

CENTER FOR URBAN RESILIENCE

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

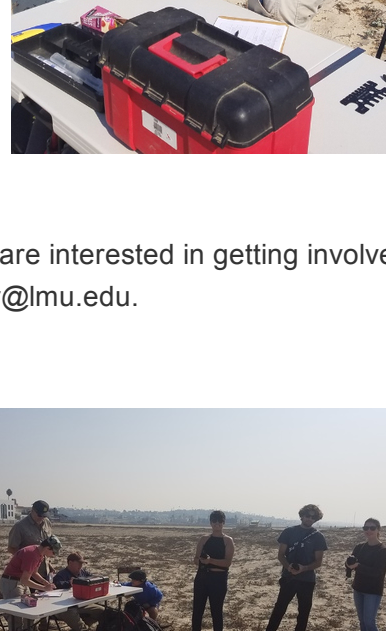
Featured in this Newsletter: crow banding research, Restorative Justice, Get to Know the CUREs Staff, event updates, and program summaries



Happy Holidays from the CUREs Team!

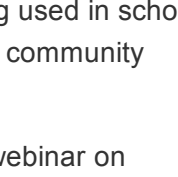
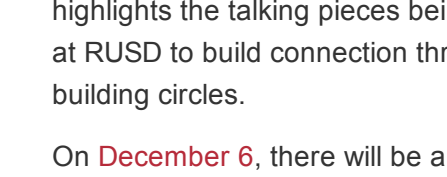
Crow Banding - Venice Beach

On November 11th, CUREs hosted the first crow banding for the next installment of its Least tern research project. The event took place on Venice Beach near Marina del Rey. Least terns are an endangered species that nests on Southern California beaches, however, crows predate tern eggs, further decreasing the population.



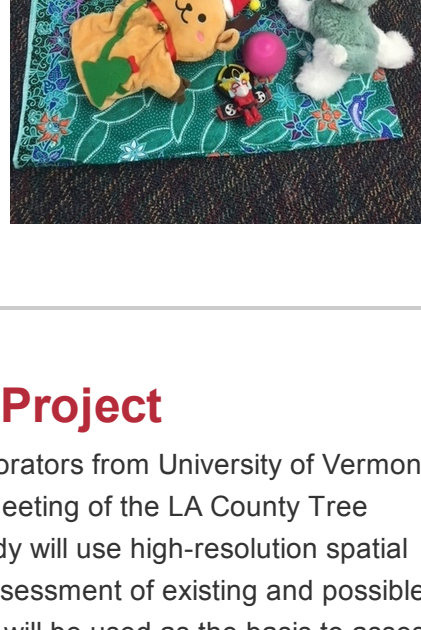
By banding the crows that visit the site, CUREs hopes to better understand if the main predators are the same or new crows. This will inform the strategy to be used in the future to lower the predation rate. In the past, CUREs scientists used electrified tern nest replicas to train the crows not to eat the eggs.

The next crow banding will take place in January. If you are interested in getting involved or learning more, contact Dr. Pete Auger at Peter.Auger@lmu.edu.



Restorative Justice Updates

Schoene Mahmood (RJ Specialist) led a Restorative Practices Level 1 Day 2 training for the Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) on 11/27. This photo highlights the talking pieces being used in schools at RUSD to build connection thru community building circles.



On **December 6**, there will be a webinar on Restorative Justice on Catholic Campuses - you can register [here](#).

LA Tree Canopy Assessment Project

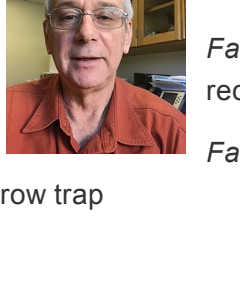
On November 6, CUREs researchers met with collaborators from University of Vermont, Savatree Consulting, and TreePeople for a kick-off meeting of the LA County Tree Canopy Assessment & Prioritization Project. This study will use high-resolution spatial imagery and LiDAR data to produce a parcel-level assessment of existing and possible tree canopy across the county. The tree canopy data will be used as the basis to assess questions related to social-ecological vulnerability and resilience across the county. We also anticipate utilizing these data as the foundation for community-based decision making around urban forestry. CUREs previously [completed a similar project](#) for coastal Los Angeles, and joined with TreePeople to extend the project countywide. This work is anticipated to be completed by April, and is being made possible through funding from CAL FIRE.

Cities and the Environment (CATE) Journal 2018 Year in Review

The Cities and the Environment (CATE) Journal, in its 8th year since transitioning to its new home from Boston College to LMU, has continued to be a widely-used repository for cutting-edge research publications in the field of Urban Ecology and associated fields. 2018 saw readership from around the World, with 22,016 downloads from 2,111 universities, organizations, and government entities in 156 countries. We are pleased to provide and manage this on-line, free-access, peer-reviewed scientific journal and are appreciative of our hundreds of Authors and Reviewers who have contributed to the success of CATE. As we wind down the year, we extend gratitude to our digital support folks at LMU and Berkeley Electronic Press (BE Press) for their help in the look, design, and functionality of the Journal. CATE is, and will continue to be, an integral part of the Scholarship and Mission of LMU and CUREs in the advancement of science education and research, community-based ecological research and solutions, and stewardship.

We thank everyone for their continued support of CATE through readership and research, and a commitment to healthy and resilient urban communities. To submit an article to CATE, please visit our [website](#), and click on the "Submit Article" tab.

Get to Know the CUREs Staff!

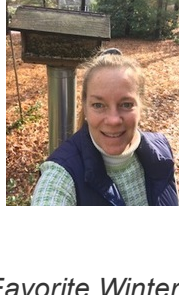


Michele Romolini

Managing Director, Director of Research

Favorite Holiday Tradition: My family celebrates with an Italian-American custom, the "Feast of the Seven Fishes." I have wonderful memories going back to when my great-grandfather hosted it when I was small, and now that I have a child of my own, it's very special to pass on this tradition.

Favorite Winter Activity: A few years ago, I heard of the term "hygge," which is a Danish word that basically means being cozy and content. I think that best describes what I enjoy about winter.

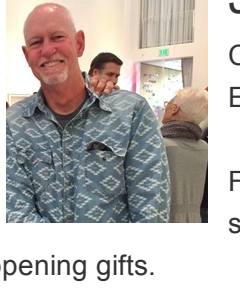


Peter Auger

Senior Scientist

Favorite Holiday Tradition: Sitting around the Christmas Tree and recounting the year's activities

Favorite Winter Activity: Banding lots of crows using the Australian crow trap

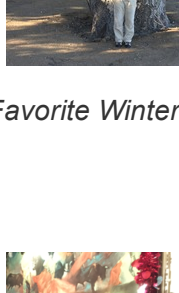


Belinda Brunelle

Senior Administrator

Favorite Holiday Tradition: To walk my dog every night on Candy Cane Lake (two blocks from my home). A spectacular showcase of lights puts you instantly in the holiday spirit.

Favorite Winter Activity: Spending downtime with my animals and being outdoors as much as possible.



Maria Curley Auger

Education Specialist, Research Assistant

Favorite Holiday Tradition: I love baking around the holidays...banana bread, pumpkin pie, holiday cookies, and my famous (just ask my family) breakfast strata. My family loves this tradition, and it is something I look forward to each year around the holidays!

Favorite Winter Activity: Participating in the Winter bird counts, including the count for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology - Project Feeder Watch (Nov to Apr) and Audubon's Christmas Bird Count (Dec to Jan). It is nice to know that my counts, along with those of thousands of citizen scientists around the world, help track the success (or decline) of bird species around the globe.

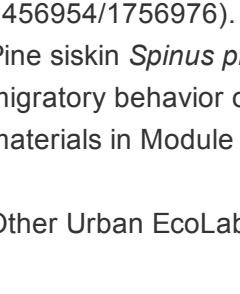


John Dorsey

CUREs Research Affiliate, LMU Environmental Science and Civil Engineering Professor

Favorite Holiday Tradition: Having an early Christmas morning surf session with my daughter, then coming home for breakfast and opening gifts.

Favorite Winter Activity: Surfing! Of course, I'm now looking for those smaller, fun days. My ancient body no longer feels the love out there during big winter waves that like to break bodies and boards.

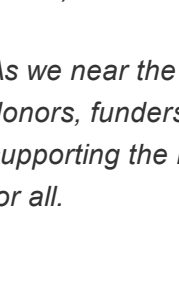


Lisa Fimiani

Dan & Susan Gottlieb Environmental Leadership Fellow

Favorite Holiday Tradition: Eating Christmas cookies made by my family

Favorite Winter Activity: Participating in the Christmas Bird Counts



Schoene Mahmood

Restorative Justice Specialist

Favorite Holiday Tradition: My favorite holiday tradition is collecting an ornament that honors something significant from the past year. To celebrate getting to spend time with my in-laws in Bangladesh, I've added a Bengal tiger to my collection.

Favorite Winter Activity: I miss going ice-skating at the outdoor rink in Forest Park in St. Louis, Missouri. I remember warming up at the firepit with my friends when the Zamboni cleaned the ice in between sessions.



Emily Simso

Research Fellow

Favorite Holiday Tradition: making krumkake, gingerbread men, and other holiday cookies with my grandma and cousins

Favorite Winter Activity: snowshoeing and cross country skiing with family in Minnesota, then going inside for hot chocolate and to warm up by the fireplace

Education Updates - Urban EcoLab

CUREs staff continues to work on education modules for [Urban EcoLab](#), a suite of free, on-line-access high school curricula modules centered around Urban Ecology and associated topics and aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA-NGSS). Recently posted, Module 11: Bird Migration, was designed in collaboration with Dr. Heather Watts from Washington State University (former LMU Professor) and made possible by funding from the National Science Foundation (IOS: 1456954/1756976). Part I of this Module focuses on studying migratory behavior of the Pine siskin *Spinus pinus*, with real-life application provided for students to observe migratory behavior of captive birds in a lab setting. View this Lesson and its associated materials in Module 11 [here](#).

Other Urban EcoLab Modules currently in development include:

Module 9: Human-Animal Interactions - funded by Annenberg PetSpace

Module 10: Garden Ecology - funded by the Gottlieb Native Garden (NGG)

Module 12: Urban Wildlife – funded by the City of Long Beach

Module 13: Birds in the Urban Landscape – funded by the Gottlieb Native Garden (NGG)

As we near the end of 2018, we extend our thanks and gratitude to our generous donors, funders, and partners, who have helped continue the success of Urban EcoLab, supporting the LMU and CUREs Missions of equal-access and quality science education for all.

2018-19 Environmental Lecture Series

The dates have been set for the Spring installments of the Lecture Series! The first will be on January 31st, given by Dr. Cristina Vasquez (LMU Biology) titled "The Effect of Multiple Stressors on Marine Invertebrate Physiology." The second will be on April 11th, presented by Dr. John Dorsey and Dr. Jeremy Pal (LMU Environmental Science and Civil Engineering) on "Climate Change in Southern California: Are Our 20th Century Urban Environments Equipped for 21st Century Climate?"

[View the entire schedule.](#)

Grow Native Workshop Summary

On November 10th, the [Friends of Ballona Wetlands](#) hosted their annual Grow Native workshop in Ballona Discovery Park, in partnership with the [Theodore Payne Foundation](#) and LMU CUREs. The event taught participants how to grow and care for native plants in pots.



"People are always amazed at the beauty and diversity of native Southern California plants. Teaching them how to grow natives in pots is a wonderful way to bring back nature in your garden." - Lisa Fimiani (Dan & Susan Gottlieb Environmental Leadership Fellow)

2019 Christmas Bird Count

The [National Audubon Society](#) is hosting its annual [Christmas Bird Count](#) across the country starting December 14. Some of the Southern California dates are as follows:

- 12/15: Pasadena/San Gabriel
- 12/15: Long Beach - El Dorado
- 12/23: South Bay/Palos Verdes
- 1/2: Los Angeles

Check out the Audubon website for locations near you!

Upcoming Events

- **December 7:** [Our Shared Solar Future: Expanding Access Through Community Solar](#), GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles, 9:30am-2:30pm, Long Beach, free for students with code "solar"

- **January 31:** [LMU Environmental Lecture Series](#), Dr. Cristina Vasquez

- **April 11:** [LMU Environmental Lecture Series](#), Drs. John Dorsey & Jeremy Pal

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