

Campus Verde Activities

Dallas E. Alston, PhD, has recently accepted the position of Co-Director of Campus Verde, under the leadership of Dr. Sandra Cruz-Pol the Director, on the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez campus. He promotes “green events” to provide opportunities for UPRM students, employees, or professors to have experiences that they would not normally encounter at UPRM.

He is a professor (and past Director) of the UPRM Department of Marine Sciences. He has co-founded the following programs and international associations: PESCA (Caribbean Aquaculture Studies Program); DIALOG computer search for researchers in the Caribbean; the Caribbean Aquaculture Association (CAA); Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development in the Caribbean (1993-1994); and the Latin American Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society (WAS). He served on various Boards of Directors, including that of the World Aquaculture Society for six years.

Since joining the Department in 1980, he has had extensive experience with evaluating aquaculture projects in Latin America, including freshwater and marine shrimp, *Colossoma*, tilapia, and ornamental fish. He is the editor of two books entitled "The Status and Potential of Aquaculture in the Caribbean" and the "Fourth Symposium on Aquaculture in Central America: Focusing on Sustainable Yield in Shrimp and Tilapia Culture." He has directed aquaculture research projects, especially concerning *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*, the giant freshwater prawn. Past research entailed determining causes of mortality of postlarval freshwater prawns and the feasibility of polyculture of prawns and tilapia and determining effects of submerged cage culture on tropical oceanic waters near Puerto Rico. He has worked collaboratively with other UPRM professors on grants totaling more than four million dollars since the year 2000. He has been the plenary and keynote speaker at international conferences and is featured in a Smithsonian Institute oceans exhibition of marine scientists to represent the team effort to determine effects of submerged cage culture on tropical oceanic waters near Puerto Rico.

In education, Dr. Alston enjoys teaching in either Spanish or English and has been rated high as a teacher with student evaluations of 4.7 out of 5. Recently, he has compared teaching undergraduate and graduate courses by utilizing traditional face-to-face classes and online classes. He has also incorporated audience response systems (clickers) into the classroom which provides immediate feedback and creates an exciting and dynamic teaching environment. The students offered very positive feedback concerning incorporating clickers into the classroom. Also as a result of these efforts, he has recently been named as an honorary professor at the San Juan Metropolitan Inter American University which has also adopted the clicker system.