Dear Fellow Banana Slug,

You are part of a powerful supportive alumni network of over 140,000 alumni. We all share the privilege of an amazing education and unique college experience at UC Santa Cruz that helped shape who we are today.

From Pioneer Alumni to the Class of 2022, we span the globe making impacts, facing challenges, and living UCSC's principles of community and social justice wherever we are. The UCSC alumni network represents multiple generations, industries, ethnicities, interests, and geographies, and when we come together to support each other and our alma mater, we change lives.

Each member of the UCSC alumni community has a myriad of opportunities to receive, give, grow, and enjoy. Every alumni adds to the community and every alumni voice makes a difference. I encourage you to stay (or become) engaged in your UCSC Community.

All alumni are members of the alumni network, however, only half of alumni are members of the UCSC Alumni Association. Membership is free; all we need is your current email address. Simply email alumni@ucsc.edu to provide your current email.

UCSC Alumni Association membership brings opportunities to connect (and reconnect) with other alumni, inspire students, partner in our shared mission to support our alma mater, and return to our beautiful campus. I hope you will get involved and enjoy the many opportunities to learn, establish new friendships and have fun.

We have 25 dedicated Alumni Councilors volunteering their time to strengthen the alumni network and support students. I've had the pleasure to serve on the Association's Alumni Council for nine years, and I can't express enough what an incredible joy it is to work with an exceptional group of alumni leaders. Our mission, “To support the educational calling of UC Santa Cruz. To provide a means by which alumni may serve the university, its colleges, its students, and each other. To help guide the university into the future.” informs how we direct our time and energy.

Alumni can make all the difference in the life of other alumni and students. How? Share advice on a career panel, offer student internships and job opportunities to recent grads, join an interest group, mentor students, join or start a regional alumni group, offer advice to mid-to-late career alumni, attend
events, connect on UCSC alumni social media channels, share your story on alumni profiles, support students, select students to receive scholarships, and share your ideas with us. As alumni we can help ensure continued access, opportunity, and excellence for UCSC students. How do you want to get involved?

Alumni can enjoy UCSC benefits and services. There are many, but to name a few: UC library memberships, UCSC gym discounts, hotel and car rental discounts, travel opportunities, fun and educational events and entertainment - both virtual and in person, fascinating and cutting edge stories, and communities built around affinities, interests, and locations. Let us know what you would like to gain from your alumni network.

Your UCSC Alumni Association is here for you. Tell us how we can make the UCSC alumni community more relevant in your life. Email alumnicouncil@ucsc.edu.

Fiat Lux,

John Madrid, President
UC Santa Cruz Alumni Association
Oakes College, ‘98, B.A. Language Studies