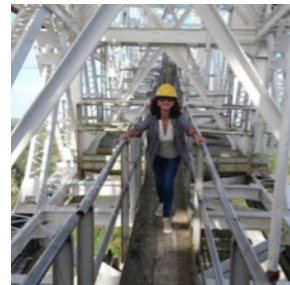


Seminario

Martes 11 de Septiembre, 2018, 12:00 hrs (PST), Auditorio IA-Ensenada

ARECIBO: WE ARE STILL ALIVE!!!



Dr. Noemi Pinilla-Alonso (Florida Space Institute)

As of April 2018, a consortium led by the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando has taken over management of the Arecibo Observatory (AO) in Puerto Rico, home to one of the world's largest radio telescopes. Users of the 305-meter radio dish include astronomers, planetary scientists, and atmospheric physicists. The power of Arecibo Observatory has not waned over the years and it remains a powerful scientific tool, even at 54 years old. Moreover, there are new science investigations ongoing that were never envisioned when AO was built in the early 1960s. For example, the role of AO in the detection and characterization of Gravitational Waves is an exciting new opportunity. However, economically, the road ahead is not exempt from challenges. Under the agreement signed this Spring, by 1 October 2022, the National Science Foundation's contribution will shrink to \$2 million per year, with the UCF consortium making up the difference, for that we are open to bringing in new users that want to contribute toward costs and have direct access to the Science that Arecibo enables. Our operation team is already working on the plan to expand the telescope's scientific capabilities, in part by upgrading equipment as repairs are carried out in the wake of damage suffered during following Hurricane Maria. As the transition evolves, the Observatory's mission remains the same: We strive to understand the mysteries of science in radio astronomy, planetary radar and atmospheric and space sciences, keeping at the forefront how nature and human knowledge continue to evolve.