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University of Puerto Rico at Humacao

PRESS RELEASE

***Strange Matter* takes shape at Humacao's Casa Roig Museum**

Over 1,500 people have explored the exciting science of materials since the opening of the ***Strange Matter*** Exhibit on October 25, 2007 in Humacao's Casa Roig Museum. This is the first and only presentation of ***Strange Matter*** on the island of Puerto Rico and has attracted a large crowd of children and adults of all ages.

The presentation is brought to Puerto Rico by the PENN-UPRH Partnership for Research and Education in Materials (PREM), a program sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

In Strange Matter, or *Materia Extraña* in the Spanish language, visitors can explore materials with unexpected properties such as liquids that are magnetic, “feel” the atoms with a model of an atomic force microscope, or enjoy the ‘music’ of different materials used in a xylophone. Across the different stations they will be introduced to exciting science underlying what we might consider ‘every day stuff’, while simultaneously obtaining a glimpse of where the future of materials may lead us.

Visitors can explore the exhibit by themselves or with guided tours by PREM faculty, students and volunteers. To complement the experience they can also participate in talks and demonstrations by local scientists on a variety of topics like *Types of sand on Puerto Rican beaches*, *Plastics that conduct electricity*, or *Strange mathematical formulae for Strange Matter*.

“By bringing ***Strange Matter*** to Puerto Rico our aim was to increase the scientific knowledge of our communities and to motivate future Puerto Rican Material Scientists”, said Professor Idalia Ramos, director of the UPR-Humacao PREM.

Strange Matter is presented by the Materials Research Society. This exhibition and its tour are made possible by the generous support of the National Science Foundation, Alcan, Dow, Ford Motor Company Fund, Intel ® Innovation in Education and the 3M Foundation.

***Strange Matter* will be on exhibit at Casa Roig Museum until December 22, 2007** and admission is free. The Casa Roig Museum is located at 66 Antonio López, St., Humacao, PR. The exhibit hours are Wednesday – Friday 9am – 5 pm, Saturday 11am – 5 pm, Sunday 1 pm – 6 pm. Groups should make reservations by calling to 787-850-9381. Additional information is available at prem.uprh.edu.

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