

Entering into college I was very unsure of what exactly I wanted to do after college, I was interested in lots of different things. Something about history always seemed to speak to me, and upon taking my first history class at UC Santa Cruz I found myself to be very passionate about revolution and the ways in which societies change and develop. I realized that one of the things I always wondered about was, what makes people tick, and why do they make the decisions that they do. Studying history started to give me answers to these questions. The world of history is much larger than the majority of us think it is. We not only learn about past events, but we also learn about sociology, psychology, gender studies, religious studies, politics, anthropology, and historiography. At UC Santa Cruz, I truly found my life's passion, and I met many other students who had such similar passions. My four years here have been a blessing, and I have been continually inspired by my professors and fellow students to follow my dreams and pursue furthering my education. I am sure many of you have had relatives or friends inquire about what exactly you plan to do after college, and how you plan on finding work with your humanities degree, and I hope that people asking what you can possibly do with a History degree doesn't discourage you. Because many people are not aware of exactly how prepared a history student is to work in this world. We are trained to research, to analyze, to teach, to understand the human perspective, and to figure out global problems. Few are as prepared as we are, to tackle so many different work fields. I really have loved my time at Santa Cruz even though it is not yet fully behind me, but now is when our history begins. As Giuseppe Gaibaldi, the Italian general said in a speech to his soldiers, **“You have conquered and you will conquer still, because you are prepared for the tactics that decide the fate of battles.”** We have succeeded in graduating from college, and now we have bright bold world in front of us and each of us has the tools to succeed in what ever endeavors we my have in the future. We are being sent out into the wild with the tools to accomplish all of our goals. I look forward to following my fellow historians in their future endeavors.

Thank you.