

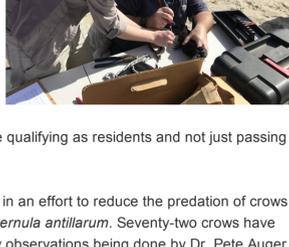
CENTER FOR URBAN RESILIENCE

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

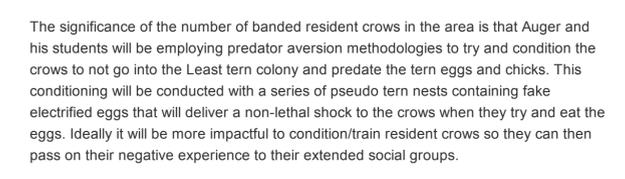
Featured in this Newsletter: Venice Beach crow update, Gottlieb celebration, Ballona Wetlands events, undergraduate research symposium, and more!

Venice Beach Crow Banding

On Sunday, February 13th, students and staff from the CURes Lab participated in the 3rd bird banding of American crows *Corvus brachyrhynchos* at Venice Beach. The purpose of the crow bandings are to determine resident vs. transient crow populations. Observing banded birds repeatedly indicates a high probability that they are staying in the area, therefore qualifying as residents and not just passing through or from fringe territories.



The bandings are the first step in a series in an effort to reduce the predation of crows on the eggs of endangered Least terns *Sternula antillarum*. Seventy-two crows have been banded this season, and preliminary observations being done by Dr. Pete Auger, CURes Senior Scientist, and CURes undergraduate researchers indicate that banded birds are about 16% of the observed population. The hypothesis is that as the observations continue up until tern nesting season, that percentage will be about 25%.



The significance of the number of banded resident crows in the area is that Auger and his students will be employing predator aversion methodologies to try and condition the crows to not go into the Least tern colony and predate the tern eggs and chicks. This conditioning will be conducted with a series of pseudo tern nests containing fake electrified eggs that will deliver a non-lethal shock to the crows when they try and eat the eggs. Ideally it will be more impactful to condition/train resident crows so they can then pass on their negative experience to their extended social groups.

Due to heavy predation from crows, tern reproductive output at this protected site has been almost non-existent in the past seven years, with only one successful reproductive year in 2014 (the 1st where the shocking stations were deployed), when 46 nestlings successfully fledged.



Gottlieb Award Reception

CURes was proud to host a special event on Thursday, Feb 28th at LMU. Being honored were environmental philanthropists and dear friends of CURes, Susan and Dan Gottlieb of the Gottlieb Native Garden (GNG). On this special day, Susan and Dan received a

Proclamation from the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office, while many of their friends and members of organizations they support, surrounded them. The Proclamation was to honor the Gottliebs' many contributions to the study and preservation of native plants and the environment in Los Angeles. A Susan quote sums up their philosophy, "We could save the world if we all understood the power of native plants."

The Gottlieb support a range of environmental projects including: hummingbird banding research, [Bird LA Day](#), natural corridors for mountain lions to cross freeways, educational outreach, [City Nature Challenge](#), and habitat restoration around the world. At CURes, Lisa Fimiani is the Dan and Susan Environmental Leadership Fellow - she works to support conservation, native gardens, and environmental education across LA. They also fund CURes [Urban EcoLab Curriculum Module 10: Garden Ecology](#), focused on helping schools install native and edible gardens at their sites. Additionally, the Gottliebs are funding curricula and technology that will support the study of birds, specifically hummingbirds and osprey. This is done via [live cameras to observe hummingbirds](#) at feeders and an osprey pole, soon to be installed on LMU's campus, that will also have a live cam. The hope is that the Osprey pole and nesting platform at LMU will help in Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* conservation efforts.

Learn more about all of the Gottlieb's work [here](#). A special thank-you to everyone who attended this beautiful event!



Spring in the Ballona Wetlands

The Friends of Ballona Wetlands have some great events and opportunities this Spring!



Spring Break Camp

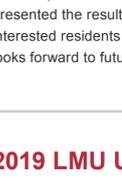
- Science-based camp for kids to explore their urban natural environments
- For ages 8-11
- Summer sessions also available

Events Calendar

- Help restore the wetlands, take a free tour, or join monthly bird walks

Migration Celebration

- Saturday, April 6th, 10am-2pm
- Birding tours, food trucks, arts and crafts, live birds, music, science lab, plant sale, and more!
- CURes will have a table focused on hummingbirds!
- Free for all ages



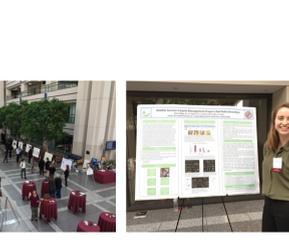
Restorative Justice Updates

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](#)!

Final Silver Lake Report

On February 28, the CURes team, led by Dr. Michele Romolini (CURes Managing Director), submitted the final report to the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) from their survey of the local reservoir. Dr. Romolini and Dr. Eric Strauss (CURes Executive Director) presented the results to the SLNC and interested residents in early February. CURes thanks the SLNC for their support and looks forward to future collaborations! Read the full report [here](#).



2019 LMU Undergraduate Research Symposium

March 23 is LMU's [Undergraduate Research Symposium](#)! This year, CURes has 6 student posters being presented on a range of topics, as follows:

- Matthew Sheridan and Grace Riggs: Genetic analysis of coyote scat to determine diet composition
- Jarrod Kleya, Jaclyn Findlay, and Dominic Beachler: Long Beach coyote management plan
- Oscar Repreza: Mosquito sampling in the Ballona Freshwater Marsh
- Ian Wright: Venice Beach Least terns and crow interactions
- Reilly Grzywacz: Analyzing public opinion of the Silver Lake reservoir
- Calvin Foss: Surface flow measurements in the Ballona Wetlands Freshwater Marsh

View posters from past years [here](#)!



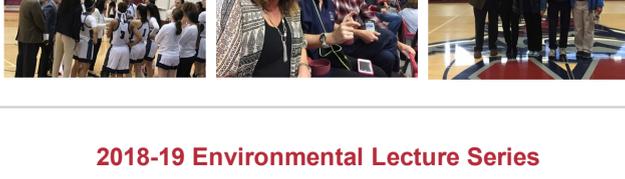
Education Updates - Urban EcoLab

As we forge through the Winter of 2019, we are reminded of how fragile our cities and our environment are. We see the effects of a changing climate in more powerful storms, longer rain events, a warming ocean, melting ice caps, rising sea levels, and more ... all of which are impacting humans and ecosystems in every corner of the globe. More locally we have heard for the past two months the terms "the pineapple express" or "atmospheric river" more than ever before, referring to copious amounts of moisture coming from the Pacific Ocean. Our urban centers and surrounding areas have been impacted dramatically with loss of life due to floods and mudslides; thousands of acres of property have been destroyed; life for many has been inexorably changed forever. All of this leads to the question of how we as citizens can slow this trend, slow climate change, and ultimately build a more resilient system.

The CURes [Urban EcoLab curricula](#) was designed for use by high school teachers to help guide the teaching of the fundamental concepts of urban ecology and resilient cities. Teachers are encouraged to peruse Modules 1-8, which teach those foundational urban ecology concepts, and then move to Modules 9-13, which focus on specific topics such as the Human-Animal Bond (Module 9), Garden Ecology (Module 10) or Bird Migration (Module 11), to name a few.

The CURes Urban EcoLab curricula is free, on-line access, and can be used in part or in whole, based on specific instructional needs. CURes staff is also available to conduct professional development workshops for educators, to help facilitate the implementation of the Urban EcoLab curricula. Any questions may be directed to Maria Curley Auger, CURes Education Specialist, at Maria.Curley@lmu.edu.

Also check out some pictures (below) from our environmental educational days with the Ellen Ochoa Learning Center!



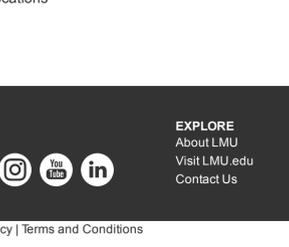
Los Angeles Business Council Sustainability Summit



The [Los Angeles Business Council](#) (LABC) is hosting their 13th Annual Sustainability Summit on April 5 from 7am-2:30pm at the Getty Center. The Summit brings together leading professionals from the LA area and beyond to share best practices, innovative techniques, and practical solutions to pressing environmental concerns. CURes is proud to be a cooperating organization for the event. [Register here](#).

Dr. Strauss Honorary Coach at Women's Basketball Game

On Saturday, February 23rd, the LMU Women's Basketball Team, participated in their last home game of the season. CURes Executive Director, Dr. Eric Strauss was privileged to be the Honorary Coach during the game and was awarded a signed basketball from all the team's players.



The idea behind an Honorary Coach participant from a department or center on campus is to raise awareness of the importance of athletics in the life of the University. Being a coaching participant allowed Dr. Strauss to support the Jesuit model of education of the whole person. At the center of the CURes Mission is the goal of building resilient communities, and what better way to do this than to celebrate the intersect between nature and athletics. As stated by Dr. Strauss, "when we look at the very definition of resilience, it ties in nicely with the attributes that are part of playing on a sports team: teamwork, stamina, and powers of observation." Strauss appreciated the opportunity as a coach participant, to think of ways to continue to strengthen collaboration with and connections between the work done at CURes in education, animal behavior, social science and restorative justice, and the athletic programs at LMU. When students as players are not on the court or on the field, wouldn't it be great to have them participate in the local schools as mentors to the next generation of young people? What a wonderful fruition this would be of a vision to link ideas with environmental stewardship and action.

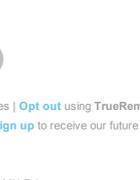


2018-19 Environmental Lecture Series

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!
[View the entire schedule.](#)

Upcoming Events

- [March 23: LMU Undergraduate Research Symposium](#)
- [April 5: LABC Sustainability Summit](#), registration required
- [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, Life Sciences Building 120
- [April 11: LMU Environmental Lecture Series](#), Drs. John Dorsey & Jeremy Pal; 3:00-4:00pm, Von der Ahe 190
- [April 26-29: City Nature Challenge](#)
- [May 4: Bird LA Day](#); various times and locations



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