2017 marks the eleventh anniversary of UCSB Reads. Through a common reading experience, UCSB Reads brings the campus and Santa Barbara communities together for dialogue about important topical issues. Each year a book is selected by the UCSB Reads Advisory Committee, which includes faculty, staff, students, and community representatives.

Luis Alberto Urrea’s acclaimed novel tells the story of 19-year old Nayeli, who works at a taco shop in a Mexican village and dreams about her father, who journeyed to the U.S. to find work. While watching The Magnificent Seven, she decides to go north to recruit seven men to protect her hometown from the bandidos who plan to take it over. The book engages personal stories to raise questions about such issues as immigration, return migration, and border crossings.

During the winter and spring quarters, the UCSB Library will sponsor faculty panel discussions, film screenings, exhibitions, and other events on campus and in the community. Luis Alberto Urrea will offer a free lecture in UCSB’s Campbell Hall on Monday, April 24, 2017.

Luis Alberto Urrea is the bestselling author of The Water Museum, The Devil’s Highway, The Hummingbird’s Daughter, and Queen of America, among other works of poetry, fiction, and essays. A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, his numerous honors include the Lannan Literary Award, the Pacific Rim Kiriyama Prize, an American Book Award, the Christopher Award, and an Edgar Award. In 2000, Urrea was inducted into the Latino Literature Hall of Fame. Born in Tijuana to a Mexican father and American mother, Urrea received his undergraduate degree in writing from UC San Diego, and did his graduate studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder. He is currently Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

The Associated Students’ financial contributions have helped the Library in the past to sustain this award-winning program, which costs approximately $50,000 annually. This year, we are asking for $5,000, which will allow us to put free copies of the selected title into the hands of close to 800 students.

With your $5,000 contribution, the Library will:

· List Associated Students in sponsorship materials at the author event;
· Invite an AS representative to distribute free books with Chancellor Yang and University Librarian Denise Stephens at the kick-off book giveaway;
· Reserve ten premium seats at the author event in Campbell Hall for AS board members;
· Host two AS board members at a special reception with the author.