

URBAN ACTION 2007

A Journal of Urban Affairs

**Urban Studies Department
San Francisco State University**

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Alexandra Iselin Waldhorn is graduating this semester with a degree in Latin American History and a concentration in Urban Studies. She has lived in a multitude of neighborhoods in San Francisco, Buenos Aires, and Paris and has used her experiences abroad and locally to fashion a more global perspective on issues involving poverty, social welfare and justice, the environment, and public health. For the past four years she has been working at Koret Family House, which serves low-income families with children suffering from cancer. More recently, she has been engaged with affordable housing issues with her involvement at Bay Area LISC as an intern.

Andrew Sullivan is a graduating senior in the History Department at San Francisco State University. He has focused upon the social, cultural, and ethnic aspects of U.S. History throughout his college career and plans to attend graduate school and earn a teaching credential. He is specifically interested in the relations between different cultural and ethnic groups in the U.S., and how they are shaped and affected by both the urban and rural dynamic. An avid traveler, poet, and lover of music, he has strove to “keep it real” for all his peoples in West Virginia throughout his educational experience.

Andrew Hyder is an Urban Studies senior. His research focuses on international sustainable development case studies. He believes that clever urban design techniques can bring about a more equitable vision of a city, and that grassroots movements can reclaim our surroundings and transform them into a more livable habitat. Graffiti art inspired him at a young age to analyze his surroundings, and taught him that all that is built is ephemeral.

Erik Hillstrom is a native San Franciscan completing his junior year in the Urban Studies program at San Francisco State University. He is currently focused on researching issues related to sustainable urban design and has a special interest in the redevelopment of the Eastern Neighborhoods. Erik aspires to study City and Regional Planning at the graduate level before entering the field of Real Estate Development. He also has a passion for photojournalism and would like to eventually apply his experience in development to the production of educational publications that will provide insight into the issues of urban development on a global scale.

Michelle Jacques-Menegaz is a senior in the Urban Studies undergraduate program at San Francisco State University. Upon graduation this spring, Michelle plans to continue her involvement with social justice issues including public education, economic equity and sustainable development. The mother of two amazing girls, Michelle is committed to making San Francisco and the Bay Area more livable and socially equitable for everyone.

Melissa Ortiz is a graduating senior at San Francisco State University. She will be receiving her Bachelors of Arts in Sociology, focusing on Urban Studies this spring 2007 and plans to take time off school to work and travel. Her interests are in Social Inequalities in specific to how they develop in urban centers, such as through residential segregation, public school placements, and social service disparities. She is particularly interested in the Public Education school system and hopes to bring better insight through her interest in Public Policy, to children affected everyday by top decision-makers. In her spare time, she loves going out and tasting all types of food, enjoys good music to shake her hips to, and is a fan of hot sunny days.

Kasey Rios Asberry is an information architect who studies geography to extend her work in technology and community planning.

David Field is a senior at SFSU majoring in English who will be graduating this coming Fall. He is currently working on four short stories in an Independent Study Class. He coaches kids soccer twice a week and he focuses on making his community a better and safer place by volunteering once a week at St. Anthony's Foundation. He wants to thank everyone for being a part of the urban Studies Department by reading the journal.

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Letter from the Editors

The world is rapidly urbanizing. As this is happening large cities especially are becoming worlds unto themselves. Within this context, the 2007 edition of *Urban Action* addresses the multiplicity of issues cities must deal today with in order to incubate vital, sustainable, and healthy communities that allow for active civic participation. As it is a multidimensional task the field of Urban Studies has accordingly broadened its scope. Students and academics in the Urban Studies field now utilize a variety of approaches to understand the diverse needs of different communities living shoulder to shoulder in today's cities.

Articles in this student journal illustrate how San Francisco State University is in the vanguard of institutions addressing important issues facing all cities today. We are fortunate to have found student authors who have contributed detailed empirical studies that explore issues such as housing in Hayes Valley, parking regulation in San Francisco, and gentrification in Istanbul, Turkey. Some articles suggest new approaches to policy issues including how to reconcile the natural habitat with the built environment in San Francisco and to how to truly end educational inequality in the United States. This year, many articles provide a close look at neighborhoods in San Francisco where new policy innovation and community activism is needed to cope with new problems stemming from the legacies of institutionalized racism and poor planning in the past.

The editorial team of this issue wishes to thank a number of people who have played an important role in its shaping. The Urban Studies Faculty have nurtured and prepared students to become equipped for such an important field—they have also undeniably given the authors of this journal the skills needed to write such thoughtful and articulate articles. Professors Richard LeGates and Ayse Pamuk oversaw the production of this year's journal and provided their invaluable assistance to help overcome every obstacle we encountered over the course of this yearlong process. Graduating Urban Studies student Michelle Jacques-Menegaz helped us with more than just editing—as she was managing editor of last year's impressive issue, she lent us her very important insights on how to be most efficient. Geography student Kasey Asberry was especially helpful with setting up an online community for production through the iLearn website. We want to thank Dr. John Mollenkopf, a distinguished academic in the field of Urban Studies, for providing his thoughts on how to ameliorate the social polarization isolating so many people in the United States today. Alexandra would also like to thank Jim Gollub, Senior Vice President of ICF International, for his guidance and advice, which has undeniably aided her throughout this process and beyond. The entire editorial team wants to express their special gratitude to journalism student Sarah Morris. Finally, this entire journal is a team effort and we were fortunate to have a skilled and committed group of academically diverse students who made up the editorial team. It has been quite a journey to get this journal in your hands, we hope it motivates, educates, and inspires you to become urban citizens of the finest quality.

Peace,

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