

LMU Christmas Bird Count

On January 2nd, Lisa Fimiani (CUREs) and Tracy Drake (Manager of Park Services for the City of Torrance and Naturalist) conducted a Christmas Bird Count at LMU. In just over two hours of birding, the pair saw 33 different species! Counts were done across the Los Angeles area, with 165 species currently reported.



From left to right: Black-throated Gray Warbler, Red-tailed Hawks, and a Fox Sparrow (all photos by Tracy Drake)

CUREs Student Researchers – Fall 2017 Cohort

In the Fall 2017 semester, CUREs had six undergraduate independent research students: Armaan Zare ('18), Alex Isaev ('18), Matthew Allegretti (Winter '17), Stephen Gloudeman ('18), Sarah Bruce-Eisen ('18), and Melissa Morado ('19).

Zare, Isaev, Allegretti, and Gloudeman worked with Dr. Pete Auger on coyote interactions in Long Beach, CA. They worked in two teams to assess coyote abundance, dispersal and movement patterns, diet, and human impact through two sources. Zare and Isaev focused on scat analysis and researched methods for solids and DNA extraction to implement in Spring of 2018. Allegretti and Gloudeman used the game camera data to create temporal graphs, which they could then analyze for coyote behavioral patterns.

Bruce-Eisen created a research project to implement in the Ballona Wetlands on mosquitos and vector control. She will be working closely with Dr. Demian Willette (LMU Biology) to continue this work in the Spring.

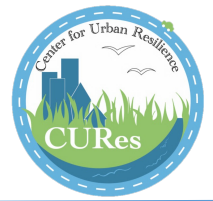
Morado worked on several projects for CUREs and also served as the TA for the Urban Ecology Lab. She continued her work on hummingbird thermal imagery and did some volunteering with the Annenberg PetSpace. Morado was also interviewed for an article in the most [recent issue of LMU Magazine](#) to discuss her involvement in the hummingbird torpor project.



Isaev (above) and Morado (below) presenting their research at the 2017 LMU Undergraduate Research Symposium.

LMU|LA Center for Urban Resilience

January Newsletter



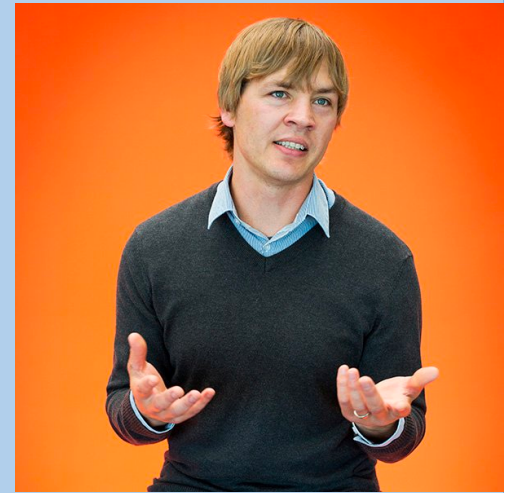
New CUREs Researchers Welcome!

CUREs is excited to welcome Dr. Demian Willette and Dr. Isaac Brown to the team! Both will be working with undergraduate researchers in the CUREs lab during the Spring 2018 semester.

Dr. Willette is a Biology instructor at LMU. He currently researches illegal fishing and species substitution through genetic testing. Dr. Willette applies this work to sustainability practices and believes it is important for determining fishing quotas to maintain ocean health. He also conducts ecological restoration work at Debs Park in Los Angeles and works as an Assistant Project Scientist at UCLA.

Dr. Isaac Brown is a specialist in green infrastructure and sustainability and the owner of the Isaac Brown Ecology Studio. He also serves on the Los Angeles Mayor's Biodiversity Task Force, with the goal of creating a biodiversity inventory of Los Angeles. Dr. Brown previously served as the Senior Environmental Specialist at the LA County Metropolitan Transport Authority and as the Director of Conservation Planning for Coastal Management Resources.

We look forward to working with Dr. Willette and Dr. Brown throughout 2018. Stay tuned for more research updates!



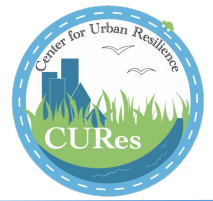
Dr. Willette in an interview with [LMU magazine](#)

Restorative Justice 2017 Update

Throughout 2017, CUREs Restorative Justice (RJ) Project team saw great success implementing their programs through training workshops, speaking engagements, community conferences, and community building events. The RJ Project partners with school districts to implement Restorative Practices to improve school culture and climate. This community focused approach encourages all school stakeholders to proactively build relationships and when crime and conflict occur, work collectively toward community-based solutions. This innovative alternative to the traditional system allows for root causes of conflict to be addressed, reducing the likelihood of recurring events.

In 2017, The RJ team trained over 300 educators and counselors from 16 schools in Restorative Practices implementation. The RJ Project also provided support to the Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) in response to their hostage crisis at Castle View Elementary School that occurred on 10/31/17. The RJ team had speaking engagements during Professor Scott Wood's and Professor Bryan Miller's courses at LMU, as well as at the annual "Beyond the Bench 2017" conference in San Diego. Additionally, Schoene Mahmood, an RJ specialist, attended trainings by the LA Department of Health to learn techniques for the organization to be optimally effective. Finally, the RJ program renewed funding from the Collins Foundation, Anonymous Foundation, and renewed partnerships with the Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) and Aspire Public Schools.

For more information on the RJ program, visit our [website](#).



Meet the CUREs Staff – Schoene!

Ms. Schoene Mahmood brings over a decade of experience implementing Restorative Practices (RP) programs at schools and facilitating court-diversion cases within the Juvenile Justice System. She currently serves as the Restorative Justice specialist at CUREs. In partnership with Los Angeles area schools, Schoene provides RP educational trainings, on-going skill-building workshops, and Community Conferencing services.

Before joining CUREs, she facilitated court diversion cases at the Community Conferencing Center in Baltimore, Maryland. She handled cases referred by the Maryland State's Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Services, Baltimore City Police Department, and Baltimore City Schools. She received her B.A. in General Studies with an emphasis in Psychology, Philosophy, and Business from the University of Missouri.



Annenberg PetSpace January Events

CUREs partners with the Annenberg PetSpace to study the human-animal bond and urban pet dynamics.

In January, the Annenberg PetSpace, located in [Playa Vista](#), is hosting a variety of events. Every Wednesday this month at 12pm is "Walking Wednesday," where participants can learn tips on better leash-walking techniques. Every Saturday this month at 12pm is "Schooling Saturday," where PetSpace staff will teach guests about training techniques that facilitate adoption and what behaviors to expect from new pets.

On Saturday, January 20 from 12-1pm there will be a lecture by Dr. Clive Wynne, a professor of behavioral psychology at Arizona State University. Dr. Wynne will discuss the complexities of dog adoption, as well as human and dog welfare impacts.

All of these Annenberg PetSpace events are free. Visit their [website](#) for more information, as well as to view other happenings and events taking place throughout the month.

Upcoming CUREs Events and Volunteer Opportunities

- 1/24: Environmental Lecture Series at LMU – 4:30pm

To see all events and volunteering programs for January, visit our [website](#).

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