Note From the Department Chair

Dear Urban Studies and Planning Community,

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to the second edition of DUSP Alumni Connection Newsletter and invite you to enjoy reading the achievements of our distinguished alumni, faculty, and current students. As of Fall 2009, we have over 117 majors pursuing a B.A. in Urban Studies and 10 students pursuing a minor in Urban Studies. We are graduating nearly 40 students each year. Our curriculum continues its excellence. At its December 15, 2009 meeting, SF State’s Academic Senate approved DUSP proposal to change the degree title from “Urban Studies” to “Urban Studies and Planning” for the B.A. degree and the minor. Students graduating in Fall 2010 and beyond will now see “Urban Studies and Planning” on their transcripts, pending final CSU approvals.

Amidst the extraordinary budgetary constraints we all are facing at SFSU, I am pleased to report and highlight two new student scholarships established at our department this past year. The “Merritt Community Capital Student Scholarships in Urban Studies and Planning” was established with a $11,000 gift from Merritt Community Capital Corporation – an Oakland-based nonprofit intermediary organization that does tax syndication for low-income housing developers in the Bay Area (see award information on page #4) and the “LeGates Student Scholarships in Urban Studies and Planning” was just established by gifts totaling over $2,500 from numerous alumni and friends of the department to honor Professor LeGates at the time of his full retirement from SFSU. We are grateful to all contributors for allowing us to assist our majors to pursue their academic degrees despite rising costs for higher education in California.

As we embark on a new decade, 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 join us at our annual Alumni Event at Seven Hills Conference Center this spring on Thursday, April 8, 2010 from 5:00 to 8:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you all there!

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 of an alumnus/na 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.

Past Recipients
2005 Alex Amoroso, (B.A., 1986)
2006 Joanne Brion (B.A., 1986)
2007 Karna Wong (B.A., 1992)
2009 Dennis Houlihan (B.A., 1974)

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Kenneth Caldwell, B.A. Urban Studies, 1981

2010 DUSP Alumnus of the Year

During his time in the Urban Studies program, Kenneth Caldwell was the first art director for the journal, Urban Action. This when layout was done by a shaky student’s hand, not by computer. While Kenneth fell in love with print publications, he also decided not to pursue a career as an art director.

After graduating from the Urban Studies program in 1981, Kenneth did not go to graduate school or to work in the public sector. Not sure of his direction, he tracked down lost shipping containers until he was fired for losing too many. He then sold croissants at a street-side stand for the holiday season. In early 1982, Whisler Patri Architects in San Francisco hired him as an office boy. Since he didn’t possess a driver’s license at the time, the firm promoted him to librarian. While working there, he earned a Master’s in Library Science from UC Berkeley and was eventually promoted to head up the firm’s public relations efforts. He worked in a similar role for AC Martin Partners in Los Angeles and then returned to the Bay Area in the Fall of 1990, where he became the vice president and director of marketing for Berkeley-based ELS until 1997. Since 1998, he has been an independent public relations and marketing consultant to architects.

In his consulting work, he focuses on demystifying the marketing process and emphasizing the role that communication and generosity plays in nurturing relationships. He speaks frequently on panels for the American Institute of Architects and the Society for Marketing Professional Services, as well as to students at the California College of the Arts.

Following graduation from library school in 1985, he began writing book reviews for a number of local publications, such as Architecture California and Design Book Review. Since the late 1980s, he has written over 80 articles for national publications such as Architectural Record, ArchNewsNow.com, Contract, Multifamily Trends, Next American City, The Architect’s Newspaper, and Urban Land.

When he turned 50, he began writing every month or so about the intersection of design and faith at www.designfaith.blogspot.com. He lives in Oakland with his partner, the composer Paul Crabtree.

A look back at our 2009 DUSP Alumnus of the Year, Dennis Houlihan

Dennis Houlihan, B.A. Urban Studies, 1974, is shown accepting the 2009 DUSP Alumnus of the Year Award from Professor Pamuk. After graduating from SFSU in 1974, Dennis went on to UC Berkeley where he received a masters degree in public policy. During his career, Dennis has worked in both the private and public sector as a public policy consultant and executive.

“demystifying the marketing process and emphasizing the role that communication and generosity plays in nurturing relationships”

Connect with alumni, faculty, and students at the annual DUSP Alumni Reception on Thursday, April 8, 2010 from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Francisco State University Seven Hills Conference Center.

Details at: http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/
While an Urban Studies student, Pike conducted research on behalf of a community group concerned about plans to remove single-room-occupancy hotel apartments in the Yerba Buena Redevelopment Area of San Francisco. Following graduation, he and several other Urban Studies graduates secured employment at Contra Costa County where they gathered data for a countywide land use and transportation study. A year later, Pike enrolled at UCLA where he earned a Master of Arts in Urban Planning.

Following graduate school, Pike headed east to spend a year working on neighborhood preservation in several boroughs of New York City. Then he returned to California to work for the State Department of Finance and later the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in Sacramento. While at OPR, Pike was a principal contributor to An Urban Strategy for California, a 1978 policy document that encouraged compact and efficient metropolitan development. That same year, Pike went to work for The Irvine Company, the developer of master planned communities in Southern California.

During the late 1980s, Pike led the creation of a master plan and annexation of over 24,000 acres of the Banning-Lewis Ranch to the City of Colorado Springs. Over the next two decades, he worked on planning and processing numerous large and small developments in Arizona, British Columbia and Californian as well as abroad in China, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. For thirteen of those years, Pike was a principal of two firms, INTERRA Strategies, Inc., and The Presidio Group, LLC.

In 2009, he began a new phase of his career with the Program in Real Estate at Cornell University where he teaches and does industry outreach. This program is a comprehensive, two-year professional graduate level curriculum taught by the largest on-campus real estate field faculty in the country.

Although based in the Finger Lakes Region of New York, Pike’s community service reaches back to his home state. He serves as Treasurer of the California-based Center for Natural Land Management, a not-for-profit organization that manages approximately 50,000 acres of habitat lands. In addition, Pike recently joined the Founding Board of Advisors to the Urban Land Use and Transportation Center at UC Davis. Mr. Oliver’s commitment to SFSU continues as noted in a recent communication where he said “I am glad to consult with any DUSP students or alumni considering options for graduate education.”

Pike and his wife of 31 years, Rosemarie, have two adult sons and reside in Ithaca, NY.

Mr. Oliver will accept this award and will address the SFSU urban studies and planning community at the April 2011 Alumni Event. We hope to see a large contingent of 1970s urban studies alumni at the event where they can celebrate with Pike and connect with one another.
Merritt was formed in 1989 by the city of Oakland to provide equity capital investments in affordable housing developments. Early investments targeted the urgent housing needs of the Oakland community and then expanded to include the greater San Francisco Bay Area. In recent years, Merritt Capital has expanded its scope to include investments in affordable housing properties throughout California. In 1996, Merritt Capital separated from the city of Oakland and hired an independent staff. To mark this transition, the Board of Directors changed the name of the organization from Community Alliance for Syndicated Housing, Inc. to Merritt Community Capital Corporation. The name honors Dr. Samuel Merritt, an early mayor of Oakland, Lake Merritt, a prominent feature of that city, acts as a tribute to the city for the instrumental role it played in the company’s creation. Merritt’s mission is “To provide equity capital for affordable housing throughout California and to revitalize neighborhoods through the construction, rehabilitation and long-term asset management of these properties,” thus opening doors to affordable housing. Merritt recognizes that the career development of committed affordable housing professionals is vital to its continued success and has initiated the Merritt Community Capital Scholarship Fund in Urban Studies and Planning at San Francisco State. Merritt is providing two $5,500 scholarships for 2009-2010 SFSU DUSP students to promote and encourage the development of student career interest in the fields of affordable housing development and management. The scholarships cover student fees and other expenses associated with student education at SFSU. The first recipients of this generous gift are Jana Boring and Ryan Thayer.

Ryan Thayer spent the first half of his life in the Virginian port city of Norfolk. There he reports being exposed to racism at an early age. Moving to Berkeley as a teenager, Ryan became aware of the strength in ethnic and socioeconomic diversity. He graduated from Berkeley High School in 2004 and attended Sacramento State University for two years. His goal in higher education has always been to combat the division created from a racist mentality. In 2006, Ryan transferred to SFSU, and was immediately a fan of the Ethnic Studies program. With a background in social equity taken from Ethnic Studies courses, Ryan transferred this knowledge to the Urban Studies Program. Ryan seeks to use his understanding of social inequities among different ethnic groups to focus on community development. He wishes to use his degree to build socially equitable communities which are also environmentally just. After graduating he plans to join the Americorps program to gain a greater understanding of the community building process. He also hopes to continue to travel the globe in order to learn about urban examples of beneficial progress for all people.

Jana Boring comes from a background in construction that led her to the Urban Studies and Planning program at SF State. After several years in the construction industry, she became very interested in working on projects that look beyond the building, to a larger scale that includes the neighborhood and city. Jana’s education at SF State and her career in construction have focused on sustainable development and social equity. For the past three years she has served as the Program Coordinator and Lead Instructor for the Sustainable Building Advisor Program (SBAP) in San Francisco. The SBAP is a nine-month certification course that teaches working professionals about the strategies and tools to design and develop buildings that are resource efficient, cost effective and healthy for the occupants. After graduation Jana looks forward to incorporating her SFSU education with projects that focus on environmental sustainability and social equity.

For the new 2010—2011 Merritt Community Capital Scholarship announcement and application instructions visit the department web page:
Joanne Brion, B.A. Urban Studies, 1986 (and 2006 DUSP Alumna of the Year), continues to contribute to the Department of Urban Studies and Planning by participating in the Senior Seminar class and alumni panels and by serving as a mentor to DUSP students. Ms. Brion is the principal of Brion Associates, a private consulting firm that offers its clients expertise in urban planning and economics. As described below, Joanne stays engaged with the community and her practice on a number of fronts.

Child Care and Land Use Planning

Over the last ten years, I have developed a professional niche in child care planning and public policy. The work focuses on addressing the long range need for child care facilities and funding through normal land use planning and development efforts, including inserting child care policy into city and county general plans. The State mandates each county in California have a Child Care Local Planning Council to address the needs of children 0-14 relating to child care services. Each Planning Council prepares a Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan every five years. My firm has prepared a number of these studies and has introduced the councils to the concept of preparing forecasts of child care need based on population projects and development projects. We have also prepared several Child Care impact fee studies, which have been adopted by local government and provide funding for child care facility development. The fee studies follow the guidelines of the Mitigation Fee Act, which governs development fees, approaching the fee nexus issue as a linkage issue, similar to affordable housing fees.

For more information, please contact Joanne at Brion & Associates. www.brionassociates.com

Accountable Development Coalition of Sonoma County

Recently, I became a professional member of the Accountable Development Coalition of Sonoma County (ADC). The ADC is an interesting group of organizations and individuals working in Sonoma County for several years to influence and shape public policy regarding development, land use, and other public policy which affects our quality of life. The mission statement includes: “The Accountable Development Coalition is a grassroots organization made up of unions, affordable housing advocates, environmentalists, transit and land use experts, and other community-based groups. Our mission is to promote smart growth principles in order to create livable, environmentally sustainable communities with shared prosperity.” The ADC recently negotiated a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with the developers of the Sonoma Mountain Village project in Rohnert Park. The agreement, entered into on a voluntary basis by both ADC and the developer, covers sustainable development practices, living wages, etc. and ensures after more than two years of dialogue, the CBA provides guarantees that the benefits of the development will be extended to the surrounding community.

For more information see: http://www.accountabledevelopmentcoalition.org/
Doug Lybeck, B.A. Urban Studies 2009 writes: “I’m one of the lucky ones. After taking a three year hiatus from school, I returned and graduated from the Urban Studies and Planning program in 2009. Restless feet put me on the road during the summer of ’09, so I decided to bicycle across the U.S. from Oregon to NYC to Montreal. Upon my return to San Francisco I was lucky enough to be offered a position at Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), where I’d been formerly interning. I’m now working as their Manager of Volunteer Services. It’s a fun little non-profit dedicated to greening the streets of San Francisco through street side tree plantings.

I love my work at FUF, but my free time is still important. With that thought in mind, I’ve dedicated the next 12 months to a single long term goal: creating a “muse” which will support my lifestyle without compromising my time. It’s easy jump on the ‘treadmill of life,’ which consumes ALL of your days, while giving you just enough to be happy. That doesn’t appeal to me.

I’m happiest in the middle of a vast, freshly cropped field of Kansas wheat, surrounded by nothing but a thousand miles of blank serenity, and the anticipation of a phenomenal summer rainstorm. I’m happiest clinging to the top branch of a monstrous Lodge Pole Pine in the Rocky Mountains, listening to the wind scream through my hair, smelling the fresh pitch on my hands. I’m happiest climbing 4000 vertical feet in one day under my own power, only to know that I have to get up and do it again tomorrow. These are some of the most simple and inspiring moments I’ve ever experienced, and I was able to have them by not being consumed by the daily grind of “The American Dream.”

Before the end of 2010, my goal is to purchase one rental income property, and then disappear. Traveling this summer taught me that it takes surprisingly little to exist out on the road, and a small source of low-maintenance real-estate income is all it would take to keep me out there indefinitely. What’s my take? Do things your way, and don’t let anyone tell you otherwise. If you’ve got a plan, try it. And remember: life is good.” Contact Doug at www.douglybeck.com.

- Annie Dods, B.A. Urban Studies, 2007. After graduating from the London School of Economics, Annie recently landed a permanent consultant role with a British firm, Shared Intelligence. In her new post, Annie will work on a wide range of jobs that include a housing market assessment for the London Thames Gateway, a community impact assessment for Newham Council and the 2012 Olympic Games, and a City Centre Masterplan for Worcester UK. Annie mentions that it is satisfying to know that she can use all the knowledge she picked up while at SFSU and LSE on these jobs and ones into the future.

- Dolly Sithounnolat, B.A. Urban Studies, 2007. Dolly works as the Corridor Manager on Ocean Avenue for the Ocean Avenue Revitalization Collaborative. She works directly with small business owners, that are dominantly low income to moderate income, to identify resources to help strengthen their businesses. Her firm’s goal is to build vibrant and safe communities and to help support locally-owned small businesses. Dolly recently visited the Senior Seminar class and shared her knowledge about commercial corridors and commented about the DUSP Senior Seminar commercial corridor project. Aside from supporting small businesses in San Francisco, Dolly enjoys cooking and likes to research innovative ways to help the community.

- Joe Rukus, B.A. Urban Studies, 2007, earned a Master of Regional Planning degree at Cornell where he wrote his thesis titled San Francisco’s Reentry Strategy: Using Economic Equity to Reduce Recidivism. Joe is now pursuing a PhD in criminology at the University of Florida.

- Jessica Look, B.A. Urban Studies, 2003, is a recent graduate from UC Berkeley, where she earned her Master’s Degree in City and Regional Planning degree with a concentration in Urban Design. During her last semester at U.C. Berkeley, she participated in the Whampoa Harbor Design Workshop in Guangzhou, China. Jessica is an urban designer and planner for Community Design + Architecture, a planning and urban design firm based in Oakland, California.

- Susan Bain, B.A. Urban Studies, 1977 and MPA from SFSU in 1983. After earning her Masters of Public Administration at SFSU, Susan has had a number of very interesting jobs. Early in her career she was hired by the National Urban Coalition (NUC) as the Sr. Neighborhood Advisor with a federally funded Neighborhood Technical Assistance Program. She also worked with NUC affiliates in Oakland and was responsible for neighborhoods in San Diego, East Los Angeles and Pasadena. Susan went on to work with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) as a Project Officer in the Urban Land Program in their San Francisco Office. While at TPL, Susan was involved in a number of high profile projects, including a land title trade between the State of California and the JP Getty Estate for securing in perpetuity a very large tract of land in Hayward for a community garden. Ms. Bain now lives in Barbados and works with the National Art Gallery Committee in Barbados as a Visual Arts Development Consultant. Susan’s email address is subain@sunbeach.net.

- Ellen Trossman, B.A. Urban Studies, 1975, went on to earn a J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1978. Ellen practices workers’ compensation law in San Francisco representing employers. Ellen may be contacted at etrossman@karasoff.com.
On December 1, 2009 The DUSP community honored Professor Richard (Dick) LeGates for his forty years of service at SFSU. After graduating with honors from Harvard in 1965, Dick went on to the University of California at Berkeley to receive a joint J.D. and Master of City Planning in 1968 - 1969. Soon thereafter, LeGates became part the founding faculty of the Urban Studies program at SFSU. During his tenure at SFSU, LeGates taught at least sixteen different courses to thousands of urban studies and planning students. He served as director of the Urban Studies program on a number of occasions between 1974 and 1998 and was the director of the Graduate Master of Public Administration program at SFSU from 1984 to 1986. In addition, Professor LeGates served as Director of the SFSU Urban Center (1980 - 81), as a board member of the SFSU Public Research Institute (1984 - present) and SFSU Urban Institute (1991 - present), and on a number of university committees including URBS Hiring, Retention, Tenure, & Promotions Committee (1977 - 1997; chair 1991 – 2005; 2006), and the College of BSS Methods and Technology Committee (1995 - 2003).

Along with his busy schedule at SFSU, Professor LeGates was a visiting professor of urban studies at a number of schools including Stanford University and U.C. Berkeley and continues to teach urban studies and planning theory seminars in Europe and Asia. A sampling of his recent projects include a report on state regional planning policy for the California Assembly speaker’s commission on regionalism, developing curriculum materials to teach GIS in the social sciences with support from the U.S. National Science Foundation, teaching a summer workshop in GIS for social science faculty under the auspices of U.C. Santa Barbara’s SPACE program and the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (GIS). During 2009 Dick was the keynote speaker at the 3rd International Association of China Planning (IACP) conference in Nanjing, China, lectured in an urban sociology course at Tongji University in Shanghai and taught a summer course at Berkeley. He published four articles in UK and Chinese planning journals. In 2010 Dick plans to teach at the American University of Sharjah (UAE), serve as a consultant to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, help organize the 4th IACP conference, lecture again at Tongji University, and finish the fifth edition of The City Reader.

In honor of his significant contribution to San Francisco State University, the LeGates Student Scholarship in Urban Studies and Planning was established in January 2010. Two $1,300 scholarships will be awarded competitively to current Urban Studies and Planning majors: one in Spring 2010 and one in Fall 2010. Those wishing to see this scholarship continue can contribute specifically to this fund as part of their annual gift to the department through the University Development website link: https://www.applyweb.com/public/contribute?site=SFUBehve

Professor Jasper Rubin writes: "I have always loved cities. I will never forget the awe I felt seeing the skyline of New York City for the first time as a young boy. I'm from Washington, D.C., which is urban enough, but the built environment is modest. It was in the 1970s, and construction was booming. The cranes visible from the freeway as we approached NYC were as memorable as the amazingly long skyline. I still remember stepping out onto a New York street for the first time and feeling the weight of the city - it was both exhilarating and a little oppressive. Duality is a quality I often now associate with the urban experience. But of course cities are much more complex than the simple framework of a duality. Many processes infuse urban places, but most are not readily apparent.

This is something I learned first when studying cultural geography with Robert Mitchell, who taught a seminar on the idea of landscape when I was a graduate student at the University of Maryland. He once warned us that to think you know something about a place from its material, physical qualities (the built environment, for instance) was a dangerous occupation. What he meant that was important about a landscape was probably not readily apparent to the eye, and that making guesses about culture from material objects in the landscape could lead to incorrect conclusions. An example of this in geography was an infamous study of barns in Pennsylvania. I do not remember the details, but it went something like this. The author claimed that one could trace the spread and extent of a regional culture, and thus sets of behaviors, relationships, and religious beliefs, by where a certain style of barn was found. Turns out that the shape of the barn was adopted by many groups as a matter of practicality (a well-designed barn) and had nothing to do with culture.

So, to understand what cities are like and how they got the way they are takes more than looking at the built environment. Figuring out what invisible processes shape cities as is one of my main interests. And my experience as a planner for the city of San Francisco revealed quickly that urban planning is critical part of the story. Related to this, I am curious about how local places struggle with larger forces, like technological change and economic restructuring. Again, planning plays an important role. My main research in this regard has been to use San Francisco’s waterfront as a case study of the relation between ‘top-down and bottom-up’ forces and how they affect cities. This will be published as a book entitled A Negotiated Landscape: The Transformation of San Francisco’s Waterfront Since 1950. I am in the process of making revisions before sending it off for copy-editing. I have also used the waterfront to address aspects of ‘neoliberalism’ and will have a chapter in an edited volume on waterfronts to be published by Routledge within the next year. The chapter is based on a paper I gave at a conference in Hamburg, Germany, entitled “San Francisco’s Waterfront in the Age of Neoliberal Urbanism.” Finally, I have co-authored a piece to be included in the proceedings of a conference on San Francisco held in Aix-en-Provence, France, in March 2008. A colleague from the University of Toulouse and I are interested in the idea of “cultural economy” and what role it plays in how San Francisco is changing. It is called “The Cultural Economy and Urbanization: San Francisco as a Cultural Product.” My next writing project will be to document some of my experiences as a planner in San Francisco."
Over the past few months Professor Ashok Das has been engaged in various professional development and university outreach activities. In November 2009, Professor Das was invited to Porquerolles Island, France, to present a paper (Empowerment through participatory slum upgrading: comparing Indian and Indonesian cases and contexts) at “The Empowerment of Civil Society in Urban Policies” conference. The conference was organized by the UNESCO Chair at the National School of Public Works at the University of Lyon.

Professor Das and his co-author Lois Takahashi (Department of Urban Planning, UCLA) had an article (Evolving institutional arrangements, scaling up, and sustainability: emerging issues of participatory slum upgrading in Ahmedabad, India) published in the Winter 2009 issue of the Journal of Planning Education and Research. The article argued that participation by NGOs and slum communities with the local government on a particular slum upgrading program in the city of Ahmedabad had indeed improved service delivery, as is professed by neo-liberal development policies. Contrary to popular belief though, it was the flexibility of the institutional arrangement and not strictly defined roles for the various stakeholders that had enabled a sustainable model to emerge. Also, a greater than usual shift of responsibilities from the state to the NGO sector seems to be hampering the program’s potential to scale up.

In December 2009, Professor Das traveled to China to meet with faculty counterparts of the Department of Urban Planning at Xiamen University, Xiamen. He participated in meetings to explore possibilities for establishing faculty and student exchanges, and collaborative research and teaching opportunities between the two departments. The response from Xiamen was positive and it is hoped that exciting opportunities for DUSP faculty and students can be created in the coming years. During his short visit Professor Das also gave a lecture to freshmen in Xiamen’s architecture and urban planning programs on major urban challenges and emerging responses in cities of the developing world.

Briefly Noted

- Professor Pinderhughes has created a new university course (AU 600): Willie Brown Internship. Recent USP students included in the course were Larry Berry, Jocelyn Chapman, Andrew Garcia, Megan Kuo and Demian Quesnal.

- Professor Rubin was quoted in a January 2, 2010 New York Times article regarding the new Transbay Development proposal for downtown San Francisco.

- Professor Das traveled to Porquerolles Island, France in Fall 2009 to attend a UNESCO sponsored conference. He gave a presentation, titled “Empowerment through participatory slum upgrading: comparing Indian and Indonesian cases and contexts.”

- Professors LeGates, Das, and Pamuk participated at the annual conference of planning academics in Crystal City, Virginia (October 2009).


- Professor Rubin was an invited speaker at “Regards Croises sur San Francisco: Multidisciplinary Perspectives of the City by the Bay,” for the Colloque International, LERMA, at the University de Provence in Aix-en-Provence, France in March 2009. Professor Rubin collaborated with Frederick Leriche a professor at the University of Toulouse, France, to present their research, “Creative economy and urbanization: San Francisco as a cultural product.”
DUSP’s capstone course, USP 680 - Senior Seminar, continues its impressive tradition of linking student consultants to ‘clients’ in government agencies, nonprofits, and other institutions and groups throughout the Bay Area. The Senior Seminar is a practicum in policy and planning where students receive first hand experience solving urban issues that will prepare them for professional work or continued study upon graduation. Over the past several years, the Bay Area Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) has worked closely with DUSP and the Senior Seminar practicum. In 2009 LISC deepened its partnership with San Francisco State University’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning to facilitate the Urban Studies and Planning Senior Seminar, a community service learning course in which students act as consulting teams to community development organizations in the Bay Area. The class meets in a workshop format, features practitioners from the community as guest speakers, and incorporates hands-on class exercises with practice-oriented readings.

Student Learning Objectives
The course is designed to teach students to solve urban planning and policy problems through:

- Combining theory, methods, substantive area knowledge, and analytical skills in the context of client-serving projects
- Developing team and professional work skills
- Communicating findings in the form of a written and oral professional report

Partnership Projects
LISC Program Officer, Jacob Schultz, acted as Lead Guest Community Development Practitioner, assisting student project teams in their research design and acting as a liaison between students and community clients. Listed below are a number of LISC-SFSU partnership projects that took place over the past five years. All projects involved DUSP students working with local community groups to help solve urban issues.

- Under-utilized Site Analysis in San Francisco’s Chinatown – housing issues in Chinatown (Fall 2009)
- Pedestrian Lighting Analysis in San Francisco’s Excelsior District – effects of lighting and crime (Fall 2009)
- Analysis of perceptions of 3rd Street in San Francisco’s Bayview – helping to market the Third Street Corridor Project (Fall 2009)
- Grocer needs and preferences Analysis in San Francisco’s Visitacion Valley Neighborhood – access to grocery stores (Fall 2009)
- San Francisco Commercial Corridor Crime Assessment Project – analyzing effects of unfavorable physical conditions (Spring 2009)
- Taylor Street Arts Corridor in San Francisco’s Tenderloin – assessing the feasibility of developing a Taylor Street arts corridor (Spring 2009)
- Tenderloin Healthy Assets Project in San Francisco’s Tenderloin – inventory of neighborhood assets (Spring 2009)
- Commercial Gentrification Prevention through Small Business Attraction – survey of vacant lots in low-income neighborhoods (Spring 2008)
- Bayview/Third Street Economic Impact Project – studying approaches for successful corridor revitalization for Third Street (Spring 2006)
- Bayview/Third Street Market Study – assessing consumption patterns, retail gaps, and retail leakage on the Third Street Corridor (Spring 2005)

Additional information about LISC can be found at: [http://www.bayarealisc.org/](http://www.bayarealisc.org/)

You Can Work with Us Too

Please contact Professor Pamuk at pamuk@sfsu.edu if you have any suggestions for organizations that might be able to work with our Senior Seminar classes. Our students are well prepared and motivated to work with government agencies, nonprofit organizations and community development organizations that focus their efforts toward solving urban planning and policy problems.
Urban Action, An Academic Journal Produced by SFSU Students

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning publishes an annual journal called Urban Action. It is edited and produced entirely by students and consists of high-quality student research papers, interviews, photo-essays, and related material of interest. While Urban Studies students usually form the majority of editors and contributors, participation by interested students in related majors is encouraged. Nathan Rogers, the managing editor for the 2009 and 2010 editions of Urban Action, provides his perspective below.

Urban Action, the official student-produced Journal of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, has been undergoing some exciting changes in recent years in an effort to update the Journal for the 21st century. The 2008 Edition saw a redesigned, book-like format; meanwhile, last year’s 30th Anniversary Edition featured cutting-edge, full-color photographs and a wide variety of content. This year’s editorial team is hoping to build on these recent successes by opening the opportunity to be published in the Journal up to related departments and programs, and is conducting outreach efforts to raise awareness of the Journal in the Bay Area planning community. Expect Urban Action 2010 to hit the shelves in late May. Until then, you can peruse recent editions online at http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/urban-action.html

Editor’s Corner — Gene Waddell, B.A. Urban Studies 2009

Although the protracted financial meltdown and disharmony in state government has taken a toll on public education, the SFSU Department of Urban Studies and Planning continued to thrive in 2009. Despite reduced class time due to mandatory furlough days, a ten percent salary cut for faculty and staff and a corresponding ten percent increase in student fees, the DUSP community, which includes faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners, stayed true to their shared goals of advancing urban studies and planning. A quick review of this newsletter provides a snapshot of what we have all done during this uncertain and troubling time. Perhaps the best way to summarize the past year’s accomplishments is a brief annotated review of the department’s mission statement goals:

DUSP Mission Statement Goals

- **To prepare students for professional and civic involvement to improve the quality of urban life.** As evidenced by the generosity of Merritt Community Capital Corporation and supporters of the LeGates Scholarship, new doors have been opened to students interested in urban-related careers (Pages 4 and 7).

- **To offer a curriculum which is responsive to changing urban problems and policies.** Along with preserving existing course offerings during the current economic downturn, DUSP added a new course, USP 401 – Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning. The course provides an introduction to seminal and contemporary writings of the most important topics in urban studies and planning (Page 12). Our faculty also created an “All University” course, AU 600 - The Willie Brown Internship that offers SFSU students hands-on experience with public sector issues (Page 9).

- **To contribute to the body of knowledge regarding the dynamics of urban life.** Two DUSP assistant professors, Ashok Das and Jasper Rubin provide a glimpse of the breadth of urban research performed by DUSP faculty (Pages 8 and 9).

- **To help Bay Area communities through applied research and other faculty and student activities.** A good example of DUSP’s community involvement with the community is the Senior Seminar program where students, supported by alumni mentors and community partners contribute hundreds of hours each year to a multitude of urban issues (Page 10).
Briefly Noted

DUSP news and information can be found at our website: http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/ where you can find links to current department events and announcements. The direct link to the alumni webpage is http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/alumni.html

- Annual DUSP Alumni Reception — Thursday, April 8: 5:00 — 8:30 P.M. Mark your calendars for the annual DUSP Alumni Reception at the Seven Hills Conference Center at SFSU from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. The title of this year’s alumni panel discussion is “Planning Trends Today, Training for Tomorrow” organized by Professors Das and Rubin. Please visit the alumni webpage http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/alumni.html for information about this year’s event.

- 2010 Graduation Reception and Awards Ceremony — Wednesday, May 12, 2010 5:00 to 8:30 P.M. Come and support the class of 2010 at the annual reception and award ceremony for graduating students at the Towers Conference Center. Additional information at the department website: http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/

- Nathan Rogers, B.A. Urban Studies 2010, is the latest SFSU DUSP student awarded the “Northern Section Award” by the California Planning Foundation (CPF). Other recent awardees include DUSP student Gene Waddell, B.A. Urban Studies 2009, and Ryan Dodge, B.A. Urban Studies 2006. The latter two students won the Richard G. Munsell scholarship, a competitive award program administered by the CPF that is open to all California urban studies and planning students. Additional information about the CPF scholarship program can be found at http://www.californiaplanningfoundation.org/

- At its December 15, 2009 meeting, the SFSU Academic Senate approved DUSP proposal to change the degree title from “Urban Studies” to “Urban Studies and Planning” for the B.A. degree and minor.

- In Fall 2009, DUSP added a new course to its curriculum USP 401: Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning. The course involves lecture and discussion of seminal and contemporary works related to urban studies and planning with an emphasis on improving student written and presentation skills. An experimental version of the class (USP 677) was first offered in Fall 2008 by Professor LeGates. After university approval, the new course (USP 401) is now being taught by Professor Das (Spring 2010) and Professor Rubin (Fall 2010).

- The Visiting Scholar in Residence Program VSRP is available to foreign doctoral candidates, post-doctoral scholars, and faculty whose research focuses on issues of urban studies, planning, and development to be in residence at DUSP to pursue their research objectives. Visiting scholars must have financial resources.

- Social Network Sites for DUSP Students and Alumni At least two social network websites devoted to SFSU DUSP students and alumni are now online. Urban Out http://urbanout.ning.com and a Facebook website page at http://tinyurl.com/ygf3b3l — check them out.

- As of Fall 2009, all DUSP courses have changed prefix from URBS to USP.

- Please note our new department email address: dusp@sfsu.edu

Opportunities to Get Involved with DUSP

- Get involved with the DUSP Senior Seminar — External organizations are invited to submit a proposal for possible course adoption in our Urban Studies and Planning Senior Seminar class in Fall 2010. Please check back on the department webpage in May 2010 for details.

- Internships — We have a strong cadre of students who are looking for internship assignments. Please contact us if your organization has a need for an intern. Please follow link http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/internship.html for details.

- Please send your internship announcements to dusp@sfsu.edu throughout the year so that office staff can post on our bulletin board for our current students.