

# IAS Visits “La Fortaleza”



Puerto Rico Governor Hon. L. Fortuño welcoming astronauts M. Foreman and J. Hernandez

On November 15, 2010, IAS had the privilege to visit La Fortaleza for the welcoming of two astronauts: Jose M. Hernandez and Michael Foreman. Along with Puerto Rico Governor Hon. Luis G. Fortuño, NASA Glenn Research Center officials and the Puerto Rico Space Grant Consortium directors, IAS joined the activity, representing the private institutions that support the INSPIRE (Interdisciplinary National Science Project Incorporating Research and Education Experience) program at UPR (University of Puerto Rico).

The purpose of their visit was to encourage and inspire our young generation to study the fields of mathematics, science, engineering and technology. They also emphasized on the importance of having role models when pursuing your dreams. They toured the island visiting schools and universities providing QA sessions and speaking about their unique experiences as astronauts.

*“As a child, many of us may have dreamed about becoming astronauts, traveling to the moon, and being in space; but as life goes on, our dreams may have diminished due to the lack of role models and inspiration from people who live life at best. Who knows how many dreams may blossom from kids having a life change experience by meeting these two space travelers.” –Alberto Flores*



Astronaut M. Foreman with A. Flores, IAS Technical Supervisor

Astronaut Jose M. Hernandez was born in French Camp, California; he has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Pacific University and a M.S. in Electrical & Computer Engineering from University of California. Jose was the first to use Spanish in space on *Twitter*. Astronaut Michael Foreman was born in Columbus, Ohio; he has a B.S. and M.S. in Aerospace Engineering. He visited the international space station and participated on various other space flights.



Puerto Rico Governor Hon. L. Fortuño with astronaut J. Hernandez and A. Flores, IAS Technical Supervisor



Press Conference at the Fortaleza

For the last two years, IAS has been an active supporter of INSPIRE. The program sets the stage for young students to perform small science projects and other aerospace related activities. IAS carried out a one-hour activity providing information about our organization and how, as engineers, we contribute to the development of jet engines in Puerto Rico. We also guided them through an exercise to identify their dreams and how to achieve them.

For more information on the topic visit the following sites:

Puerto Rico Space Grant Consortium: <http://www.prsgc.upr.edu>

NASA INSPIRE Program: <http://www.nasa.gov/home/index.html>