

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO - MAYAGÜEZ (UPRM)
2018 - 2019 OFFICIAL MAGAZINE





CULTIVATING A PHILANTHROPY CULTURE AT UPRM

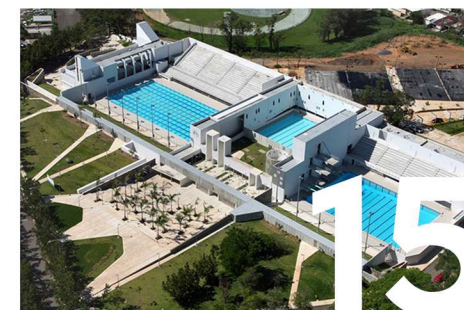
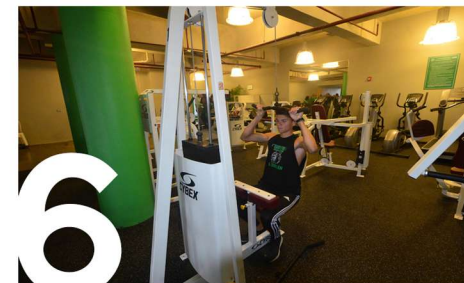
Collaboration derives from the Latin word *collaborare*, which means to work together. Through the particular challenges that the University of Puerto Rico and our island have experienced during the past couple of years, we've learned that only through effective collaboration we can move our University and Puerto Rico forward. It is imperative to create a culture of collaboration and philanthropy! We've been focusing on that, having the honor to receive support from strategic partners from the industry as well as from federal agencies via grants. This edition of **La Gaceta Colegial** is a testament to this: how philanthropic giving to our institution support a wide variety of projects that allow us to continue with our centennial mission to educate professionals of excellence.

To our collaborators: Thank you for investing in education. Our students are the promise of the present and the future. We are always very proud to say they are the best of the best. They are talented young people eager to learn more. They have immense creative abilities and the passion to move forward. That's why the combination of these two elements: the opportunities you provide, plus the willingness of our students, has been a perfect recipe for success.

Let's keep on cultivating the culture of philanthropy at our beloved Colegio!

Wilma L. Santiago Gabriellini

Wilma L. Santiago Gabriellini
Acting Chancellor UPRM



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Officials of the UPR received the donation from Pratt & Whitney, joined by Governor Ricardo Rosselló.
Photo by Carlos Díaz/UPRM Press

UPRM RECEIVES A \$500,000 DONATION FROM PRATT & WHITNEY

by Mariam Ludim Rosa Vélez

University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez (UPRM) received a donation of \$500,000 from Pratt & Whitney, a division of United Technologies Corp., during the official opening of its new Aerospace Engineering Center in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, in which Governor Ricardo A. Rosselló Nevares participated.

The donation, product of a proposal submitted by Dr. Sheila Torres Nieves, Mechanical Engineering Professor and Dr. José Colom Ustáriz, Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor, will be assigned to the development of the Center for Research and Education in Aerospace Engineering.

"With this donation we want to help the institution and students, whom we will eventually recruit. We recognize that the educational environment needs support from the industry," said Engineer John E. Delametter, General Manager of Pratt & Whitney Puerto Rico, to **UPRM Press**.

AMGEN FOUNDATION DONATES \$515,000 TO UPRM

by Mariam Ludim Rosa Vélez

University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez (UPRM) received a donation of \$515,000 from the Amgen Foundation to improve infrastructures and acquire laboratory equipment affected by Hurricane María.

"We are very grateful for the support offered by Amgen, an organization that, for almost two decades, has maintained collaboration agreements with our campus," said UPRM Acting Chancellor, Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini.

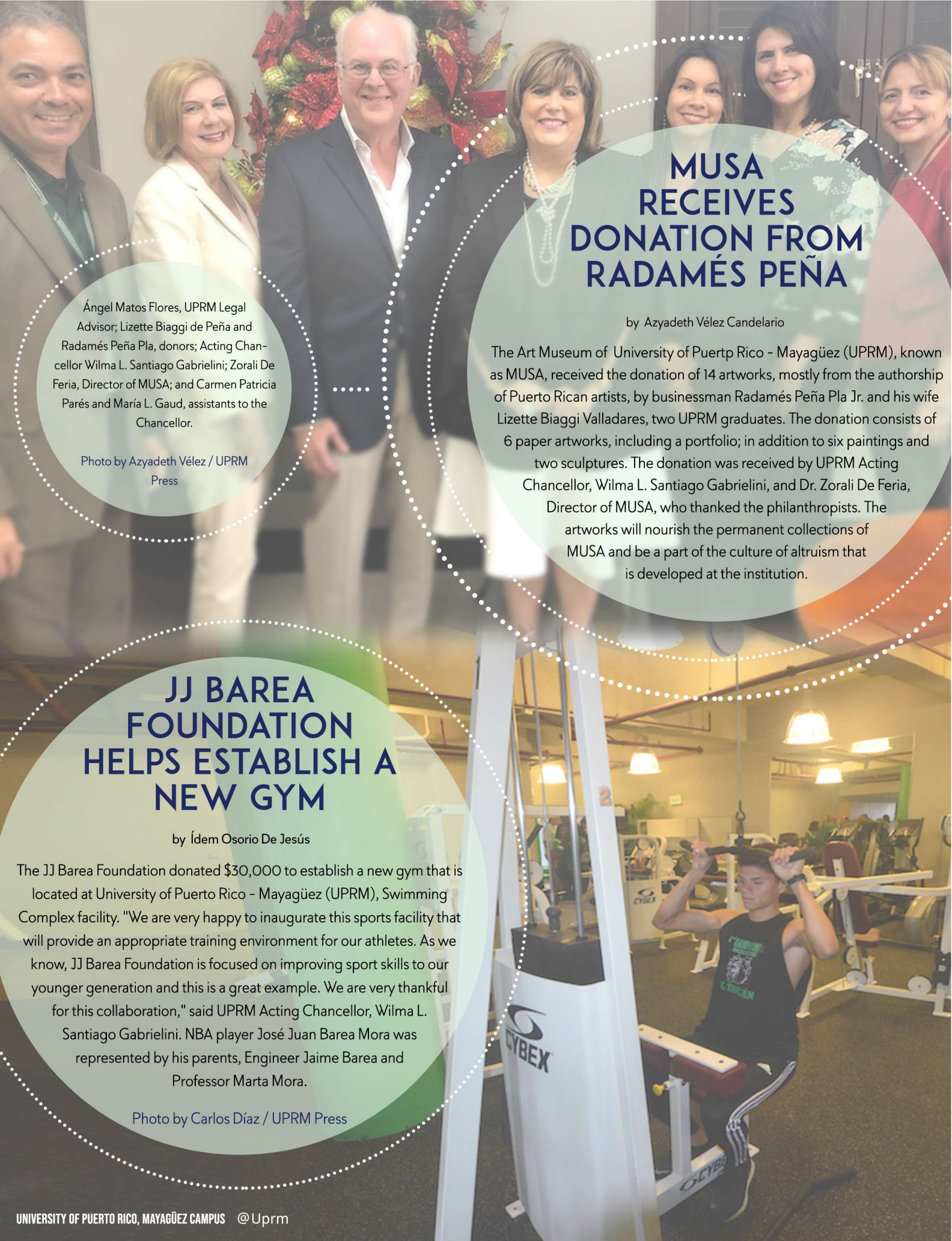
She highlighted that the funds will be used to replace the Student Center furniture; to purchase laboratory equipment for the Industrial Biotechnology Center, located at the Darlington Building; to acquire audiovisual devices for the Department of Industrial Engineering; as well as to obtain teaching materials for Chemistry laboratories.

"We are very pleased to be able to help the University Campus of Mayagüez with some needs that surfaced after Hurricane María. We have been in Puerto Rico for 26 years and a key element of our success, to serve our patients, is our people," said Vice President of Operations for Amgen in Puerto Rico, Kerry Ingalls.

\$257,000 of this donation will be used to renovate the Student Center.



UPRM Acting Chancellor, Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini (center) received and thanked the donation. To her right, Kerry Ingalls, Vice President of Operations for Amgen in Puerto Rico



MUSA RECEIVES DONATION FROM RADAMÉS PEÑA

by Azyadeth Vélez Candelario

The Art Museum of University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez (UPRM), known as MUSA, received the donation of 14 artworks, mostly from the authorship of Puerto Rican artists, by businessman Radamés Peña Pla Jr. and his wife Lizette Biaggi Valladares, two UPRM graduates. The donation consists of 6 paper artworks, including a portfolio; in addition to six paintings and two sculptures. The donation was received by UPRM Acting Chancellor, Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini, and Dr. Zorali De Fera, Director of MUSA, who thanked the philanthropists. The artworks will nourish the permanent collections of MUSA and be a part of the culture of altruism that is developed at the institution.

Ángel Matos Flores, UPRM Legal Advisor; Lizette Biaggi de Peña and Radamés Peña Pla, donors; Acting Chancellor Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini; Zorali De Fera, Director of MUSA; and Carmen Patricia Parés and María L. Gaud, assistants to the Chancellor.

Photo by Azyadeth Vélez / UPRM Press

JJ BAREA FOUNDATION HELPS ESTABLISH A NEW GYM

by Ídem Osorio De Jesús

The JJ Barea Foundation donated \$30,000 to establish a new gym that is located at University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez (UPRM), Swimming Complex facility. "We are very happy to inaugurate this sports facility that will provide an appropriate training environment for our athletes. As we know, JJ Barea Foundation is focused on improving sport skills to our younger generation and this is a great example. We are very thankful for this collaboration," said UPRM Acting Chancellor, Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini. NBA player José Juan Barea Mora was represented by his parents, Engineer Jaime Barea and Professor Marta Mora.

Photo by Carlos Díaz / UPRM Press

UPRM RECEIVES DONATION FROM HARRIS TO REOPEN RASP LABORATORY

by Mariam Ludim Rosa Vélez

University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez (UPRM), Electric and Computer Engineering Department (ECE) reopened its Rapid Systems Prototyping Laboratory (RASP), a unique laboratory on the island, thanks to a \$45,000 donation granted by Harris Corporation, which was affected severely by Hurricane María.

"We are very grateful to Harris Corporation because this contribution helps us in the development and renovation of this Rapid Systems Prototyping Laboratory, a space highly needed to enhance the opportunities for our students. I'm sure this collaboration will continue and grow as our students, who are the promise of the present and the future, develop in this area and contribute their talents to the industry," said UPRM Acting Chancellor, Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini.

"This project crowns the effort and collaboration that we have been developing with Harris Corporation through the years. It also supports research activities which benefits students," said Dr. Manuel Jiménez professor from ECE.

Dr. Jiménez and Ellen Ríos de Acarón, Engineering COOP Program Director, submitted the proposal to the organization.



Erik Arvesen, Harris Corporation VP



Dr. Manuel Jiménez



Dr. Manuel Jiménez and Ellen Ríos de Acarón, Engineering COOP Program Director submitted the proposal to the organization.

Photos by Carlos Díaz/UPRM Press Office

IT'S BEEN 107 YEARS!

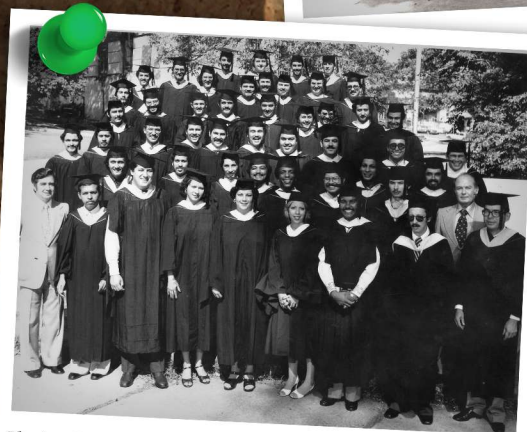
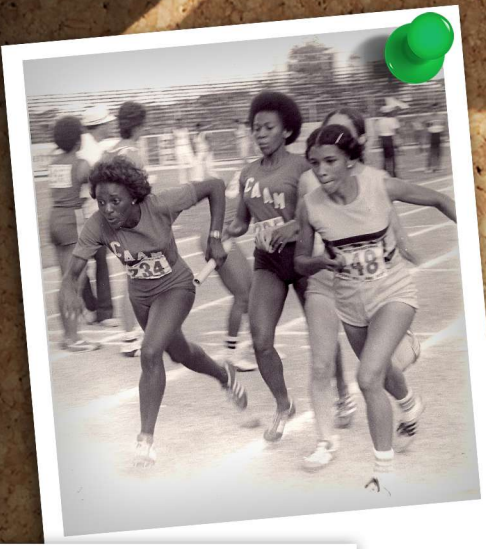
by Mariam Ludim Rosa Vélez

The chords of the centenary *Banda Colegial* and the rhythm of the Flag-bearers announced the celebration of the University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez (UPRM) 107th birthday.

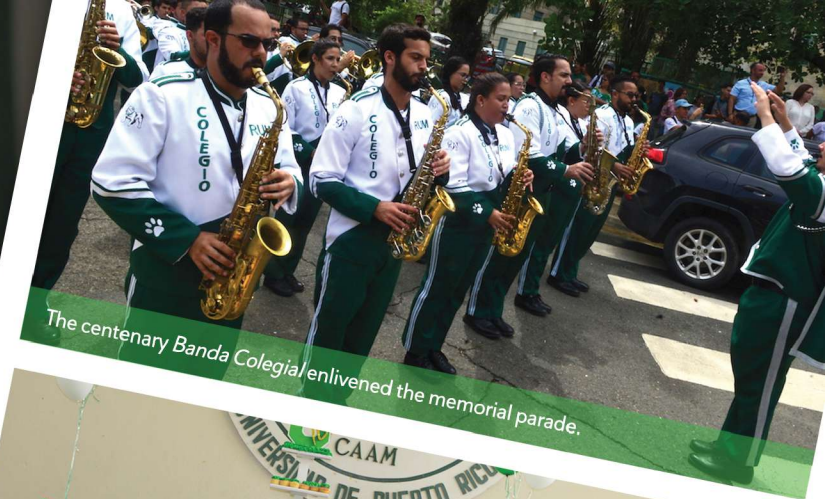
Dressed in shining green and white gala, the Campus musicians paraded from the Diego Building to the Student Center, to delight those who gathered to the sound of their melodies and choreographies, which included, the *Himno Colegial*.

"It is a story full of testimonies of success of our students and graduates who have impacted Puerto Rico and the entire world. The students and colleagues, are part of that solid trajectory of forming professionals of excellence. Today, with much joy, we celebrate the vision of our founders, that road paved by those who preceded us. We want to continue that commitment because education opens doors to a better present and future," said the UPRM Acting Chancellor, Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini, during her greeting.

"*Colegio*, that merely started with 126 students in 1911, has now graduated more than 80,000 professionals, who have contributed to the islands' economic development and whose legacies are incalculable. That's why we celebrate! We're fighters who are characterized by both tenacity and passion, and that's what we call *cría colegial*, which has survived for no less than 107 years," she added.



Photos: UPRM Archive



The centenary Banda Colegial enlivened the memorial parade.



The members of the UPRM Dance Team also participated.



UPRM Acting Chancellor, Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini spending time with students.



Tarzán, UPRM Mascot

Photos: Carlos Díaz/Prensa RUM



From left to right, the investigators: Marcelo Suárez, Ricardo López, José Perdomo, Carla López del Puerto, Jonathan Muñoz, Antonio Zaragoza and Ismael Pagán.

Courtesy photo

UPR RECEIVES GRANT TO EDUCATE IN ENGINEERING

A group of researchers from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), Mayagüez (UPRM), Ponce (UPRP), and Río Piedras (UPR-RP) received a \$1,486,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to increase retention and graduation rates among engineering students attending Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs).

The initiative named *A Collaborative Undergraduate STEM Program in Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure*, Carla López, the lead researcher together with UPRM professors Marcelo Suárez, José R. Perdomo, and Jonathan Muñoz, will work together in this project. Also, Antonio Zaragoza, from the Department of Engineering at Ponce, and Humberto Cavallín, from the School of Architecture of Río Piedras. (RCF)

UPRM received a \$650,000 grant from NSF, which will annually provide economic support to 26 undergraduate low-income students, who are a part of the science and engineering disciplines and have been severely affected by Hurricane María.

This assignment is part of the Ecosystem to Expand Capabilities and Opportunities for STEM Scholars, which will award scholarships up to \$2,500 a semester for participants, who will also

have academic and social-emotional support, in order for them to successfully complete their university career.

The UPRM group of researchers, is composed of: Mónica Alfaro, Biology professor and head researcher of the proposal; Carmen Bellido, Nayda G. Santiago, Moisés Orenge, Bernadette M. Delgado, Laura López, José Fernando, Mercedes Ferrer, and Lourdes Medina Avilés. (IOD)

NSF AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS AFFECTED BY MARÍA



Project Researchers alongside the Acting Chancellor Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini.

Photo: Carlos Díaz/UPRM Press Office

MILLIONAIRE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS



Research team of project Engineering Pearls, alongside UPRM Acting Chancellor Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini, second from the right and the Deans.

Photo: Carlos Díaz/UPRM Press Office

UPRM celebrated the opening of the Engineering PEARLS program, which received a \$1 million grant from NSF, to provide financial support to 90 low-income students who are pursuing their bachelor's degree in engineering.

The work team is composed of: Manuel A. Jiménez, leader of the initiative; Nayda G. Santiago, Marcelo Suárez, Aidsa I. Santiago, Sonia Bartolomei Suárez, Betzabé Rodríguez, Nelson Cardona, Pedro O. Quintero, Carla López, Luisa Guillemard, Janet L. Bonilla and Anidza Valentín. (IOD)



University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez (UPRM) was granted \$8 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This was one of the grants provided to higher education institutions in the United States for collaborative partnerships that developed research in the area of sciences and material engineering.

The Acting Vice President of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), Dr. Ubaldo M. Córdova Figueroa, said that the grant, of almost \$4 million for six years, is under the prestigious NSF Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM) program and will allow the University of Wisconsin (UW), in Madison and UPRM to integrate their experience in synthesis, characterization, modeling, and application of multifunctional materials for research and educational purposes.

"Through this proposal, the University will serve three important areas of research in engineering sciences and materials: one has to do with the development of pharmaceutical materials, another with absorption materials and renewable energy, and the third, with active and reconfigurable materials, which will have different applications in new technologies. It also has an educational component that will promote STEM careers (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), from primary school to doctoral students, to empower them as university educators," he said.

Córdova Figueroa, also a professor of Chemical Engineering at UPRM, added that, through the agreement, researchers from the Medical Sciences and Río Piedras Campuses will also participate; resources from the Engineering Sciences and Materials Center (MRSEC) of UW will be used to achieve sustainable collaborations.

The proposal co-directors are: Nelson Cardona, of Chemical Engineering at UPRM and Paul Voyles, of Materials Engineering at UW.

"This great news must be highlighted because, once again, it confirms the excellence in the research carried out here on campus. I am very proud to affirm that we are a vanguard campus and that we have the most dedicated professors and researchers, whose high-level work is recognized by the most famous and accredited entities in the world," said UPRM Acting Chancellor, Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini.



Dr. Ubaldo Córdova, principal researcher of the proposal.

Courtesy photo

NSF MILLIONAIRE GRANT TO DEVELOP RESEARCH IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

by Azyadeth Vélez Candelario



THIRD PRESIDENTIAL DISTINCTION FOR SCIENCE ON WHEELS

by Ídem Osorio De Jesús

The Educational Center Sciences on Wheels, from University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez (UPRM), received the Presidential Award for excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering, for its work in teaching and mentoring these subjects to Puerto Rican students for almost three decades.

This is the third recognition that the United States White House gives the Program in three different administrations. The first Presidential Award in Science and Technology was granted in 2005; while in 2015, it was highlighted as a Bright Spot in Hispanic Education, conferred by the Excellence in Education initiative for Hispanics. As recently as the end of last June, it was honored with this second Presidential Award.

"First of all, these distinctions represent the efforts of many people. We were pioneers 30 years ago bringing science, technology, engineering and mathematics education (STEM) to public and private schools. It is about developing skills in students, so that they are more successful when they come to the University. This is the highest award given by a president of the United States in this category, so, for UPRM it is an honor to achieve it," said Dr. Juan López Garriga, founder of Sciences on Wheels and Chemistry Department Professor.

UPRM RECEIVES MILLIONAIRE GRANT FOR STUDENTS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE MARÍA

by Mariam Ludim Rosa Vélez

University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez (UPRM) received a \$ 6.4 million grant from the United States Department of Education, Emergency Assistance to Institutions of Higher Education Program, that will be used in three areas: provide scholarships to students affected by Hurricane María, renovate the UPRM Hotel known as *Hotel Colegial*, and strengthen the services of its Counseling and Psychological Services Department.

The Chancellor's Office, the Planning, Research and Institutional Improvement Office and the Dean of Students, submitted the proposal.

The grant assigns \$4.5 million to remodel three floors of the *Hotel Colegial* and thus, expand room availability for students with extreme needs. It also allocates \$1 million to help students who have faced pressing situations after the atmospheric phenomenon. In addition, \$830,000 will be used to expand the services of the Counseling and Psychological Services Department and improve their facilities.

"Since Hurricane María hit our island, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that all student services continue with excellence. These funds give us the opportunity to expand these efforts with scholarships, housing, counseling and psychological services for some students that had losses during the hurricane. We are pleased that the US Department of Education has accepted our proposal," said UPRM Acting Chancellor, Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini.





Job Fair:

THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN 30 YEARS

by Ídem Osorio De Jesús

Exactly three decades ago, the celebration of the Job Fair, one of the most emblematic and traditional events of University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez (UPRM) began. In that historical moment, thirty companies launched the event, and this year it was renewed as one of the largest in the country with 113 companies searching for college talent.

More than 2,000 students, among recent graduates and active ones, responded to the call that once again launched the Placement Office, to be present at the Rafael A. Mangual Coliseum, before private and governmental entities to request part-time or full-time work, internships, and opportunities with which they can gain experience and expand their professional horizons.

"The best letter of introduction is still our students and their preparation, it is what makes these companies come year after year. I remember many years ago a recruiter told me that UPRM was the best kept secret," said Nancy Nieves Arán, Placement Office Director during 30 years, and recently retired.

One of the recruiters that has been participating since the foundation of the Job Fair is Procter & Gamble.

"We have taken hundreds of people over the years and they have all been very prominent. They have given us a tremendous experience," said Miguel Alemañy, director of the Research and Development division of the company and a graduate of the Chemical Engineering Department.

The UPRM Acting Chancellor, Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini, also commented on these 30 years as a successful model of collaboration between the industry and the University.

"These companies believe in our students and the education we provide them, which confirms that we are fulfilling our mission of educating holistic professionals, many of them, leaders who return to their Alma Mater to seek talent," she said.

Photo by Carlos Díaz/UPRM Press



tennis & racquetball courts NATATORIUM COMPLEX



The Natatorium, Tennis, and Racquetball Complex of the University Campus of Mayagüez consists of a group of facilities that includes three swimming pools, eight tennis courts, a mezzanine, and three racquetball courts. It was built for the celebration of the 2010 Central American and Caribbean Games held in Mayagüez.

The Complex offers academic courses such as elementary swimming, tennis, and racquetball. As part of the fundraising plan, the following class programs are also added for the university community and citizenship in general: Swimming for children and adults, Aqua Zumba, Zumba, the Colegio Tarzanes young swimming team which are a part of the Puerto Rican Swimming Federation, Water Polo, BACALEX Swimming Master Team, Tennis and Racquetball for children and adults, Salsa, Yoga, Martial Arts, among others. We have contracts with universities in the United States who practice at the Natatorium. Our most successful project: the Summer Program for children from three to 16 years old, has been focused on tennis and swimming sports for more than five years, yet adding other sports and recreational disciplines. The Inter-University Athletic League competitions, federations and other national and international tennis tournaments such as Davis Cup, Sultana Cup and others sponsored by the PRTA, ITF, and the USTA are also held at this location.



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