

THE COHEMISPHERICAL



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CoHemis International Conference on Green Communities

Improving Life by Seeking Sustainability

Recently, CoHemis celebrated the International Conference on Green Communities. Academics, industrialists, researchers, and community leaders participated in the event to analyze the subject of green communities from a scientific, educational, social and engineering perspective. The innovation in this conference was to deal with the subjects in an integrated way and included the social component like one of most necessary in the discussion. Hundreds attended the event; which includes a total of 15 conferences and two forums: one about LEED Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a green building rating system) for the development of

neighborhoods and other on the roll of press in the sustainable development of Puerto Rico. The Director of CoHemis pointed out that the conference fulfilled its main goal of setting a dialogue on the subject. The conference also managed to create conscience and to stimulate people in developing initiatives. "There is an effort at community level, but also at regional and national levels, that we merge to get to results. This is a process that could take many years. The idea is to start initiatives and working groups", emphasized the Director. For more information and to access the presentations and videos; please visit the conference webpage at: <http://green.uprm.edu>.

Olé RUM seeking to expand its opportunities of studies

The Project of Studies in Spain Olé-RUM, at the moment has sent 80 to six universities located in Madrid, Salamanca and Cádiz, which are members of the project. Nevertheless, there are different possibilities for expanding the alternatives of studies and research to our students. That was a primary goal of the CoHemis Directors when they traveled to Spain during May 24-30, 2008. For that matter, they met with Mr. Raúl Díaz, Plant Director of the Pharmaceutical Merck Sharp & Dome in Madrid. Mr. Díaz, an UPRM alumnus, showed them the plant facilities and coordinated several meetings to evaluate possible collaboration, including internships for our students in the plant. Also, CoHemis directors met several members of the faculty and researchers at University of Alcalá de Henares, including Dr. Fidel Ortega Ortiz de Apodaca,



Photo: Mr. Raúl Díaz, from Merck Sharp & Dome Madrid (middle) and Dr. Carlos Ríos Velázquez in one of the laboratories of the pharmaceutical.

Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy. In the meeting, they began conversations to include the university to Olé-RUM. In addition, this visit represented an opportunity to meet with the UPRM students that were in Spain.

www.cohemis.uprm.edu/olerum

Visit of the Pontificia Universidade Católica de Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), Brasil

UPRM received the visit of two delegates of PUCRS from February 3-5, 2008; Dr. Jorge Luis Nicholás Audy, Vice Chancellor; and Dr. Fabricio de Oliviera Ourique, Director of the Department of Electrical Engineering at that institution. The objective of their visit was to learn more about the concept of the Learning Factory at UPRM, because they are evaluating and exploring the possibility of implementing a similar system in their university. In addition, they are planning a collaborative research effort with UPRM College of Engineering.

Curriculum Innovation and Quality Assurance a Roadmap for Excellence Mysore, India

Dr. Jorge I. Vélez Arocho, UPRM; Chancellor of UPRM; Dr. Rosa Buxeda, Director of UPRM Industrial Biotechnology Program; and Mrs. Lueny Morell, member of the Opened Innovation Staff of Hewlett Packard Laboratories, California, presented lectures at the Indo Collaboration for Engineering Education Conference. These were carried out during the week from June 2-6, 2008 in Mysore, India.

Delegatio of ESPOL visits UPRM College of Engineering

CoHemis coordinated the visit of a delegation coming from the "Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral" (ESPOL), in Guayaquil, Ecuador, during April 14-17, 2008. This university is member of the CoHemis Consortium. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about the accreditation process of UPRM College of Engineering given by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) and the assessment and continuous improvements processes in our campus so he could use it as a model to apply them to their institution.

Seminar of Ethics in Research



<http://www.fphv.org/images/noticias/bioetica.jpg>

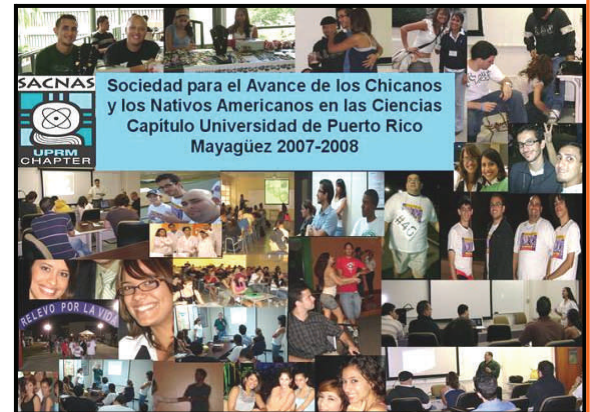
The UPRM Interdisciplinary Team for the Education of Ethics in Science and Engineering Research (**GERESE**), offered the seminar "**Building Integrity into Science and Engineering through Research Ethics: An Interdisciplinary Team Effort**"

for the UPRM community on April 3, 2008. It displayed the interdisciplinary initiatives

working at the campus in the areas of academics and ethical integrity in sciences and engineering research. The panel talked about the workshop offered to graduate students in science and engineering, moral deliberation, analysis of cases and ethics banquet as well as the outreach program to bring topics in academic integrity to secondary school students. The UPRM interdisciplinary team includes graduate students and professors of UPRM, including Dr. Carlos Ríos-Velázquez, Biology Professor and Co-Director of CoHemis. The team activities' have been sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

SACNAS UPR-Mayagüez Initiation

The Society for the Advance of Chicanos/Latin and Native Americans (SACNAS) chapter of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (CoHemis-UPRM-SACNAS) carried out the initiation of its new members and the installation of the new chapter president on May 10, 2008. The former president, Miss. Karen J. Diaz, addressed the attendance and shared information about the chapter success and profits obtained during her presidency. Also, she called for the new president and members to continue making the difference. The incoming president, Miss. Jezabel Rivera, presented a motivational and positive message about working as a team and with the commitment to create positive impact and service to the UPRM community. After the ceremony of initiation of the new directives and members, they received a certificate of membership and participation in the organization. CoHemis UPRM-SACNAS stands out like an organiza-



tion who offers workshops and activities for the improvement and development of academic and professional skills to undergraduates and graduate students, in addition to participate in community service.



Photo: Dr. Carlos Ríos Velázquez presented a poster in Boston and traveled to Logan, Utah, seeking collaborative initiatives in education and research.

Trip to Utah and Boston

As part of the proposal of Geomicrobiology and Metagenomic Studies of Puerto Rican Soils (GeMS) approved by the USDA-CSREES Program, Dr. Carlos Ríos-Velázquez participated in the conference North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture and Science and Education Resources Development (NACTA/SERD) during June 10-13, 2008, at University of Utah in Logan, Utah. Also participated of the 108 General Convention of the American Society of Microbiology (ASM) celebrated in Boston, Massachusetts during June 1-5, 2008. Dr. Ríos-Velázquez presented the poster "Engaging Students Actively in Metagenomic Studies of Puerto Rican Forest Soils".

Other Activities

- Summer Camp BETTeR-IC 2008, Learning Biotechnology in Teams and through Research and Interdisciplinary Centers. **July 14 - 20, 2008**
- Welcome meeting Project of Studies in Spain, Olé RUM. **August 19, 2008**
- Olé RUM Project Orientation, UPRM Student Center, Universal Time. **August 21, September 18 and October 9, 2008**
- Recognition to CoHemis UPRM-SACNAS as Model Chapter in Team Leadership at the Annual National Conference of SACNAS 2008. **October 9, 2008**
- Meeting of Guarantee of Quality in Academic Management. Latin-American universities visit UPRM. **October 22 - 23, 2008**
- Science and Technology CoHemis Conference (SciTeCC) **October 23, 2008**
- 6th Conference of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (PRISIG). **November 14, 2008**
- Olé RUM Farewell Meeting for students departure to Spain, 2008-2009. **December 2008**