

Annual Report 2024-2025

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Contents

I. General Information of the Dean's Office and Associated Units	1
a. Mission and Vision	1
1. Mission and Vision of the Dean's Office	1
b. Organizational Structure	1
1. Organizational Chart o the Dean's Office	1
2. Organizational Chart of associated units under the Dean's Office	2
II. Report on Initiatives, Activities, and Achievements in Accordance with the Strategic Plan and International Activity	2
a. Executive Summary	2
b. Objective 1: Institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment.....	3
c. Objective 2: To lead higher education throughout Puerto Rico while guaranteeing the best education for our students	7
d. Objective 3: To increase and diversify the Institution's sources of revenue	13
e. Objective 4: To implement efficient and expedient competitive creative endeavors	17
f. Objective 5: To strengthen research and competitive creative endeavors	21
g. Objective 6: To impact our Puerto Rican society	29
h. Objective 7: To strengthen school spirit, pride, and identity	34

I. General Information of the Dean's Office and Associated Units

a. Mission and Vision

1. Mission and Vision of the Dean's Office

Vision

Be a leading college, known for its high standards, its contribution to social and economic development of the local and international community by seeking and implementing new knowledge.

Mission

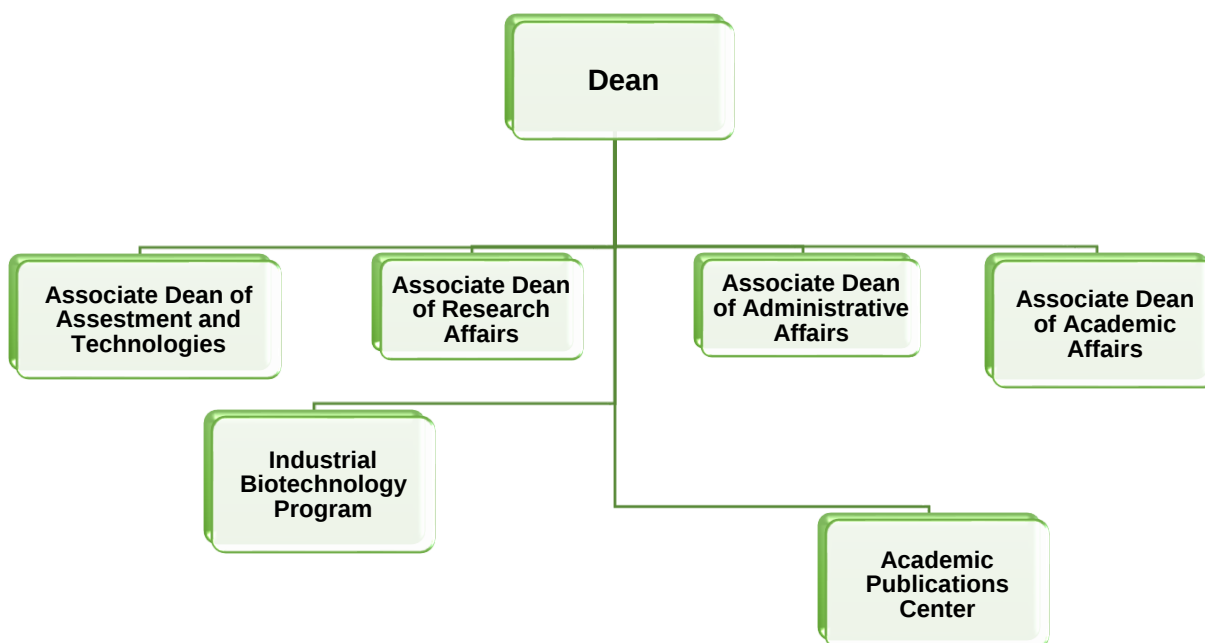
Provide an excellent service to Puerto Rico and the world:

- Forming educated citizens, capable of critical thinking and professionally prepared in the arts and sciences so that they can contribute in an educational, cultural, social, technological and economic development.
- Perform creative work, of research and service, that meets the needs of society and divulge the results of these activities so they can be accessible for everyone.

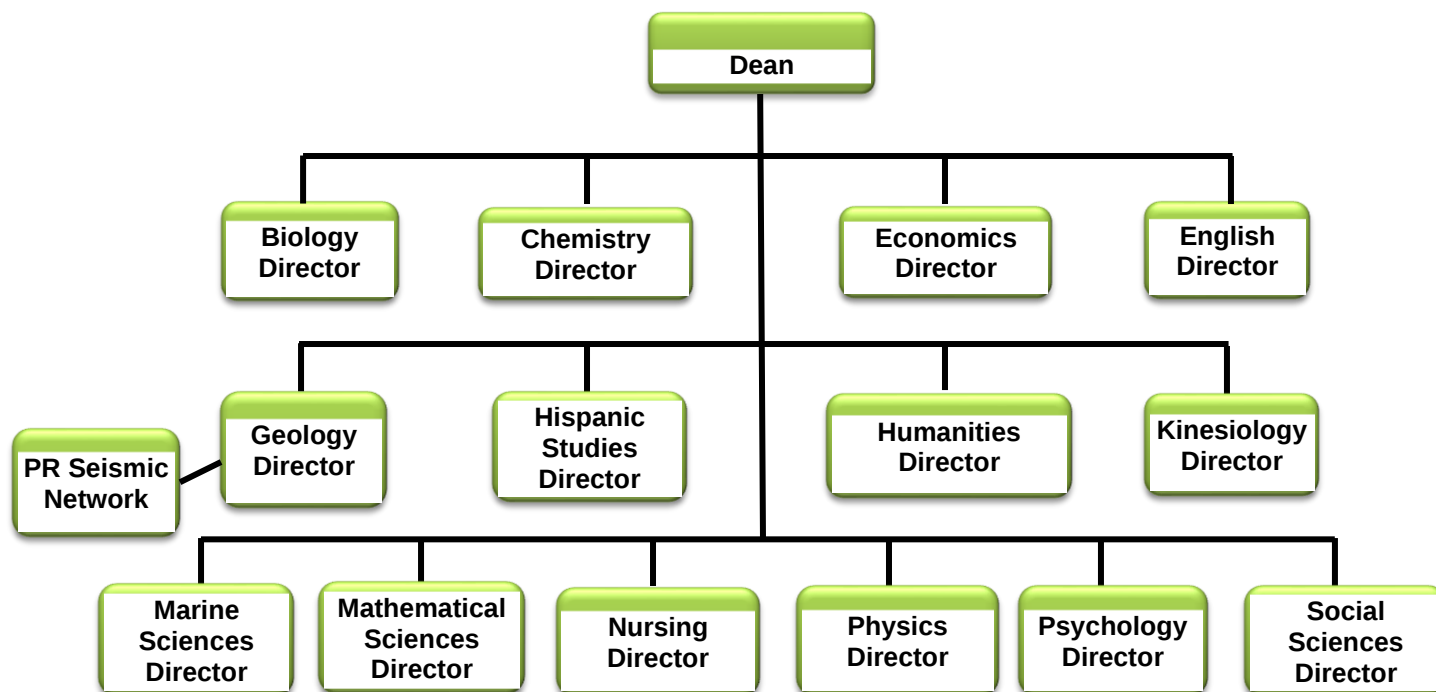
Provide our students with the necessary skill and sensitivity, to effectively solve the problems we face and be an example of the values and attitudes that must prevail in a democratic society that values and respects diversity.

b. Organizational Structure

1. Organizational Chart of the Dean's Office



2. Organizational Chart of associated units under the Dean's Office



II. Report on Initiatives, Activities, and Achievements in Accordance with the Strategic Plan and International Activity

a. Executive Summary

The College of Arts and Sciences has 14 departments offering 46 undergraduate and graduate academic programs. In addition, we have an interdisciplinary undergraduate program in industrial biotechnology. This annual report highlights significant progress in academic excellence, strategic planning, community impact, and institutional development across our diverse departments. Multiple departments refined their strategic and assessment plans, focusing on curriculum revisions, learning outcomes, student recruitment, and faculty development. Notable efforts include Marine Sciences' comprehensive five-year plan, Mathematics' initiatives for low-enrollment programs, and Psychology's accreditation path for its doctoral program. Departments advanced academic offerings with new and revised programs. English proposed a Film Production bachelor's degree and expanded Media Studies; Economics introduced courses in sustainability; and Nursing advanced a 130-credit BS proposal while preparing a master's program. Curricular innovation was also seen in Geology, Kinesiology, and Hispanic Studies. Our College reported robust research activity. Marine Sciences led with over \$3.3 million in active grants, including an \$11M NOAA-funded coral restoration project. Faculty across departments published in peer-reviewed journals, secured external

funding, and mentored students. Psychology and Social Sciences maintained active research centers, while English's Oral History Lab managed a \$1.8M community grant. Departments enhanced revenue through grants, donations, continuing education, facility rentals, and textbook authorship. Marine Sciences generated over \$250K from external sources and partnerships. Nursing expanded CEU programs, while Mathematical Sciences developed departmental textbooks and INFOMATE initiatives. Departments adopted digitization, automation, and cloud-based tools to improve administrative processes. Initiatives included digital student files, QR code systems for appointments, and automated purchasing logs. Staff participated in professional development workshops and leadership training. Community impact remained strong. Departments engaged in outreach, public education, and partnerships with municipalities, hospitals, and NGOs. Highlights include Geology's LandslideReady program, Nursing's public health collaborations, and Psychology's CAISPE clinic launch. Students participated in local and international academic events and service initiatives. Students received national awards and scholarships, and participated in high-profile research presentations. Faculty earned leadership roles in professional associations and collaborated on inter-institutional and interdisciplinary projects. The College reinforced its identity as a driver of educational, social, and scientific progress in Puerto Rico and beyond. In summary, the great richness and diversity that exists in the College of Arts and Sciences demonstrates our strong commitment to continue strengthening the academic excellence of the programs.

b. Objective 1: Institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment

Department of Economics

- During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Department of Economics undertook several strategic, assessment, and recruitment initiatives. Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González was appointed to the Arts and Sciences Planning Committee and tasked by the Chancellor to contribute to the UPRM Infrastructure Master Plan 2024–2034, including leading collaborative planning events. Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez led the design and implementation of an Administrative Assessment Questionnaire and finalized the Departmental Assessment Plan. He also coordinated and edited the *Avalúo Plus* Magazine, which featured departmental assessment efforts.
- The department updated master syllabi for all undergraduate ECON courses per UPR Certification No. 125 (2023–2024) and reviewed the Personnel Evaluation Plan. An alignment report on Expected Learning Outcomes (SLOs) across institutional, college, and program levels was approved. Additional reports covered academic profiles, grade trends, and student feedback from orientation.
- A Student Recruitment Plan was approved in February 2025, including participation in summer camps, school visits, and a pilot training program for public school teachers. Internal discussions began to identify faculty recruitment needs for 2025–2026. Dr. Eduardo Kicinski initiated a study on grade variations in ECON 3021. Lastly, the department reviewed the CEEF's mission and completed the required evaluation report (R-2425-17) for the Economics BA Program.

Department of English

In January 2025, the English Department established its committees to coordinate work for reporting in May. Several committees are actively working, particularly on recruitment, retention, and graduation efforts. On May 6, Sector committee chairs were appointed to the Department Strategic Committee, with a representative and alternate to be elected for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Strategic Committee by August. In June 2025, a report on admissions trends and a preliminary recruitment action plan for the English Program (0907) were submitted. These will be presented to faculty at the beginning of the semester for discussion on data-informed decision-making and continuous improvement.

Department of Geology

The Geology Department is currently in the process of reviewing the Strategic and Assessment Plans. Assessment exercises were continued, especially related to the undergraduate research courses.

Department of Hispanic Studies

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Department of Hispanic Studies implemented several key initiatives aimed at program evaluation and improvement. An academic assessment plan for the 2024–2027 period was submitted and approved by the faculty in December 2024. The department administered an exit survey to graduating students to gather feedback on the program. Additionally, a provisional plan was developed to strengthen the academic offering and increase student enrollment. To further support these efforts, an ad hoc committee on program strengthening was established to lead the development of a comprehensive enhancement plan, including a curriculum review and an analysis of the student profile.

Department of Kinesiology

The Department perform regular staff and faculty meeting allowing to refocus on the institutional strategic plan every month. At the beginning of the academic year the Department administrative staff target a main goal called KINE 2030 promoting an assessment plan through the year. The strategies and indicators used were:

- *Metrics analysis.* In the departmental meeting provided metric analysis regarding students' active participation in community programs, freshmen student retention plan, graduation rate, students' recruitment strategies, faculty/student achievement, and budget analysis (income, outcome and savings). Every month, the Department meeting presented updates among our students, maintaining the institutional strategic plan and the assessment evaluation plan.
- *Publish updates and metrics.* A physical education assistant (Mr. Orlando Cruz) that received the WordPress certification that maintained departmental website. The website provides update information regarding social activities, academic programs, research, community programs, faculty members, strategic plan, facilities, and employment opportunities. Additionally, administrative staff maintained a social media.

- *Update departmental strategic plan.* The department developed a variety of modification in order to collect data and implement an efficient assessment plan such as exit survey for graduating students, open conversations with students and meeting with freshmen students. Some of the student's insides provides information for new courses, academic curricular changes, reprogramming courses hours (from morning to evening) and internships.

Department of Marine Sciences

- The Department of Marine Sciences (DMS) is in the process of updating its Strategic Plan for the next five years. This plan is structured around eight key objectives, each defined by targeted strategies and measurable metrics to evaluate success. Objectives one and two are particularly critical, as they focus on enhancing faculty recruitment, increasing diversity and expertise, strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration, and expanding teaching and research opportunities through graduate assistantships and external funding. These objectives also aim to improve administrative and evaluation protocols to better support the needs of a graduate-level research program.
- One of the department's most urgent challenges is its low number of faculty members (see Fig. 2). This shortage significantly limits the quality and capacity of the Graduate Program, affecting student recruitment, retention, and mentoring. In 2023, for instance, the Graduate Committee had to reject four of sixteen qualified applicants due to faculty overload. For the 2025–2026 academic year, the department admitted 18 new students, though three lacked confirmed advisors at the time of admission. However, a new faculty member will join the department in August 2025, and a second position is being advertised for January 2026, which should help address this issue.
- Metrics to evaluate the success of these objectives include the number, composition, and expertise of DMS faculty; formal agreements with other departments and institutions; availability of new teaching and research assistantships; externally funded thesis research; total external funding secured; and the creation and offering of new courses. These indicators align with both the DMS and UPRM strategic plans and are essential in assessing the Graduate Program's performance and progress. Applications to the program have been steadily increasing, and the number of admitted students from 2023 to 2025 exceeded previous years. For Fall 2025 alone, the department received 18 applications.
- To support continuous improvement, the DMS evaluation committee is developing a formal protocol and metrics to assess the completion status of each strategic objective. Until finalized, the department is using established indicators—such as student enrollment, graduation rates, research outputs, and grant acquisition—as reliable measures of progress and program success.
- Recent curricular advancements further reflect the department's commitment to academic excellence. Dr. Johana Rotterová, a new assistant professor, has revised the syllabi for Marine Microbiology and Marine Parasitology, creating a two-course sequence: *Marine Microbiology I* (CMOB8635) and *Marine Microbiology II* (CMOB8636). She is also developing a new course in *Marine Symbiosis* (CMOB-6010), a highly relevant topic in marine biology. The first two courses are already available for student enrollment. Meanwhile, Dr. Noelle Lucey, who joined the faculty

on July 1, will teach an 8-contact-hour course in the Fall and plans to update courses in *Aquaculture* and *Marine Physiology* for the Spring semester.

Department of Mathematical Sciences

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Department of Mathematics at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, made notable strides in strategic planning, research, academic outreach, and student development. The Department continued to foster a culture of excellence through initiatives such as the Departmental Colloquium, the Gauss Medal for academic excellence, and outreach programs like the Pre-Calculus and Calculus Competency events and the COMATEQ International Competition. These efforts aim to align teaching, research, and community engagement with the institutional goals of UPRM. A strong emphasis was placed on encouraging undergraduate and graduate research, as evidenced by a series of oral presentations and ongoing projects under the mentorship of faculty members, particularly Dr. Reyes Ortiz, Dr. Omar Colón Reyes, and Dr. Israel Almodóvar. Their work spanned topics in topology, graph theory, control theory, and machine learning, with one student project earning first place in an engineering research competition.

Department of Nursing

- The Curricular Committee established a curricular revision plan to revise the number of credits for Program completion. A new proposed BSN Program with 130 credits will be submitted by the end of 2025. Included in this plan is the consideration of General Academic required courses.
- The Personnel Committee reviewed the Faculty Recruitment and Retention Plan by the University of Puerto Rico's 2028 guidelines and strategic plan.
- The Department of Nursing is an accredited Nursing Program committed to maintaining excellence in academics. To this end, the Evaluation Committee is developing new metrics aligned with the *New Standards for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing*, which will assess end-of-program student learning outcomes and program outcomes.
- The Personnel Committee reviewed and developed the Faculty Recruitment and Retention Plan according to the guidelines and strategic plan of the University of Puerto Rico 2023-2028.
- The Evaluation Committee completed all courses evaluations for 2024-2025, affiliated agencies evaluation, satisfaction with the program of graduating students' evaluation, and an exit test to measure outcomes of Student learning outcomes by levels of competencies. Also, analyzed the *Completion Rate* for academic year 2024-2025.

Department of Physics

During the academic year 2024-25, the Department of Physics continued to review the Strategic Plan, which was last revised during the academic year 2021-22. The Department of Physics has begun to implement part of the new administrative Assessment Plan. The review of the Physics Department Strategic Plan has not yet been completed and we expect to be able to continue its review early next academic year. The

Department of Physics continues to send the Exit Survey by e-mail to its graduates from all the programs offered by the Department. The results of the survey are currently being analyzed and we hope that they will help us to update all our strategic plans so that we can adapt our academics offer accordingly.

Department of Psychology

- The Department of Psychology at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (RUM) is undergoing significant development at academic, research, and service levels. The creation of research laboratories provides an opportunity for both graduate and undergraduate students to gain comprehensive research experience in various areas of psychology. With a doctoral program in philosophy specializing in school psychology, it is imperative to strengthen research experiences. Our graduate students play an important role in mentoring undergraduate students, and together they conduct research under the supervision of the department's faculty.
- The upcoming opening of CAISPE will offer opportunities for conducting research, providing school psychology services and training to the external community, and serving as a practical component for both graduate and undergraduate courses, among other services.

Department of Social Sciences

- To facilitate the strategic planning of the academic offer and continuous curricular review, the faculty is assigned to one of the academic programs and these in turn select a coordinator to facilitate the planning of the academic offer of each program. However, there are faculty members who offer courses in more than one program. During this year, the program coordinators together with the director of the Department coordinated the course programming of all the programs.
- In the same way, our students maintain a database of the Social Sciences program. Its purpose is to generate information that helps us to describe the effectiveness of the Programs, to identify areas that need attention, and to develop strategies to improve the teaching and learning process in them.

c. Objective 2: To lead higher education throughout Puerto Rico while guaranteeing the best education for our students

Department of Chemistry

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Department of Chemistry continued to expand its academic offerings and instructional modalities. The department maintained its Certification in Biochemistry and introduced a new General Chemistry course specifically designed for engineering students, which received both departmental and university-level approval. Additionally, the Doctoral Seminar program remained active throughout the year in virtual, hybrid, and face-to-face formats under the coordination of Dr. Carmen Amarilis Vega Olivencia, reinforcing the department's commitment to flexible and rigorous graduate education.

Department of Economics

- In 2024–2025, the Department of Economics at UPRM advanced key academic, curricular, and outreach initiatives. The department hosted a series of lectures by notable economists and launched a new undergraduate course, *Economics for Well-being and Sustainability* (ECON 3026). It also approved the full course list for a proposed Master's Program in Sustainable Economic Development and made several curriculum revisions, including updated prerequisites and new course sequences.
- Infrastructure improvements were supported by \$27,908 in Technology Fee funds, and all ECON undergraduate courses were updated in line with Certification No. 125 (2023–2024). The department remained active in research and engagement, releasing the final report on the AgroEnergy project, collaborating on transportation economics training, and participating in professional conferences. The Center for Economic and Financial Education (CEEF) was relaunched to promote economic literacy.
- Faculty leadership included Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González serving as Academic Senator and contributing to the UPRM Master Plan, and Dr. Ivonne Díaz Rodríguez participating in the Sustainability Committee. Overall, the department maintained a strong focus on innovation, academic excellence, and institutional contribution.

Department of English

- English Department undertook significant curricular reforms, particularly in the Writing and Communication minor, with the goal of developing it into a bachelor's degree. The proposal includes new courses focused on technical writing. Additionally, the Ethnography course was approved at both department and faculty levels.
- Grant funding supported the foundation of a Curricular Sequence in Media Studies, resulting in five new course proposals. Two—INGL 3018 Media Aesthetics and Production and INGL 3019 Media, Power, and Representation—were approved, with the former taught in spring 2025 and the latter scheduled for fall. The remaining three are under faculty committee review.
- A major initiative is the creation of a comprehensive Film Program, building upon the department's successful Film Certificate. The letter of intent for the program was approved by the UPR Vice President on April 22, 2025. This effort fosters innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration across departments (English, Hispanic Studies, Humanities, Social Sciences) and colleges (Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Agriculture), as well as partnerships with external entities such as *Fomento Económico*, the Mayagüez Chamber of Commerce, the Puerto Rico Film Commission, and the Puerto Rico Film Festival. Stakeholder meetings were held throughout the year to support these film-related initiatives.

Department of Geology

- We have approved a complete curricular revision of the Bachelor's program. This includes the creation and revision of courses, which has all be completed. Most of the course revisions have been approved at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences level.

The remaining course creations and revisions are currently in the Curricular Committee at the Faculty level, to be approved in the fall semester.

- Residencia 4A was reconditioned and is now the location of the Puerto Rico Landslide Hazard Mitigation Office, which started operations in the first semester 2024-2025, under the coordination of Dr. K. Stephen Hughes.
- Residencia 2 has been re-assigned to the Geology Department for the development of the Museum of Geology, which is currently being reorganized. We expect the museum to open again, at least partially, during the academic year 2025-26.
- Acquisition of specialized equipment
 - Thin section machine: Buehler PetroThin
 - 8 Dell Tower Plus 7010 computers for the Computer Laboratory

Department of Hispanic Studies

- As part of the curriculum enhancement efforts of the Hispanic Studies Program, an online curricular sequence in Academic and Professional Writing in Spanish was proposed. This sequence is intended for students interested in developing advanced competencies in the use of Spanish as a language for academic and professional communication. The proposal includes the creation of a course on Writing in Spanish and Artificial Intelligence.
- An interdisciplinary course in Forensic Linguistics was approved to be included as part of the Criminality Curricular Sequence offered by the Department of Social Sciences. This course represents a collaborative effort to integrate linguistic knowledge into the broader study of criminal behavior and justice.
- A course on Linguistics and Economics was proposed as a collaborative initiative with the Economics Program, aiming to explore the intersections between language and economic behavior.
- A series of workshops on literacy was organized for the faculty of the Department of Hispanic Studies. This initiative is part of a broader effort to support faculty members who are currently teaching or will be teaching the Academic Literacy course. The goal of the workshops is to strengthen the teaching and learning of Spanish as a language for academic, social, and professional communication. The sessions address key topics related to reading, writing, and oral communication practices across various academic contexts.
- An assessment instrument was administered to identify the level of mastery of academic literacy concepts achieved by a group of students who completed the literacy sequence ESPA 3131 and ESPA 3132.

Department of Kinesiology

To establish itself as a leader in the academic fields of sport, exercise, and physical education in Puerto Rico, the Department of Kinesiology implemented a series of strategic initiatives during the 2024–2025 academic year. It fostered a dynamic learning environment by encouraging student participation in national and international conferences, including the Association of Physical Education and Recreation, ACSM, the Paralympic Annual Conference, and research events in Colombia. The department began updating its curriculum by reducing credit requirements and introducing new courses such

as pickleball, first aid in sport settings, and anatomy and kinesiology. Faculty members demonstrated strong leadership and commitment through course creation, innovative teaching strategies, research, and community engagement. Physical spaces were improved to enhance student learning, including updates to the exercise physiology and strength and conditioning labs and the addition of a new research and study room (Mangual B-7). Support services were strengthened with in-service training on emergency response and Title IX compliance, along with the development of a departmental safety manual, all aimed at fostering a safe and well-prepared academic environment.

Department of Marine Sciences

- Fourteen (14) new applications (11 for Ms.C and three for Ph.D. program) were received for the academic year 2024-25. The DMS accepted two doctoral students and only 11 of Masters applications, for a total student body of 41 master's and 16 doctoral students (N= 57) in the program during the 2024-25 academic year.
- During the 2024-2025 academic year the Department of Marine Sciences awarded ten (10) Master of Science Degrees (Plan I), one (1) Professional Masters in Marine Sciences (Plan II), and two (2) Doctorate (Ph.D.), for a total 13 graduates in Marine Sciences, one more graduate from 2024. Only two Ph. D students finished degree in this period.

Department of Mathematical Sciences

- As part of our commitment to academic excellence and leadership in higher education across Puerto Rico, and in response to a request from the Office of Academic Affairs, the Department of Mathematical Sciences has developed a comprehensive Action Plan for Low-Enrollment Programs for the 2025–2026 academic year. This initiative seeks to address declining enrollment in key academic concentrations by implementing targeted strategies that promote the value, relevance, and career opportunities associated with mathematical education and theoretical mathematics.
- For the Mathematics Education concentration, the plan includes two major initiatives. The first, *"Voces que Enseñan: Profile of the Future Mathematics Educator,"* seeks to transform public perception of the teaching profession by highlighting the intellectual and social contributions of mathematics educators. This includes creating and sharing alumni success stories, conducting outreach in at least 15 schools, and launching a strategic social media campaign to inspire students with a vocation for teaching. The second initiative, *"Programa Puente: Pre-University Mathematics Education Experience,"* aims to engage high school students through immersive teaching experiences. This includes workshops, classroom observations, and partnerships with schools to foster early interest in mathematics education. A formal proposal to revise the Mathematics Education curriculum is also scheduled for faculty review by December 2025.
- In response to similar enrollment challenges in the Pure Mathematics concentration, the department is launching initiatives that reposition pure mathematics as a field rich in modern relevance and interdisciplinary potential. The first, *"Pure Mathematics: The Science Behind the Future,"* will showcase real-world applications of abstract mathematical concepts in areas like technology, cryptography, and data science.

Through infographics, seminars, and targeted recruitment of high-performing students, the initiative seeks to dispel misconceptions about the field's practicality. The second initiative, *"Advanced Problem Solving and Logic Workshop,"* will introduce students to the creative and analytical depth of pure mathematics through competitive workshops and mentorship opportunities, with connections to math Olympiads and academic research pathways.

- Collectively, these initiatives reflect the department's strategic vision to sustain and grow its academic programs by connecting students with the transformative potential of mathematics in both education and research.

Department of Nursing

- The Department of Nursing successfully submitted its 2024 Annual Report in compliance with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) requirements. Significant progress was made on academic program development, including the proposal for a Master of Science in Nursing with concentrations in cardiovascular, forensic, and community health. Although the proposal was temporarily placed on hold by central administration, it is scheduled for resubmission in August 2025 with revised justifications based on a professional needs assessment.
- The department submitted eleven new graduate-level courses as part of the master's proposal, and one new undergraduate course, ENFE 5006 – Public Health Policy, was approved and is now available to senior-level students. Clinical education was expanded through six new community partnerships to offer diverse and specialized field experiences. Students actively participated in clinical practice, cooperative education (COOP), and health promotion fairs across the island.
- Recruitment and professional development opportunities were strengthened with multiple visits from the University of Rochester Medical Center, resulting in the selection of three students for internships and two for residencies. The department also hosted recruitment officers from the Army Nurse Corps and the U.S. Air Force to present post-graduation opportunities to senior students.
- Academic outcomes included the graduation of 3 students in December 2024 and 33 students expected to graduate in June 2025. The annual Student Recognition Night honored 39 students for academic excellence and leadership. The 2025 Laura Guillén Award for community service was presented during the April 25 ceremony. The Nursing Student Association inducted a new class and board for the 2025–2026 academic year.
- All faculty members fulfilled their continuing education requirements and maintained their professional licensure in accordance with the College of Professional Nursing of Puerto Rico and the PR Board of Nursing. Two faculty members attended and shared experiences from the 2024 National League for Nursing Convention in San Antonio, Texas, as part of collaborative efforts with Rutgers University School of Nursing.

Department of Psychology

- The doctoral program in School Psychology is the only doctoral program in that specialty in Puerto Rico. We plan to begin submitting the required documents to

achieve accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA), with the goal of being evaluated in approximately two years.

- All master syllabi references were updated, and three minors were developed: one in General Psychology for non-majors, and two focused on Clinical and School Psychology for psychology students.
- At the undergraduate level, three new elective courses were approved—*Principles and Models of Psychotherapy*, *Behavioral Interventions for Children and Adolescents*, and *Introduction to Group Therapy*. A new course, *Introduction to Psychological Consulting and Collaboration*, developed by Dr. Cristina Perea, was approved at the departmental level.
- Additionally, the department implemented a strategy to recruit undergraduates into the graduate program by promoting the use of up to 15 credits in graduate-level courses under Certification 09-09, offering a pathway into the doctoral program in School Psychology. At the graduate level, curricular updates continued in preparation for APA accreditation, including the revision of practicum courses to meet APA and local licensure standards. Specifically, PSIC 7501 increased its practicum hours from 250 to 300, and the course description was updated for inclusivity.
- Faculty members received several professional recognitions: Dr. Cristina Perea and Dr. Irmarie Cruz were elected President and Vice President, respectively, of the Puerto Rico Association of School Psychologists; Drs. Cristina Perea, Tania del Mar López, and Janet Bonilla were honored at the XXX Symposium on Research in the Social Sciences for their contributions to undergraduate research.
- Student achievements were also notable—Yolimar Vera Avilés received the Hilda Baco Award, and students Keyla M. Ortiz Ramos and Alejandro M. Vargas Rosario were among the recipients of First Bank's "You First" scholarship. A collaborative paper involving faculty and students was awarded Best Paper in the Multidisciplinary Engineering Division at the ASEE 2024 Annual Conference.
- The department also improved its infrastructure by creating a new research lab in CH-404, relocating services to the renovated Celis 104 building, and acquiring two new classrooms (CH-322 and CH-404). CH-322 was painted and both rooms were equipped with new TVs. Graduate courses are now also held in Celis 103.
- Faculty continued to lead and participate in numerous specialized projects, including those related to executive functions, mental health, school neuropsychology, and child poverty, with support from internal and external grants. These initiatives reflect the department's commitment to academic excellence, student development, and community engagement.

Department of Social Sciences

- During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, demonstrated significant academic, research, and community engagement. The Department currently offers three curricular sequences—International Relations, Human Well-being, and Sociology and Environmental Public Policy—and submitted the creation of a new minor concentration in Criminology. This proposed sequence emphasizes a sociological and interdisciplinary approach to criminal behavior, public policy, and victimology, with new courses developed to support its academic framework.

- The Department also celebrated the achievements of students and faculty. Sixty-six students were recognized on the Honor Roll, and Daniela M. Iturrino Betancourt received the prestigious Salvador Brau Award. Alumni success was exemplified by Orlandy Cabrera Valentín, a Political Science graduate, who was confirmed as Prosecutor I at the Puerto Rico Department of Justice. Students excelled in academic competitions, including the Puerto Rico United Nations Congress, where they earned first and fourth place, under the mentorship of Dr. Waldemar Arroyo.
- Faculty were active in scholarship and public service, with Dr. Ingrid Rodríguez Ramos receiving a grant from the Puerto Rican Endowment for the Humanities and the Mellon Foundation, and Dr. Carlos Hernández being named Official Historian of Puerto Rico. The Department expanded its research capabilities through access to programs like IBM SPSS, Qualtrics.XM, End Note, and N Vivo, which supported both faculty and student research. Notable public and academic events included forums on feminicides, gender-based violence, and international conflicts, as well as book presentations and Earth Day initiatives on environmental awareness. Community engagement was further strengthened through a new internship agreement with the Municipality of Aguadilla, providing students with hands-on experience in public service. The Department also hosted the Latin American Studies Association–Puerto Rico Section and continued to foster undergraduate research and interdisciplinary collaboration through its observatories and academic programs. Overall, the Department showcased a strong commitment to academic excellence, social responsibility, and the formation of critically engaged citizens.

d. Objective 3: To increase and diversify the Institution's sources of revenue

Department of Economics

- The Department of Economics secured and effectively managed a range of internal and external funds to support its infrastructure, faculty research, and student engagement. A total of \$27,908.00 was awarded to the department through the institutional Technology Fee initiative to upgrade the computer laboratory at SH-301 with 26 Dell OptiPlex PCs, and to replace two units in classrooms, significantly improving computing resources for students and faculty.
- Through departmental RUMex funds, the department acquired three desktop computers for teaching staff at a cost of \$3,417.00, and continues to seek funding for additional units. Furthermore, \$10,958.86 in RUMex funds from the second semester of 2023–2024 were used to acquire two more faculty computers, five cameras, five speakers, and additional office and promotional materials, including support for the Economics Student Association. Separately, \$2,770.00 was allocated from combined RUMex and CEEF resources to cover the installation of two glass doors in SH-307, complementing a prior facilities improvement request.
- On the research front, Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez and Prof. Dahil Colón Arbelo continued their work with the Puerto Rico Planning Board on the project “*Technical Assistance in the Production of the Quarterly Accounts of the Gross Product and the Output-Input Matrix 2017*” (Z-410), for which they each received research credit assignments. This collaboration also provides funding that benefits student assistants. Overall, these initiatives reflect the department's commitment to strengthening

academic infrastructure, enhancing research, and supporting student development through strategic resource management.

Department of Geology

- The NOAA/NTHMP (National Tsunami Hazard and Mitigation Program) grant for PRSN was approved, \$150mil for FY 24-25.
- On 01-Sep-2024, the Landslide Hazard Mitigation Office started a new project funded by the USGS: "LandslideReady community engagement program in Puerto Rico 2024-2026." The project budget is \$473k and extends through the end of 2026. It will allow the expansion of the LandslideReady effort which will include hiring an Assistant Researcher and a dedicated community engagement vehicle. The new Assistant Researcher position started on 01-Oct-2024, Ms. Isabella Camara.
- Profs. Raiza Quintero and Thomas Hudgins submitted a proposal for \$499,917 for a Cooperative Agreement between USGS and UPRM for a project titled Assessing the Industrial Mineral Potential of Puerto Rico 2025-2028. It has been granted and will have opportunities for undergraduate and graduate research.

Department of Hispanic Studies

The department has a funding source through Rumex courses. Courses are scheduled strategically to continue channeling these funds into the department's account, thereby supporting its operational and academic initiatives.

Department of Kinesiology

The Department implemented some strategies to increase external funding in order to modernized lab equipment. Rent space for sport or special activities. Certification 20-21-090 provides guideline to loan/rent facilities for external services. The department processed \$7,743.08. Donation for Kinesiology. Motivated faculty search for special donations such as \$800 for student conference travel (Dr. I. Figueroa), safety equipment for lab (Dr. Alvarez), and \$20,800 for equipment in the new Kinesiology Lab (Dr. Martinez), and \$300 for the Mascot Challenge award by the Program Exercise is Medicine on Campus (Dr. Torres). Research Proposal Funding. New faculty members has led the research funding opportunities and interdisciplinary connections. Dr. Martinez achieved \$4,952 in grant and Dr. Torres obtained a new equipment (stair master) from a interdisciplinary proposal.

Department of Marine Sciences

- Faculty at the Department of Marine Sciences are consistently encouraged to actively seek and submit research proposals to secure funding that supports student development, research initiatives, and departmental infrastructure. In addition to traditional funding agencies, faculty members are pursuing new sources of financial support, including private foundations, companies, and collaborations with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These efforts have significantly enhanced financial assistance for graduate students during the 2024–2025 academic year,

thanks to successful proposals, partnerships with agencies such as the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNRA), NGOs like ISER-CARIBE, and private donations. In total, \$276,237.42 was allocated for graduate student support, benefiting over 75% of the department's student body.

- A total of 72 research assistantships were funded through external research grants, donations, and collaborations, amounting to nearly \$300,000 in support. This includes \$14,265 awarded by NASA-OCEANOS to Dr. R. Armstrong for four undergraduate student assistants. Additionally, 15 teaching assistantships were funded by the UPRM Department of Biology, while other assistantships were financed through partnerships: EcoElectrica (2 RAs), CARICOOS (2 RAs, \$18,000), and DNRA-CRCD in relation to the NSF-RAPID Microbiome Project (1 RA, \$20,000), totaling \$96,676 in support. Eight graduate students were also paid hourly wages to assist with research and collection maintenance, while one student assisted in administrative tasks, totaling \$22,524.
- Further support came from the Maxwell-Hanrahan Foundation in San Francisco, which donated \$15,000 to fund graduate student fieldwork. Six students (two Ph.D. and four M.S.) submitted proposals and received full funding for their research needs. Impressed by the outcomes, the foundation increased its donation to \$25,000 for 2025–2026, with funds already transferred to the department's donation account. Moreover, ISER-CARIBE hired 14 graduate students from DMS, investing \$219,039 in salaries.
- Key Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with CARICOOS, EcoElectrica, Sea Grant, and ISER-CARIBE were renewed through 2026. These agreements include space rentals on Isla Magueyes, which provide vital revenue for DMS. New MOUs are in development with ISER and DNRA for coral reef restoration, as well as with the Puerto Rico Council on Research and the Department of Energy and Development to install a photovoltaic system on the main building (MG831) in Magueyes. The latter agreement is currently under review by UPRM's legal department.
- Revenue from space rentals (labs, offices, wet areas, classrooms, and conference rooms) totaled \$211,554 for the fiscal year 2024–2025, marking a notable increase from the \$158,300 collected in the previous year. These funds are reinvested into infrastructure and maintenance of buildings, laboratories, and office spaces. Dormitory rentals generated \$3,251, which are used for the upkeep of dormitories and related facilities.
- Boat usage by faculty, students, and visitors brought in \$32,141.28, which supports the maintenance and repair of boats, engines, trailers, docks, and ramps. However, the department's two large research vessels, *Gaviota* and *Sultana*, have been out of commission for over a year due to mechanical and structural issues. Efforts to repair *Sultana* have been hindered by difficulties in finding certified vendors willing to work with UPRM. As a result, the Marine Operations Committee has recommended decommissioning the vessels, and DMS is currently coordinating with the UPRM property office to initiate the process. No replacements have been proposed to date.
- Additionally, diving services and tank rentals generated \$4,536, which are used to maintain and repair compressors and tanks. Overall, total revenue for DMS in fiscal year 2024–2025 reached \$251,446.91 (Appendix 6). Of that, \$135,964.12 was spent on fuel, engine oil, equipment maintenance, construction of boat consoles, air

conditioning units, parts for vehicle repair, and other essential materials to support the daily operation and upkeep of the Isla Magueyes facilities.

Department of Mathematical Sciences

- The Department of Mathematical Sciences continues to actively pursue external funding opportunities to supplement its annual budget and support its academic, research, and administrative initiatives. Our faculty's involvement in short-, medium-, and long-term projects reflects our sustained commitment to excellence in all areas of our mission. One notable achievement is the development, proofreading, and promotion of instructional materials authored by our faculty and used in core mathematics courses. These include:
 - *MATE 3171: Text and Exercise Manual (Precalculus I)*
 - *MATE 3172: Text and Exercise Manual (Precalculus II)*
 - *MATE 3086: Textbook (Mathematical Reasoning)*
 These publications not only alleviate the financial burden on students by reducing textbook costs, but also generate revenue for the department. These funds are reinvested directly into student-centered initiatives, instructional enhancements, and research activities, thereby creating a self-sustaining model of academic support.
- Another key initiative is the *Institute of Mathematical Strengthening (INFOMATE)*, which continues to generate income through its offerings. INFOMATE provides essential preparatory resources for students preparing to take the Mathematics Diagnostic Exam, and its growing popularity underscores its value as an academic support tool.
- All revenue generated through these initiatives is allocated to support impactful services in teaching, research, and the administrative infrastructure that enables both.

Department of Nursing

- The Department of Nursing scheduled 11 activities of Continuing Education for year 24-25. Five were face to face and 6 modules.
- Faculty visited Bella Vista Hospital, Perea Hospital and La Concepcion Hospital to offer CEU to personnel who requested the service.
- The Department of Nursing offered 12 CEU's to nurses of the American College of Cardiology - Cardiovascular Team Section 2024 Scientific Convention which generated a revenue of \$1,000.00 to the Department of Nursing. The 2025 Convention will generate approximately \$1875.00 from nurses and other professionals that accepted the program outline submitted to the board.
- The Department of Nursing was certified as a provider of Continuing Education for the Board of Pharmacist of Puerto Rico, the Board of Counseling Professionals, Board of Technology and XRay Technicians and the Board of Psychology.
- Promotion and marketing were done using social media, and through email.
- Tentative programing of new CEU for 2025-2026 was distributed as previously mentioned.

Department of Psychology

- During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Department of Psychology continued developing CAISPE, a service clinic dedicated to providing psychological services for children and adolescents in Puerto Rico's western region. The clinic will serve as a practicum and internship site for students in the Doctoral Program in School Psychology, offering hands-on experience aligned with their graduate coursework. CAISPE is intended to deliver services in four key areas: evaluation (including psycho-educational and neuropsychological testing), psychological intervention, training and educational outreach (such as workshops and prevention seminars), and program evaluation.
- Additionally, the department has generated its own income through RUMEX course offerings, which has allowed for financial support of faculty and student research initiatives, promotional efforts, and the acquisition of essential departmental resources.
- To further support graduate training, several collaboration agreements were established this year, creating practicum and internship opportunities with institutions such as the Puerto Rico Department of Education, Centro Ponceño de Autismo, Reading School District (PA), UPRM's Counseling and Psychological Services Department, Creciendo Juntos 360 LLC, Fundación Mi Ángel Manuel LLC, and the Counseling Department at UPR Aguadilla. These partnerships enhance the clinical and professional training of psychology students while expanding the department's community outreach.

Department of Social Sciences

The creation of a joint Master's and Doctoral program in Applied Social Sciences was approved. This graduate program will be offered online and in the evening. The program consists of 51 credits, an internship, and a doctoral dissertation. The program can be completed in a minimum of four years and a maximum of six years.

e. Objective 4: To implement efficient and expedient competitive creative endeavors

Department of Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry continues to utilize roadmaps for administrative procedures. During Administrative Staff Week, an event was held to recognize the contributions of all staff, supported by faculty members. Committee meetings took place in various formats— in person, hybrid, and virtual. Additionally, the administrative staff actively participates in ongoing technology training to improve administrative tasks, conduct meetings, and serve students both virtually and in person.

Department of Economics

- In 2024–2025, the Department of Economics advanced its administrative modernization efforts through the continued implementation of the Online Administrative Assessment Questionnaire, led by Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez,

and the ongoing Digitization Plan for departmental documents, in accordance with UPR regulations. The digitization of budget files and purchase orders from 1991-1992 to 2013-2014 was completed, contributing to the reorganization of storage spaces in SH-302A, SH-305, and SH-309E.

- The department also coordinated the installation of aluminum and glass doors across multiple classrooms and offices to ensure accessibility and enhance infrastructure. Administrative staff engaged in a comprehensive professional development program, attending over 20 workshops and certifications on topics such as ethics, telework, student hiring, Adobe Sign, time management, government contracting, and psychological first aid.
- A departmental workshop on Reasonable Accommodations was also held for faculty in collaboration with the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities. Additionally, departmental social media outreach expanded across Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter) to strengthen communication and student engagement.
- Improvements in reporting and maintenance systems were also implemented via a dedicated website link for faculty to report facility-related issues in classrooms, offices, and restrooms of the Efraín Sánchez Hidalgo Building.

Department of Hispanic Studies

The Department strengthened its administrative capabilities through several key initiatives. Administrative staff completed a government contracting course offered by the *Oficina del Contralor de Puerto Rico*, enhancing their expertise in compliance and procedures. The Department Director participated in the Academic Leadership Academy for Deans and Department Chairs, further developing leadership skills. The department also continued the ongoing digitization of student and faculty records to improve data management. Additionally, a cloud-based Excel spreadsheet was implemented to efficiently monitor the income and allocation of funds from special accounts, categorized by expenditures such as wages, meals, compensations, and equipment.

Department of Kinesiology

The department initiated the automatization of some administrative process in order to maintained data analysis and further administrative assessment. Some of the actions implemented were: 1) accident report previously was in paper changing to a QR code that access immediate to digital report, 2) student can access an academic appointment by checking date and time to meet with the academic coordinator, 3) all students' academic evaluations are available in digital folder in TEAMS, 4) all administrative documents are shared and storage in TEAMS, 5) all academic programs and requirements are available by QR codes for easy access, 6) faculty and administrative staff share electronic calendar for activities and academic calendars, and 7) digital attendance report for departmental meetings.

Department of Marine Sciences

- The administrative staff of the Department of Marine Sciences has focused on improving the efficiency and organization of internal processes to better serve faculty, students, and employees. One key initiative was the development of a comprehensive spreadsheet that tracks each step of the purchasing process—from the initial company quote to the final receipt of merchandise or services. This document includes details such as quote dates, requisition numbers and dates, purchase order information, check issuance, and delivery confirmation. To ensure accessibility and streamline collaboration, the spreadsheet is maintained on OneDrive.
- In addition to this, the administrative team participated in training workshops for the new Adobe Sign digital signature platform and the KRONOS attendance management system. These tools are expected to enhance workflow and compliance with institutional procedures.
- The staff also continues to maintain updated internal records related to employee attendance, sick leave, vacation balances, overtime, and other types of leave. Monthly reports are generated to support planning efforts, such as forecasting leave excesses and coordinating vacation schedules in a way that does not disrupt departmental operations.

Department of Mathematical Sciences

- The Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, advanced several strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing administrative efficiency and aligning with the university's paperless policy. Key efforts included the ongoing digitization of departmental files, which has streamlined various academic and administrative processes such as approvals for the Mathematics Diagnostic Exam and the Institute for Mathematical Strengthening (INFOMATE). The department also launched a redesigned version of its official website (math.uprm.edu), improving accessibility, speed, and user experience for students, faculty, and the general public. To further expand the reach of INFOMATE, the department upgraded its server infrastructure and refreshed digital content, ensuring remote access to preparatory materials in Precalculus for all UPRM students and interested users across Puerto Rico. Enhancements were also made to the online Mathematics Diagnostic Test platform, optimizing data management and accessibility, especially for incoming students with lower PAA scores.
- Additionally, the department completed a full renovation of its computer laboratories, equipping them with high-performance computers designed to support teaching, research, and computational coursework. These technological upgrades ensure that students have access to cutting-edge tools aligned with current academic and industry standards. Overall, these initiatives reflect the department's commitment to modernization, academic excellence, and student-centered innovation.

Department of Nursing

- The Department of Nursing deepened its academic and community collaborations throughout the academic year. Faculty continued joint efforts with the Rutgers

University School of Nursing, focusing on clinical preceptorship and leadership development with affiliated agency nurses. Two faculty members initiated discussions for a research partnership with Rutgers in the areas of mental health and maternity nursing.

- For the first time, the department participated in the 2024 Toyota Mobility Challenge and was awarded \$25,000 to support the development of the Home Racer, a mobility home car designed for individuals with mobility challenges. This innovative, interdisciplinary project was led by Dr. Abigail Matos, in collaboration with three nursing students and one mechanical engineering student, and will continue into the first semester of the 2025–2026 academic year.
- A new proposal was launched in partnership with Hospital Perea and the Puerto Rico Department of Education to establish a Certification Program for Operating Room Instrument Technicians, targeting adult learners. A preliminary meeting was held with hospital leadership and PRDE officials, including Occupational Superintendent Ms. Noemí Ramírez Ramírez. A letter of intention and memorandum of understanding will be drafted in August 2025.
- The Department supported HIPAA compliance training for medical office personnel through an online Continuing Education module, successfully certifying 18 professionals.
- The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Epsilon Lambda Chapter), based in the Department and the only chapter of its kind in Puerto Rico, held a formal induction ceremony for new members. In collaboration with the chapter, the Department also hosted an international virtual conference titled "Human Trafficking: International Crime", led by expert speaker Dr. Luis Rivera-Cintrón. This conference was attended by Sigma Theta Tau chapters across South America, Spain, and Puerto Rico via Microsoft Teams.
- The Department remained active in professional development, continuing to provide Continuing Education (CEU) credits to health professionals. Notably, 12 hours of CEU were approved for participants of the 25th Scientific Convention of the American College of Cardiology Puerto Rico – Cardiovascular Section, sanctioned by multiple boards of the Puerto Rico Department of Health.
- Department faculty contributed to this convention, with Dr. Abigail Matos, Dr. Miriam Nieto, Prof. Kevin Torres, and Prof. Elba Caballero presenting on various topics during the April 11–12 event held at the Caribe Hilton, San Juan.
- Faculty also provided a variety of conferences and health education services to elder home care institutions, medical offices, and other community organizations, reinforcing the Department's ongoing commitment to public health outreach and service.

Department of Psychology

- The Department of Psychology implemented a range of initiatives aimed at optimizing administrative processes and strengthening the capabilities of its non-teaching staff, with a strong emphasis on automation, simplification, standardization, and documentation. One key development was the use of Google Drive for managing undergraduate student academic evaluations, allowing for real-time updates to each

student's curriculum, documentation of advising sessions, and tailored academic recommendations. Additionally, each student now has a comprehensive digital file that includes their curriculum evaluations, course equivalencies, tentative transfers, special permits, and other relevant records.

- Administrative procedures for CAISPE and the graduate program in School Psychology were standardized and formally documented. This resulted in the creation of essential resources such as a student handbook, a practicum and internship manual, protocols for psychological evaluation and intervention services, and other operational documents. Rubrics for evaluating graduate program applicants were also reviewed and refined, covering areas such as curriculum vitae, interviews, recommendation letters, and personal statements.
- The department introduced assessment tools to evaluate administrative effectiveness, including a student survey to assess the quality of academic advising. Results revealed a highly positive experience, with all respondents expressing intent to continue using the services. Additionally, activities to support and recognize administrative and support staff were promoted. Staff members Anita Martinez and Deyka Lopez were honored for their dedication, while graduate program faculty and staff were recognized in a special event on June 11, 2025. Dr. Douglas Santos and Dr. Bernadette Delgado received plaques for their pivotal contributions to the launch and development of the doctoral program. A Christmas luncheon on December 9, 2024, helped foster camaraderie and celebrate faculty efforts.
- The department also secured financial resources, particularly through the RUMEX initiative, to support faculty and graduate student participation in professional conferences. Lastly, a new rubric was developed to guide the selection of the recipient of the Hilda Bacó Award, incorporating a range of criteria such as GPA, academic honors, research involvement, community engagement, and participation in departmental initiatives. These improvements reflect the department's commitment to operational excellence and its ongoing investment in the professional growth of both students and staff.

Department of Social Sciences

In order to streamline administrative processes and provide updated information about the Department throughout the year, the Department's WEB page continued to be updated on the WordPress platform: <https://www.uprm.edu/cienciassociales/>.

f. Objective 5: To strengthen research and competitive creative endeavors

Department of Chemistry

During the 2024-2025 academic year, researchers from the Department of Chemistry, for the most part, continued with the development of their research projects and the mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students. Faculty members published 18 scientific articles during this period.

Department of Economics

- The Department of Economics at UPRM reported a dynamic year of research, scholarly output, and academic engagement. Dr. Ivonne del C. Díaz Rodríguez participated in the release of the final report for the AgroEnergy research project, with contributions from UPR students, including an economics major.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez published multiple works, including *Volume XI* of the departmental journal *Ceteris Paribus* and peer-reviewed articles in the *Review of Radical Political Economics*. He delivered several national conference presentations, including the “Economy for Peace” keynote at the 1st Congress for Peace and participated in technical collaborations with the Puerto Rico Planning Board. He was also appointed to the editorial board of the *Atenea* journal. Student Uriel Montijo Soto served as a research assistant and mentor under Dr. Díaz’s *Economics of Wellbeing and Sustainability* course.
- Instructor Dahil R. Colón Arbelo completed his doctoral dissertation at the University of Zaragoza and participated in the 2025 Freedom and Justice Summer Conference alongside Dr. Fuentes. Dr. Orlando Sotomayor Rodríguez advanced several international research collaborations, including projects on computer-assisted learning, AI in education, and workforce development.
- Notably, BA graduate Alejandro Ouslan Cerritos, now pursuing a Master’s in Statistical Mathematics at UPRM, was accepted for a second time into the AEA Summer Training Program.
- In addition, the department offered an economics workshop to public school teachers through a DEPR-UPRM collaboration on April 11, 2025.

Department of English

- The English Department, in collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences, promoted faculty research, external funding applications, and publication efforts by encouraging professors to apply for release time. Of the nine professors granted release time, five participated in interdisciplinary grants. Tenured faculty received support from the College’s Office of Investigation and regularly submitted reports detailing their work, which includes interdisciplinary research (with Hispanic Studies and Computer Engineering), creative projects (such as film production), community engagement (via the Oral History Lab), and academic publications.
- The Oral History Lab has managed a \$1.8 million grant to support various community projects in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, leading to additional funding. Professor Raisa Bonnet joined the department with a \$1.7 million budget for her feature film, which involved and compensated local communities.

Department of Geology

- Faculty submitted five major proposals, including a collaborative NSF proposal led by the University at Albany, FEMA’s \$30M PRMesonet proposal, and a NASA ICAR initiative. Three major proposals were awarded:
 - NOAA/NTHMP Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Grant for PRSN (\$150M, FY24–25)

- USGS-funded LandslideReady Community Engagement Program (\$473K, 2024–2026)
- USGS Cooperative Agreement: *Assessing the Industrial Mineral Potential of Puerto Rico* (\$499,917, 2025–2028)
- The Landslide Hazard Mitigation Office continues to lead hazard resilience initiatives in Puerto Rico. The NSF-funded Landslide Hazard Mitigation Project (2023–2026, \$500K) and the PRMesonet proposal represent the department's critical role in risk reduction and infrastructure planning. Research activities extended into planetary science, mineral resource assessments, and seismic hazard mapping.
- Over 20 undergraduate and graduate students participated in U.S.-based research internships and field projects in 2024, at institutions such as Purdue, Brown, Johns Hopkins, Michigan Tech, and James Madison University. Notable projects included volcanic seismology, isotope geochemistry, digital paleontology, and groundwater studies in Mexico. Additionally, the department's NSF-supported iron skarn field sampling project continued into its fourth year, supporting 3 MS, 1 PhD, and 4 undergraduate projects.
- A major NSF-funded collaboration continues with Auburn University, led by Prof. Thomas Hudgins and Dr. Laura Bilenker. It has yielded significant research data and student research outputs. The PR Mesonet proposal involves UPRM Physics and University at Albany researchers, reinforcing interdepartmental and interinstitutional ties.
- Faculty and students presented at multiple major venues, including:
 - Geological Society of America (GSA) Southeastern Meeting (March 2025)
 - USGS virtual workshops (Sept 2024)
 - IDRIM 2024 in Colombia
 - PRVI NSHM workshop (Aug 2024)
- A peer-reviewed article authored by undergraduate Kyle Shakill Fred-Velez on mass wasting on Enceladus was accepted for publication in *Icarus* (April 2025). Other presentations included research on landslides and community engagement.
- The department awarded 14 Teaching Assistantships (\$46,466.69) and 13 Research Assistant (\$71,815.98). All 21 graduate students for the 2024–25 academic year are from Puerto Rico.

Department of Hispanic Studies

- During the 2024–2025 academic year, faculty members in the Department of Hispanic Studies achieved significant scholarly and creative milestones. Dr. Carmen Rivera Villegas presented her book *Cuentos desastrosos* and contributed a critical essay on Marta Aponte Alsina's *Borinquen Field*. Dr. Mairym Lloréns Monteserín published a research article in the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, participated in a panel at the International Pragmatics Association, and was selected for a regional workshop on computational data science hosted by UPRM and Clark Atlanta University.
- Dr. José Santos was interviewed by the literary magazine *Letralia* and published two books: *Crestomatía interior* and *Flechas son de Diana: Ensayos*. Dr. Jaime Martell published *Monstruos, portentos y metamorfoseados. Microbestiario* in April 2025.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ángela Valentín Rodríguez was especially active on the international stage, presenting papers at conferences in Croatia, London, Colombia, and Puerto Rico. She also performed poetry at the Festival Internacional de Poesía del Bío Bío and served as keynote speaker at multiple events. In addition, she published the short story collection *De la carne y otras fatalidades*, contributed to several anthologies, and secured a grant from Humanities Puerto Rico and the Mellon Foundation for the *Empowerment through Poetry* project.

- Dr. Dalia S. González published works on poetry and urban narratives and coordinated the *Proyecto de Escritura Creativa sobre el Cambio Climático*. She presented research at conferences in London, Croatia, and Paris, focusing on geohumanistic readings, colonial and urban themes, and Caribbean literature. Her involvement highlights the department's commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship, creative writing, and international engagement.
- Overall, these accomplishments reflect the department's vibrant academic and creative culture, marked by extensive publication, public presentations, funded research, and cross-cultural collaboration.

Department of Kinesiology

- Dr. Christian Martinez Rivera (PI), Coralys Flores Rivera, Karol Herrera & Mathew Almodovar (UPR, Mayaguez), Dr. Samuel Hodge (The Ohio State University) & Dr. Luis Columna (University of Madison, Wisconsin) (2024). *Community-Based Physical Activity Intervention for Autistic Children to promote healthy living in Puerto Rico*. Funded by NAKHE - National Association for Kinesiology in Higher Education through Hellison Interdisciplinary Research. Grant \$5,000.
- Dr. Carlos X Torres Ramos. EIM-OC Franklin Microgrant, Physical Activity Assessment and Referral Grant. \$1,500. Submitted to American College of Sports Medicine. October 2024.
- Dr. Juan Patarroyo & Dr. Carlos X. Torres Ramos (CO PI). Equipment: MRI: Track 1 Acquisition of 3D Motion Capture Equipment to support research on wearable technologies and edge AI computing at UPRM. Submitted to National Science Foundation. November, 2024.
- Dr. Christian Martínez Rivera. Physical Activity and Nutrition Intervention for Hispanic Children and Families to Promote Healthy Living. Submitted to National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families, April 17, 2025.
- Dr. Bryan Rivera. *Functional Training Center for Older Adults (CEFAM)*. Submitted to AARP Community Challenge Grant Program, February 19, 2025.
- Carlos X. Torres Ramos (2025). *The impact of physical activity levels and physical fitness on the functional capacity of university faculty employees*. Unpublished.
- Christian Martinez & Carlos X. Torres Ramos (2025) Community Based Physical Activity Intervention for Autistic Children to promote Healthy Living. Unpublished.
- Rivera, B. (2025). *Impact of Sustainability Practices in Sports Facilities: A Case Study of the Mangual Coliseum at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez*. Unpublished.

Department of Marine Sciences

- The Department of Marine Sciences (DMS) maintained a strong research portfolio, with 11 externally funded projects still active under the leadership of five faculty members as Principal Investigators, representing a combined total of \$3,383,565 in funding. Additionally, seven projects that concluded in 2022 continue under no-cost extension arrangements. A major highlight is a collaborative, NOAA-funded project with ISER-CARIBE, an NGO, which began in August 2023 with a budget of \$11,189,000 and runs through 2027. This project has made substantial progress, notably establishing the largest on-land coral nursery in Puerto Rico and the eastern Caribbean to support coral reef restoration. The effort integrates assisted evolution techniques and the use of genetically diverse coral species, along with key herbivorous species such as sea urchins and crabs, to enhance reef resilience. Infrastructure improvements include a larval rear facility, upgrades to aquaculture tanks, and water system enhancements. The project has out-planted thousands of coral fragments to degraded reefs and offers extensive training and financial support for graduate and undergraduate students, with Drs. Weil, Cruz-Motta, and Courtney serving as Co-PIs.
- Other notable projects include the now-completed Inland Pilot Marine Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture System in Magueyes, which ended following the retirement of PI Dr. Ernesto Otero, and a pilot algae cultivation project led by Dr. Loretta Robertson, which concluded in late 2024 due to funding constraints. A separate EPA-DNRA project on water quality and coral reef systems also ended in June 2025.
- Despite these closures, the department remains research-active, with 11 new proposals submitted to agencies such as NSF, ONR, NASA, and NOAA during the year, totaling \$9,935,793 in requested funding. Of these, three proposals (27%) were funded, securing \$1,544,411 in new external support. These accomplishments underscore the department's continued leadership in marine research and commitment to securing competitive funding.
- Peer-reviewed publication by Faculty members and DMS students was high again this year. A total of thirty-four (34) peer-reviewed manuscripts were submitted to recognized peer reviewed journals and one technical report was produced. Overall, 15 manuscripts were published, five are in print or accepted, and the rest are in the review process as of this date. Five were submitted by professors and thirteen by students as senior authors. Students appear as senior or secondary authors in 57% of this year's publications. Twenty-six presentations were given in 11 meetings and workshops (Appendix 4) by DMS Faculty members and Students of the Department.
- Several seminars (hybrid format) and a workshop were provided by faculty, students and visitors. The DMS students carried out ten (10) (appendix 3) departmental seminars. Two seminars were offered by visiting researchers; Dr. Fabio Bulleri, Universitat di Pissa – Italia, "*Experimental Design in Marine Ecology*", November 21, 2023 and Dr. Jen McWhorter, NOAA, "*Biogeochemical Argo Research Applications*", February 1, 2024.

Department of Mathematical Sciences

- The Department of Mathematical Sciences continued to develop a strong research agenda through successful grant proposals, peer-reviewed publications, participation in national and international conferences, and the mentorship of student research. These efforts demonstrate the department's commitment to academic excellence and innovation. Several faculty members secured competitive external and internal funding. Notably, Dr. Edwin Flórez received funding from PR-INBRE for two projects focused on neuroscience and instrumentation, and a curriculum development fellowship. Drs. Omar Colón and Luis Cáceres secured multiple grants including from the American Mathematical Society, the Mathematical Association of America, and institutional funds such as CRRSAA and UPRM Chancellor Funds to support co-requisite instruction and the Math Tutorial Lab.
- Faculty also submitted various research proposals. Dr. Xuerong Yong submitted a manuscript on matrix theory, while Dr. Liliana Esquivel applied to the NSF's LEAPS-MPS program with a proposal integrating fractional dispersion and complex analysis. Dr. Flórez submitted proposals exploring AI tools for mathematical problem generation to Microsoft and Google, among others. Several other proposals are under revision or review, reflecting an active pursuit of external research funding.
- Scholarly productivity remained high, with numerous publications accepted and submitted. Dr. Luis Cáceres published a book chapter and several works on math competitions. Dr. Arturo Portnoy's new book *Calculus to Analysis* will be published by Springer. Other faculty, including Drs. Flórez, Coronel, Mező, Romero, and Almodovar, had articles accepted in respected journals across a range of topics, from AI and data science to cancer epidemiology and infectious disease modeling. Dr. Romero alone published multiple high-impact articles on mathematical modeling of AMR, HIV/ZIKV co-infections, and Zika virus dynamics.
- In terms of presentations, faculty members delivered invited talks at institutions and conferences in Puerto Rico and abroad. Dr. Portnoy gave plenary lectures on the intersection of mathematics, music, and art. Dr. Calderón presented on Boolean functions both locally and in Honduras. Other presentations covered topics such as origami, AI in education, mathematical biology, and numerical methods, reflecting the department's diverse areas of expertise.
- The department also actively promoted undergraduate and graduate research. Under faculty supervision, students presented at conferences such as SIDIM and GMiS, covering topics ranging from earthquake simulations and AI in music recommendations to topology and robotics. These experiences contribute significantly to student development and visibility.
- Publications currently under review span topics like topology, mathematical functions, digital technologies, and nonlinear equations, with contributions from Drs. Ortiz, Calderón, Esquivel, Bustillo, Coronel, and Castillo. The volume of both accepted and under-review publications highlights the department's dynamic research output.
- Ongoing research projects further underscore this vitality. Collaborative efforts include Dr. Calderón's work on G-invariant Boolean functions with other UPR campuses, Dr. Flórez's projects on honeybee behavior and AI in streaming platforms, and Dr. Castillo's work on numerical methods for PDEs. Dr. Narciso is leading undergraduate

research initiatives in AI for emergency medical diagnostics and educational technology.

Department of Nursing

- The Director of the Department of Nursing is committed to strengthen research activities and for that reason, has hold groups of students who are interested in participating in research. This year a continuation of the project: Close Encounters of the First Kind identified students with hypertension. The data that was obtained and analyzed was presented as a poster in the 25 Scientific Convention of the American College of Cardiology Puerto Rico- Cardiovascular Section.
- Faculty and students are continued to be motivated in the involvement of research activities and divulgation of these endeavors.
- Two faculty members participated in the evidence-based research activities with Rutgers University. The areas of mental health and maternity will be considered to establish collaborative research between faculty from both universities.
- Faculty will continue to work towards the Master of Science in Nursing for the Department of Nursing to strengthen research and creative endeavors.

Department of Physics

During Tuesday, October 1st, Thursday, October 3rd and Tuesday, October 8th, we had the *Symposium of Physics Research* in where 14 students offered a brief presentation about their Summer research work.

Department of Psychology

- During the academic year 2024–2025, the Department of Psychology at UPRM was highly active in research, creative work, and student engagement. Multiple faculty members secured external funding for impactful projects. Notably, Dr. Eduardo Lugo was appointed Executive Director of the Commission to Combat Child Poverty and Social Inequality and collaborated on various grants related to energy justice and social resilience. Other faculty, such as Dr. Milagritos González and Dr. Ana Nieves, led significant projects addressing educational support services and psycho-social care for survivors of violence, respectively. Dr. Irmari Cruz, Dr. Bernadette Delgado, and others contributed to projects in trauma, cognitive assessments, and STEM education.
- Five laboratories were established to foster student and faculty research: School NeuroLab, TRIN Lab, Neuropsychanalysis Lab, Play Shift Cognition Lab, and others dedicated to trauma, cognition, and digital behavior. These labs provided platforms for interdisciplinary collaboration and hands-on experience. The department also continued its PAIS (Undergraduate Research Training Program), allowing 64 students to engage in six formal research projects via PSIC 499/4992 courses.
- The department hosted and participated in numerous presentations and academic events, including international conferences and the XXX Social Sciences Symposium. Faculty and students presented research on trauma, sustainability mindset,

neuropsychology, and adverse childhood experiences. Highlights include Dr. Ríos-Ruiz's continuing education sessions, presentations by Krystal Colón-Rivera and Polaris González-Barrios, and research contributions by undergraduate and graduate students in both local and national venues.

- Scholarly output included peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and manuscripts under review, covering topics such as trauma-informed education, sustainability in engineering education, and neuropsychological assessment. Faculty were also active in editorial roles, particularly in the *Revista Iberoamericana de Neuropsicología*. Books and chapters on decolonial psychology and political communication further demonstrate the department's engagement with critical social issues.
- The department also awarded graduate assistantships, with 15 and 13 graduate students teaching undergraduate courses in the fall and spring semesters respectively. The graduate cohort consisted primarily of Puerto Rican students, with two from Colombia.
- In summary, the Department of Psychology at UPRM demonstrated a strong commitment to research, education, and community service through diverse initiatives, broad student involvement, and notable scholarly contributions during 2024–2025.

Department of Social Sciences

- During 2024–2025, the Department of Social Sciences at UPRM actively advanced research, community engagement, and academic excellence through its affiliated centers and the work of its faculty. The Center for Applied Social Research (CISA) led interdisciplinary projects addressing social issues and public policy, while also co-sponsoring the annual student research symposium. The Proyecto Siempre Vivas, directed by Prof. Luisa Seijo, continued its vital advocacy and support for survivors of gender-based violence. The Interdisciplinary Center for Coastal Studies (CIEL) conducted research on coastal social processes and environmental relations, and served as a hub for student involvement. The Public Safety and Urban Affairs Observatory, led by Dr. Edwin Asencio Pagán, focused on issues such as gender-based violence and public security, involving students in applied research and supervised practice programs. Faculty achievements were notable: Dr. José Lee-Borges published widely on geopolitics, migration, and history in national media; Dr. Manuel Valdés Pizzini led major projects on climate vulnerability, coastal communities, and published several academic works; Dr. Melody Fonseca Santos contributed a chapter on postcolonial studies in a critical international relations handbook; and Dr. Ingrid Rodríguez Ramos led and collaborated on numerous research projects and publications focused on service-learning, community development, aporophobia, and women's empowerment. Collectively, these efforts reflect the department's strong interdisciplinary orientation, commitment to social justice, and leadership in applied research and public scholarship.

g. Objective 6: To impact our Puerto Rican society

Department of Chemistry

Key events for the Chemistry Department included welcoming new undergraduate graduates on August 1, 2024, and new graduate students on August 5, 2024, and January 8, 2025. The university's Open House took place in October 2024. On April 30, 2025, the department hosted the Chemistry Fest for students, professors, and administrative staff. Additionally, during the summer of 2025, the College of Arts and Sciences camp for high school students was held, with active participation from the chemistry department's associations, staff, professors, and graduate students.

Department of Economics

- The Department of Economics demonstrated strong commitment to public engagement, academic leadership, and community-centered initiatives throughout 2024–2025. The faculty approved the proposal by Drs. Dahil R. Colón Arbelo and Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez to relaunch the Center for Economic and Financial Education (CEEf) as a hub for public economic education, housed in office SH-310.
- The Department co-organized various impactful events, such as the conference “Economic and Environmental Justice: Ecofeminism and Sustainability from Borikén,” led by former student Marianna Defendini Torres under Dr. Ivonne Díaz Rodríguez’s coordination.
- Faculty engaged in community-relevant collaborations including resilience planning with local communities through the UPR Institute of Communities and high school outreach—Dr. Fuentes offered a personal finance workshop at Eugenio María de Hostos High School. As President of the Association of Economists of Puerto Rico, Dr. Fuentes coordinated significant efforts to strengthen Puerto Rico’s statistical infrastructure in collaboration with U.S. and local agencies, and also led the 3rd National Meeting of the Social and Solidarity Economy. His involvement extended to data analysis for the 2023–2024 Traveler Survey and co-authorship of the Visitor Profile Report for the Puerto Rico Institute of Statistics. Meanwhile, Dr. Eduardo Kicinski supported graduate research through the evaluation of a labor reform questionnaire, and the Department continued student outreach via its participation in the Arts and Sciences Summer Camp.
- The 4th Applied Economics Congress held on May 10, 2024, highlighted student excellence, with Alexis Wu and Félix Arostegui earning top honors in undergraduate research.
- Lastly, a well-attended public lecture by Dr. Cesar Rey Hernández on Puerto Rico’s educational challenges took place at UPRM on September 19, 2024.

Department of English

- Students from the Cinémathèque organization contributed to a short film that showcases Puerto Rican heritage. The upcoming bachelor's program in Film Production is expected to influence Puerto Rico's educational, financial, social, and

cultural spheres while enhancing the university's international visibility and artistic mission.

- English Department alumni hold diverse roles in fields such as media, education, translation, writing, research, and public relations, highlighting the broad applicability of their training.
- Additionally, faculty and students participate in the CUA program, offering pre-college experiences to high school students through CARSE grant-sponsored initiatives.

Department of Geology

- The Department of Geology, in collaboration with the Student Geological Society (SGE), the Puerto Rico Seismic Network (PRSN), and the Puerto Rico Landslide Hazard Mitigation Office, engaged in extensive outreach and dissemination initiatives throughout the 2024–2025 academic year. These efforts effectively reached a wide range of audiences, including K-12 students, families, local governments, and emergency management agencies across the island.
- A major highlight was the LandslideReady Project, led by Professor Stephen Hughes and Assistant Researcher Isabella Camara, which focuses on research and community involvement related to landslide hazards in Puerto Rico. The municipality of Utuado was the first to be officially certified as LandslideReady. Prof. Hughes also brought national and international attention to the issue through appearances on MeterGroup's international podcast and interviews with WAPA-TV, WKAQ 580AM, and Yale Climate Connections, particularly in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Ernesto.
- The Landslide Hazard Mitigation Office significantly expanded the LandslideReady program through strategic partnerships with municipalities, hosting community meetings in Utuado, Ponce, Adjuntas, Jayuya, and Maricao. The office also conducted workshops with local emergency management teams and FEMA regional centers. Notably, Utuado's Office of Emergency Management received formal recognition in January 2025 as the first municipality to complete the LandslideReady certification. In March 2025, the office submitted a "Memorial Explicativo" to the Puerto Rico House of Representatives regarding the landslide in Guánica.
- Faculty and students also collaborated with the EcoExploratorio science museum on multiple occasions. On August 10, Prof. Lizzette Rodríguez and alumnus Jobel V. Villafañe participated in the event "Volcanismo en el Caribe, Hawai y Puerto Rico," while students presented research on landslides during outreach events in Mayagüez and Ponce. On September 7, Prof. Raiza Quintero and students hosted a family-centered educational event titled "Geología de la Luna."
- School outreach was robust, with visits and activities held at Manuel Bou Gali School (Corozal), Florencia García (Las Piedras), Marcelino Rodríguez Román (Moca), and with several homeschool groups between October and March. On October 17, SGE also hosted a hands-on dinosaur activity for a group of homeschoolers at UPRM.
- From October 20–27, the Department had a strong presence at the Museo de Historia Natural de Puerto Rico, showcasing ten exhibits and interactive displays, with support from over 20 student and faculty volunteers. Additional outreach activities included participation in the Museo del Niño in Carolina (March 15) and the 10th Conference on Environmental Issues held in Mayagüez on April 11. These events reinforced the

Department's strong commitment to public education, scientific outreach, and community engagement across Puerto Rico.

Department of Hispanic Studies

The Department of Humanities carried out a range of impactful outreach and cultural programming in 2024-2025. As part of the *Proyecto de Escritura Creativa sobre el Cambio Climático* (PECC), faculty led creative writing workshops across public high schools in Mayagüez, Aguada, and Rincón, using literary forms such as poetry, love letters, and short narratives to explore climate change themes. The department also hosted *Semana de la Lengua*, dedicated to science fiction and horror in Puerto Rican literature, which included panel discussions and a book presentation by UPRM alumna Carolina Cardona. Faculty contributed to the celebration of International Mother Language Day with lectures on language acquisition and Puerto Rican Spanish, and collaborated with the Teacher Preparation Program on a seminar in children's and young adult literature for educators, librarians, parents, and students. Additionally, the department launched *Encuentros Literarios*, a community-based literary initiative focused on the emotional well-being of older adults, offering integrated sessions of literature, music, writing, and visual arts. These efforts were complemented by hosting an International Poetry Festival with writers from Bolivia, Palestine/Lebanon, and Puerto Rico, further strengthening the department's commitment to community engagement and public humanities.

Department of Kinesiology

The Department of Kinesiology engages more than eight specialists working directly with the community, including a sport and exercise psychology expert who mentors student-athletes, and the development of weekly recreational activities for college students. The "Exercise is Medicine" program promotes physical activity across campus. Community programs include *La Academia de Actividad Física*, serving youth with disabilities; a Wellness Pediatric Program addressing youth obesity; physical activity initiatives for older adults in nursing homes; and *Programa Metas*, which offers physical evaluations for elite athletes with summer internships for students. Student associations show strong leadership and active participation in departmental and community events such as 5Ks, health awareness days, and triathlons. Numerous courses provide practical community experience, including coaching, adapted physical education, and seminars focused on recreation and special populations. Across all programs, students actively contribute by designing exercise activities and collecting data, fostering hands-on learning and community impact.

Department of Marine Sciences

- During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Department of Marine Sciences (DMS) expanded its outreach and community service efforts, thanks to the support of faculty, administrative staff, the student organization AECIMA, and local collaborators. One of the most notable accomplishments was the department's involvement in developing a marine science program for the new Montessori School Alejandro Tapia Rivera,

located in the community of La Parguera. This initiative is a collaborative effort among the DMS, the school's principal, the main office in San Juan, Mr. Efraín Figueroa, the Sea Grant Program, and CARICOOS.

- As part of this partnership, the DMS provided educational materials, presentations, and logistical support for student visits to its laboratory facilities, particularly during summer camps. These efforts serve to inspire and train future graduate students and community leaders in the protection of marine resources. Additionally, in June 2024, the DMS collaborated with Mr. Figueroa to lead a series of workshops on coastal marine ecosystems and environmental and scientific photojournalism for students at the Montessori school.
- The department has also been highly visible in the media over the past year, frequently providing interviews to both local and international journalists and television programs. These appearances have focused on the environmental challenges facing Puerto Rico's coastal marine communities, making this an important component of the DMS's broader outreach initiatives.
- Collaboration with the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNRA) has been strengthened, particularly concerning the La Parguera Natural Reserve (LPNR). The DMS and DNRA have held multiple meetings to address the reserve's deteriorating condition, driven by climate change (including high temperatures, storms, coral diseases, and bleaching) and the negative effects of unregulated tourism. The DMS and DNRA are now working together on strategies to improve environmental education among visitors, implement regulations (e.g., noise and speed limits, night lighting restrictions, and limits on visitor capacity), and finalize the management plan for the reserve.
- In addition, the DMS is conducting several projects addressing the increasing influx of floating Sargassum seaweed, which has become more prevalent each year since 2016. The department aims to use the data collected from these studies to develop forecasting tools that will help mitigate the impact of Sargassum on coastal areas.

Department of Mathematical Sciences

The department actively contributes to Puerto Rican society by identifying and nurturing mathematical talent through a variety of outreach and academic initiatives:

- Continued promotion and recruitment of gifted students via the Puerto Rico Math Olympiad (OMPR) and research-oriented activities.
- Organization of national and international competitions such as Bebras PR (focused on computational thinking), Scratch Jam, and team selection for the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI).
- Faculty service as judges for mathematics fairs coordinated by the Puerto Rico Department of Education (DEPR).
- Launch of a co-requisite support course for MATE 3173, aimed at enabling students without the MATE 3171 prerequisite to succeed in calculus-level mathematics.

These actions exemplify the department's outreach mission and its commitment to broadening access to mathematical education and cultivating future leaders in STEM fields.

Department of Nursing

The Faculty of Nursing continues to participate in health fairs, conferences and educative activities for the professional community and affiliated agencies. The faculty has provided community presentations with students in various health fairs, home care, elderly institutions and homeless shelters. Faculty contributes in the orientation of caregivers who request assistance related to the care of the patient with Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer.

Department of Physics

On July 12 and July 13, 2024, our Lab. Scientific Technician, Omar Vázquez, visited the Church *7mo Día Leguísamo* in Mayagüez and offered planetarium demonstrations with the Star Lab.

Department of Psychology

- Our graduate practicum program in School Psychology represents our institutional commitment to serving Puerto Rican communities. We have successfully implemented four specialized practicum programs that strategically place graduate psychology students in local schools across the west side of the island. These experiences serve dual purposes: providing critical mental health services to K-12 populations while training the next generation of culturally competent practitioners. Through these placements, our graduate students deliver individual and group interventions, develop behavior and cognitive intervention plans, and provide crisis support, all under the supervision of licensed supervision in schools and faculty.
- A collaborative agreement between UPRM and Puerto Rico Department of Education for the translation and cultural adaptation of psychological tests. These tests are used as part of the psychological evaluation processes for children in Puerto Rico's public education system.
- Perea-Nieves, Cristina. President of the Association of School Psychologist (2025). The Association of School Psychologists of Puerto Rico (APEP) plays a vital role in supporting professionals in the field of school psychology while also providing psychoeducation to the community. Through initiatives like "Entre Colegas" ("Among Colleagues"), the association offers a virtual forum where school psychologists can exchange knowledge, resources, and experiences, all at no cost. This space fosters collaboration and professional growth, ensuring that members stay informed about the latest developments in their field. In addition to supporting colleagues, APEP is committed to community outreach. In collaboration with the Puerto Rico Psychologists Association, the association advocates for the profession by engaging in public policy discussions (Memorandums are written in response to Senate and House legislation). and upholding professional standards for school psychology in Puerto Rico.
- Mary A. Moreno-Torres. Executive Secretariat of the Neuropsychology Society of Puerto Rico. 2025. Responsible for the administrative and organizational functions of the Society.
- Collaboration with the *SIEMPREVIVAS* Project directed by professor Luisa Seijo from the Department of Social Sciences. Dr. Nieves works specifically with the children and women survivors of domestic violence.

Department of Social Sciences

- On June 5 and 6, 2025, the Department of Social Sciences held its summer camp titled *Reimagining the Possible: Youth, Society, and Change*, with the collaboration of professors, student associations, and administrative staff. The event successfully met its goals, which included increasing the department's visibility among high school students, offering effective orientation, promoting its academic programs and research centers (CIEL, CISA, and the SIEMPRE VIVAS Project), and identifying both short- and long-term recruitment strategies. Activities showcased the department's research contributions to academia and vulnerable communities, while the testimonies of the Political Science Student Association played a key role in inspiring participants. The camp also gathered valuable insights to strengthen future outreach efforts and reaffirmed the department's commitment to education and social engagement.
- Activities aimed at students and school-aged youth: During this academic year, several professors visited public and private schools to give talks on the Social Sciences and provide guidance on the four academic programs offered by the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.

h. Objective 7: To strengthen school spirit, pride, and identity

Department of Chemistry

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the American Chemical Society (ACS) visited three schools and actively participated in the Chemistry Festival in San Juan, held in April as part of National Chemistry Week. The festival aimed to engage the community through experiments, demonstrations, and other hands-on chemistry activities. Additionally, the ACS organized coastal cleanups on local beaches, contributing to environmental conservation efforts.

Department of Economics

The Department of Economics had a vibrant year marked by a wide array of academic, outreach, and institutional development initiatives. A highlight was the inauguration of the Founders Library Museum on May 8, 2025, at SH-109, featuring a collection donated by Prof. Alfredo González Martínez.

- Faculty and students actively engaged in numerous conferences, including those hosted during the eighth edition of Economic Sciences Week in October 2024, and the conference *Trump's Policy Effects on Tariffs and Energy* in March 2025. Faculty also contributed expert knowledge in multiple venues—Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez presented at the Eastern Economic Association and published with international collaborators, while Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González offered a webinar for the National Institute for Congestion Reduction.
- Students were recognized for excellence, with Alexis Wu and Félix Arostegui securing top awards at the 4th and 5th Applied Economics Congresses and Wu earning

recognition at the “Puerto Rico en Datos” conference. The Department reactivated the Association of Economics Students, elected Stephanie Medina Sabido as student representative, and expanded outreach through initiatives such as RUMbo EX tutoring and high school camps.

- Participation in the Institutional Open House, Expo Porta del Sol, and the Mid-Island Association of Realtors seminar reflected ongoing community engagement. Additional achievements include the launch of the ECON Fund for donations, involvement in the Early Warning Program, and the promotion of critical discussions on economic and environmental justice, including student-led initiatives in coordination with faculty. These activities underscore the Department’s strong commitment to academic excellence, civic involvement, and institutional growth.

Department of English

The English Department actively supports nine student organizations, both undergraduate and graduate, that contribute to a wide range of activities such as Orientation Week, school Open Houses, Camp ARCI, community service, film screenings, self-care workshops, and more. Faculty, including both temporary and tenured members, mentor and collaborate with groups like The Bookworm Society, Cinémathèque, the English Department Student Association, Her Campus, the Pop Culture Student Association, and others. These interdisciplinary organizations enrich students’ academic and social experiences across campus.

Department of Geology

The Student Geological Society was highly active throughout the 2024–2025 academic year, contributing significantly to outreach, recruitment, and departmental events. Highlights include the induction of 14 new members, participation in the UPRM Open House and Student Associations Fair, and leading multiple educational activities for homeschool groups and K–12 students. The SGE co-organized the Annual Geology Symposium held on February 28–29, 2025, which was dedicated to Prof. James Joyce and featured presentations by 12 alumni, a geo-career panel, and a field trip to key geological sites in southern Puerto Rico. The Department also strengthened alumni relations through this symposium and continues to foster external partnerships, including a formal collaboration with the Museo de Historia Natural de Puerto Rico (MHNPR), where it plays a leading role in exhibit development and science outreach.

Department of Hispanic Studies

An achievement day was held to recognize honor roll students. Also, a social media campaign titled “Get to Know Our Faculty” was launched, with the goal of introducing the department’s faculty members to the broader community.

Department of Kinesiology

- The department promote students association and active participation through different community activities. Currently, we have the main students’ association (Kinesiology student association, mentor M. Colón) that have various chapters: Sport

Psychology Association (mentor E. Rodríguez) and Exercise is Medicine on Campus (mentor C. Torres), Surfing Association (mentor I. Cordero), Officiating Association (mentor, M. Colón), Ultimate Association (mentor, C. Quiñones), Volleyball Association (mentor, C. Quiñones), Pickleball (mentor, C. Quiñones). As interdisciplinary program, our students are unified with other academic programs such as Biology with the Quiropractic Association.

- Our department has increased the number of students participating in recreational sport activities (ultimate, volleyball, basketball, pickleball). In August 2023 we began to open facilities/space and provide equipment to students to promote physical activity, decrease stress, increase students' social bonding and social support (participation approximately 20-30 students). In April 2025 this effective initiative multiplies the number of students participation using recreational physical activities (approximately 60-90 students).
- Our department maintained healthy relations with students. In the Department, we provided an office for student associations and study room.

Department of Marine Sciences

- The DMS has one student organization, AECIMA, which has been doing excellent work with community services and training, tours of our facilities, talks, organizing the DMS annual Scientific Symposium, workshops, and organizing open houses in the department, music nights and beach cleaning activities. Also, AECIMA participates in the promoting activities of the DMS in other institutions around Puerto Rico.
- The Department has been contacted many times in the last year to give local and international TV and journalist interviews about the current problems facing the coastal marine communities of Puerto Rico. This is part of our outreach activities and the one that actually reaches the most people.
- The DMS does not receive any recurrent donations from Alumni. However, The Rita Walsh MD Scholarship was established in 2012 to aid graduate students from the department of marine sciences and the school of medicine in Ponce. The agreement was signed by the then President of the University Dr. Miguel Munoz and Mrs. Carmen Walsh Rivera. The funds come from the dividends of Mrs. Walsh investments and the only information we could get from the Central administration is two deposits into the endowment for \$ 452,838.79, which we assume are from two years. **We have not** been able to find out what the deposits for the other ten years are and how much is the total endowment for assistantships in the scholarship fund.

Department of Mathematical Sciences

- The Department maintained an active calendar of academic activities, including orientations, research workshops, programming competitions, curriculum committee meetings, and recurring sessions of the Girls Math Club of Puerto Rico (GMCPR), which continues to grow in impact. Events such as the OMPR competitions, Infomate, BEBRAS Challenge, and the International Dinner fostered a vibrant mathematical community. The Departmental Colloquium hosted a series of research talks by faculty and guests, covering topics from statistical theory and topology to meteorology and

epidemiological modeling. These presentations supported interdisciplinary dialogue and student exposure to real-world applications of mathematics.

- In terms of achievements, the Department developed a formal proposal for a new Bachelor's degree in Statistics, and students and faculty garnered multiple awards, including first place in the GMIS Research Posters Competition and the CAHSI Data Analytics Challenge. Graduate student Dennis Quintano was invited to a prestigious workshop at ICERM, while Dr. Luis Cáceres and his OMPR group secured funding from Citadel Securities to support OMPR's summer initiatives. Several students completed master's degrees in Mathematics Education, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Scientific Computing, reflecting the Department's commitment to academic excellence and mentorship. The 2025 Gauss Medal was awarded to Denzel Montes Meléndez, further highlighting the Department's dedication to celebrating student achievement and fostering a thriving academic environment.

Department of Nursing

The Committee of promotion and recruitment of the Department of Nursing continues to visit high schools in the western area of PR to promote the nursing program and provide orientation. The Department of Nursing and its faculty actively participates in all Campus activities, recruitment and promotion, and how students wear the UPRM nursing uniform with pride and honor.

Department of Physics

- Our Department of Physics received 12 new students to Theoretical Physics Program (1208) and 1 to Physical Sciences Program (1207). Dr. Samuel Santana, Acting Director, offered a talk about Physics and the programs that we offered. Also, Dr. Hernán Santos, Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences, gave a welcoming message to students.
- Our students' organizations: Society of Physics Students (SPS) and "*Sociedad Meteorológica de PR*" (SMPR) participated in the activity giving demonstrations. Also, Mr. Omar Vázquez, *Scientific Research Technician of the Dept. of Physics*, offered a demonstration of *Tesla Coil* and *Star Lab* in Physics' Lobby.

Department of Psychology

- The Department of Psychology fostered a vibrant culture of student engagement, community service, and international collaboration. Eight active student associations are affiliated with the department: AEPE, AEPSIC, PSI CHI, Puppy RUM, Emotional Intelligence Alliance, Neuro RUM, Active Minds, and PRISM ROOM. These groups enrich members' academic and personal development through workshops, discussions, and community service activities that promote mental health awareness. The department supports these organizations with financial aid, resources, and promotional assistance.
- A key philanthropic milestone was the establishment of the José Bauermeister Scholarship, a \$10,000 fund dedicated to supporting undergraduate students pursuing research internships in applied psychology and public health outside Puerto Rico

beginning in summer 2026. Dr. José A. Bauermeister, an alumnus and current professor at the University of Pennsylvania, generously endowed the fund.

- Collaboration efforts extended to establishing internship agreements with public and private sector entities, creating opportunities for graduate students to complete practical hours. Notably, students and faculty offered multiple activities benefiting the broader community, including emotion management workshops, graduate study fairs, and discussions on pressing social issues such as suicide prevention, migration policies, and the elimination of diversity and inclusion initiatives in schools. Events like the “Social Justice from School Psychology” webinar and orientations on graduate studies further extended the department's outreach.
- Within the university, the department hosted activities like the Undergraduate Book Fair, New and Graduate Student Orientation, Honor Day recognitions, and mental health-related talks. These events, including workshops like “Myths and Realities of Psychoanalytic Therapy” and “How to Publish in the Puerto Rican Journal of Psychology,” helped build a supportive academic environment.
- The department also made significant strides in infrastructure, including ongoing improvements to CAISPE facilities and a relocation to Celis 104. It began offering courses in two newly assigned classrooms (CH322 and CH404), supporting growth in instructional capacity.
- Internationally, the department maintained an active presence through collaborations and student participation. Two Colombian students enrolled in the graduate program, and efforts were underway to expand summer internship experiences abroad, including partnerships with institutions such as the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Universidad Iberoamericana, Universidad de Guadalajara, and Harvard Medical School's Cambridge Health Alliance. Undergraduate student Rocio Quintana Guzman participated in the prestigious Brown University SR-EIP summer internship, conducting psychiatric research.
- Faculty members served as guest editors for international journals, and students presented at the First Central American and Caribbean Congress of Neuropsychology and the Student Meeting of Neuropsychology hosted by Carlos Albizu University. These international engagements illustrate the department's commitment to research excellence and global academic integration.

Department of Social Sciences

During the year, several meetings were held with students to strengthen the sense of belonging and College Pride. Likewise, during the academic year, meetings were held with the students of each of the Department's programs: Political Science, Social Sciences, History and Sociology.