

CENTER FOR URBAN RESILIENCE

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Featured in this Newsletter: new research students, Silver Lake research update, Saving the El Segundo Blue Butterfly interview, Education updates, and more!

Meet the Newest CUREs Research Students!

Dominic Beachler

Long Beach Coyote Assessment

Dominic is a second year Biology major at LMU from Berkeley, California. Growing up he learned to love the outdoors and wildlife in Northern California while also cultivating his passion for soccer and the violin. He is pursuing interest in the natural sciences, especially veterinary medicine. Other than research, Dominic is a part of the service organization community where he works within the greater Los Angeles area.



Jaclyn Findlay

Long Beach Coyote Assessment

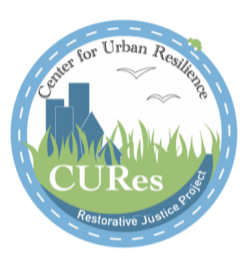
Jaclyn is a senior Biology major at LMU and a Vancouver, Canada native. She has always had a love for the Sciences. Jaclyn is aspiring to further her education and pursue a Masters degree, as well as work in the fields of urban ecology and sustainability. She joined CUREs due to her passion for ecology, eagerness to obtain new knowledge, and desire to assist in conducting research that can educate and improve local communities. Jaclyn has also done research for the Women's Studies Department at LMU, narrowing in on global ecological injustices. She is also an active member of the ECO Service Club and was part of LMU Athletics.



Learn more about all of our current student researchers [here!](#)

Presentation to Silver Lake

CUREs recently concluded their social survey research project in Silver Lake, which aimed to gauge resident perceptions of the local reservoir to inform city planning. Dr. Michele Romolini (CUREs Managing Director) and Dr. Eric Strauss (CUREs Executive Director) presented the survey results to the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council on January 28. Using both in-person and online survey methods, 1263 Silver Lake residents and visitors participated in the project.



Restorative Justice Updates

Interested in receiving bi-monthly RJ talking points, news articles, events, and more - all in one newsletter? Sign up for the LMU Restorative Practices Newsletter by emailing CUREs@lmu.edu!

View past newsletters [here](#). And make sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram!](#)

Heart Health Month

February is American Heart Health Month! Access to and use of green spaces can have a profound effect on cardiovascular wellness. However, varying demographic groups can have significantly different levels of access to green areas within an urban context, contributing to negative health outcomes.



Learn more about it, and how CUREs is involved, in our [latest blog post!](#)

Ballona Discovery Park Tours



Sophia University

Representatives from [Sophia University](#), who's tag line is "Bringing the World Together," were invited for a tour of Ballona Discovery Park by Curtiss Takada Rooks, Assistant Professor of the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies at LMU, with CUREs staff members Eric Strauss, Michele Romolini and Lisa Fimiani in January. Ami Eguchi and Yuka Mizutani were

excited to share what our Center does to teach about the Ballona Watershed with their university constituents back in Japan. They want to come back!



Urban Water Group

Founders of [Urban Water Group, Inc.](#), Marilee Kuhlmann and Tom Rau, also came for a tour of Ballona Discovery Park in January with Eric Strauss and Lisa Fimiani, and expressed their excitement over partnering with CUREs on garden projects focusing on water conservation.

Education Updates

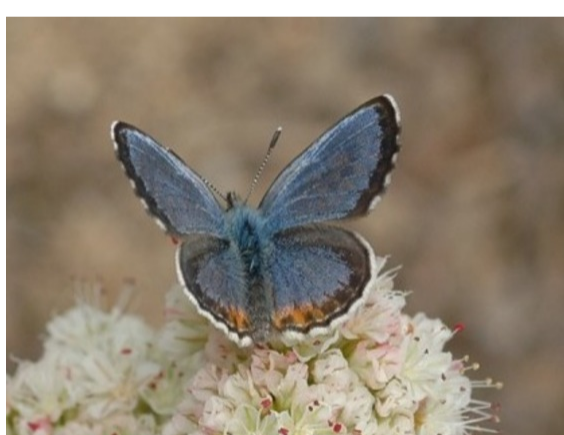
CUREs staff continues to work on [Urban EcoLab Modules 9-13](#), the newest among a suite of free, on-line-access high school curricula modules centered around the fundamental concepts in the study of Urban Ecology and associated topics. The Modules can be used in part or in whole, based on specific instructional needs. Although the Lessons have been written for the high school grades, these five newest Modules are also aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA-NGSS) for Grades 4-12 and the Lessons can be modified for use at any grade level.

February Spotlight - Module 10: Garden Ecology. Funded by a grant from the Gottlieb Native Garden (GNG), the goal of this Module is to facilitate with students an exploration of various types of gardens including **native, edible, pollinator and many more**. Each Lesson within the Module builds on previous learning, and by the end of the Module students and their learning community should have a **fully installed and productive garden on their school site!** Students will work together to learn about such topics as designing a garden, amending soil, acquiring needed resources, planning for planting day, collaborating with community stakeholders, and much more. The benefits of this Module are extensive including connecting students with nature; providing an outdoor learning space and hands-on learning; fostering a sense of community; improving the natural ecosystem; inspiring an interest in plants, the environment, pollinators, and much more!

If you are interested in creating a garden at your school site, CUREs can help facilitate this opportunity for your students. We are proud to offer teacher professional development workshops to support implementation of this Module 10 (or other Urban EcoLab Modules if desired). For further information, contact Maria Curley Auger, CUREs Education Specialist, at Maria.Curley@lmu.edu.

In addition to formal education curricula, CUREs is proud to continue collaborating with the following organizations in the development of **informal education materials** for school field trips, on-site educational activities and special events:

- [Wallis Annenberg PetSpace](#)
- [Leaders Through Education, Action, and Hope \(LEAH\) Project](#)
- [Friends of Ballona Wetlands](#)
- [LMU Center for Equity for English Learners \(CEEL\)](#)



Saving the El Segundo Blue Butterfly

Lisa Fimiani (CUREs Dan & Susan Gottlieb Environmental Leadership Fellow) was recently featured in an [LMU Magazine article about conserving the habitat of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly](#).

The butterflies live in the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Preserve, near LAX, and the Ballona Wetlands, both of which feature sandy soil and dune buckwheat, their host plant. The Blues rely on the buckwheat for their entire lives, emerging from the sand where they live as pupa to climb the plant and then metamorphose. Unfortunately, the buckwheat is threatened by the widest, human disturbances, and sea level rise. Therefore, loss of habitat is the greatest threat for the Blues, especially given their relatively small ranges of only 30 miles along the Southern California coast.

As plans are released to restore the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, care should be given to ensure the dune habitat of the Blues is preserved. This project involves a range of stakeholders and will require diligent analysis to select conservation plans that are in the best interest of a maximum amount of ecosystems.

2018-19 Environmental Lecture Series

The final installment of the Lecture Series will be on April 11th by Drs. Jeremy Pal and John Dorsey (LMU Civil Engineering & Environmental Science) titled "Climate Change in Southern California: Are Our 20th Century Urban Environments Equipped for 21st Century Climate?" Don't miss this great talk!

Also, thanks to Dr. Christina Vasquez (LMU Biology) for her engaging lecture last month.

[View the entire schedule.](#)

Upcoming Events

- February 28: **Gottlieb Proclamation Event**, 12:00-1:30pm, Von der Ahe Suite at LMU Hannon Library; email CUREs@lmu.edu for more information

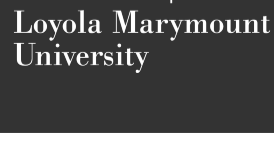
- **March 23: LMU Undergraduate Research Symposium**

- **April 6: Friends of Ballona Wetlands Migration Celebration**, 10:00am-2:00pm

- **April 8: "Salt in My Soul: An Unfinished Life" Talk & Reception**, 4:00-6:00pm, LSB 120

- **April 11: LMU Environmental Lecture Series**, Drs. John Dorsey & Jeremy Pal; 3:00-4:00pm, University Hall 1000

- **May 4: Bird LA Day**, various times and locations



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