SUCCESS STORY: MARIE EVANS

Marie Evans immigrated to the United States from Haiti in 1990 and immediately began an English course at a community college. After one semester, Marie dropped out. One marriage, three children, and eight years later, Marie decided to try again. “Education was always my goal,” she says, “from the moment I came to this country, I wanted to go to school.” Some of Marie’s co-workers, who were attending UCB, explained that she could get academic and moral support, as well as financial aid, if she continued her education at UCB. “They described it as a family,” she shares, “that’s why I decided to go to Urban College.”

Once there, Marie found a faculty and staff ready to guide her through each step of the process. “I did not get lost like I did at other places,” she explains, “They help you from the ground up.” Marie also found a community of adult learners who were

URBAN RISING

COLLEGE SOARS TO NEW HEIGHTS

2013 has proven to be one of Urban College’s most successful years. The number of enrolled students for calendar year 2013 is up 29% over 2012. 2013 registrations have increased 31% over 2012, and new student enrollment for 2013 has risen an incredible 138% over 2012. Comparing the current Fall 2013 semester to last Fall, the number of enrolled students is up by 50%, registrations are up 47%, and the number of new students has grown an astonishing 211%. Registrations for the Fall 2013 semester were the highest in the College’s history. New student enrollment for the same semester were the highest in over a decade.

Urban College is currently serving almost 1,200 students annually—a number that continues to grow as UCB’s partnerships and programs expand. With new collaborations and new students pouring in, Urban College has also landed several major grants from the Barr Foundation, the Balfour Foundation and the Boston Foundation. These grants, an increase in contributions, ABCD, Inc.’s outstanding show of generosity and support through debt forgiveness, and exciting growth in enrollment have
FULL CIRCLE
ALUMNI WORKING FOR URBAN COLLEGE

This year, four Urban College alumni have come full circle and now serve as faculty and staff at the College. Rebecca Davila and Miguel de los Santos are two of these graduates who have made their way back to the community that gave them their start. Rebecca attended community college just after high school and dropped out after one year. Seven years later, she decided to try again at Urban College. “I had co-workers and friends attending UCB,” she explains, “and they said so many positive things about it.” With a full-time job and two young children, Rebecca spent the next 3 ½ years working toward an A.A. in Human Services. “The faculty and staff could not have been more supportive,” she remembers. “Being at school was a big part of my life. If I hadn’t been at Urban College, I wouldn’t have finished my degree. I always loved going to school.”

Rebecca reconnected with Urban College in 2012 when she contacted her former advisor, Nancy Daniel, for advice on going on to get her BA. Rebecca is now pursuing her BA in Human Services at Springfield College and working full-time at UCB as an Enrollment and Financial Aid Counselor. “Now, I can be a voice for other students,” she says, “I’ve been there.”

Like Rebecca, Miguel draws on his own experience to meet students where they are—in his case, as a member of the faculty. Miguel found UCB after completing one year at a community college. Miguel transitioned to UCB because of the many positive reviews he heard from friends and co-workers. After graduating in 2008 with his A.A. in General Studies, Miguel went on to complete his BS in Computer Networking at Wentworth Institute of Technology and has developed his own IT services company, MAD Technology. Miguel is now an adjunct faculty member at Urban College, teaching the course, Using Computers to Manage a Child-Care Business. Miguel was so impressed by his own experience at UCB that he encouraged both his mother and his wife to attend. Both women are currently enrolled and working toward degrees.

When his wife expressed her fears about being able to succeed in a new country and in a new language, Miguel responded, “Don’t worry; I got you. Urban College knows how to get you to the next level.” Sharing what it means to be back at UCB, this time as an instructor, Miguel gushes, “If feel like I’ve won the lottery! I hope people understand the value of Urban College and invest. If I had a million dollars, I would give it to UCB.”

Marie shares, “Urban College was all that I needed.” Marie Explains, “Getting my education was my biggest challenge, but I did it!” Hand to her academic challenges, Marie is now the Head Start Health Supervisor at the Community Action Agency of Somerville where she directs a dedicated team of family advocates and health and disability specialists to serve over 350 families each year. Marie coordinates with her A.A. in Human Services Administration. But Marie didn’t stop there. She went on to get her BA and MA in Mental Health from Lesley University. Speaking about her transition from UCB to Lesley, Marie states, “All my credits transferred, and I was prepared. I felt I could do anything.” Marie uses the skills and experience she gathered at Urban College to build her own community at Lesley and to meet new academic challenges. Marie is now the Head Start Health Supervisor at the Community Action Agency of Somerville where she directs a dedicated team of family advocates and health and disability specialists to serve over 350 families each year. Marie coordinates with her A.A. in Human Services Administration. But Marie didn’t stop there. She went on to get her BA and MA in Mental Health from Lesley University. Speaking about her transition from UCB to Lesley, Marie states, “All my credits transferred, and I was prepared. I felt I could do anything.” Marie uses the skills and experience she gathered at Urban College to build her own community at Lesley and to meet new
This year Urban College hired Phoenix Feng, our first full-time Chinese bilingual staff member. Phoenix graduated from Northeastern University with her M.A. in Higher Education Administration. "Helping people makes me happy," she beams, “and Urban College is one of a kind. There’s nowhere else students can get this kind of help in their own languages.” UCB’s bilingual approach to education allows English Language Learners to advance professionally faster and learn the English language with a greater level of proficiency.

STUDENT SERVICES SPOTLIGHT: PHOENIX FENG

VOLUNTEER. Give back to Urban College by becoming a volunteer. Contact our offices to get a volunteer packet and apply for one of our exciting opportunities today!

DONATE. Show your support for UCB with a much-needed financial gift. Send us a check in the mail or donate online at www.urbancollege.edu.

GET THE WORD OUT. Tell everyone about the incredible opportunities offered by UCB. Contact our office to request materials that you can distribute in your workplace or community.

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URBAN COLLEGE OF BOSTON
178 Tremont St. 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02111
www.urbancollege.edu

CONTACT US!
617.348.6359
CONTACT@URBANCOLLEGE.EDU

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