

Founded in 2011, CUREs is housed in Seaver College, reports to Academic Affairs through the Provost, and offers unique opportunities to members of the broader LMU community. With a staff of eight, plus fellows and postdocs, CUREs serves LMU faculty, staff, and students by; developing undergraduate and graduate courses, supporting faculty research and scholarly activity, publishing an international journal and conducting cutting-edge urban ecology research. We collaborate with faculty through fellowships, joint grant making, original research, and outreach programming. We also partner with the Green LMU Initiative, the Campus Sustainability Officer; the School of Education; Loyola Law School; Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, the School of Film and Television, the Academy of Catholic Thought and Imagination, and others to enhance the ongoing efforts of those programs and to help initiate novel projects that meet the goals of The LMU Strategic Plan.

Earth Month 2018!

Throughout April, CUREs is hosting and co-sponsoring several events to bring awareness about a range of environmental issues, partnering with organizations on and off campus. Through our research projects, educational initiatives, restorative justice programs, and outreach, CUREs works to serve the greater Los Angeles community with environmental resiliency initiatives. To promote our interdisciplinary techniques of finding solutions to urban ecological problems, we are proud to offer a range of programs that we hope will spark solution-based conversations that continue throughout 2018 and beyond.

- **4/4: 2017-18 Environmental Lecture Series**
 - Mona Seymour (UREV Faculty) & Matthew Drewno (Ecology Action and Stanford Inn by the Sea)
 - "Veganic Agriculture in the United States"
 - [4:30-6:00pm, LMU University Hall 1000](#)
- **4/7: Friends of Ballona Wetlands Migration Celebration**
 - Live hawks and owls, art gallery, live music, gardening workshop, food trucks
 - 10am-2pm, Ballona Discovery Park
- **4/13: The Children's Eternal Rainforest Presentation**
 - Mark Wainwright
 - 2-3pm, LMU Periera Hall 140
- **4/14-4/15: [Theodore Payne Garden Tour](#)**
- **4/16: Beyond the Brink Film Screening**
 - Climate change and the drought in SoCal
 - Featuring CUREs' Dr. Eric Strauss
 - [7pm, LMU Hilton 100](#)
- **4/17: Amphibian Decline and Partial Recovery Presentation**
 - Mark Wainwright
 - 8-9am, LMU Pereira 140
- **4/17: The Business of Wildlife Conservation Presentation**
 - Dr. Trevor Zink (LMU College of Business Administration)
 - [7:30-8:30pm, LMU Hilton 100](#)
- **4/19: Third Thursday**
 - Info table and community partners
 - 12-2pm, LMU Alumni Mall
- **4/20: LA Business Council's 2018 Sustainability Summit**
 - CUREs is a cooperating organization
 - [Register here](#)
- **4/21: Beginner Birding and Creek Cleanup**
 - Led by Lisa Fimiani (CUREs Environmental Leadership Fellow)
 - [9-11:30am, Ballona Wetlands](#)
- **4/28: Friends of Ballona Wetlands Earth Day Event**
 - Restoration and cleanup
 - 8:30am-12:30pm, Saltwater Marsh
- **4/28: [Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase](#)**
- **5/12: [Bird LA Day](#)**

Undergraduate Research Symposium 2018

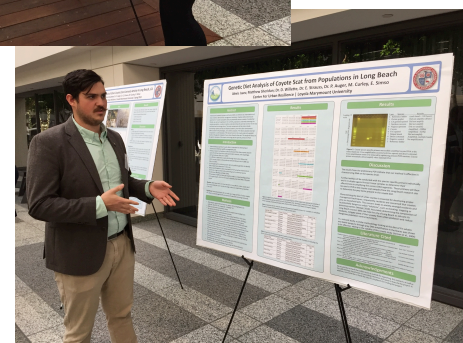
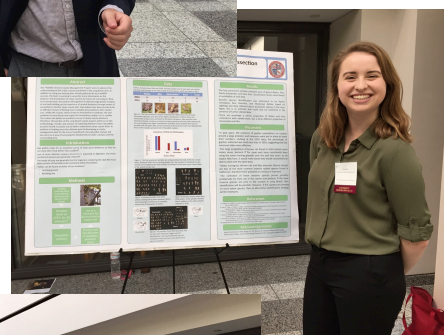
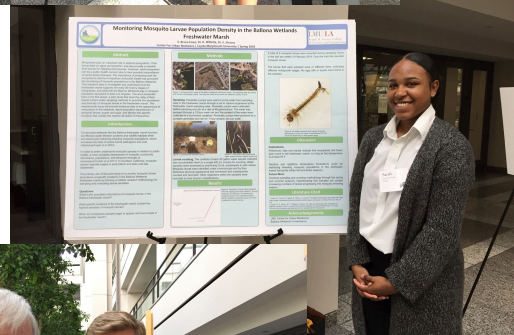
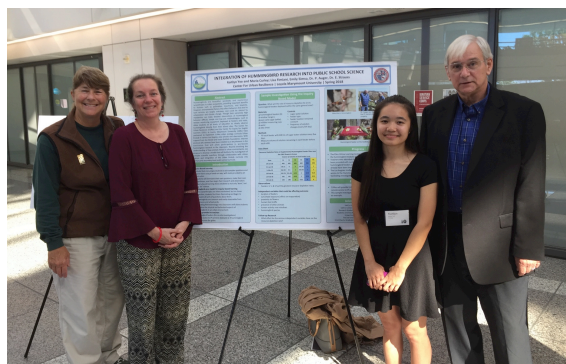
Eleven CUREs research students presented 9 posters at the 2018 LMU Undergraduate Research Symposium on March 24th. Six of the groups shared their research on the Long Beach Urban Coyote Assessment, while the other 3 were part of a study on female hummingbird metabolism and nesting behavior.

Additionally, Dr. Michele Romolini (CUREs Director of Research) had 5 students present posters through her Environmental Scholars Research Course. These students shared research on a variety of topics including: food waste recovery systems on LMU's campus, the distribution of different food location types in Los Angeles, and the perceptions of potential pet adopters.

Alex Isaev (LMU '18), who is working on CUREs' Coyote Assessment project in Long Beach, said he "enjoyed interacting with members of the public who were experiencing some of the concerns the research group is attempting to address in our study and with the research presented on the poster."

Kaitlyn Yee (LMU '18), a member of the CUREs Hummingbird research team, said she "was proud to share what CUREs had been working on because our work has many goals within the realm of urban ecology." David Ramirez (LMU '21), also a member of the Hummingbird team, reflected that "having the opportunity to present my research in front of the Dean of the Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering, Dr. Tina Choe, is a priceless learning experience that I am very grateful for."

CUREs is extremely proud of all of our students and looks forward to continuing to engage with undergraduates in the future.





Research Updates

As LMU nears the end of the semester, CUREs looks towards late spring and early summer to begin new research opportunities and continue existing projects. Some highlights include:

- A tree survey through the Los Angeles Beautification Team (through Cal Fire), set to begin in April; similar methods will be used as CUREs' previous City of Colton Tree Canopy Assessment
- Analysis of mosquito populations and hydrodynamics in the Ballona Wetlands, via a grant by the Ballona Wetlands Conservancy. CUREs will have students continue to assist with data collection and implementation over the summer.
- Dr. Michele Romolini will travel to Vietnam for one week in May to participate in a planning session for a future survey of the Mekong Delta.
- Dr. Pete Auger and Maria Curley will assist with data collection in May for a project focused on the possible connection between genetic differences within wolf hybrids and autism in humans, using the animals' interaction with unfamiliar objects as a measurement technique.
- Two LMU undergraduates will participate in a six-week research summer program to continue the Long Beach coyote assessment, focusing on genetic analysis of scat samples.

As always, stay tuned for more research updates!

Education Corner

The CUREs team is working with the Gottlieb Foundation to install a hummingbird camera in Beverly Hills. This will be the third live stream camera location that is publicly available, serving as an educational tool and unique learning opportunity. The other feeds are in Burbank, CA and Cape Cod, MA – a fourth camera will hopefully be installed in Costa Rica in the near future.

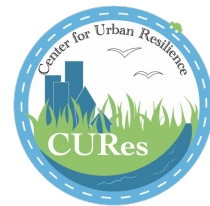
CUREs continues to develop its UrbanEco Lab open access curricula, an upcoming module of which focuses on native gardens and their pollinators. Through this unit, students can learn about the vital role hummingbirds play within ecosystems.



CUREs Website Remodel

CUREs is getting a new website in late April featuring current information on all of our initiatives! We are excited to have a more streamlined, user-friendly platform to communicate our work and programs.





Restorative Justice Panel

CUREs has been asked to serve on a pre-conference panel at the:

[Restorative Justice and Catholic Social](#)

[Thought](#) - ASACCU Visioning Social

Change for Catholic Education

Conference on July 17, 2018 at the

University of San Diego

Restorative Justice and the Contemporary Catholic

Campus: Restorative justice (RJ) is a theory of justice that can be employed both reactively, in response to conflict and/or harm, and proactively to strengthen community by fostering empathy, connection, and growth. RJ has a range of applications in the field of student affairs including community building, addressing concerns of campus climate, student conduct and bias incidents, civic engagement, inter-group dialogue, and as a tool for problem solving. LMU serves on the Restorative Justice Network of Catholic Campuses (RJNCC) that is working to promote the natural alignment between a restorative philosophy and our Catholic social teachings. This pre-conference will provide participants an overview of how the principles and practices of RJ are currently being used on Catholic campuses as well as training on practical information and specific techniques for implementing RJ on their home campuses.

For more info: sandiego.edu/asaccu

Bird LA Day 2018

On May 12th, a range of events will be held across the Los Angeles area to celebrate Bird LA Day! Some events include a tour of the Natural History Museum; a Parrots of Pasadena Walk, Talk, and Cocktail Reception; and a Rescued Raptors talk at Wild Wings Backyard Nature Store. You can view all of the featured events [here](#).

CUREs' Lisa Fimiani (Environmental Leadership Fellow) will be leading a sunset hike at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh from 5:30-7:30pm. Lisa has over 30 years experience in the Ballona Wetlands and is highly knowledgeable on conservation and wildlife topics. Learn more [here](#).

We hope to see you at Bird LA Day!

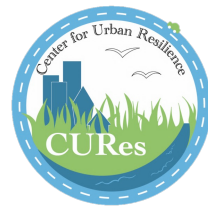


LABC Sustainability Summit

Don't forget to [register](#) for the Los Angeles Business Council's 2018 Sustainability Summit on Friday, April 20th from 7:00am-3:30pm!

The introduction will feature Jay Inslee (Governor of Washington), Kate Brown (Governor of Oregon), and Eric Garcetti (Mayor of Los Angeles). There will be three panels throughout the day, focusing on a range of relevant sustainability topics.

Learn more about this great event [here](#).



Mark Wainwright – Guest Lecturer Spotlight

Mark Wainwright, an educator and environmentalist based in Monteverde, Costa Rica, is visiting LMU's campus in April. He will be giving a range of talks (see first page for details) highlighting his expertise in wildlife conservation. Wainwright has lived and worked in Costa Rica since 1991, currently in the [Children's Eternal Rainforest](#). He serves as a lead or guest instructor for dozens of academic programs each year, primarily for US high school and undergraduate students. He also leads educational trips for non-student adults from abroad, helps with educational activities for Costa Rican schools, and gives training courses to local guide associations throughout Costa Rica.



The LMU summer course to Costa Rica, run through CUREs, visits the Children's Eternal Rainforest and participates in programming with Wainwright.

For more information on Wainwright's visit, email the CUREs team at CUREs@lmu.edu.



Additional Upcoming Events

- Los Angeles March for Science – 4/14, Pershing Square in DTLA
- Earth Day – 4/22, look for events in your area!
- [iNaturalist City Challenge](#) – 4/27-4/30
- Bird LA Day – 5/12

Never Miss an Update!

Sign up for our weekly blog post announcements by emailing CUREs@lmu.edu for more information and to get on our list!

Follow CUREs on social media!

