

# 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](mailto:ksavoie@ametsoc.org).

## ***Basic Chapter Information***

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

- 1) President/Chair must be a member of the national AMS.
- 2) The chapter must have reported election results during the period.

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

Person responsible for completion of this application

Name: Evemarie Y. Bracetti-Resto

Address: University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM)

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

E-mail: evemarie.bracetti@upr.edu

Chapter officers:

President or Chair: Evemarie Y. Bracetti-Resto

Other Officers:

Vice President or Vice Chair: Rosa M. Vargas-Martes

Historian: Iris Díaz-Olmo

Secretary: Iván L. Fontánez-Vázquez

Webmaster: Manuel Ramos-Rodríguez

Treasurer: Misael Avilés-Rivera

Magazine Editor: Gabriela Díaz-Santana

Number of active (dues paying) members in the chapter during the evaluation period: 34

Number of chapter members who are all also AMS national members: 34

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](http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/awardguidance.html)  
[www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/LCAC%20COY\\_Sample.pdf](http://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, submissions to the Chapter Channel section of BAMS and/or the quarterly Local Chapter Affairs Newsletter, displaying a chapter poster and abstract at the annual meeting, and contributing to the chapter Wiki page that falls within the evaluation period.

### ***Selection Process***

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

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

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

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

[AMS UPRM Student Chapter e-mail](mailto:uprm.ams@gmail.com)

[uprm.ams@gmail.com](mailto:uprm.ams@gmail.com)

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

For students with an interest in meteorology and atmospheric sciences, there is no better opportunity to further their academic and professional goals than to join a student chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). The Student Chapter of the AMS in the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez considers the improvement of member's future professional and academic goals a very important one. As so, we have worked hard this year to give its members new ways for self-improvement. Some of these new opportunities were the participation in the National Weather Service (NWS) Shadowing Program, various talks with foremost professionals, coursework and internship orientations, and visits to potential work places related to meteorology.

At the beginning of the Fall Semester, we organized a symposium for the society members to present their summer research projects. Later on, a workshop was scheduled on undergraduate opportunities and grad-schools application by Geo-scientist Dr. Valerie Sloan from UCAR-NAR and Soars. Also, a seminar was held about "How Climate Change has affected Puerto Rico?" by Dr. Fernando Gilbes from UPRM's Geology Department.

Some Chapter members were able to participate in the NWS Shadowing Program. This project allowed the students a glimpse of the work done at an NWS Forecast Office. Every Saturday during the semester, chapter members had the opportunity to shadow a forecaster for the duration of one shift. Students had the opportunity to learn the employment requirements, and the routine that goes on for these meteorologists. 24 members took advantage of this opportunity, and the Chapter received a very positive feedback from the Weather Coordinating Officer, Ernesto Morales, and other forecasters from the WFO.

All Chapter activities were coordinated by different members, to promote leadership skills. We held our Annual Banquet and the Weather Festival, and mentorship in Math, Chemistry, Physics and Meteorology classes by senior members, for the benefit of the newer society's members.

We had social and outreach activities. The Chapter's latest initiative is collaborating with the establishment of the first science museum in Puerto Rico, the EcoExploratorio. Its first exhibit is titled Oceánica. Chapter members that reside in the Metropolitan Area of San Juan are working with the EcoExploratorio's staff with demonstrations in physics and atmospheric sciences that can be used with elementary and secondary school visitors. 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 2015, some of our members participated in a Hurricane awareness activity organized by the mayor of the Guaynabo municipality. During this activity our members distributed information about Hurricanes as provided by the National Weather Service of San Juan and taught the locals about weather instruments commonly used to measure wind speed, rainfall, pressure and the radiosondes.

Members of the UPRM AMS Student Chapter are motivated to help the local population to be more conscious about different and common weather events. In addition to educational activities, the chapter also organizes and has participated in several events through the academic year, these are listed below:

- **Hurricanes and Safety at Home – outreach activity at a Commercial Cent in San Juan, PR** - Members helped the NWS SJ to share information about hurricanes and its possible impacts on the island of Puerto Rico. They also distributed information about the NWS while performing demonstrations related to hurricanes for the general public that attended the activity at the mall.
- **Elementary School Visits** - Members visited two schools from the Metropolitan Area of San Juan with discussions and interactive demonstrations in the Atmospheric Sciences for children.
- **9th Weather Festival** – This year's Weather Festival theme was "Earth's Four Spheres: Biosphere, Hydrosphere, Lithosphere and Atmosphere". Some 200 students from schools and the general public attended the Festival. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about the atmospheric phenomena occurring within each "sphere" and they also could create their very own radiosondes by using household materials. In addition, a competition was held for high school students, which consisted of two parts: a written exam about meteorology and an oral presentation as a meteorological broadcaster.
- **Demonstrations at the UPR Expo** - Members participated in the UPR Expo with demonstrations and handouts about our local Chapter and the UPRM Meteorology Program to high school students.
- **Demonstrations at the University's Anniversary** - The demonstrations committee presented demonstrations to our fellow students during this activity. In which our newest members were able to participate and learn the ropes from their older friends.
- **Demonstrations for the Océanica Exhibit staff** - Two chapter officers presented demonstrations at this exhibit as part of a workshop for training staff members that would perform these demonstrations or similar demonstrations to the general public. The officers taught the attendees their techniques and the use of household materials for the creation of the demonstrations.
- **Science Week and Physics Week** – For the Science Week we had a popcorn sale during one of the activities. The demonstrations committee presented its demonstrations and gave a "meteorology 101" presentation during the Physics and Science Week.
- **Hurricane Hunter's Aircraft visit to Puerto Rico**– Members participated in collaboration with a local news channel in the Weather Hunters Aircraft visit to Ponce in the month of April.

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

Student Chapter Officers were elected in April 2016, on our last meeting of the academic year. Four 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 may become future members of the scientific community. Our 2015-2016 academic school year officially started with a General Meeting, and looking for potential new members. Consequently, eight new members were initiated in our Student Chapter.

Six members of the UPRM Student Chapter attended the 96th AMS Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Chapter presented a poster at the Local Chapter Poster Session, and several members presented their summer research projects at the 15th Student Conference. Also, two Chapter members worked as Student Assistants during the Meeting. In addition, the current President and former Historian of the chapter will be participating in the 32nd Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology to be celebrated from April 17 to April 22 in San Juan, PR.

The Chapter now reports regular activities by submitting a monthly entry to the Channel Chapter Section of BAMS. In this section, the Chapter summarizes a new initiative, or a special activity each month. These could include scientific talks, conferences or social gatherings. In this way, keep the AMS organization up to date in our activities.



Sociedad Meteorológica de  
Puerto Rico Capítulo Estudiantil  
afiliado a la American  
Meteorological Society  
UPR - RECINTO UNIVERSITARIO DE  
MAYAGUEZ



**Informe  
Presidencial  
Año Académico  
2015-2016  
1 de mayo  
de 2016**

## **I. Elecciones y Reuniones de directiva**

Los trabajos para la Directiva 2015-2016 de la Sociedad Meteorológica de Puerto Rico, Capítulo Estudiantil UPRM (SMPR) comenzaron el jueves, 7 de mayo de 2015, día en que se celebraron las Elecciones para los 4 puestos principales de dicha directiva. Ese mismo día, se celebró una pequeña reunión de directiva, en la cual se escogieron los socios que completarían la directiva, en los puestos de: Historiadora, Webmaster y Editora de la Revista, y se discutieron los últimos detalles de la celebración del Banquete de Fin de Año a llevarse a cabo durante la noche. La Directiva 2015-2016 quedó compuesta por:

- Evemarie Y. Bracetti Resto – Presidenta
- Rosa M. Vargas Martes – Vice Presidenta
- Iván L. Fontáñez Vázquez – Secretario
- Misael Avilés Rivera – Tesorero
- Iris Díaz Olmo – Historiadora
- Manuel I. Ramos Rodríguez – Webmaster
- Gabriela Díaz Santana – Editora de la Revista

La primera reunión con todos los miembros de la directiva se realizó mediante video conferencia a principios del mes de julio. El objetivo principal fue delinear el plan de trabajo a seguir durante el año y escoger los líderes y co-líderes de los comités. Los comités quedaron de la siguiente manera (**Tabla 1**):

#	Comité	Líder	Co-Líder
1	Demostraciones	Aisha Dávila	Axel Uffary (Ago-Mar)
2	Weather Briefings	Ana Torres (Ago-Dic)	Mónica Ayala
3	Weather Today	Karuska Matos	Irmariís Llavona
4	Outreach	Kelly Nuñez	N/A

**Tabla 1:** Líderes y Co-líderes de los comités de la SMPR

Una vez comenzado el Año Académico 2015-2016, la Directiva se reunió bisemanalmente, o cuando fuera necesario. Hubo un total de ocho (8) reuniones durante el año, minimizando así el número de reuniones y haciendo uso de las redes sociales y el correo electrónico para discutir asuntos importantes, pero que no requerían una reunión presencial. Las ocho reuniones incluyen la realizada en verano vía internet y una realizada para concretar los detalles para el afiche a ser presentado en el *AMS Annual Meeting 2016*. Siempre imperó un ambiente de cordialidad, respeto y honestidad entre todos. La cooperación, el entendimiento y el trabajo en equipo fueron factores clave en el desempeño de la Directiva.

## **II. Membresía**

Al comienzo del año académico 2015-2016 nos dimos la tarea de reclutar nuevos socios. Estuvimos muy activos durante la Semana de Orientación a Estudiantes de Nuevo Ingreso. A principios del mes de septiembre, se llevó a cabo la tradicional Asamblea General. En la misma, se tuvo un gran número de estudiantes interesados en nuestra organización. Se le orientó sobre la historia de la SMPR, el tipo de actividades que realizamos y cómo ingresar a ella. En adición, consideramos importante añadir una orientación sobre lo que es el Programa de Ciencias Atmosféricas y Meteorología del Departamento de Física de nuestro Recinto. Gracias a nuestro esfuerzo colectivo, logramos la iniciación de 9 nuevos miembros. Cerramos el año académico con un total de 34 socios activos.

## **III. Actividades**

Las actividades anuales fueron planificadas teniendo como norte el fortalecimiento de nuestros cuatro pilares: Educación, Oportunidades, Desarrollo Profesional y Servicio a la Comunidad. La gran mayoría de estas actividades fueron muy exitosas, incluyendo la iniciación de nuevos socios, una charla sobre escuela graduada, un seminario sobre ¿Cómo el cambio climático ha afectado a PR? y diversas actividades sociales. Como todos los años dijimos presente en el AMS Annual Meeting, celebrado este año en la ciudad de New Orleans Louisiana. Varios de nuestros miembros presentaron sus trabajos investigativos antes cientos de profesionales y tuvimos la oportunidad de interactuar uno a uno con importantes figuras del campo científico.

Por noveno año celebramos nuestro Festival de Meteorología. Esta actividad es nuestra actividad cumbre y este año no fue la excepción. Fue todo un éxito y esperamos que en futuros años lo continúe siendo. Se trató de no realizar actividades durante semanas con un alto volumen de trabajo universitario, para maximizar el número de miembros asistentes a las mismas. Además a principio de mes se enviaba a través del correo electrónico un calendario con las actividades en agenda para el mes. Para recibir información más detallada sobre las actividades, pueden referirse al Informe de Secretaría 2015-2016, el cual resume las actividades realizadas durante este año académico.

## **IV. Logros**

La Sociedad Meteorológica de Puerto Rico se ha distinguido en los últimos tiempos tanto local como nacionalmente. Esto sin duda alguna ha sido el logro de todos los miembros activos, que dan lo mejor de sí para poner el nombre de nuestra organización en alto. Entre estos logros, se destacan:

- La aplicación de “Chapter of the Year” completada por la pasada directiva 2014-2015 fue una exitosa. A pesar de que este año no cargamos ganamos el primer lugar.

- Como mencioné anteriormente, el pasado mes de marzo celebramos nuestro noveno “Weather Fest”, donde recibimos la asistencia alrededor de 300 personas, entre ellos, estudiantes y maestros de escuelas intermedias y superiores del país, estudiantes del recinto y aficionados a la meteorología. La actividad fue una de gran impacto, en la cual nuestros miembros tuvieron la oportunidad de orientar al público sobre las esferas de la tierra (Atmosfera, Biosfera, Hidrosfera y Geosfera). Este año se integró una nueva actividad en donde estudiantes de escuela superior tenían la oportunidad de competir en el “Weather Challenge”. Los estudiantes debían formar un equipo y dos de ellos tomarían un examen escrito sobre conceptos básicos de meteorología, física y matemáticas mientras que el tercer integrante debería presentar el informe de tiempo. Varios medios de comunicación realizaron entrevistas y reportajes sobre nuestro evento. Estamos muy agradecidos del trabajo y dedicación otorgado por cada socio.

Más que enumerar logros uno a uno, el mayor logro es poder transmitir todos los días el mensaje de que la meteorología es una de las ciencias más importantes y a la misma vez más retantes que hay a cada uno de los miembros y personas que nos visitan. La satisfacción que uno recibe luego de haber cumplido con tu deber como integrante de esta organización es algo incalculable.

## **V. Planes Futuros**

Antes de concluir el mes de abril, se completó la solicitud para “Chapter of the Year 2015-2016” y se envió al AMS para su debido escrutinio. Como actividad de cierre, nuestro tradicional Banquete de Fin de Año se celebró el Sábado, 30 de abril de 2016. Este año el banquete fue uno más especial debido a que la SMPR cumplió sus 10 años de aniversario el pasado mes de abril.

No puedo terminar este informe sin agradecerle a cada uno de los miembros de la SMPR, el haberme dado el honor y su confianza para liderar este excelente grupo de jóvenes apasionados por la meteorología durante este año. Sin ustedes, nada de lo expuesto en estas páginas hubiera sido posible. Muchas gracias a la Directiva 2015-2016 por su liderazgo, compañerismo y su enorme deseo de trabajar fuerte para y por la SMPR. Nuevamente, muchas gracias a todos y que nunca muera el deseo de seguir hacia adelante y alcanzar nuestras metas.

¡Éxito!

*Evemarie Y. Bracetti Resto*

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Evemarie Y. Bracetti Resto

Presidenta 2015-2016