



Volume 64

1st Quarter 2021

NELSON Staff Honored in 2020

By: Kenneth H. Nelson, P. E.

Professionals working in both the New Orleans and Houston offices of Waldemar S. Nelson and Company (NELSON) received several awards in calendar year 2020. The following article describes these awards and offers congratulations to the recipients.

In September of 2020, Charles Nelson, chairman of NELSON, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the New Orleans Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. This recognition put Mr. Nelson into consideration by the state ASCE chapter and resulted in his recognition with the same award on the state level in December. Both honors were very much appreciated by Mr. Nelson and reflect upon a career of leadership for the company.

Mr. Nelson was born in New Orleans in 1947. He attended public grammar school at John J. Audubon School on Broadway and St. Martin's Episcopal School for junior high and high school, graduating in 1965. He then pursued a degree in civil engineering at Georgia Tech, graduating in 1970. Following a post-graduate student assistantship for technical students in Tiberius, Israel, and travels through northern Europe and North Africa, he returned to Georgia Tech in 1971 and was employed in the hydraulics laboratory. His major project there was the construction and operation of a large physical model of the upper reservoir, powerhouse and



Charles W. Nelson, P.E.

spillway for a pumped storage hydroelectric power plant for Georgia Power Company which was to be located on the Georgia-South Carolina border near Walhalla, Georgia. The model tests of the reservoir, powerhouse, spillway and dam were fundamental in the planning of the hydraulic performance of the structures and of the tailrace during the generation cycle and pumping cycles for the project. While working at the hydraulics laboratory, Charles continued his education with graduate level hydraulics courses at Georgia Tech. Credits earned then were transferred to the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Charles and his wife, Dorothy Duval, lived in Gainesville during 1972 through 1974, while Charles

earned his Master's degree in Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering from the university. During that time, Charles worked in the hydraulics and wave tank laboratory, building and operating a model of an offshore floating nuclear power plant proposed by Westinghouse and Tenneco for installation off the coast of Little Egg Inlet, New Jersey. His thesis on the Hydrodynamic Characteristics of a Floating Power Plant was based on the model studies and measurements, which guided the design of moorings for the proposed project. Upon graduation in 1974, Charles and his wife moved to The Hague, The Netherlands, where he worked for Frederic R. Harris in one of their main European offices. His work involved marine facilities for oil and gas installations in the Arabian Gulf, Europe and Asia. A major project extending until the end of his four years in The Hague was the Petroland L7 QPC offshore gas field development in the North Sea. This project, the first offshore oil facility in the Dutch sector, involved three platforms for drilling, production and living quarters. The project received recognition by the New York Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, where Frederic R. Harris' headquarters were located.

In 1978, Charles returned to New Orleans where he joined the firm of Waldemar S. Nelson and Company. His career there began as a senior engineer in the civil engineering



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Main Pass

of water. As Nelson’s co-project manager on the project, Charles steered the design of topside facilities and executed the requisite collaboration with the client, Freeport Sulphur Company, with Walk-Haydel and Associates (Project Management assistance) Freeport McMoran, and

McDermott, Inc. (design and installation of the jacketed support structures, bridges and eventually the construction and installation of Nelson’s topside facilities). This fast track multidiscipline project, involving multiple consultants, vendors, and state

and federal agencies, won an ASCE Award for Excellence in 1991. Presentation of the Main Pass project at Houston’s OTC conference and at the ASCE award presentation in Hawaii were capstone events to a significant project. The integrated project team of owners, project managers, engineers, contractors and vendors

delivered the project ahead of an original scheduled estimate. This was done in spite of delays caused by strikes at the plant responsible for all electrical transformers for the project and the bankruptcy of the shipyard tasked with building two barges for transport of molten Sulphur to storage facilities at Port Sulphur, Louisiana.

In the 1998 time frame, Charles supported other managers in the development of topside facilities for the first tri-hull floating oil and gas platform designed for drilling and production in the Gulf of Mexico. This project was conceived by Alden “Doc” Laborde, owner of Gulf Island Fabricators, and Naval Architect Bill Bennett of W.T. Bennett and Associates. In conjunction with W. H. Linder and Associates, NELSON had major responsibilities for this unique project. The skill sets available for this project came from 40-plus years of the company’s designs of topsides facilities for Shell, Exxon, Texaco, BP, Mobil and other major oil and gas companies operating offshore in the Gulf of Mexico and internationally.

In 2014, Charles represented NELSON in receiving the ASCE – COPRI award for the Gulf Gateway Terminal in New Orleans East. This project involved the rail-to-barge transfer of unit train allotments of crude oil at a rate of 70,000 barrels per day. Criteria for the award included adaptive re-use of a facility, environmental design, and analytical techniques of the project, among other criteria.

As a historic and continuing supporter of ASCE, Waldemar S. Nelson and Company is proud of the recognition awarded their Chairman, who has acknowledged that his recognition is shared by the strong team supporting his leadership.



Petroland

department with a focus on marine structures such as IMTT’s multi-berth tanker dock at St. Rose, Louisiana. Other projects in coastal Louisiana included the Caillou Island sulphur mine for Freeport Sulphur Company, which required the reinstallation of a mining barge previously used in the mining of sulphur at properties in Lake Pelto, Louisiana. The Caillou Island project, which involved the adaptive reuse of the mining barge plus many of the shallow-water pipe support structures, proved very interesting and were evidence of the viability of the reuse of marine structures in coastal Louisiana.

Charles was named president of the company in 1986 and remained actively involved in the execution of projects, one such being the Main Pass Sulphur Mine off the coast of Louisiana in approximately 210 feet



IMTT

NELSON Employee Commendations from Non-Company Individuals or Organizations



Bertheaud

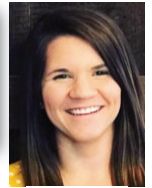
Justin Bertheaud, Mechanical Engineer was evaluated for and received TA3 (technical authority level 3) in a major oil company client’s engineering classification system in the PEI (pressure equipment integrity) group for one of their floating offshore oil and gas production facilities.

Jaymee Cry, Engineering Technologist in Project Management was recognized for her outstanding management of project vendor data.



Cry

Rachel Delatte, P.E. Mechanical Engineering was recognized for meeting Deepwater Facility goals associated with Process Safety & Availability.



Delatte



Dodge

Orin Dodge, Engineer in Project Management was elected to the office of Director of the local American Concrete Institute Chapter.

Donald Dunn, Senior Specialist, Electrical Engineering was the 2020 winner of ISA’s Standards Excellence Award, ISA’s highest service award for furthering the development of ISA Standards, and for services to advance the mission of the Society. Donald was also elevated to the distinguished grade of ISA Fellow and published articles in the International Society of Automation (ISA) Tech Magazine and in the IEEE Industry Applications Magazine.



Dunn



Hoffman

Tony Hoffman, P.E., Sr. Staff Engineer in Project Management, Project Team Lead - The client recognized that the 2020 campaign exhibited his project management skills and resilience during a difficult year with many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic on a schedule-driven project.



Merchan

Ed Merchan, Senior Technologist Control Systems was recognized for demonstrating overall functional expertise in validating issues and finding creative ways to limit business impact to the client’s operations.



Ortis

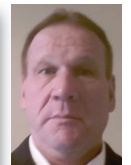
Jason Ortis, P.E., Staff Engineer Control Systems and Assistant Vice President, uncovered a missed hazard associated with a waste heat exhaust system and pushed for resolution until it had been safely addressed.

Lou Merritt, Senior Mechanical Engineer was evaluated for and received TA3 (technical authority level 3) in a major oil company client’s engineering classification system and was named the PEI (pressure equipment integrity) focal point for one of their floating offshore oil and gas production facilities.



Merritt

Charles Rauschkolb, P.E., Senior Mechanical Engineer was evaluated for and received TA3 (technical authority level 3) in a major oil company client’s engineering classification system in the PEI (pressure equipment integrity) group for one of their floating offshore oil and gas production facilities

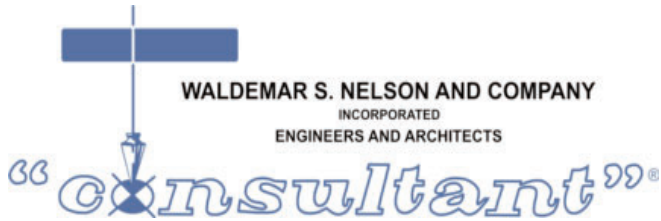


Rauschkolb



Smith

Arthur Smith, P.E., Senior Staff Engineer and Engineering Manager New Orleans Office, received the Excellence in Prevention through Design Technical Award from the IEEE IAS Electrical Safety Committee.



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2021 Waldemar S. Nelson Scholarship

The Waldemar S. Nelson scholarship is granted annually by the Louisiana Engineering Foundation to an outstanding undergraduate student in the field of mechanical engineering



Michael Falodun

The Louisiana Engineering Foundation awarded the 2021 Waldemar S. Nelson Scholarship to Mr. Michael Falodun. Michael is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering at Southern University.