

Local Chapter of the Year Award

Application Form

Regular Chapter

Student Chapter

Pre-College Chapter

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

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

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

Basic Chapter Information

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

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

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

Person responsible for completion of this application

Name: José A. Algarín Ballesteros

Address: Department of Physics, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

P.O. Box 9000, Mayagüez, PR 00681-9000

E-mail: jose.algarin2@upr.edu

Chapter officers:

President or Chair: José A. Algarín-Ballesteros

Other Officers:

Vice President or Vice Chair: Irmarís Rivera-Llavona

Historian: Evermarie Y. Bracetti-Resto

Secretary: Glorianne M. Rivera-Santiago

Webmaster: Dennis Negrón-Rivera

Treasurer: Joseph J. Martínez-Cabezudo

Magazine: Karimar Ledesma-Maldonado

Number of active (dues paying) members in the chapter during the evaluation period: 45

Number of chapter members who are all also AMS national members: 45

Number of meetings of the chapter during the evaluation period: 9

Activities for Evaluation

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

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

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

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

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

Selection Process

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

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

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

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

AMS UPRM Student Chapter e-mail
Carlos U. Pabón-Ortíz, Ph.D- Advisor

uprm.ams@gmail.com
cupabon@uprm.edu

1. In the past year, what has your chapter done for your members? (500 words or less)

UPRM Chapter members are a group of college students, and as such, one of the Chapter's main objectives is to motivate them to achieve their academic and professional goals. In order to do this, several activities were planned during the academic year. During the Fall Semester, by petition from Chapter members, UPRM's Meteorology Program offered an undergraduate research course using upper air observations. Several of the members participated, providing them an opportunity to expand their knowledge in the field.

Scientific seminars are an excellent way to combine classroom knowledge, and to enhance members' professional experiences and opportunities. Therefore, several talks were scheduled during the year by the Chapter, including subjects such as Dual-Polarization Doppler Radars, and their importance in the Atmospheric Sciences field. This seminar was offered by Dr. José Colom from UPRM's Electrical Engineering Department. Taking advantage of Nautilus Expedition in the Caribbean, Marine Sciences Professor, Dr. Wilford Schmidt gave Chapter's members an insight on the topics of Oceanography and Climatology. Another special seminar was offered by Dr. Mary Barth, who visited UPRM as part of a proposal by NCAR's Diversity Program. Her seminar, "Thunderstorms and Chemistry – Overview of the DC3 Field Project with a Focus on Scavenging of Soluble Trace Gases", was given during the Spring Semester.

Throughout the year, the Chapter encouraged its members to develop leadership skills through the coordination of different activities, such as the traditional Annual Banquet and the Weather Festival. This year, Chapter members collaborated also with the event planning and logistics of the 40th Anniversary of the UPRM Planetarium, which promoted teamwork, and good communication skills between members.

By the end of the year, members had the opportunity to further diversify their expertise in science by attending a special tour to the Arecibo Observatory, the World's Largest single-dish Radiotelescope. Dr. Henrick Mario-Ierkic, UPRM Electrical Engineering Professor provided a guided tour of the facilities. Also, a Parliamentary Process conference was given by Parliamentarist Dr. Miguel A. Santiago, which provided members with a better insight of how assemblies and elections are conducted in a student association.

Many other activities were held during the academic year, some of them were social, and others were focused on community outreach. The Chapter's latest initiative is collaborating with the establishment of the first science museum in Puerto Rico, *EcoExploratorio*, and its ocean-related exhibition *Oceánica*. Members are lending a hand to the museum's development staff by researching relevant information about Puerto Rico's coastline and its importance to the community. All these events provided unique experiences to enrich Chapter members' academic and professional careers.

2. In the past year, what has your chapter done for your community? (500 words or less)

As part of the Chapter's commitment to keep the community well informed and educated about the Atmospheric Sciences, during the summer 2013, some of our members accepted the challenge of giving a conference about the Hurricane Season to intermediate and high school students at a local camp at the Mayagüez Resort and Casino. The Chapter was also invited to present demonstrations, as well as an orientation to participants at the NCAS Puerto Rico Weather Camp 2013. The Weather Camp intends to motivate students towards the study of atmospheric and oceanographic sciences.

Members of the UPRM AMS Student Chapter are fully motivated to help the local population be more conscious about the weather events that are occurring around us every day of the year. In addition to the educational activities, we also planned and participated several events through the academic year, which are listed below:

- **“Huracanes y Casa Segura” (“Hurricanes and Safe Homes 2013”), held at San Juan, PR** - Members helped the local news anchor and Meteorologist, Ada Monzón, and the Architect Astrid Díaz to share information about hurricanes, and the possible impacts they might have on the island of Puerto Rico. Our members also presented demonstrations related to hurricanes for the general public.
- **International Beach Cleanup at Golondrinas Beach at Isabela, PR** - This activity was coordinated with Campus Verde, a UPRM association that sponsors green initiatives. Both the Chapter and Campus Verde members were divided into groups, and helped recollect about 2,000 pounds of garbage.
- **University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, Annual Open House** - Members presented diverse demonstrations, and gave out handouts containing information about our local Chapter and the UPRM Meteorology Program.
- **Conference to Elementary School Students**- Students from 3rd, 4th and 5th grade visited UPRM’s Physics Department, and Chapter members offered a conference about Atmospheric Sciences with interactive demonstrations to the children.
- **7th Weather Festival** - This year’s Weather Festival theme was on “What happens before, during, and after a hurricane”. This activity had the participation of approximately 450 students from schools, and general public from around the Island. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about the atmospheric sciences and the importance of being well educated about the consequences of a visit by a hurricane. During the Festival, we received the visit of the Director of the Puerto Rico’s State Agency for Emergency Management, as well as the visit of meteorologists and other representatives of the Puerto Rican scientific community.
- **School visits** - Members visited two schools to perform demonstrations related to the atmospheric sciences.

3. In the past year, what has your chapter done for the national AMS? (500 words or less)

The elections for Student Chapter Officers were held in May 2013, on the last meeting of the academic year. Four new Chapter Officers were selected, and the results were immediately reported to the AMS Headquarters.

A unique characteristic of the UPRM Student Chapter is that all members are required to be AMS members at the USA level, as well. This ensures that every year the AMS receives new highly motivated members, who are future members of the scientific community. Last Summer, around 15 members participated in different summer internships around the United States and Puerto Rico. The participation in these internships helps in development of our members educational and professional skills, and prepares them for their future careers. The 2013-2014 academic school year officially started with a General Meeting, and looking for potential new members. Consequently, fifteenth new members were initiated to our Student Chapter.

Twenty members of the UPRM Student Chapter attended the 94th AMS Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The Chapter presented a poster at the Local Chapter Poster Session, and several members presented their summer research projects at the 11th Student Conference. Also, three Chapter members worked as Student Assistants during the Meeting. Four former members and one current member took part in organizing the Student Conference, as they joined other students in the Planning Committee. In addition, we had the participation of one graduate student, former member from our Chapter, as one of the judges at the Student Poster Session. As the Chapter was one of the Chapters recognized in the 2012-2013 Local Chapter Honor Roll, Chapter President was invited to participate in a panel at the Chapter Officer Town Hall Meeting. He provided some insights about our Chapter to the attendees, and exchanged ideas with the other Student Chapters represented in the panel.

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