Dear Banana Slug,

UC Santa Cruz alumni understand the importance of making a difference in the world. Our time at UCSC prepared us to follow our passions, fight for a more just and equitable future, and contribute our gifts to the world. Without a doubt, UCSC alumni are making a difference every day.

From pioneer alumni to the class of 2021, we each have so much to contribute to ensure continued access, opportunity, and excellence at this exceptional university. We welcome alumni who want to contribute financially or dedicate their time and talents to support the success of our students, graduates, and the alumni network.

Today, I ask that you join me in supporting the UC Santa Cruz community. Our campus needs us. Recent graduates are trying to find their first jobs in an increasingly demanding market, while many mid-to-late career alumni are adapting to uncertain workplaces. Do you have internships or job opportunities to offer fellow Banana Slugs? Want to inspire others by sharing your story on our alumni profiles? There are so many great opportunities for alumni to give and to receive through professional and career services, alumni benefits and services, affinity groups, regional networks, events, and connecting on UCSC alumni social media channels.

One immediate way you can help is by making a gift to the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, which provides $3,000 annual scholarships to students until they graduate. We have a goal of raising $100,000 by June 30, 2022 in celebration of the scholarship’s 30th anniversary – with the help of our alumni and friends. See the impact the Alumni Association scholarship is making.

We have 21 dedicated Alumni Councilors who are volunteering their time to serve UCSC alumni and students—but we can’t do it alone. It will take thousands of alumni to make the impact we want to see – with a network of 140,000 alumni, we have the power to achieve this. Will you join us? Email me at alumnicouncil@ucsc.edu so we can discover how and where you would like to get involved. You can also learn more about the Council’s priorities for the coming years by taking a look at our Strategic Work Plan.

We are here for you. How can we make the UCSC alumni community more relevant in your life? What would you like to gain from your alumni network? My door is always open; please email me your ideas and questions at alumnicouncil@ucsc.edu.

Fiat Lux,

Meredith Vivian Turner, President UC
Santa Cruz Alumni Association Rachel Carson College, ’09, B.A. History Once a Slug, always a Slug.