

## ***IN MEMORIAM***



**NELSON SILVA SANDOVAL**  
**(1945-2020)**

At the age of 75, Professor Nelson Silva Sandoval passed away in Valparaíso, an academic at the Escuela de Ciencias del Mar of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV) for more than 50 years. In 1970 he achieved the Professor of Chemistry title at the same University and later, in 1977, obtained the Master of Science degree in Oceanography at Oregon State University, USA.

Joined the PUCV in 1968 as a researcher to work in the area of Chemical Oceanography at the Centro de Investigaciones del Mar; currently, the Escuela de Ciencias del Mar (ECM), initiating an arduous investigation onboard the R/V "Tiberiades" to carry out studies off Valparaíso Bay. Thus, from the beginning, he was highly motivated to work at sea. He participated in various oceanographic expeditions, both nationally and internationally, which spanned from northern Chile to Antarctica, including the oceanic islands and seamounts.

His academic dedication was complete. Tireless in his classes, giving special commitment to his relationship with students, transferring his knowledge, rigor, and ethics to new professionals through numerous undergraduate and graduate courses. Whose effort and quality made him worthy in 2015 of the "Award for Distinguished Teaching" and in 2016 of the University's "*Fides et Labor* Award for Academic Merit" in recognition of its extensive and distinguished academic career.

The study of the ocean was another of his great passions, leading and collaborating on numerous projects, including more than 100 scientific publications and presentations at conferences. Many of its results are a mandatory reference for regional, national, and international research. Parallel to his ECM activity, he maintained a dedication of six hours a week to work in the Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico de la Armada. He was contributing to the student's training in the "Naval Engineering in Hydrography and Oceanography" Course as well as developing and promoting one of his significant contributions to marine research in Chile, such as the creation of the CIMAR Program (Cruises for Marine Research in Remote Areas). This program steadily promoted research in the Oceanic Islands (Juan Fernández Archipelago and Rapa Nui Island) and, especially, in the Patagonian Fjords Ecosystem. This tremendous initiative and management of Professor Silva, has lasted uninterruptedly since 1995, with the realization of 25 cruises to date. A significant contribution, which meant the edition in 2006 of the book "Advances in oceanographic knowledge of the Chilean inland waters between Puerto Montt and Cabo de Hornos," all of which led to it being honored by the Comité Oceanográfico Nacional.

Professor Silva's contribution to the Chemical Oceanography development in the country is profound and extensive. Without question, he was a pioneer in opening the doors in this area of knowledge encouraging many colleagues for its development in the country. He was always willing to share his expertise with colleagues from Chilean and foreign universities, which led him to maintain close contact with researchers who processed oceanographic samples obtained in national waters and the Antarctic region. He was characterized by his rigorous and careful work in his laboratory and article preparation. He was invited as Associate Editor in different international scientific journals. He served as Associate Editor of the "Latin American Journal of Aquatic Research" from the beginning in 2008 to 2018.

During his academic career, he held various positions in the Escuela de Ciencias del Mar and various national scientific committees and the Subsecretaría de Pesca. His concern for the Patagonian channels represents a valuable contribution to the national salmon farming.

At the end of his university career, he continued to participate in different publications, an activity about which he was passionate. That accompanied him until the end of his life. His great human qualities, friendly personality, scientific rigor, and dedication to others will always remain in the memory of those who knew him.

Valparaíso, August 2020