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The Sex Life of Spiders (or Adventures in Spider Sexual Biology)

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Faculty Pub Night – Spring 2015

Date: April 21, 2015

Speaker: Martina Ramirez



About the Author

Martina Giselle Ramirez is Director of Undergraduate Research and Professor of Biology at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA. She received her B.S. in biology from LMU in 1981, and her Ph.D. in biology from U.C. Santa Cruz in 1990. Prior to LMU, Dr. Ramirez was a professor at Pomona College, CA (1991-1993); Bucknell University, PA (1993-1996); Denison University, OH (1996-1998); and East Stroudsburg University, PA (1998-1999). Dr. Ramirez received the Rudinica Award for Student-Faculty Research from LMU's Seaver College of Science and Engineering (2012), as well as a Biology Mentor Award from the Council on Undergraduate Research (2013). She is co-author of "Genetic Diversity Among Island and Mainland Populations of the California Trapdoor Spider (*Bothriocyrtum Californicum* Araneae, Ctenizidae)," published in *Arachnology: The Journal of the British Arachnological Society*. For Faculty Pub Night, Martina will present "The Sex Life of Spiders (or Adventures in Spider Sexual Biology)."

About the Author's Work

With over 44,000 described species, spiders are perhaps the fifth largest animal order and are a major predatory group in most ecosystems. Yet, relative to their biodiversity and ecological importance, knowledge concerning the lives of most spider species is unknown. Since its start in fall 1999, the Spider Lab @ LMU has had two goals: To seek out new science concerning a diversity of spiders; and to foster the success of LMU undergraduates, especially women and members of underrepresented groups. This talk will present some of the surprising findings the students and I have made concerning the sex life of spiders, spotlighting along the way how involvement in eight-legged science @ LMU can catalyze student excellence.