

# SFSU DUSP Alumni Connection Newsletter

San Francisco State University Department of Urban Studies and Planning  
Alumni Connection Newsletter Spring 2011



March 1, 2011

**Dear Urban Studies and Planning Alumni,**

It is my great pleasure to introduce the third edition of DUSP Alumni Connection Newsletter and invite you to enjoy reading the achievements of our distinguished alumni, faculty, and current students. As of spring 2011, we have over 100 majors pursuing a B.A. in Urban Studies and Planning and 10 students pursuing a minor in Urban Studies and Planning. We are graduating nearly 40 students each year. Our curriculum continues its excellence.

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As we embark on the new year of 2011, 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 Alumni Event at the Seven Hills Conference Center on Thursday, March 24th, 2011 (5-8:30pm) at San Francisco State.

We had several significant gifts to DUSP this year that will allow us to fund our student scholarships, hold the Alumni Event and the Graduation Event. Many thanks to the Oakland-based Merritt Community Capital Corporation, New York-based H. Pike Oliver (B.A. 1970), and Washington D.C.-based Dennis Houlihan (B.A. 1974) for their generous gifts to the department.

Finally, it has been my great privilege to hold this leadership position since the summer of 2007 -- as Program Director for a year (2007-2008), and then as Department Chair for three years (2008-2011). As I complete my term as Chair this spring, I am happy to pass on the honor for department leadership to another colleague.

## Upcoming Events

2011 Urban Studies and  
Planning Alumni  
Reception  
Thursday, March 24, 2011  
from 5-8:30 pm  
at SFSU Seven Hills  
Conference Center

Best wishes to all!

*Ayse Pamuk, Ph.D.*

Professor and Department Chair  
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

## "Planning Trends Today, Training for Tomorrow": 2010 Alumni Speakers

Eduardo Cabrera - Acting Supervisory Operations Officer, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (B.A. 1997); James Stagi - Transportation Planner, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (B.A. 2000); Michael Jacinto - Environmental Planner, San Francisco Planning Department (B.A. 2000); and Assistant Professor Ashok Das, Moderator



## 2011 Alumnus of the Year: H. Pike Oliver (B.A. 1970)



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 California, 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.

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

## Kenneth Caldwell honored as 2010 Alumnus of the Year at the Urban Studies and Planning Alumni Reception



Dean Joel Kassiola (left) presents the 2010 Alumnus of the Year award to Ken Caldwell (B.A. 1981)



SFSU Alumni: Pamela Johnson Minnear (left) and Martha Sullivan (center) celebrate with Ken's family and friends

Merritt Community  
Capital Corporation  
2011 Scholarship Winners:

Nikolara Jansons  
Goliad Muse



**Nikolara Jansons**

Merritt Community Capital Corporation  
2011 Scholarship Winner

Nikolara Jansons is a transfer student from Cabrillo College with an AA in Economics. She is a pedestrian and an avid MUNI rider and is interested in studying public spaces and streetscapes. Last spring Nikolara's article "Streets as Public Spaces" was chosen by peer-review to be published in *Urban Action*, the department's academic journal. This year, she is one of the Editors-in-Chief of the student-run journal. Nikolara is currently applying to graduate school and hopes to work internationally after graduation.

**More information on applying  
for a MCC Scholarship at:**

[http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/documents/2011\\_Spring/MCC%20Scholarship%20Application%20Final%20Spring%202011.pdf](http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs/documents/2011_Spring/MCC%20Scholarship%20Application%20Final%20Spring%202011.pdf)

<http://www.merrittcap.org>

**Goliad Muse**

Merritt Community Capital Corporation  
2011 Scholarship Winner

Goliad Muse is a senior at San Francisco State University majoring in Urban Studies and Planning with an interest in community and sustainable development. His interest in the program stems from his experience of being born in Somalia and understanding the dire conditions his people face in the poverty stricken region. Goliad's aspiration is to one day be able to return to his homeland and rebuild the foundations of his nation. After graduation he plans to go abroad and work for an NGO to gain firsthand experience and knowledge that he can use in his career in urban planning. Goliad Muse also plans on furthering his education by getting a Master's and Doctorate in Regional and International Development.



Photos of **Rio de Janeiro** on page 4...  
See Professor LeGates and  
a **camel** on page 6...  
Learn about **SPUR** on page 9...  
News about **alumni** on page 10!



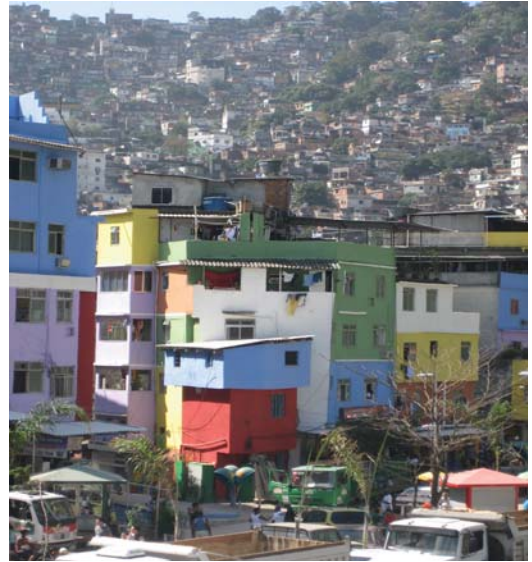
## Update from Jana Boring

Merritt Community Capital Corporation 2010 Scholarship Winner

"I coordinate professional training programs on green building and sustainable development through my firm Unified Systems. I am the Program Director and Instructor for the Sustainable Building Advisor (SBA) Program in San Francisco. The SBA Program is a nine-month green building certification course that teaches professionals how to apply the fundamental principles of sustainability. The next cohort of the nine-month course begins in October.

In addition to the SBA Program, I host free events throughout the Bay Area. In the fall of 2010 there were two events. The first was a construction job site tour of the NASA Ames Sustainability Base, led by the General Contractor Swinerton Builders. As one of the most innovative U.S. government buildings, the base is striving for LEED Platinum Certification with the U.S. Green Building Council and is an example of new frontiers being made in building science and sustainability. The second free event that I hosted in the fall was a free networking event for sustainable building professionals. More about the Sustainable Building Advisor (SBA) Program and free events can be found on our website at: [www.BayAreaSBA.org](http://www.BayAreaSBA.org)

I'm also working on a LEED for the Neighborhood Development project in the Presidio's Public Health and Services Hospital District of San Francisco. On the project I work with the LEED consultant, Rick Unvasky Consulting Inc. I assist in the development of GIS maps for LEED credit submission and track the credit submission process. More about the project at: <http://www.presidio.gov/trust/projects/phsh/>



Rocinha favela in Rio de Janeiro is one of the largest informal settlements, population estimated between 100,000 and 200,000

In addition to sustainable development in the Bay Area, I've begun to explore international sustainable development. Over the summer I went to Rio de Janeiro and Curitiba, Brazil to explore the efforts that are in progress for sustainable development in the country.

I met with urban planners working on the master plan of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, employees from the State's Office of the Environment who are responsible for creating a Climate Action Plan for the state of Rio de Janeiro, professors who manage and teach a Green Building MBA Program in Rio, an urban designer who created a sports center for poor children living in an informal settlement known in Brazil as a favela, as well as planners in the world renowned sustainable city of Curitiba. Sustainability is a very important theme for professionals involved with policy, planning, design and construction throughout the world.

I am eternally grateful for the scholarship that I received from Merritt Community Capital. If there is a way that I can help MCC with green building as it relates to affordable housing, policy, training programs, outreach, etc. please let me know. In my work, I always cycle back to the concept of equity and strive to increase opportunities for people, while increasing sustainable development goals."



This sports facility was recently built adjacent to Rocinha and the children living in the favela have free access to the facility's swimming pool, soccer field, skate park, martial arts, and reading and computer classes

Jana Boring may be contacted at:  
[janaboring@gmail.com](mailto:janaboring@gmail.com) or [jb@unifiedsys.com](mailto:jb@unifiedsys.com)

## Rachel Moody

2010 California Planning Foundation Scholarship and LeGates Scholarship Winner

Rachel Moody came across the continent from the suburbs of New Jersey on a meandering tour of major American cities. Upon arrival in California, she explored the essence of community and the specter of preserved wilderness in Klamath National Forest through the Americorps Backcountry Trail Crew Program. Rachel returned to civilization in San Francisco where she drove a tow truck for a living and developed an intimate knowledge of the various neighborhoods' personalities. She observed that some built environments are better suited to meeting the needs of communities and was inspired to study urban planning. Rachel's educational development at SFSU encouraged her to analyze a holistic approach to integrating transportation planning with developing mixed land uses to meet the needs of all socioeconomic classes. She is currently an intern with the San Francisco Planning Department. After graduation, Rachel is pursuing a law degree to facilitate a career in land use planning.



## Update from Ryan Thayer

Merritt Community Capital Corporation 2010 Scholarship Winner

Ryan graduated from San Francisco State University in the spring of 2010 with a degree in Urban Studies and Planning with a focus on social equity and community empowerment. He is now working as an Americorps member with Excelsior Action Group in San Francisco, CA. In his work with EAG, he is organizing various community members around neighborhood improvement projects which include mural painting, public space improvements, and community events. Through his work in the local high schools he is developing youth leadership to direct these projects and to implement community input. After his Americorps term is over, Ryan hopes to continue his work in the Excelsior and begin coordinating community-driven projects by incorporating the various Community Benefit Organizations in the neighborhood.

## Alumnus Profile: Fred DeJarlais (B.A. 1971)



Fred DeJarlais was an urban planner with 40 years of experience with public agencies and private consultants.

From 1980 until 2010, Fred was a principal and part owner of KCA Engineers in San Francisco. His most notable work at KCA involved project management of the firm's engineering and infrastructure planning activities on the Mission Bay project. Since his retirement in January of 2010, Fred has been active in the California Map Society, managed several improvement projects at his new home in Capitola, CA, founded a small planning and graphics consulting firm, assisted local theater groups in set design and construction, and devoted more time to reading, opera and cycling.



## Professor LeGates Travels the World



Dick LeGates has continued active in urban studies and planning activities since his retirement in January 2010. In April and May 2010, he taught for six weeks at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates as a visiting Fulbright scholar. Sharjah is one of seven Emirates in the UAE—located next to Dubai and a short drive from Abu Dhabi. At Sharjah, Dick taught the second half of a course titled “Evolution of Cities” to 29 upper division architecture and design students from 16 different countries.



Professor LeGates remained active on the board of the International Association for China Planning (IACP) and helped organize and attended the fourth IACP conference at Tongji University in Shanghai in June, 2010. He served as a consultant to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Global Urban Competitiveness Project (GUCP) and helped organize and participated in the tenth annual GUCP conference in Nanjing China in June 2010. While in China in June Dick also lectured at the China Planning Network conference in Nanjing and at Renmin University in Beijing. He co-authored with University of Illinois Chicago professor Tingwei Zhang an article on how Chinese urban planning theory should evolve in the post global economic crisis era published in Chinese in *Urban Planning Forum* in 2009. It was selected by the Urban Planning Society of China and the Jin Jing-Chang Planning Foundation at Tongji University as the best article in a Chinese planning journal in 2009. It was based on a keynote speech LeGates and Zhang gave at the fourth International Association for China Planning conference in Nanjing in June 2009. During Fall 2010, Dick finished the fifth edition of *The City Reader* and it was published in January 2011. He is overseeing new editions of the *Urban Sociology* and *Urban Design* readers and a new volume—*The Global South City Reader*—in the 10-volume Routledge Urban Reader series he oversees.

During spring 2011, Dick is teaching U.C. Berkeley’s large lecture “Introduction to City Planning” class to 120 Berkeley Urban Studies, Architecture, Civil Engineering, Environmental Studies, and other majors. He will be teaching a month-long portion of a graduate course on “Western Urban Planning Theory” at Tongji University in Shanghai in May, attending the 5th Annual IACP conference in Beijing in June, and teaching an undergraduate course on “Western Urban Studies and Planning” at Renmin University in Beijing in July. Dick is working with Chinese colleagues on a Chinese adaptation/translation of *The City Reader*. Despite his teaching and travel, Dick spends a lot of time with his wife of 26 years, Joanne, daughters Rebecca (38) and Courtney (22), and granddaughters Mira (4) and Elaina (2) who all live within 15 minutes of his house in Oakland.

Hear about Professor LeVeen’s retirement on page 7...

More SFSU faculty updates on page 8...

Learn about the DUSP visiting scholars from Indonesia on page 9...

Read about *Urban Action* student journal on page 10!



## How's Retirement for Professor LeVeen?



"Retirement is wonderful! After teaching health policy at SFSU for over 25 years, I retired just as a new movement for comprehensive health reform was taking shape. I continued to work on the single payer effort in California then shifted my focus to the national effort, which became something of an obsession until March 23 of last year. However as all good policy students know, a legislative victory—hard-fought and narrowly-won—the first step in actually winning change, and in the case of the Affordable Care Act, we face a long and intensifying struggle. I've been doing research—and the easy access to online documents means that I now have more files—and piles—on health care reform than I had for all of my courses! I've worked with a number of advocacy groups and done numerous presentations—and would welcome inquiries from anyone who's interested! It's an incredible treat to be able to research an issue as far and as long as you want!

But I'm not working all the time—despite the burgeoning piles of paper. I'm also greatly enjoying the opportunity to begin to spend more time doing other things: being a grandmother, hiking, swimming, gardening, doing things with friends. My grandson lives in Nashville, but we have fairly regular visits, and grandparenting is totally different from being a parent. Freed from the 24/7 responsibilities of a parent to ensure the best possible care for your child, as a grandparent you can simply enjoy—have fun! And we do! All the cliches about seeing the world through the eyes of a child are so true. We have a house—a "vacation rental"—in a relatively secluded valley on the backside of Alpine Meadows in Tahoe—and we're spending more time up there.

It is an incredible luxury to be retired and healthy, to read later than you should, to stay in bed longer than you should, and to sit at the computer longer than you should."

### **Alumnus Profile:**

**Gabriel**

**Haas**

(B.A. 2009)

"After graduating from SFSU in 2009, I took the first job that I could find, working in the warehouse at the antique auction house Bonhams & Butterfields. After working ridiculously long shifts and receiving no respect from customers or the administration, I was promptly laid off 10 months later. Vowing to never (if possible!) work manual labor jobs like that again, I went on unemployment and set about looking for work in the urban planning field. Fortunately, I landed a gig through the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Americorps program working as the Public Safety Coordinator for the Excelsior Action Group.



Loving what I now do, I am in charge of projects such as working with PG&E to improve street lighting in neighborhoods (Excelsior and Portola), as well as organizing murals to abate graffiti. While this is technically only a yearlong commitment, I hope to stay on with the organization after my term, if funding allows it. Not only am I glad to get to work as a community organizer/urban planner, I am even more excited that it is within the neighborhoods that I grew up in here in San Francisco!"



## SFSU DUSP Faculty Focus

In the *Journal of Urban Affairs* in May 2010 (Vol. 32: Issue 2, pp. 229-252), **Professor Ashok Das** published a co-authored article titled "Can inclusionary zoning be an effective and efficient housing policy? Evidence from Los Angeles and Orange Counties" (Authors: Vinit Mukhija, Lara Regus, Sara Slovin, and Ashok Das).

**Professor Ashok Das** presented a paper titled, "NGOs in participatory urban development: Understanding their relevance from a comparison of Indian and Indonesian experiences," at the annual conference of planning academics (Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning) in Minneapolis (Oct. 7-10, 2010).

**Professor Jasper Rubin** published a book chapter titled, "San Francisco's Waterfront in the Age of Neoliberal Urbanism," in a book published by Routledge, *Transforming Urban Waterfronts: Fixity and Flow*, edited by G. Desfor, J. Laidley, Q. Stevens and D. Schubert, 2011.



**Professor Pamuk** (first row, fourth from left) with Chinese visitors in December 2010

On December 1, 2010, **Professor Ayse Pamuk** lectured on "GIS in Public Policy" to a delegation of 20 Chinese visitors from the Chongqing Statistics Bureau.

**Professor Ayse Pamuk** published a review of a book titled, *Contemporary Chinese America: Immigration, Ethnicity, and Community Transformation*, by Min Zhou in *Journal of Planning Education and Research* (March 2011).

**Professor Raquel Pinderhughes** continues her interest on green-collar jobs and has created an environmental literacy curriculum (an Ella Baker Center for Human Rights Initiative) that can be used by staff in green-collar job training programs throughout the nation. For more information, see <http://www.ellabakercenter.org>.

Network with DUSP Alumni on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/ygf3b3l>





DUSP student work at SPUR "Here and Now" exhibit from July 26-August 27, 2010



Tyler Evje, current DUSP student, proudly displays *Urban Action's* exhibit

## SFSU DUSP Hosted Visiting Scholars from Indonesia in Fall 2011

Idawarni Asmal  
Naidah Naing  
Ispurwono Soemarno

**Dr. Ispurwono Soemarno** (Ph.D. in Urban Planning) is a faculty member in the Department of Architecture and a researcher at the Laboratory for Housing and Human Settlements, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology (ITS), Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia. As the recipient of a Government of Indonesia scholarship for senior academics, he continued his research on spatial planning and low-income housing while exploring relevant planning endeavors in the Bay Area; observed teaching tools and techniques at SFSU; learned about latest materials and trends in urban studies instruction; explored avenues for joint research and further collaboration between DUSP and ITS; and gained experience at working in an anglophone environment. Dr. Soemarno can be reached at [isp4251@yahoo.com](mailto:isp4251@yahoo.com)

**Ms. Naidah Naing** and **Ms. Idawarni Asmal** are both doctoral candidates in Urban Planning at ITS. They both are also lecturers at the Hasanuddin University in Makassar, South Sulawesi. They received scholarships from the Government of Indonesia's "Sandwich" program that allows Ph.D. candidates in Indonesian universities to experience academic environments in other countries and further their research interests/projects. They continued to work on their Ph.D. theses while in residence at SFSU and offered a presentation/lecture of their research to DUSP students. They also learned about various planning initiatives and organizations in the Bay Area. Naidah's research is on the architecture and culture of floating settlements in Sulawesi. Idawarni is working on housing issues. Ms. Naing can be reached at [naidahnaing@yahoo.com](mailto:naidahnaing@yahoo.com). Ms. Idawarni can be reached at [idawarni\\_asmal@yahoo.com](mailto:idawarni_asmal@yahoo.com).

## Alumni News

**Eduardo Cabrera (B.A. 1997)** coordinates the Federal response to homelessness throughout the Western U.S. He convenes the region's Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness and assists local partners in collaborating across agencies. He lives in his hometown of San Francisco and offers internship opportunities to students interested in working to end homelessness. His email is: [eduardo.cabrera@hud.gov](mailto:eduardo.cabrera@hud.gov)

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**Erik Dokken (B.A. 1994)** traveled to Turkey and Morocco with his wife (another former SFSU student), moved across the city, and shifted careers to Operations Manager of Henna Garden (<http://www.hennagarden.com/>). Erik is having his first novel edited, titled *Verlor'n*, (<http://www.thedominium.com/>) and is looking for publishers interested in local artists

**Jessica Garcia (B.A. 2008)** is working at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Community Planning and Development in San Francisco

**Adrian Torres (B.A. 2007)** is a graduate student in the City and Regional Planning Program at Pratt Institute's Programs for Sustainable Planning and Development in New York City. This summer, he will be traveling to Tokyo, Japan as part of a physical planning and urbanism course at Pratt

## Urban Action 2011

*Urban Action* is working towards its 32nd annual journal this year, with a full crew of talented San Francisco State University students. Last summer the journal was part of SPUR's "Here and Now" student exhibit (see page 9), with a visual display of graphics from the 2010 edition, as well as copies of the journal. Fall semester saw an enthusiastic group from the design team tackle the SFSU HSS campus display case and reinvigorate it with new signs and pictures of the editors. This spring we hope to continue the tradition of publishing outstanding peer-selected submissions and inspire the 2012 Urban Actioners as well.

**Gifts/donations to SFSU DUSP:**  
[www.applyweb.com/public/contribute?s=sfubehve](http://www.applyweb.com/public/contribute?s=sfubehve)

### How to Stay in Touch:

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email: [dusp@sfsu.edu](mailto:dusp@sfsu.edu)

## SFSU DUSP Alumni are now on Facebook...



...go to <http://tinyurl.com/ygf3b3l>

We'd love to have you be a part of our online community to network, keep in touch, and find out what is happening in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. So come on and join us as we social network.

If you have any questions please contact Urban Studies Alum Rick Hauptman at [RBHauptman@yahoo.com](mailto:RBHauptman@yahoo.com) and (415) 678-8919.