

CENTER FOR URBAN RESILIENCE

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

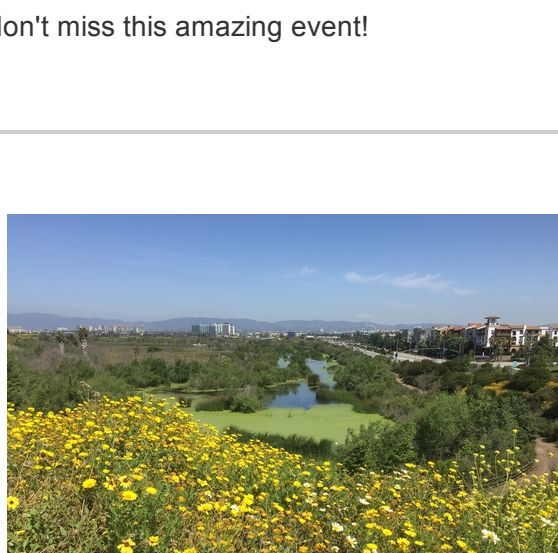


Ballona Freshwater Marsh Monitoring Update

The CUREs research team continues to conduct mosquito larvae sampling and water quality tests in the Ballona Freshwater Marsh (BFM) through a grant by the Ballona Wetlands Conservancy. This work will help inform BFM management decisions and provide insight on the complex dynamics of the system.

Dr. John Dorsey (LMU Environmental Science, Civil Engineering) is leading the water quality work. Dr. Dorsey has been working with CUREs since its inception in a variety of roles, and recently agreed to come on as the Faculty Advisor while Dr. Eric Strauss is on sabbatical in the fall semester. For this research project, Dr. Dorsey is setting up long-term continuous sampling sites (24-48 hours) and performing gridded quality samples with the help of an LMU undergraduate student and a high school student. This latter component will create a more complete understanding of how water quality fluctuates in the BFM. Dr. Dorsey plans to do this sampling once per quarter to also see how seasons influence the Marsh's water quality.

Look out for additional blog posts and updates on this exciting project.



GNG Green Earth Film Festival at LMU

The 6th Annual GNG Green Earth Film Festival is taking place at LMU October 19-21st. This three day event brings together LMU community members and Angelenos from across the area. The three themes of this year's Festival are: the Resilient City, Human-Animal Bond, and Biodiversity. Each night will feature a mix of short and full-length films by up-and-coming film makers. Make sure you don't miss this amazing event!



Sustainability at CUREs

The [Mediterranean Cities Climate Change Consortium](#) (MC-4) is a leading network of climate change professionals worldwide. It strives to improve the management of climate change impacts and to increase and preserve the social, economic, and environmental health of Mediterranean-climate regions. The five Mediterranean climate regions are California, central Chile, the Western Cape of South Africa, southern and southwestern Australia, and the region surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.

[Dr. Cristina Tirado](#) (LMU Environmental Science) recently joined the CUREs team as the Director of International Climate Initiatives. Dr. Tirado has worked with the World Health Organization, the Public Health Initiative Center for Climate Change and Health, the United Nations, and more. CUREs is excited to have Dr. Tirado lead MC-4 and reinvigorate the network's activities.

MC-4 will co-host a [State of Action event](#) at LMU on September 6th to educate students, as well as the greater LMU community, on environmental initiatives, ways to get involved, and what to expect from the Global Climate Action Summit taking place September 12-14th in San Francisco. MC-4 will also have two events at the GCAS on September 11th; one geared towards students and the second on climate change research. Stay tuned for more information on these events.



Welcome Belinda!

Belinda Brunelle started at LMU in 2001, a year after the University bought University Hall. She began her LMU years in the Academic Vice President's office, now the Provost. She was responsible for faculty contracts and sabbaticals, as well as committee work. In 2003, Belinda's office overlooked the Tongva excavation taking place due to the initial development of Playa Vista. The team discovered bodies of 300 skeletons; she remembers that people didn't know how to react and that ethical discussions took place on LMU's campus frequently. During this time, Belinda also worked with Joseph Jabbar, a dear colleague.

In 2010, Belinda moved to Xavier Hall, the oldest building on campus, to support the WASC re-accreditation efforts for LMU. She also continued to manage course evaluations for the Office of Assessment. Belinda loved being in an old building - her office was previously the bedroom of Father Caro, a Jesuit at LMU. She enjoyed that the historic building retained its original being even after the remodel and continued to learn about LMU's history.

When Belinda was presented with the opportunity to be a new support staff member for CUREs, she was immediately excited to be part of the team, knowing Dr. Eric Strauss and CUREs' work. She is a great fit for CUREs, as she loves nature, the outdoors (including her cattle ranch in the Sequoia National Forest, pictured below!), hiking, and animals! Welcome Belinda!



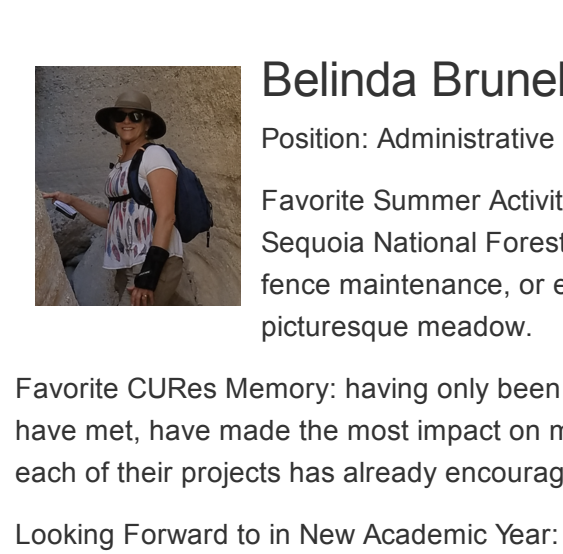
National Conference of State Legislatures

CUREs staff and partners presented to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) State Policy and Research for Early Education (SPREE) Working Group on July 29th. The title of the session was "Concrete Strategies for Improving School Discipline in P-3," where SPREE members learned about the preschool to prison pipeline and how Restorative Justice (RJ) Practices and community-based solutions can help ameliorate this negative trend and rebuild school-community relations. Time was also devoted to diving into state data for reflection and discussion and looking at effective P-3 discipline strategies and state policies. Accompanying the CUREs RJ Practices Specialist, Schoene Mahmood, was: Thalia González, Associate Professor, Politics, Occidental College & Senior Visiting Scholar, Georgetown Law; and Ruth Cusick, Senior Staff Attorney, Statewide Education Rights, Public Counsel.

In attendance: Representative Robert Behning, Indiana; Representative Terri Collins, Alabama; Senator Peggy Lehner, Ohio; Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, California; Representative Takashi Ohno, Hawaii; Representative Carla Piliuso, Oregon; Representative Jonathon Singer, Colorado; Senator Howard Stephenson, Utah; Representative Emmanuel Chris Welch, Illinois; Pad McCracken, Research Analyst, Montana; Matt Weyer, Senior Policy Specialist, Education.

The NCSL Summit 2018 was held in Los Angeles at the convention center. Since 1975, NCSL has been the bipartisan champion of state legislatures. Recognized in their comprehensive, unbiased research, NCSL helps states remain strong and independent by giving them the tools, information and resources to craft the best solutions to difficult problems. They've conducted research and workshops to sharpen the skills of lawmakers and legislative staff in every state on a daily basis.

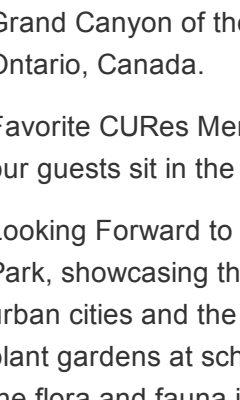
Pictured from left to right below: Matt Weyer, Thalia González, Ruth Cusick, and Schoene Mahmood



California Adaptation Forum

The third annual California Adaptation Forum is August 27-29 in Sacramento. This event focuses on sharing knowledge to create resilient infrastructure across the state, with particular emphasis this year on natural disasters, technological advancements, and socioeconomic factors. CUREs is proud to be a sponsor of this innovative convening. Registration can be done [here](#).

Get to Know the CUREs Staff!



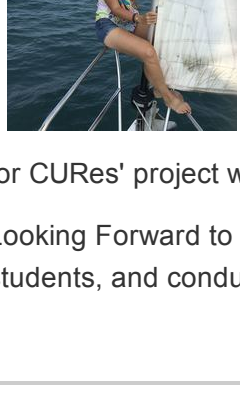
Eric Strauss

Position: Executive Director

Favorite Summer Activities: being in the Los Padres or Angeles Crest mountains in the early morning as the fog streams through the valleys and finally evaporates.

Favorite CUREs Memory: it's a delightfully reoccurring event... I show up at one of our many projects and find my CUREs colleagues delivering their expertise to stakeholders. I am proud and humbled by their capacity and accomplishments.

Looking Forward to in New Academic Year: part of my year is a sabbatical and I will be traveling across the country, meeting with colleagues, giving seminars, and talking about our projects at CUREs. I am hoping to forge new collaborations that will lead to increased opportunities for our staff at CUREs and our students at LMU.



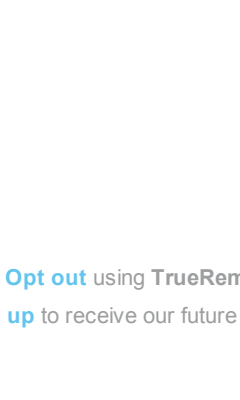
Michele Romolini

Position: Director of Research

Favorite Summer Activities: going to the beach, backyard grilling, traveling

Favorite CUREs Memory: completing and presenting results from our 3-year Baldwin Hills Park User Study

Looking Forward to in New Academic Year: starting some exciting new Society & the Environment projects in the City of Long Beach, the LA River, and the Silver Lake Neighborhood.



Peter Auger

Position: Senior Scientist

Favorite Summer Activities: ALWAYS have a baseball game running in the background. This is particularly convenient this year because the Red Sox are in first place.

Favorite CUREs Memory: when I was located in the current kitchen and was directing students during the initial phase of the Vened Beach study. Trying to figure out how to ground a portable shocking plate drew many suggested themes!

Looking Forward to in New Academic Year: getting the coyote and hummingbird studies out to more high school and college undergraduates. Particularly with the coyote study, getting teams of students positioned to radio track individual coyotes and reveal their movement patterns.

Belinda Brunelle

Position: Administrative Coordinator

Favorite Summer Activities: hiking and enjoying our property in the Sequoia National Forest. There is always a "dead tree" to cut down, fence maintenance, or enjoying the longhorn cattle and wildlife in our picturesque meadow.

Favorite CUREs Memory: having only been here a week I would say the colleagues I have met, have made the most impact on me. The work, time, and energy spent on each of their projects has already encouraged me to keep my focus on the big picture.

Looking Forward to in New Academic Year: expectations are important but I have come to this position with an open mind and am looking forward to learning about all of the resources and wonderful work the CUREs team is involved in.

Maria Curley Auger

Position: Education Specialist & Research Assistant

Favorite Summer Activities: walks in Ballona, Playa Vista, and on the LMU campus; birding

Favorite CUREs Memory: participating in the Migration Celebration at Ballona Discovery Park

Looking Forward to in New Academic Year: collaborating with colleagues on a Mission, Vision, and Planning Outline for our CUREs Education Program

Lisa Fimiani

Position: Dan and Susan Gottlieb Environmental Leadership Fellow

Favorite Summer Activities: bird watching - always!, bike riding to the Ballona Creek Bike Path from my house, annual butterfly count at the Ballona Wetlands, and a trip back east (where I grew up) - I visited "the Grand Canyon of the East," Letchworth State Park, and the Butterfly Conservatory in Ontario, Canada.

Favorite CUREs Memory: every time we do a tour in Ballona Discovery Park and have our guests sit in the Ki and listen to the Native American recordings. It's magical.

Looking Forward to in New Academic Year: lead more tours out of Ballona Discovery Park, showcasing the work CUREs does in the community and at schools teaching about urban cities and the wildlife that flourishes around us, putting in more native and edible plant gardens at schools, assisting LMU professors and CUREs staff in teaching about the flora and fauna in the Ballona Wetlands Watershed - especially bird watching, since this is the [Year of the Bird!](#)

Schoene Mahmood

Position: Restorative Justice Specialist

Favorite Summer Activities: going to the beach and picnicking with friends and family on a blanket while watching the rolling waves and listening to the "beach sounds" with my feet in the sand.

Favorite CUREs Memory: I have so many -- I think one of my favorites is when we gather for staff meetings, believe it or not, because we get to spend time learning about each other's work and it inevitably leads to stories that relate to life and belly laughs.

Looking Forward to in New Academic Year: I look forward to working with the LMU students on our Restorative Justice research and documentation so that we may learn how communities are impacted by our methodologies.

Emily Simso

Position: Research Fellow

Favorite Summer Activities: hiking, camping, and going to the beach

Favorite CUREs Memory: going out to measure urban street trees for CUREs' project with the Los Angeles Beautification Team

Looking Forward to in New Academic Year: meeting and working with new research students, and conducting social science research for a variety of projects

Upcoming Events

- [August 13](#): Restorative Justice Practices Level 1 Training
- [Contact Schoene Mahmood](#) (Schoene.Mahmood@lmu.edu) for information
- [September 6](#): Global Climate Action Summit Event at LMU
- [September 11](#): Global Climate Action Summit Side Events in San Francisco (details to come)
- [September 23](#): CUREs Table at LMU Alumni BBQ
- [September 29-30](#): Justice on Trial Film Festival at LMU
- [October 19-21](#): GNG Green Earth Film Festival at LMU



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