

IN MEMORIAM
PAUL F. RANDEL
1937 - 2018

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Paul F. Randel was born on 16 September 1937 in Long Island, New York. By the time he was 26 years old, he had completed a bachelor's and a master's degree from Rutgers University and a doctorate from Louisiana State University. His life changed in 1963 when he landed the job of researcher in Animal Nutrition in the Department of Animal Industry at the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Puerto Rico's Mayagüez Campus. A few years later, Randel married a young Lajeña, Crimilda Avilés Vargas, and had a daughter, Patricia Gail Randel Avilés, a veterinarian.

Excellence framed the 55 years that he dedicated to our institution. By 2013, Randel had already received a fair share of recognition. The activity "Cinco Días con Nuestra Tierra" (Five days with our land), an agricultural festival that has been organized by students of the College of Agricultural Sciences for more than forty years, was dedicated to him in 2013, as was the awards presentation of the Honor Students of the Faculty of Agriculture. In 2014, the Association of Scientists of the Agricultural Experiment Station (ACEEA, by its Spanish acronym) honored him on his long and fruitful career.

In 2015, he was named Distinguished Professor, the highest honor that the University of Puerto Rico bestows on its active professors. Randel was the second professor at the Mayagüez campus to receive the coveted title. In 1987, Dr. Juan Rivero-Quintero, a renowned zoologist, received the distinction. Rivero-Quintero was the founder of the Institute of Marine Biology, known today as the Marine Sciences Department, and the Mayagüez zoo.

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As a researcher, Randel published almost 100 articles, most of them in peer-reviewed scientific journals. His studies in animal nutrition emphasized dairy cattle but extended to the industries of poultry, goats, sheep and pigs. In the mid 60s, he began experiments using sugarcane bagasse as a source of fiber for dairy cows, which led to the establishment of a commercial venture at the Mayagüez Malecon. For eight years, the enterprise sold rations containing bagasse to farmers, Randel said in a television interview with the Mayagüez campus press upon receiving UPR's prestigious award.

Numerous students felt privileged to have had him as a teacher in Animal Science, Animal Nutrition and Dairy Cattle Management. Under his tutelage, many of them learned the formal structure of composing a thesis and conducting research in animal science with dedication, professionalism and integrity. Randel also served as both member and president of the Graduate Committee, steering a significant number of graduate students in Animal Sciences through the shoals of thesis writing.

In 1990 Randel became an accidental editor-in-chief of the journal "Archivos Latinoamericanos de Producción Animal," the official organ of the Latin American Association of Animal Production. A colleague volunteered him for the job. John Fernández Van Cleve, the Puerto Rican representative to the Latin American Association which was looking for an editor for the official publication, submitted Randel's name. Randel took three years to organize the journal, publishing its first volume in 1993. He continued to serve as editor, chalking up the 23rd volume in 2015. For almost two decades, he was also an associate editor of *The Journal of Agriculture of the University of Puerto Rico*, reviewing manuscripts on animal science. Other achievements include membership on the Committee of the United States of America for Scientific Cooperation with Vietnam, director of the Department of Animal Science of the UPR-Mayagüez Campus (2000 to 2003), interim director of the Lajas Agricultural Experiment Substation (1979 to 1981) and member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Scientists of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Considered a "teacher of teachers" by both students and colleagues, Paul Randel was a model of professional and personal ethics. His honesty, dedication and unwavering commitment to our Institution was exemplary. He also encouraged the local agricultural industry to promote a better society. The imprint that Randel left behind will endure and will help us to continue the important academic work that he long performed with dedication.

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