

STEPHEN G. NELSON, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus of Marine Biology

Professor Emeritus of Marine Biology Stephen G. Nelson, Ph.D. was born in Oklahoma, United States where he resided until his family moved to Ridgecrest, California in the Mojave Desert. He attended high school in Ridgecrest from his Sophomore to Senior years, graduating in 1965. In this same year, he furthered his education in college, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Zoology and Biology, respectively, from the San Diego State University. In December of 1976, Nelson went on to earn a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California at Davis, where he remained as a post-graduate Water Scientist until joining the faculty of the Marine Laboratory of the University of Guam the following year.

Dr. Nelson started his employment at UOG in October 1977 until his retirement twenty years later in 1997. During this time, he was a Professor of Marine Biology and had served two 3-year terms as Director of the Marine Laboratory. He applied for an open faculty position and was interviewed via telephone. According to Nelson, the university was interested in developing an aquaculture program, a field in which he possesses expertise. By taking this position, he was able to experience life in the Pacific Islands, and at his arrival, he found to enjoy the atmosphere, the environment, and the people living in it. While he had absolutely no equipment and no aquaculture facilities, he would have to equip his laboratory; this was at a time where there were no personal computers or word processors. Nelson obtained funds from a variety of sources to obtain equipment, improve the facilities, and to carry out research. Such sources included the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Sea Grant, and the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture. With the help of other faculty members of the University of Guam, this transformed the UOG Marine Laboratory into a first-class research facility.

Many of Dr. Nelson's memories of the university involve off-island research projects throughout the Asia-Pacific region. He was involved in numerous research projects within Micronesia, most notably in Yap, Pulusuk, Palau, Pohnpei, and Saipan, as well as major research projects with faculty from the University of Pattimura in Ambon, Indonesia, with the National Taiwan University in Taipei, and with the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa. He participated in a research project in French Polynesia based out of France's marine laboratory on Moorea and spent 9 months on sabbatical as a visiting researcher at the Taiwan National University.

His public service activities centered primarily in aquaculture development. He served on the Technical Advisory Board of the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture from 1987 to 1994 and on the Technical Advisory Committee of the Pacific Aquaculture Association from 1990 to 1997. From 1982 to 1985, Dr. Nelson also served as the Chairman of Guam's Sea Grant Advisory Board. He was involved in numerous activities to assess the potential for aquaculture in Guam and Micronesia, including a project as in Rome as a consultant on a project (to summarize information about aquaculture development in the Pacific), of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Emeritus Professor Nelson does not recall any academic awards or special professional recognitions, although he had authored or co-authored

numerous research papers and technical reports. Following his departure from the University of Guam, he had completed a book chapter: Nelson, S.G. 1999. Chapter 9. "Aquatic ecosystems." P.109-119 in M. Rapaport (ed.) *The Pacific Islands: Environment and Society*. The Bess Press, Honolulu.

During his time at the university, Dr. Nelson has fond memories of many of the faculty, students, and administrators. He particularly remembers his collaboration and friendship with the late Dr. Roy Tsuda, who was dedicated to the development of the University of Guam as a high-caliber academic institution. Some words of wisdom are the following: "Students, Staff, and Faculty are professionals and should be treated as such. Integrity in all things is key."