

Nodarse Celebrates 15 Years



IN HER OWN WORDS
Leila Jammal Nodarse, PE

Recently, the Central Florida-based specialty engineering firm, Nodarse & Associates, Inc., commemorated their 15 year anniversary with the theme “Celebrating Life.” Originally founded in Winter Park by Leila Jammal Nodarse, PE, the company has grown revenues to \$25 million annually and has a professional staff of more than two hundred in nine offices throughout the State.

When asked about her decision to share ownership of the company that she started in a spare bedroom of her home in 1991, Leila said, “As we celebrated our 15th anniversary as a firm, I wanted to commemorate the milestone by initiating an employee ownership structure that will foster our continued growth and success for the next 15 years and beyond.”

The “Celebrating Life” theme was chosen as the company’s way of recognizing that the lives of our employees and clients are the reason why the company has thrived over the last decade and a half.

To mark the milestone in the company’s history, we organized a year-long series of special activities that included additional paid holidays for employees and a client appreciation party that drew nearly 800 attendees.

The party festivities were held at the Orange County Regional History Center in Downtown Orlando and featured a special recognition of my father and the Geotechnical Engineering Director, S. E. “Jim” Jammal, PE, on his 70th birthday.

One of the highlights of the event was a special “Roast & Toast” of Jim which was staged in the historic “Grand Jury Room” of the History Center. Attendees packed into jury room where he was put into the “witness stand” and his colleagues spent nearly an hour



Jim Jammal, PE (left) with MSCW’s President and CEO Steve Miller, PE during Roast & Toast.



Jim Jammal, PE (right) with Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty during the celebration.



Nodarse Team Photo in front of the Orange County Regional History Center just prior to the event. Since 1991, Nodarse & Associates, Inc. has specialized in geotechnical engineering, environmental consulting, construction materials testing and threshold inspection services throughout Florida.

“cross-examining” him and telling humorous stories chronicling his 44+ years in the geotechnical profession.

My father is my mentor and has been a great influence on my business career. Visiting construction sites alongside my father at an early age started my interest in engineering.

After graduating college, I worked for him at his engineering firm, Jammal & Associates, Inc. For several years, he has worked with me at Nodarse & Associates, Inc.—and working side-by-side allows me to continue benefiting from his knowledge, experience and expertise on a daily basis.

My father is a 1961 graduate from the University of Florida with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, and is widely regarded as one of the foremost authorities in the profession. I am very proud to say that his expertise has helped shape Orlando’s skyline.

My company has a client-focused philosophy of excellence, innovation, teamwork, respect, integrity and trust that guides all that we do.

In 2006, given the exponential growth of the company, I implemented a

series of tactical changes intended to structure the organization for continued expansion throughout Florida and beyond. The strategic initiative included the appointment of four senior level regional managers to oversee the company’s statewide operations, as well as the creation of five corporate support departments: accounting, administrative services, human resources, information technology and marketing.

Then, in 2007, I implemented an ownership transition plan and naming five officers of the firm as the first-ever shareholders. Under the ownership plan, I retain controlling interest in the firm and continued leading the organization as President and CEO.

Our year long “Celebration of Life” culminated in our most successful year to date as we were selected as one of “The Top 500 Design Firms in the Nation” by *Engineering News Record*, “The Top 200 Fastest Growing A&E Firms in the USA” by the *Zweig Letter Hot firm List*, “Top 100 Companies for Working Families” by *The Orlando Sentinel* and “Top Women-Led Businesses in Florida” by The Commonwealth Institute and Florida International University. ■