagüez Campus.

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

As a society, our goal is to transmit knowledge in Meteorology to people of all ages. We focus in keeping the community informed and well educated about meteorology and different other branches of science. It is important that children and the youth see all the career opportunities they have, and are properly motivated to study branches of science like meteorology. The activities organized by the Chapter were as follows:

- **Hurricane Hunter Airplane visits to Ponce (2016) and Aguadilla (2017)** - Informing the public in collaboration with WIPR (official local government TV channel) and the LCC, WOLE TV, NWS and *EcoExploratorio Museo de Ciencias de Puerto Rico*, about how to prepare for the hurricane season, and what are the different atmospheric phenomena that affects Puerto Rico. (April 16, 2016 / April 29, 2017)
- **Eduvertido Camp and Weather Camp** – Workshop on meteorological concepts and how they can pursue studies in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology in Puerto Rico, for summer camp attendees. (July 8, 2016)
- **Planeta Digital 2016 and 2017** - We were invited on two occasions by the meteorologist Ada Monzón to provide demonstrations and information about the Chapter and the Meteorological Curricular Sequence offered in our Campus. (August 27, 2016 / April 8, 2017)
- **Beach cleaning Isabela 2016** - In conjunction with *Campus Verde Colegial*, a community service activity was held on the *International Day of Coastal Cleaning*, to clean *Las Golondrinas Beach* in Isabela. (September 17, 2016)
- **Geoticlíma 2016** - A group project of elementary school students from the UPR - Río Piedras Campus, operate their own Weather Station; they visited our Campus to have an interactive conversation about Meteorology. (October 6, 2016)
- **Freshmen orientations** - We received students from different schools and guided them in the application processes to the different academic programs offered by the University, and advised them on the opportunities they would have by entering a career in the atmospheric sciences during the “*Prepa*” Week, *UPRM Open House and UPR Expo*. (August 4, 2016, October 21, 2016, October 28, 2016)
- **Women in Science** - With several student associations the Chapter attended the presentation by Dr. Joan Schmelz from the Arecibo Radio Observatory, entitled *Hidden Obstacles to Success: Unconscious Bias, Stereotype Threat, and Impostor Syndrome*.
- **Pre-College Workshops and School Visits** - We reached out to schools in several towns to inform them of basic weather processes, climate sciences, and preparations for any weather-related emergency.
- **Weather Fest 2017** – Our biggest activity and this year's theme was “Atmospheric Sciences as a diverse branch”, as we celebrated our 10th Anniversary. We invited science associations from our campus to the Festival, and educated 600 participants in these topics, using demonstrations, and visuals. (March 10, 2017)
- **Women in engineering (SWE-WOW)** - We participated as ushers in WOW, an activity dedicated to motivate young females to pursue university and professional careers in STEM. (April 2, 2017)
- **March for Science Puerto Rico** - We joined the International March for Science on April 22, in San Juan.

- **Juracán Magazine** - Our Magazine Committee oversees preparing a summary magazine of all the most significant activities carried out by the Chapter. It is published on the Society's website and is distributed to the members and the Physics department.
- **Facebook (Meteorological Society PR, Weather Today, UPRM Laboratory), Twitter, Sometpr.com** - These are the means by which we announce all the activities of the Chapter and the different projects that are carried out throughout the academic year.

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

The seven members of the executive committee of the Meteorological Society of Puerto Rico and some other members with research projects attended the last 97th AMS Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA. It is an honor for us to have attended and participated in the official activities. It was a very enriching experience for everyone, personally and professionally. We were very proud to represent the Student Chapter of the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez, Campus. Some important things we did for the AMS in the past year are listed below:

- **We had a poster that shows our annual activities** - We presented the poster of the activities carried out in 2016 at the Annual Conference of the AMS.
- **Membership of Initiated Students** - Our bylaws as chapter requires that all official members of the SMPR during the academic year be members of the AMS.
- **Research posters at the National Conference** - All students with research projects that are part of the Society and the Curricular Sequence at UPRM, submitted the abstracts of their projects and then presented posters at the National Conference of the AMS.
 - *Temporal Temperature Distribution across Puerto Rico* - **María Morales Cáez**
 - *Further exploration of MJO initiation events and precursors as revealed by an MJO-like dynamical mode* - **Rosa M. Vargas Martes**
 - *Synoptic patterns associated with non-tropical cyclone heavy rainfall events in the Corpus Christi area* - **Lee Ann Inglés**
 - *NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program* - **Karuska Matos Horta**
- **Helping to initiate student associations at the University of Puerto Rico Campus of Río Piedras, Mexico to the National AMS** - We have been avant-garde in the connection with groups interested in meteorology in Hispanic America, such as the "Red Latinoamericana" group led by students in Mexico and the University of Puerto Rico Campus of Río Piedras. We have offered all the support and orientation so that these groups begin as chapters. In addition, we have made efforts to create a link between our Chapter and the Meteorological Society of Cub, as well.
- **We are very accessible** - At the moment, we have student members in our society of different Departments like History, Chemical Engineering, Geology, Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Engineering, Psychology, among others. We encourage diversity in the field, it is very important for us, so long as they are UPRM students interested in the Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology.

- **Interactions with Other On-campus Associations** - This year we started a committee dedicated to Outreach with the intention of attracting students from other departments to our Chapter and the Curricular Sequence in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology. On the other hand, we have moved as a Chapter to create connections with other associations in Campus, as examples we mention: “Campus Verde”, Astrobiology Student Association (AEXO), Geological Student Society (SGE), Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS), Society of Physics Students (SPS), Sea Grant and Seismic Network. These groups helped us in the preparation of our Weather Fest in 2017. In addition, we have fostered a closer link with the Society of Physics Students (SPS) to collaborate in our activities, something that has never happened before.