

**SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
URBAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

SPRING 2006 ALUMNI PANEL

April 24, 2006

**Joanne Brion (1986)
Brion Associates**

Joanne Brion began her planning experience while still a student at SFSU, with a six month internship at the San Francisco Planning Department where she worked on the South of Market Plan and conducted an artist live/work survey. Her internship led to a job at Environmental Associates, an environmental consulting firm, which she continued for a year after graduation before going to NYU for a Master's in Urban Planning. During graduate school she worked as a Research Associate for the Urban Research Institute, and began to focus on the economic aspects of planning. After graduate school she returned to the Bay Area and secured a job at Economic & Planning Systems, where she worked for ten years. In 2000 she founded her own urban economics consulting firm, Brion Associates, and she has been busy ever since! Her expertise includes fiscal impact studies, development impact fee nexus studies, financial analysis, demographic analysis and public policy analysis. She has developed a niche in child care and local government policy and is currently assisting cities and counties developing child care impact fee studies. She often works as part of a larger team of consultants working on the entitlement of large development projects in the Bay Area. (See www.brionassociates.com for more information) She has been one of our most active alumni, offering internships and senior seminar projects, publicizing job opportunities, participating in our alumni lecture series, and regularly attending program events. Her email address is jgbrion@pacbell.net.

**Karna Wong (1992)
Consolidated Planning Specialist
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development**

Karna graduated from the Urban Studies Program in 1992 and worked for the City of Oakland Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development. She then moved to "The Big Apple" to attend New York University (NYU) for a Masters in Urban Planning. After graduating from NYU, Karna relocated to Washington, D.C. and worked on Capitol Hill for the U.S. House of Representatives. She began her career at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1995 and over the past ten years has worked in the Office of Policy Development and Research (Washington, D.C.), Office of Housing Santa Ana Homeownership Center (Santa Ana, CA), and Office of Community Planning and Development (San Francisco, CA). Karna has also been active in the Urban Studies Program, supervising interns, offering senior seminar projects, and keeping us informed about internship and job opportunities. Karna currently lives in a renovated warehouse loft in downtown Oakland and stays busy through community service and political activism. Her e-mail address is: Karna.L.Wong@hud.gov

Rick Cox Mena (1996)
Private Industry Council of San Francisco

Rick graduated from the Urban Studies Program in 1996. His career began while he was still a student: his Senior Seminar assignments included writing a grant proposal for the newly established Mayor's Office of Children, Youth, and their Families (MOCYF), and after the proposal was funded he went to work for MOCYF as assistant coordinator of an employment program. From that position he moved into an internship with the Jobs for Youth Program of the Private Industry Council of San Francisco, a nonprofit corporation that provides employment, training, and research services to San Francisco employers and job seekers; he was hired the following summer for the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program. He subsequently moved to Arriba Juntos, a community-based organization serving the San Francisco Mission neighborhood, where he developed an employment collaborative to increase the hiring of local residents. In 1998, he returned to the Private Industry Council, where his work includes developing a data system to manage contracting activities for San Francisco's Welfare-to-Work training clients; he was also instrumental in the unionization of the PIC. This spring he developed an internship placement for one of our students. His email address is rmena@picsf.org.

Michael Jacinto (2000)
Environmental Planner, San Francisco Planning Department

Michael graduated from the Urban Studies Program in June of 2000. While in the program, he was a co-editor of Urban Action as well as a contributing author. He did his internship at the Resource Renewal Institute in San Francisco, an organization dedicated to promoting sustainability in local and regional planning. He also interned at the Over the Rhine Foundation in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he assisted with land use surveys and market-rate housing opportunity studies. He was hired by Environmental Science Associates immediately after graduation, where his work primarily involved writing and reviewing EIRs. He remained at ESA for five years and recently took a position as an environmental planner at the San Francisco Planning Department in the Major Environmental Analysis Division. He was also a lecturer at SFSU where he taught a course on Environmental Impact Assessment. His current work at the Planning Department includes CEQA review for city development projects such as the proposal to rezone much of eastern San Francisco. His email address is michael.jacinto@sfgov.org

Cody Sisco (2003)
Business for Social Responsibility

Cody Sisco graduated in 2003 with a double major in Urban Studies and English. He did his internship at Redefining Progress, working on the organization's Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative (EJCC). His research focused on the environmental health impacts of climate change and the social and economic implications of climate policy. After graduation he obtained a temporary position with the City of Emeryville in the Community Economic Development Department, where he supported programs in public art, affordable housing and small business development. He then joined Business for Social Responsibility, where he has been since 2003. His current responsibilities include supporting and executing projects with clients in the technology and pharmaceutical industries, with particular focus in supply chain responsibility, sustainability reporting and economic development; he has also conducted research on best practices for reporting on economic impacts to inform the revisions to the Global Reporting Initiative Guidelines. He sits on the global advisory board to Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship in a personal capacity. He has contacted us regularly with information about job and internship opportunities. His email address is csisco@bsr.org.