



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.

Imagining a Resilient Future: The Bay Foundation

On January 24th, CUREs hosted the [fourth lecture](#) in LMU's 2017-18 Environmental Lecture Series: Imagining a Resilient Future. Tom Ford and Karina Johnston of The Bay Foundation (TBF) gave a talk titled "Evaluating and Enhancing Natural Systems as Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change."

Johnston discussed their sand dune restoration project in Santa Monica, which aims to monitor the rate of dune formation and the impact dunes could have on lessening the effects of sea level rise. Johnston also highlighted the presence of native plants on the site, as well as the reappearance of Snowy Plovers, a species that hadn't been seen in Santa Monica for 70 years.

Ford presented on the Santa Monica Bay kelp restoration project TBF has been leading and collaborating on over the course of several years. The study aims to understand the impact kelp have on species diversity and habitat, beach erosion due to waves, pH, and wave intensity. Ford argued the kelp is a natural and effective way to lessen harmful climate change impacts.

TBF's work is also connected to the recently launched [Coastal Research Institute](#) at LMU, which will serve to restore and enhance Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters. Ford serves as a co-director of the Institute.

For more information about TBF's restoration work, visit their [website](#). The next lecture in the series will take place on [February 28th](#), given by Dr. Demian Willette (LMU Biology).



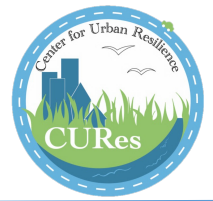
Johnston discusses the vulnerability assessment conducted by TBF



Ford shows the rapid development of kelp forests over a 2.5 year period

LMU|LA Center for Urban Resilience

February Newsletter



Restorative Justice in the News

Hollywood and Restorative Justice

In her acceptance speech for the Golden Globes, Laura Dern called for Restorative Justice (RJ) in regards to the sexual assault allegations and the #MeToo movement. Dern “[urges] all of us to not only support survivors and bystanders who are brave enough to tell their truth, but to promote restorative justice.” Lauren Abramson, a RJ specialist at the Community Conferencing Center in Baltimore, responded to this moment by emphasizing that RP are not necessarily about forgiveness, but rather “about people being able to have a space to give voice to their experience, to hear the experience of others and in doing so to open the doors to healing.” Schoene Mahmood, head of the RJ program at CUREs, was trained and worked with Dr. Abramson for six years before moving to Los Angeles in 2011.

RJ may offer a positive opportunity for individuals voicing their experiences with sexual misconduct in Hollywood to work with the accused in a constructive, less public manner. Abramson offers an example of men in Hollywood meeting in their own groups to acknowledge their behavior, which could empower the community to engage with, and thus positively change, the issue.

Learn more about this story [here](#).

Senators Use Talking Stick During Meeting

In Restorative Practices (RP), sometimes a “talking piece” is used to help participants who are discussing important topics to regulate who gets to speak and to make sure everyone has an opportunity to be heard. A bipartisan group of about 24 Senators used a “talking stick” to prevent any interruptions while they debated over the government shutdown. Introduced by GOP Senator Susan Collins (Maine), only the person holding the stick was allowed to speak.

While one Senator did get frustrated and threw the stick at another person who was interrupting them, breaking a glass elephant on Collins’ shelf, overall the Senators reported feeling that the technique was effective. After the elephant incident, the group they switched to a rubber ball.

This technique helped make it possible to end the government shutdown, as the Senators were able to effectively voice their opinions.

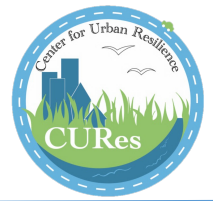
Read more about this story [here](#).

Great Backyard Bird Count

The annual [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) (GBBC), promoted by the Audubon Society, will take place February 16 – February 19. Participants count birds in their area for as little as 15 minutes to create a global, real-time snapshot of bird populations. This is a great event that engages bird watchers of all ages and experience levels!



The CUREs team is already actively birding our backyard – this photo was taken outside the Research Annex at one of our hummingbird feeders!



Bring Back Ballona Campaign

CUREs is a member of a coalition of non-profits who are making their voice heard about wetland restoration projects in California. The state recently released a draft Environmental Impact Report about the Ballona Wetlands with alternative restoration plans that they want the public to comment on, and they extended the due date to February 2018. The alternatives put forth by the state range from “do nothing” (alternative 4) to various degrees of restoration (alternatives 1-3). If we were to rank the 4 alternatives, 1 and 2 seem like they will do the most transforming, while 3 and 4 will do very little.

While LMU cannot endorse any plan, Dr. Strauss and other CUREs staff members have encouraged their students and members of the LMU community to make their voice heard as individuals.

Learn more about the initiative [here](#) or fill out the Friends of Ballona Wetlands’ petition [here](#).

Education Corner

Project QUEST (Quality Urban Ecology Science Teaching)

CUREs’ faculty and staff continue to partner with the Center for Equity for English Learners (CEEL) at LMU’s School of Education, to deliver content-rich, quality urban ecology science teaching to students in partner schools throughout Los Angeles. In [Project QUEST](#), funded by an education grant, students learn about hummingbird ecology (Module 1) and how to evaluate a land use site to make recommendations for environmental improvements (Module 2).

Migratory Birds – the Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*

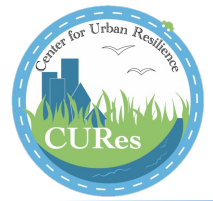
CUREs’ staff is partnering with research scientist (and former LMU Professor) Dr. Heather Watts of the University of Washington, on an education component for ongoing research she has been conducting in migratory behavior of captive Pine siskins *Spinus pinus*. This research aims to show that birds in captivity do exhibit migratory restlessness, similar to birds in the wild. This education component will allow students access to lab videos of Pine siskins at various times throughout the year, giving them an opportunity to observe migratory behavior in a lab setting. This curricula will be piloted with schools in the LA area, and can be utilized as a supplemental resource for high school educators.

Wallis Annenberg PetSpace

CUREs is thrilled to be continuing its partnership with the [Annenberg PetSpace](#) in Playa Vista, CA on multiple education projects. The formal education component encompasses a series of lessons for the CUREs Urban EcoLab curriculum, involving the study of the human-animal intersect. Lessons in this Module are being created in collaboration with LA area high school teachers, who then pilot the lessons with their students. The informal education materials encompass learning materials for school tours and young visitors to the Annenberg PetSpace, focused on the science behind the human-animal bond.

Hummingbirds – Amazing Extremophiles!

CUREs’ faculty and staff continue to expand an ongoing hummingbird education research component, through investigations involving feeder resource depletion rates, feeder visitation rates, species identification, and monitoring of hummingbird nests. Funded by a local grant from The Gottlieb Foundation (Beverly Hills, CA), the aim is to create education resources that can be utilized as supplemental science education in K-12 schools. This education component is unique and innovative, including internet protocol (IP) camera technology installed at five (5) unique sites around the globe, from which teachers can utilize hummingbird feeders as a research tool in their classrooms.



2018 Los Angeles Business Council Sustainability Summit

CUREs will be a Cooperating Organization for the 12th annual Sustainability Summit of the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC) on Friday, April 20, 2018. The Summit will focus on the de-carbonization of the transport sector, how California plans to achieve 100% renewable energy, expanding zero-emission vehicle technology, good manufacturing and landfill diversion, the future of state and local water infrastructure and conservation measures, and the potential for California to participate in a regionalized energy grid.



The Featured Speakers are: Kevin de León (Senate Pro Tempore), Emile Haddad (President and CEO, FivePoint), Yifang (Derrick) Xiong (Co-founder and CMO, Ehang, Inc.), Myeisha Gamino (Division Director of Corporate Affairs and Business Relations, Kroger), and more!

Last year, Dr. Eric Strauss (Executive Director, CUREs) spoke on a panel about the Proven Models for Sustainable Business Practice. CUREs is excited to continue to work with the LABC and engage on sustainability issues prevalent to Southern California and beyond.



Dr. Strauss (second from right) speaking at the 2017 LABC Sustainability Summit about CUREs' work and organization.

If you are interested in attending the Summit, you can learn more [here](#) or email us at CUREs@lmu.edu.

Upcoming Events

- 2/16: Great Backyard Bird Count
- 2/28: [Imagining a Resilient Future Lecture Series at LMU](#)
- 3/10-3/17: Snowy Plover Surveying volunteering opportunity
- 3/23-3/24: [LMU Undergraduate Research Symposium](#)

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