

# San Francisco State University

## DUSP Alumni Connection

Spring 2009

### Upcoming Events:

Spring 09 Brown Bag Series  
Feb. 19 : "The San Francisco  
Economy: Near-term and Long  
-term Outlooks."

Dr. Ted Egan  
Chief Economist, Office of  
Economic Analysis  
Controller's Office, City and  
County of San Francisco

April 7, 2009 Annual Alumni  
Reception

Keep in Touch at the SFSU  
Alumni Website:

[http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/  
alumni.html](http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/alumni.html)

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## Note From the Department Chair

Dear Urban Studies Alumni,

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to the very first edition of DUSP Alumni Connection Newsletter and invite you to enjoy reading the achievements of our distinguished alumni, faculty, and current students. Our program, since its inception in 1967, has grown in leaps and bounds and transformed itself over the years. As of spring 2009, we have over 130 majors pursuing a B.A. in Urban Studies and over 10 students pursuing a minor in Urban Studies. We are graduating nearly 40 students each spring (chart on page 4).

The expertise of the faculty decidedly shifted towards urban planning in recent years and the department faculty unanimously voted to add "Planning" to the title of our unit. In addition, San Francisco State University granted our unit department

status in fall 2008. Our academic unit is now officially Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP). It also has been a busy year and a half welcoming and quickly integrating two new junior faculty into our program and SF State. As we embark on the new year of 2009, I am hopeful that the news of creative activities and achievements of fellow alumni, faculty, and students highlighted in this Newsletter will inspire you to get back in touch with us and join fellow alumni at our annual

Alumni Event at Seven Hills Conference this spring on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (5-9pm). I look forward to seeing you all there!



**Ayse Pamuk, PhD  
Department Chair**

at SF State since 2000.

Best wishes in the New Year,  
Ayse Pamuk, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor and  
Department Chair  
Department of Urban Studies  
and Planning

## DUSP Honors Alumni

For the past several years the Urban Studies Program (now DUSP) has awarded its "Alumni of the Year" honor to a member of our alumni community. The award recognizes professional achievements and longstanding commitment to our program. It is based on the nomination and deliberation of the department faculty, and awarded to one of our distinguished alumni each year as a small token of our appreciation. 2009 marks the fifth annual Alumni of the year award.

### Past Recipients

- 2005 Alex Amoroso (B.A. 1986)
- 2006 Joanne Brion (B.A. 1986)
- 2007 Karna Wong (B.A. 1992)
- 2008 Beverly Prior (B.A. 1977)

Please turn the page to learn about our 2009 Alumni of the Year honoree

# Dennis Houlihan, B.A. Urban Studies, 1974

## 2009 DUSP Alumnus of the Year

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Dennis Houlihan,  
2009 DUSP Alumnus of the Year

While an Urban Studies student, Dennis was hired as a research assistant at Gruen Gruen + Associates. After a brief stint at the Youth Project, he went on to receive a Masters Degree of Public Policy from the U.C. Berkeley Graduate (now Goldman) School of Public Policy. He is currently on the school's alumni association board.

Upon graduation from GSPP he worked as an independent policy consultant and then joined John M. Sanger Associates working on fiscal policy, environmental and government organization projects. During his 10 years in The City he was active in city politics and policy through the San Francisco Young Democrats and community-based organizations. He received a Certificate of Honor from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on the motion of Supervisor Harry Britt.

Since 1981 Dennis has resided in the DuPont Circle neighborhood of Washington D.C. He has been on the staff of Congressman George Miller and the House Subcommittee on Labor Standards. He also worked for a National Academy of Sciences panel exploring the impacts of technology on labor. For the last 21 years he has been a member of the Department of Research and Collective Bargaining Services of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. As a policy advisor and advocate on a wide-range of labor relations and urban policy issues, he has had the good fortune to meet and work with public employees and officials in towns, cities and counties across the country. His work with AFSCME has also involved participation in presidential primary and general elections in a number of states.

Balancing a career in policy and politics is Dennis's involvement with Solas Nua, a contemporary Irish theater and arts organization. He has been married to Mimi Conway for over 25 years. She is the force that drew him to Washington from San Francisco.

*"His work with AFSCME has also involved participation in presidential primary and general elections in a number of states."*

### A look back at our 2008 DUSP Alumna of the Year, Beverly Prior



Beverly Prior, B.A. Urban Studies, 1977, is shown during her acceptance speech for the 2008 DUSP Alumna of the Year Award. After graduating from SFSU, Beverly went on the UC Berkeley where she received a masters degree. She is the owner of an award winning architectural firm in San Francisco.

Connect with alumni, faculty, and students at the 6th annual DUSP Alumni Reception on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 from 5:00 to 9:00 P.M. at the Seven Hills Conference Center at SFSU.

Details at:

<http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/alumni.html>

This edition includes profiles of two distinguished SFSU DUSP alumni: Pike Oliver (B.A. 1970) and Ray Webster (B.A. 1994). Send your profile to [GWaddell@sfsu.edu](mailto:GWaddell@sfsu.edu) for publication in a future edition of the DUSP Alumni Connection.



**H. Pike Oliver, B.A. Urban Studies (1970)**, recently joined the faculty of the Cornell University Program in Real Estate. In addition to teaching as a full-time senior lecturer, he is responsible for industry outreach. Pike brings three decades public policy and land development experience to his new role. David Funk, director of the Program in Real Estate, commented, "Pike's degrees and interest in both architecture and urban planning are a wonderful complement to our faculty. Students will benefit from bringing that background into real estate development courses."

Previously, Pike was Senior Vice President at W Holdings — a consortium that manages an 80,000-acre land portfolio. Most of this property is in the greater Phoenix area. His prior experience includes work with his own companies. In addition, Pike worked for several home building and land development firms, including The Irvine Company in southern California.

Earlier in his career, he worked for public agencies such as the City of New York and the California Governor's Office of Planning & Research. Pike continues to serve as a director of the Center for Natural Lands Management. This California-based not-for-profit manages over 50,000 acres of habitat reserves.

In addition to his San Francisco State degree, Pike received a master's degree in urban planning from UCLA in 1974.



**Ray Webster, B.A. Urban Studies (1994)**, has been with the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission (CDC) for the past ten years and now holds the position of senior planner. Ray is a key player in CDC's planning, legislative analysis, budgeting, and citizen participation efforts. At CDC Ray is assigned to a number of committees and has served on several "Request for Proposal" panels.

Over the past several years, Ray has developed two Consolidated Plans for the County and ten annual action plans. In addition, he is responsible for developing the County's fair housing strategy. Ray also is charged with tracking and analyzing legislation that affects the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for Los Angeles County.

Ray recently prepared the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) plan/application to HUD so that the County can receive about \$17 million to redevelop abandoned and foreclosed homes in Los Angeles County. In the near future, the County may receive additional CDBG funds to fund infrastructure projects as part of a larger stimulus package that the Congress and President Obama are considering. Once the federal stimulus package is made available, Ray will be responsible for developing that plan/application as well. Webster's enthusiasm for his work quote below sums up his passion for his work:

***"I am excited about the NSP and possible CDBG Infrastructure funding because it will benefit low-, moderate-, and middle- income persons and will hopefully stimulate the local economy."***

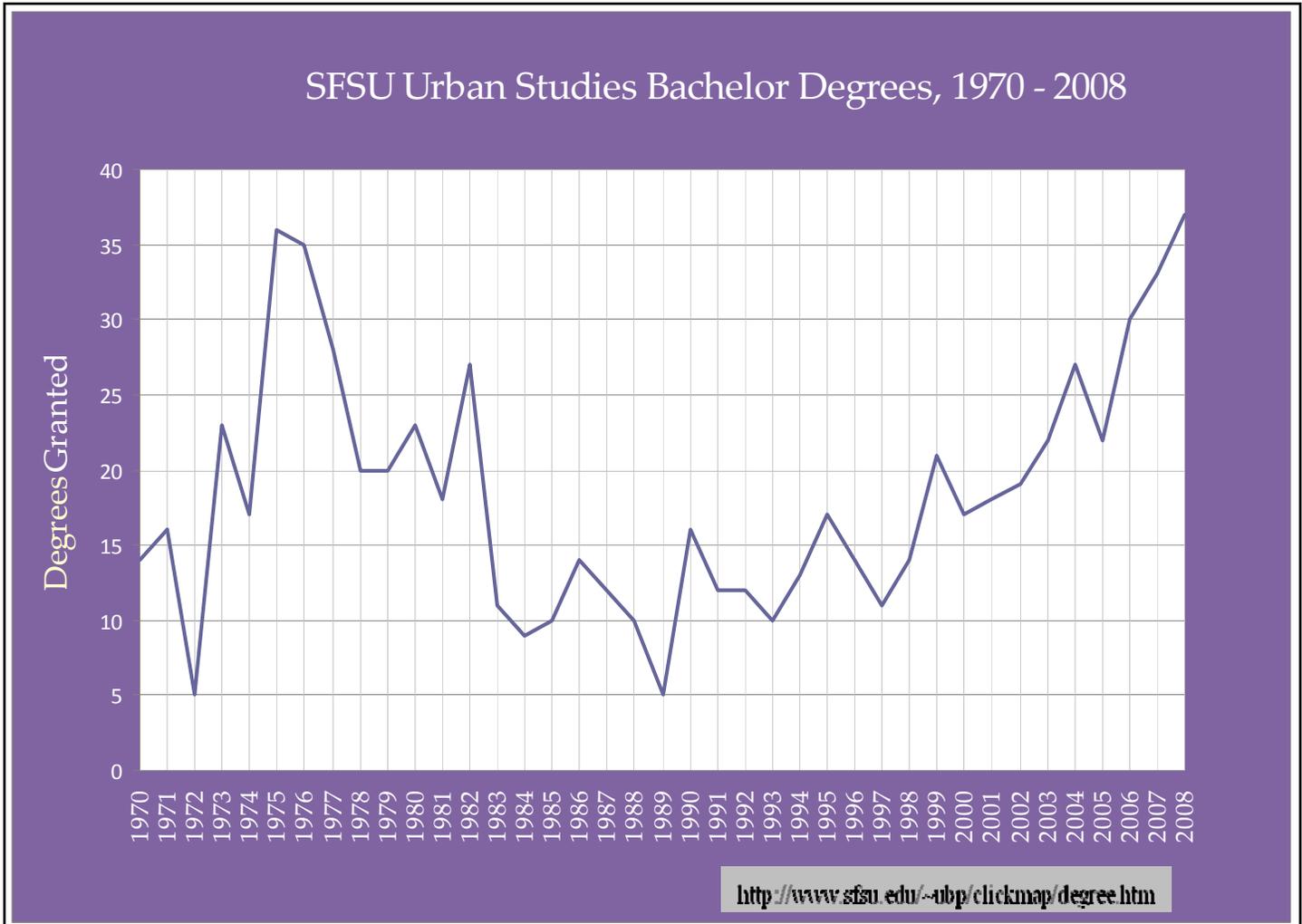
## Rising Number of DUSP Graduates

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SFSU students receiving a bachelors degree in Urban Studies has been on the rise for the past twenty years. While the chart below clearly indicates varying numbers of graduates over the past four decades, the ranks of DUSP graduates has steadily trended upward over the last decade, tripling from 11 graduates in 1998 to 37 graduates in 2008.



### Alumni Milestones

This section of the DUSP Alumni Connection is devoted to news about important events affecting our alumni. Please let us know what is going on in your professional or academic life.

- **Annie Dods, B.A. Urban Studies, 2007**, just completed a masters degree in Housing and Regeneration at the London School of Economics. The Department of Urban Studies and Planning extends warm congratulations to Annie for her achievements and wishes her the best in her future academic and professional endeavors.

Each edition of the DUSP Alumni Connection will include news about DUSP faculty. This edition includes contributions from two of our most distinguished faculty, Professor Richard LeGates and Professor Raquel Rivera-Pinderhughes reporting on their busy year.



### **Professor Richard Legates at SF State since 1973.**

This fall Dick LeGates completed his next-to-last year in the SFSU Faculty Early Retirement (FERP) program teaching in the fall semester only. This is Dick's 35<sup>th</sup> year at SFSU—he began teaching in 1973. In addition to “Research Methods” and “Politics, Law, & the Urban Environment” Dick has taken on a new class, “Introduction to Urban Studies and Planning,” that is planned to become a required course for new DUSP majors and minors.

Professor LeGates spends spring semester each year writing, and lecturing on urban studies and planning, traveling, and pursuing a new interest in urban planning in China. Recent publications include the final volume in the ten volume Routledge Urban Reader series — *The Urban and Regional Planning Reader* — published in December (co-editor); and *A Chinese Planners Guide to Western Planning Literature* (co-authored with Tingwei Zhang) which was published in Chinese in a Chinese urban planning journal (Urban Forum) and awarded a prize this fall as the second best article on urban planning published in China in 2008. This spring Dick will be working on the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of *The City Reader* and a first Chinese edition of *The Chinese City Reader*, both of which will be published in 2011. The *Chinese City Reader* will be published in Chinese by a Chinese publisher.

Dick is a Fulbright senior specialist supported by the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars to lecture in other countries and last spring was a SPLINT fellow funded by the Higher Education Funding Council of England to do research and lecture on how UK planners can use GIS and spatial thinking in their courses. Last spring he lectured to urban planning students at Tongji and Xiamen Universities in China, planning student at Cardiff University in Wales, geography students at the universities of Nottingham and Plymouth, England and Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, and geoinformatics students at Palancky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic. Dick is active on the board of the International Association for China Planning. This year he is helping organize and plans to lecture at an international conference on urban planning co-sponsored by the IACP, Nanjing University, and the Chinese Ministry of Education in Nanjing, China. He can be reached at [dlegates@sfsu.edu](mailto:dlegates@sfsu.edu).



### **Professor Raquel Rivera Pinderhughes at SF State since 1992.**

In 2007 Professor Raquel Pinderhughes published an important study, titled *Green Collar Jobs: An Analysis of the Capacity of Green Business to Provide High Quality Jobs for Men and Women with Barriers to Employment*. The report, based on research Pinderhughes conducted with Bay Area green business employers, informs our understanding of how to harness green business growth to fight both pollution and poverty by providing low-income adults with barriers to employment access to training for “green collar jobs”, a term Pinderhughes uses to describe manual labor jobs that directly improve environmental quality. In this report, Pinderhughes outlines 22 sectors in which green collar jobs are located, they include: bike repair, energy efficiency, recycling,

solar installation, and wind turbine manufacturing.

Based on her research, Pinderhughes developed a job training model that provided critical guidance to the city of Oakland's Green Jobs Corps and the city of Cleveland's Pathways out of Poverty through Green Collar Jobs Program. Both programs serve adults who face barriers to employment that include poverty, lack of work experience, limited education, language barriers, and/or history with the criminal justice system. Pinderhughes's job training model is being used to inform job training programs in: Berkeley, Boston, Memphis, New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia, Richmond, San Francisco, and Vermont.

Pinderhughes's green collar job training model has six components: (1) soft skills and basic literacy training, (2) hard skills training focused on basic construction and green collar jobs skills, (3) OSHA Safety Training Certification, (4) financial management skills training, (5) a Green Business Council composed of employers who provide internships and green collar jobs for program participants, and (6) environmental literacy. Pinderhughes's report can be found at <http://bss.sfsu.edu/raquelrp/>. Pinderhughes is currently working on creating an environmental literacy curriculum and facilitators guide for green collar job training programs throughout the United States. Alumni and students interested in Professor Pinderhughes's research and current projects can contact her at [raquelrp@sfsu.edu](mailto:raquelrp@sfsu.edu).

## Welcome to Our New Faculty Members

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We welcomed two junior faculty to the Department of Urban Studies and Planning during the 2007—08 academic year, Jasper Rubin and Ashok Das.

### Assistant Professor Jasper Rubin



**Jasper Rubin** came to SFSU after more than a dozen years in the planning profession, primarily as a member of the San Francisco Planning Department where he spent most of his time managing two controversial and complex community-based planning efforts that are part of the Better Neighborhoods and Eastern Neighborhoods projects. He also worked as a consultant in an environmental consulting firm in S.F. All of Jasper's degrees are in Geography, with a focus on Urban Geography. BA in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1984; Masters in Geography from the University of Maryland-College Park in 1995; Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Maryland-

College Park in 2003. His dissertation was entitled: *A Negotiated Landscape: Planning, Regulation and the Transformation of San Francisco's Waterfront, 1950 to the Present*. He is currently working on a book based on his dissertation to be published by the Center for American Places in association with the University of Chicago Press, to be titled *A Negotiated Landscape: The Transformation of San Francisco's Waterfront Since 1950*. At SFSU, he is teaching Dynamics of the American City, Research Methods, Senior Seminar, and Land Use Planning. He can be reached at [mjrubin@sfsu.edu](mailto:mjrubin@sfsu.edu).

### Assistant Professor Ashok Das



**Ashok Das** received his Bachelor in Architecture degree from the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, in 1996. In 1998 he moved to Manhattan, Kansas, for his graduate studies at the Kansas State University. He graduated with Master of Architecture, and Master of Arts in Environmental Planning and Management degrees in 2001. The same year he joined the PhD program in Urban Planning at UCLA. He recently completed his PhD titled, "Lofty ideal, hefty deal: Empowerment through participatory slum upgrading in India and Indonesia." At SFSU, he is teaching Data Analysis, City in a Global Society, Policy Analysis, Urban Poverty and Policy, and the Internship. He can be reached at [ashok-das@sfsu.edu](mailto:ashok-das@sfsu.edu).

### Editor's Corner

The ancient phrase "*may you live in interesting times*" seems to have a little more of an urgent meaning these days. Although we all hope that the world economy's apparent free fall will soon reverse itself, it seems that we are constantly inundated with too many "interesting" bits of sobering news about political intrigue, impending financial doom, or corruption that gives pause to most of us. Yes, these are interesting times that despite the overarching pall of doom, will pass when new ideas and practices lead to reform.

No doubt you have read the implications of California's current fiscal crisis for all state services, including the California State University system that includes SFSU and the other 22 CSU schools throughout the state. The state's budget situation has impacted SFSU and the CSU system with a 10 percent increase in student fees, reduced number of classes offered, and lower admissions of new and transfer students. As the chart on page 4 shows, this situation is especially challenging for departments such as DUSP that are on a growth trend. Students continue to get a great education because of the creativity and commitment of faculty, staff, and students so well displayed in the "Faculty Profiles" and "Department Highlights" sections. The ultimate outcome of our efforts however are you, the alumni. We feel that the stories and news items about Dennis Houlihan, Beverly Prior, Pike Oliver, Ray Webster, and Annie Dods speak volumes about the quality and conviction of DUSP and its alumni community.

So get involved and let these truly be interesting times. We invite you to participate in department activities — send us a news item, attend a Brown Bag event, and connect with alumni and the DUSP community at the Alumni Reception on April 7. Please remember that working with DUSP is a winning situation: the intern you accept or the Senior Seminar project that you request will provide a great service to your organization while giving our students the real-world experience needed to develop the new ideas and practices that will shape tomorrow.

Gene Waddell, Editor (B.A. 2009)

In addition to their teaching duties, Professors Das and Rubin are supervising the publication of the department's academic journal *Urban Action*. Professor Das describes this year's progress and invites you to view all past issues of *Urban Action* on the DUSP website or contact the DUSP office for printed copies of the journal. Check it out at <http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbanaction/>

**Urban Action (UA)**, an annual journal managed and produced by the students of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP; formerly, the Urban Studies Program), got off to a good start for the 2008-09 academic year. The UA journal publishes articles on urban affairs, creative writing, as well as artwork from SFSU students. It provides a rare outlet for SFSU students to publish quality work. The UA issue for 2007-08 introduced a new format and look, and aspired for high levels of overall professionalism.

About twenty students from DUSP and other departments on campus came to the initial UA meetings in Fall 2008. Inspired and enthused by the high quality of previous issues, the opportunity to participate in a journal production process held to professional standards, as well as to publish, a core bunch of about six students soon seized the initiative. This core group of students is now the steering editorial/production team for this year's issue. Up to another twelve students will closely assist the core team during the spring semester in reviewing articles, editing articles, choosing artwork, and laying out the journal. A blind peer-review process will be used to select articles for publication from the pool of submissions.

In the early fall meetings a democratic process was followed to decide which responsibilities students wanted and what roles they would perform in the production process. Collective decisions were also taken to organize the process for this year, to chalk out strategies for widely publicizing the call for submissions, to set important dates and deadlines, and to detail out the various stages of the process. Three official posts – project manager, executive editor, and creative editor – were filled through nominations and election. A Google group has also been established to facilitate communication and remote connectivity among members of the UA team. UA team members can access articles for review, post comments, and initiate discussions on this portal.

Most of the fall semester involved working on organizational aspects and publicizing the call for submissions. Multiple flyers were designed, and the word was spread through these flyers and holding small meetings/events. The initial deadline for submissions was set for December 17, 2008, but it has now been extended to mid-February. So far eleven submissions have been received and more are expected. A spring meeting to finalize the course of action for this semester will be held in early February.

Besides gaining meaningful experience in managing the publication of a journal and an opportunity to publish, students who dedicate a reasonable amount of time can also get course credit for their effort. Each year one or two DUSP faculty members serve as advisors to the UA journal. They help the UA team to form during the beginning of the academic year, educate students about the process and provide them guidance whenever needed. However, for the most part, students then manage the process quite independently, and remarkably so. By signing up for a specific course with the UA faculty advisors, interested students can opt to receive course credit if they would devote a certain minimum number of hours towards UA. This year the faculty advisors are Professor Jasper Rubin and Professor Ashok Das.

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## Senior Seminar Links Students to Clients

DUSP's capstone course, URBS 680 - Senior Seminar, continues its impressive tradition of linking student consultants to 'clients' in government agencies, non-profits, and other institutions and groups throughout the Bay Area. Spring 2008 Senior Seminar clients included the Office of San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, the Department of City Planning, Bay Area LISC, and the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association. Again this year students will be challenged to apply their skills to interesting, real-world problems in wide variety of contexts from another excellent group of clients, including the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, Policy Link, the City of Berkeley, and the North of Market Neighborhood Improvement Association. The course thrives in part because the students maintain high standards of professional and a good work ethic and thus serve as exemplary ambassadors for the university.

Of course, as the number of majors in DUSP increases, so does the number of students in URBS 680. This means that we need to expand our list of potential client organizations. If you have any suggestions for, or contacts in, organizations that might make good clients for the Senior Seminar, please contact Professor Ayse Pamuk or Professor Jasper Rubin.

The following news and information can be found at our website: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/> where you can find links to DUSP activity. The direct link to the alumni webpage is <http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/alumni.html>

### Important Upcoming Events

- Spring 09 Brown Bag Series — February 19: 12:15-1:15 p.m., Downtown Center Room 515  
“The San Francisco Economy: Near-term and Long-term Outlooks.” Dr. Ted Egan, Chief Economist, Office of Economic Analysis, Controller's Office, City and County of San Francisco
- Sixth Annual DUSP Alumni Reception — April 7: 5:00 — 9:00 P.M. Please mark your calendars for the sixth annual DUSP Alumni Reception on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at the Seven Hills Conference Center at SFSU from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Please see details on the alumni webpage: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/alumni.html>

### Department Highlights

#### DUSP Hosts University of Seoul Students at SFSU Winter Study Program in Urban Studies & Planning

- The Department of Urban Studies and Planning and the Office of International Programs have partnered and hosted 20 selected Korean students from the University of Seoul this winter (Jan. 5-21, 2009). Faculty from Urban Studies and Planning, Geography, and Public Administration delivered lectures and field trips on urban studies and planning topics.

**Photo:** From left to right: Professor Pamuk (Program Director), Jessica Garcia (B.A. 2008), visiting Korean students, and Karna Wong (B.A. 1992), during their visit to the Mission Walk project being built by BRIDGE in San Francisco



- Professor Ashok Das presented his research at an international conference on housing, urban poverty and environment in Uganda sponsored by the Canadian International Development Research Center (IDRC) (Dec. 2-4, 2008).
- DUSP hosted a three-day “Working for Local Government” lecture series with Toby Ross, City Manager of West Sacramento (October 29-31). Dr. Ross met with students to discuss career opportunities in local government.
- Professor Ayse Pamuk participated at the 2008 ACSP Leadership Conference in North Bethesda, Maryland (Oct. 23-25, 2008).
- Professor Jasper Rubin gave a research presentation at the “The Fixity and Flow of Urban Waterfronts” conference in Hamburg, Germany (Oct. 10, 2008).
- Professor Richard LeGates, Ashok Das, and Ayse Pamuk gave research presentations at the joint Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning and European Schools of Planning (ACSP-AESOP) conference in Chicago (July 6-11, 2008).

### Opportunities to Get Involved with DUSP

- We invite you and your organization to submit a proposal for possible course adoption for future Department of Urban Studies and Planning Senior Seminar classes. Please follow link [RFP 2009](#) for a detailed description.
- Internships — We have a strong cadre of students who are always looking for internship assignments. Please contact Professor Pinderhughes or Professor Das if your organization has a need for an intern. Please follow link <http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/internship.html> for details.