

UC Santa Cruz alumni understand the importance of making a difference in the world. During our time as students, we learned how to think, not just what to think. We were challenged to question our own paradigms and inspired to leave a positive mark on the world around us. No matter your educational pursuits at UCSC, you earned your degree from one of the top public universities in the country that prepared you to follow your passions, fight for a more just and equitable future, and contribute your gifts to the world. Without a doubt, [UCSC Alumni are making a difference every day.](#)

As I reflect on this year and the myriad of challenges we face as individuals, communities, and a country, I am reminded that UC Santa Cruz was founded during a period of social unrest spurred by fearless and committed leaders fighting to end institutionalized racial discrimination and segregation. UCSC's inception in 1965 no doubt set the course for our campus in the redwoods to foster an alumni ethos of activism, social justice, philanthropy, and more. From pioneer alumni to the Class of 2020, we each have so much to contribute to ensure continued access and opportunity to this exceptional university.

Now more than ever, our campus and its community need us. Recent graduates are trying to secure their first professional job in an increasingly difficult market, while many mid-to-late career alumni are adapting to uncertain workplaces. COVID-19 has increased costs for UCSC while diminishing revenue that supports students, faculty and staff. I ask that you join me in supporting the UC Santa Cruz community. We welcome alumni who can and want to contribute financially, but we also need alumni to dedicate their time and talent to support the success of our students, graduates and the alumni network. Students need alumni willing to be mentors, who can provide an internship or job opportunity, and alumni uniquely positioned to inspire them.

The 24 dedicated [Alumni Councilors](#) volunteering their time to serve on committees and as liaisons to campus organizations can't do it alone. It will take thousands of alumni to have the impact that is needed. (Imagine if the network of 130,000 alumni were all engaged!) Email me at alumnicouncil@ucsc.edu so we can start the conversation to discover how and where you would like to get involved. The [Alumni Association's strategic plan for 2020-2021](#) helps further explain our mission, goals, and volunteer opportunities.

I'd also like to hear how we can make the UCSC alumni community more relevant in your life. My door is always open, so please drop a note with your ideas and questions at alumnicouncil@ucsc.edu.

Fiat Lux,



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Once a Slug, always a Slug.

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