



Loyola Marymount
University

Center for Urban Resilience



STAFF UPDATES

Welcome Dr. Melinda Weaver

CUREs is thrilled to announce the arrival of our newest team member: postdoctoral fellow Dr. Melinda Weaver. Dr. Weaver is an urban ecologist who will primarily be responsible for the coyote long-term management project. Her primary questions involve how urbanization affects animal populations and how animals respond to changes in their environments. Dr. Weaver received her Ph.D. in animal behavior at Arizona State University, studying behavioral differences in birds across an urban gradient.

She is especially interested in the interactions between humans and animals in urban areas, which is why she is so excited to work on urban coyotes.



Farewell to Dr. Pete Auger

CUREs celebrated senior scientist Dr. Pete Auger at his retirement party earlier this

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

playing an instrumental role in building the wildlife research program—including projects with American crows and other corvids, endangered Least tern shorebirds, hummingbirds, and coyotes. A former high school teacher, Pete also contributed greatly to the K-12 education program, leading large groups of students and teachers on field walks, conducting hands on science activities with middle and high school students, and adding to the Urban EcoLab curriculum. Pete's enthusiasm for teaching science and making research accessible brought dozens of LMU undergrads to CUREs, providing them with an unforgettable experience. Enjoy your much-deserved retirement, Pete!



CURES PROJECTS

LA River Stewardship Mapping Project

Led by Dr. Michele Romolini, the LA River Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (STEW-MAP) kicked off in June 2019 at the Angeles National Forest. The aim of LA River STEW-MAP is to produce a publicly available, online stewardship database and map of groups and organizations in the Los Angeles River watershed that work to conserve, manage, monitor, transform, advocate for, and/or educate the public about their local environments. This project is a partnership between CUREs, the USDA Forest Service, LA River Urban Waters Federal Partnership, and the LA Urban Center for Natural Resources Sustainability. Read our [August blog post](#) or contact Michele.Romolini@lmu.edu for more information.



Coyote Study in Culver City

Design CUREs undergraduates were busy over the summer! Six students participated in the summer undergraduate research program (SURP), with CUREs scientists as mentors. Their project topics included environmental gentrification in Los Angeles' Vermont corridor; environmental stewardship in Riverside; behavioral ecology, public perceptions, and media portrayal of urban coyotes; and best management strategies for Ballona Freshwater Marsh. CUREs summer researchers also participated in field measurements in the San Fernando Valley, measuring over 200 trees as part of a research partnership with the Los Angeles Reunification

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

McNair scholar Barbara Velasco participated in the 2019 National McNair Conference at UCLA, as well as at LMU's McNair Symposium.

Many summer students will continue working on CUREs-related research this fall, and several new students have joined the center. If you're interested in research opportunities at CUREs, email CUREs@lmu.edu.



Restorative Practices Expand at LMU

LMU's Student Affairs has been partnering with the CUREs' Restorative Justice Project to introduce Restorative Practices to various stakeholder groups on campus for the past year. The Applying Restorative Justice Practices to Higher Education workshop hosted by Student Affairs and led by RJ Project Manager Schoene Mahmood was held September 20, 2019. The 5-hour session concluded with students representing The Learning Center (TLC) as well as students representing Greek life sharing their experiences after attending a Restorative Practices orientation and how they've taken what they've learned and have applied it to meaningful topics such as accountability, drug and alcohol awareness, and race relations. For more information, contact: Schoene.Mahmood@lmu.edu.



School Gardens Program at Victor Elementary

Design With funding from Edison International, CUREs' fellow Lisa Fimiani worked with teachers and students at Victor Elementary School to improve their school garden, including adding a native plant garden and a bird feeder to promote pollination. This school year, teachers will receive a stipend to implement the Garden Ecology module of the [Urban EcoLab curriculum](#) in their classrooms, and in November, the entire 5th grade will visit [Ballona Discovery Park](#)! The curriculum was developed through a generous grant from the Dan and Susan Gottlieb Foundation, who showcase their spectacular Gottlieb Native Garden in Beverly Hills every year as part of the [Theodore Payne Garden Tour](#).

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



CUREs Student Research

[CUREs undergraduates](#) were busy over the summer! Six students participated in the summer undergraduate research program (SURP), with CUREs scientists as mentors. Their project topics included environmental gentrification in Los Angeles' Vermont corridor; environmental stewardship in Riverside; behavioral ecology, public perceptions, and media portrayal of urban coyotes; and best management strategies for Ballona Freshwater Marsh. CUREs summer researchers also participated in field measurements in the San Fernando Valley, measuring over 200 trees as part of a research partnership with the Los Angeles Beautification Team! Some summer research has already been presented: SURP student and McNair scholar Barbara Velasco participated in the 2019 National McNair Conference at UCLA, as well as at LMU's McNair Symposium. Many summer students will continue working on CUREs-related research this fall, and several new students have joined the center. If you're interested in research opportunities at CUREs, email CUREs@lmu.edu.



IN THE NEWS

California Bans Willful Defiance Suspensions

CUREs' Restorative Justice Project is pleased to report on a new California law, [SB-419](#), effective July 2020 that bans school suspensions for "willful defiance" in grades K-5 and will cover a five year trial period for grades 6 to 8. This is good news in light of how "willful defiance" has such a loose definition and in the past students have been suspended for behaviors like chewing gum in class or wearing a hoodie. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has led the way by recently banning suspensions for "willful defiance" for grades K-12 thanks to the School Climate Bill of Rights that was adopted in 2013. Keeping young people in school has increased funding for the district and has been touted as a "huge step in discipline reform" by advocates. For more information, visit: [LA Times: California expands ban on 'willful defiance' suspensions in schools](#).

It should be noted that in June of 2019, the LAUSD Board voted to ban random metal detector searches which opponents say promotes a prison like system in schools, something LAUSD has been conducting for the past 26 years, will be phased out entirely by July 2020.

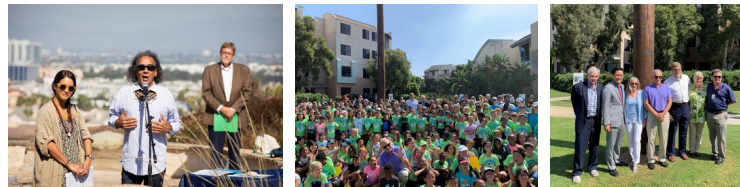
RECENT EVENTS

Osprey Pole Dedication

Over 400 people participated in the [September 17 dedication](#) of the university's newly installed osprey pole! Led by CUREs with the support of the Dan and Susan Gottlieb Foundation, Southern California Edison, and LMU Facilities Maintenance, the 65-foot pole and nesting platform provide a potential home for an ecologically important bird of prey near the Ballona Wetlands. The ceremony included a blessing and remarks from Randall Roche, S.J., director of LMU's Center for

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Indians of California; and CUREs executive director Dr. Eric Strauss. Highlights of the event included Mr. Dorame leading 300 children from Playa Vista Elementary School in a prayer for the osprey, spoken in his native language, and the moment when an osprey soared above the crowd, as if on cue!



Los Angeles World Airports Sustainability Forum

On Tuesday, July 16 [Los Angeles World Airports \(LAWA\) and Loyola Marymount University held a Symposium](#) featuring LAWA's partners in environmental leadership in the aviation industry, followed by an open house focused on LAWA's Sustainability Action Plan. Dr. Eric Strauss served as Co-Host, along with Councilman Mike Bonin and LAX CEO Deborah Flint. Featured panelists shared their vision of the future of sustainability in the aviation industry and the work they are doing to advance sustainable airport operations, design and innovation as well as corporate social responsibility. This was a great opportunity for attendees to understand the complexity of a technical and social undertaking as large as an international airport and what is being done to improve efficiency, engage the community and reduce the carbon footprint. The event was free and was held in The Roski Room of University Hall at LMU.



[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



El Segundo Mural Unveiling

Dr. John H. Dorsey and CUREs Fellow Lisa Fimiani participated in a listening session at the invitation of Kristen Dorsey to assist renowned artist Nanibah Chacon with ideas for her Mural about El Segundo and celebrated with her and Mercedes Dorame during the unveiling at the El Segundo Public Library on May 29th. Come see this beautiful tribute to the Tongva people and the El Segundo Blue butterfly!



Tours for CUREs Collaborators

All of CUREs' research and programs are conducted in collaboration with others, both with on-campus partners and external organizations. To allow our collaborators to better understand our work, we often host tours of our project sites. Examples of recent visits included:

- LMU College of Business Administration dean Dayle Smith along with CBA Marketing faculty and students received a tour of [Annenberg PetSpace](#).
- Scientists from the Vietnam National Space Center, Chapman University, and Jet Propulsion Laboratory joined CUREs at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh.
- Students participating in SLE: Sustainable Living Experience took a field walk through the Del Rey Lagoon.
- CUREs hosted a meeting and walk through of [Ballona Discovery Park](#) to identify possible locations for a bird banding station, along with Dr. Kristen Covino (LMU Biology), Neysa Frechette (Friends of Ballona Wetlands), Tom Ryan (Ryan Ecological Consulting), and Dr. Edith Read (E Read & Associates).



UPCOMING EVENTS

[Reimagining Consciousness: A Conversation Across the Physical and Life Sciences](#)

On October 19, CUREs will host a convening to discuss the nature of consciousness. This event will feature talks by Deepak Chopra, MD, John Hagelin, Ph.D, and a panel discussion by distinguished scholars in the fields of physics, biology, medicine, and animal consciousness. Sponsored by Annenberg PetSpace, the Nalandra Foundation, Navin and Pratima Doshi, and Chapman University, this event is free and open to the public.

[7th Annual Justice on Trial Film Fest at LMU](#)

On September 28 and 29, 2019 the Justice on Trial Film Fest will be held at LMU in the Mayer Theatre. Through telling the stories of those who are incarcerated, the film festival seeks to educate and reframe how we envision both the system and the people impacted by it. Visit LMU This Week for more information.

[2019-2020 Environmental Lecture Series](#)

Now in its third year, the CUREs-led Environmental Lecture Series aims to engage the LMU community in the range of environmental research and projects occurring both on and off campus. Five speakers are scheduled for this year, covering topics from nature-based Christianity to the economics of recycling. The full year's list of speakers is here. In Fall 2019, the two scheduled lectures are:

- ["When God Was a Bird: Christianity, Animism, & the Re-Enchantment of the World."](#) Dr. Mark Wallace, Swarthmore College Professor of Religion
October 14, 2019, 4:30-5:30PM, Ahmanson Auditorium (UHall 1000)
- Assessing Legacy Contamination on a Remote Northwestern Hawaiian Island
Dr. Rachel Adams, Professor of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science
November 19, 2019, 4:30-5:30PM, McIntosh Center (UHall 3999).

We dedicate our fall newsletter to [Jordan Lindsey](#)



EXPLORE

Visit CUREs Online

FOLLOW LMU



Copyright and Privacy | Terms and Conditions

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#) .

Research Annex 117 1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045 | US

This email was sent to .