Dear Fellow Banana Slug,

You are part of a powerful, supportive alumni network of over 160,000 UC Santa Cruz alumni. We all share the experience of receiving an amazing education and a unique college experience at UCSC that helped shape who we are today. From pioneer alumni to the Class of 2023, UC Santa Cruz graduates are making an impact, facing challenges, and living UCSC’s principles of community and social justice across the globe. And when we come together to support each other and our alma mater, we change lives for the better.

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, or mentor students. You can join an interest group or a regional alumni group, offer advice to mid-to-late career alumni, and attend campus events. Connect with others on UCSC alumni social media channels, share your story on alumni profiles, or help select students to receive scholarships. Share your ideas with us and campus leaders on how we can make this an even more impactful organization and campus. As alumni, we can help ensure continued access, opportunity, and excellence for UCSC students. How do you want to get involved?

I chose to give back by joining the UCSC Alumni Council. We have 24 dedicated Alumni Councilors volunteering their time to strengthen the UCSC alumni network and support our campus and its students. I’ve had the pleasure of serving on the Association's Alumni Council for ten years, and I can’t emphasize enough what an incredible joy it is to work with this 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. You can learn more about our work here.

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