

MOSS LANDING MARINE LABORATORY 50th ANNIVERSARY
REMARKS FROM SJSU PRESIDENT MARY PAPA ZIAN

Hello, everyone. I am so happy and proud to be here. What a fantastic celebration.

And an important celebration it is—hallmarking five decades of world-class teaching and research—while imagining all that the future holds in store.

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories is an immensely important asset. A public treasure.

The faculty, students and staff are devoted to one of the great issues of our time: the health and future viability of our marine ecosystem.

And even this English Literature professor understands why that matters.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), almost four in ten Americans lived in a coastal county in 2010. That's more than 123 million of us.

More than half of Americans live within an hour's drive of a coastline.

By 2020, another ten million Americans will live in or near a coastal community. (Given housing prices, I find that quite amazing!)

Marine and coastal health, then, is inextricably tied to *our* health. And our future.

I know I needn't justify this Lab's amazing work to a roomful of marine scientists. Or the academic, government and community leaders here today who support their efforts.

But I do want you to know *why* San Jose State is committed to supporting this precious asset.

My husband Dennis, daughter Marie and I drove down recently for a visit with Jim Harvey and some of the remarkable faculty, to see and hear first-hand what is happening here.

I have to tell you a brief “it’s a small world” story about one of those faculty, Jonathan Geller....

But back to the larger point!

Listening to the faculty speak about their work reminded me that the story of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories is ultimately a story of *collaboration*.

Collaboration *among* marine scientists whose disciplinary interests are as diverse as the marine life they study.

Collaboration *between* faculty and students—something for which the CSU is uniquely known, and deservedly renowned.

Collaboration *with* scientists and educators from neighboring institutions, including the Monterey Bay Aquarium and its affiliated Research Institute.

Collaboration with federal, state, regional and local governments whose financial support is essential.

In that vein, it is great to see Representative Farr, Secretary Laird, Assemblymember Stone and representatives from other elected officials’ offices here today.

And, finally, collaboration among the seven CSU campuses that support the lab with talent, or resources, or both.

I’m honored to be leading one of those campuses, and proud to work closely with my fellow presidents, several of whom are here today.

In particular, I’d like to mention the strong commitment to collaboration from my colleague Edward Ochoa, who leads the CSU Monterey Bay campus.

In fact, Ed and I began talking about Moss Landing well before I arrived in San Jose last month.

While attending a meeting in Boston in March, we got together and talked. We agreed to work together in the best interests of this lab, its people and its incredibly important work.

Each CSU campus partner, with the support of our Chancellor's Office, brings something unique to the table.

That diversity is a hallmark of the CSU. It has served the lab well over fifty years, and will serve it well for the *next* fifty.

And San Jose State looks forward to playing a meaningful role.

Thanks again for inviting me to be a part of today's program.