

## Graduates Honored at Urban College Commencement

**A**s family, friends and faculty looked on with joy, 108 graduates received their associate degrees, certificates of achievement and Child Development associate certificates at the 2004 Urban College of Boston Commencement on June 4th at the Hyatt Regency Boston.

Ms. Alice A. Huffman, President, California NAACP and Co-Chair, Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC), delivered the keynote address, sharing her history and experiences as an educator and champion of equality for minorities with the UCB grads, many of whom

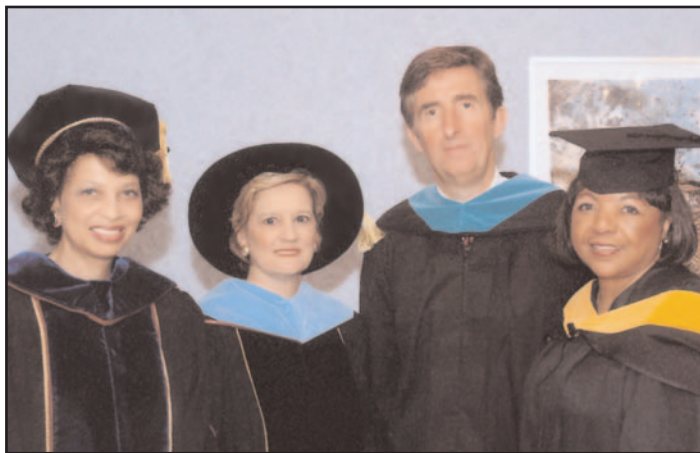


*UCB Vivienne S. Thomson Memorial Scholarship Award recipient Altigracia Valdez*

will move forward in realizing successful careers in Head Start, teaching, and human services organizations.

A highlight of the Urban College Annual Commencement was the presentation of the special recognition awards to students whose academic excellence and qualities of leadership and commitment have served as models for fellow students and their community.

Urban College President Dr. Linda Edmonds Turner presented the special recognition awards to this year's recipients, Altigracia Valdez, Janice Clay, Yudelkys De los Santos and Mary Patricia Loscocco.



*Urban College of Boston President Dr. Linda Edmonds Turner, Academic Dean Dr. Sheila Taylor-King, Board Chair, John Nucci, and 2004 Commencement keynote speaker Alice Huffman, Chair, 2004 Democratic National Convention Committee, and President, California NAACP.*

For over a decade, the Urban College of Boston has provided higher education opportunities for residents of Boston's inner-city neighborhoods. Partnerships with other higher educa-

tion institutions has allowed the College to experience a considerable growth in the number of graduates pursuing bachelor's degrees and higher.

### Senator Tom Harkin Meets with UCB Trustees, Administration and Students



*U. S. Senator Harkin with Urban College Trustees at a July reception in his honor (from left): Board Chair John Nucci, John Drew, Senator Harkin, Johnnet West-Netter and Mike Vance.*

A reception for Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) on July 28th at the Omni Parker House served as an opportunity for Urban College of Boston trustees, administration, graduates and students to meet and greet, as well as exchange information with Senator Harkin, who is an enthusiastic supporter of the Urban College. The reception was held during the week of the Democratic National Convention.

### Non-traditional Students Have Opportunity for Ivy League Education

**T**he Urban College of Boston continues to move full speed ahead to expand educational partnerships.

With the help of Action for Boston Community Development Board Vice-Chair Ruth Robinson, the College has once again reached out "across the river" to attract a new partner in education, the prestigious Harvard University Extension School (Harvard Extension), where Urban College graduates Angela Gonzalez and Lesly Ovilma received scholarships to matriculate into the Bachelors of Liberal Arts Program in fall 2004.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and I would like to see as many UCB students have the same opportunity," said Robinson, who graduated from Harvard Extension in 1967 and was the catalyst in sealing the deal between the two institutions.

The program at Harvard Extension is targeted toward working adults who have the responsibilities of balancing family, work and school and is very similar to the supportive environment at UCB.

Gonzalez is married with three children and wants to

*(continued on page 3)*



Urban College of Boston is growing. Today we have more students, more scholarships, and more opportunities for graduates pursuing advanced degrees than ever before. Applications and enrollments are on the rise. At commencement ceremonies in June, 108 women and men received an associate degree or certificate – our largest graduating class to date!

Since our founding in 1993, UCB has served more than 5,000 students and has awarded 580 associate degrees and certificates to a group of extraordinary nontraditional students.

More graduates are pursuing baccalaureate – and even master’s – degrees. We now have transfer agreements with eight area colleges that enable qualified UCB graduates to enter a bachelor’s degree program as juniors. Our transfer institutions are continuing to offer scholarship and financial aid assistance to UCB graduates.

We know how to work with students who have job and family responsibilities, students who have not been in a classroom in many years, students whose first language is not

English. In fact, UCB is the only college in New England to offer a bilingual certificate (English and Cantonese or Spanish) in early childhood education.

UCB has helped hundreds of men and women who don’t fit the profile of a “typical” college student earn associate degrees and certificates. Please visit our website at [www.urbancollege.edu](http://www.urbancollege.edu) to learn more about our programs and services for our extraordinary students. If you have been thinking about going to college, I encourage you to take that important first step and consider Urban College of Boston.

Grow with us!

—*Linda Edmonds Turner, Ph.D.*  
*President*



*(l-r) ABCD President & CEO and Urban College of Boston Founding President Robert M. Coard presented the 2004 Employee Award to Urban College graduate Sharon Blake at the 30th Annual ABCD Community Awards Dinner. Sharon received her associate degree in Human Services Management from the Urban College of Boston in 2003.*



**Mission:** The Urban College of Boston was established to provide postsecondary educational and professional mobility to members of the urban community who have been traditionally underserved by higher education.

**Accreditation:** New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC)

**Tax Status:** A 501 (c) 3 Non-profit Organization

**Credits:** Publication Manager, Tina Cabral; Photo Credits, Sandy Middlebrooks, Don West; Design, Signature Communications

## UCB Receives \$750,000 Hispanic/Latino Service Partnership Grant

A collaborative grant with the Education Development Center and ABCD Head Start (Jamaica Plain and East Boston) will provide support for teachers on cultural competency and preparing staff to work with Latino children and families.

Urban College of Boston is grateful for this collaborative effort to accomplish the two important project goals to increase the number of Head Start teachers who have college degrees and improve the responsiveness of Head Start to a growing population of Latino families in the Boston area.



*Administration on Children, Youth & Families Commissioner Joan Ohl (left) presents the first installment check of \$150,000 to Urban College of Boston President Dr. Linda Edmonds Turner (right), and Tom Neel; Dr. Sheila Taylor-King; and Dr. Grace Caines.*

## UCB Trustee Highlights

In September, Urban College Board Chair John Nucci was a guest on “The David Brudnoy Show” (WBZ NewsRadio 1030). The top-rated program features a variety of guests discussing current news and cultural issues. As former President and member of the Boston School Committee (1985-1989), Mr. Nucci gave his insight on Brudnoy’s show, which focused on the 30th Anniversary of Busing in Boston. Currently, Mr. Nucci serves as Clerk Magistrate for Criminal Business, Suffolk Superior Court. UCB congratulates Chairman Nucci on a job well done!

Urban College Trustee Charlie Titus was appointed Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs of the University of Massachusetts Boston. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Titus was the first Director of Athletics for the University of Massachusetts, a position he held for more than twenty years, and garnered an impressive list of honors for community services and outreach through athletics.

In October, Urban College Early Childhood Education degree candidate Sandra Winter was elected Student Representative to the College’s Board of Trustees. Originally from the British Virgin Islands, Ms. Winter decided to become a teacher because she enjoys working with children and looks forward to receiving her associate degree in Early Childhood Education in May 2005. The mother of two children, Sandra is currently a teacher in the infant room at a Boston Head Start Center.

# Urban College of Boston Alumni Association Established

Alumni and graduates of the Urban College of Boston have established the Urban College Alumni Association (UCAA) with the help of Hannah and Moses Malkin. While best known to UCB for their generous support of the annual Malkin Scholars (see page 4), the Malkins know the value of having such a group open to all degree and certificate recipients. Its goals are to keep alumni in contact with each other as well as to strengthen relationships between alumni and UCB and its current students.

The new Alumni Association plays an important role at the Urban College. It organizes a number of annual events to promote and provide services for UCB and its alumni to encourage continued growth, both personally and professionally, supporting both existing and prospective students. In addition, UCAA secures

gifts to the College and expands annual giving among alumni.

As of the June 2004 Commencement, the Urban College has awarded 580 degrees since the College was chartered eleven years ago. A growing percentage of Urban College graduates have completed, or plan to pursue, their bachelor's degree and beyond.

Read about some interesting UCB alumni at UCB's link to articles on [www.urbancollege.edu/PressReleases.htm](http://www.urbancollege.edu/PressReleases.htm)

If you would like more information about the UCB Alumni Association or wish to send in information and/or suggestions for future *Connections* publications, please contact UCB Alumni Advisor Olivia Dybing at [dybing@urbancollege.edu](mailto:dybing@urbancollege.edu)



Moses and Hannah Malkin helped the College establish a scholarship fund and build an alumni association. Here are UCB Alumni Association Charter Members (left to right) Brid Martin, Maureen Largey, Debra Wagner, Noreen King, Vidia Joseph, David Gallagher, Donna Willis, Kathleen Roos, Mary Dunphy and Linda Nelson proudly display their Recognition Awards for the College at the 2004 pre-Commencement party. UCB Alumni Association Charter Members absent at photo time were Sherrie-Arn Hodge, Domitila Almanzar, Gaelle Millien and Advisor Olivia Dybing.

## Ivy League *(continued from page 1)*

continue to pursue a career in social work.

Initially Ovilma, who is a 35-year old native of Haiti, was hesitant about applying to Harvard Extension but with encouragement from Robinson and UCB Administrators, including Academic Dean Dr. Sheila Taylor-King, he is already interested in continuing at Harvard to earn a master's degree and possibly a doctorate. "Just as at UCB, I can go to school at night while working-during the day so that I can continue to help support my family in Haiti," Ovilma said.

"We are excited that Harvard Extension School supports our vision and commitment to provide Urban College students with access to the best higher education possible while meeting the demands of their unique lifestyle," remarked Dr.



Urban College of Boston graduates Lesly Ovilma (left) and Paul Dallemand prepare to march at 2004 Commencement. Ovilma is attending Harvard Extension School in this fall to pursue a Bachelors Degree in Liberal Arts while Dallemand is planning to enroll in the UMass Boston School of Nursing.

Linda Edmonds Turner, President of UCB.

UCB students interested in learning more about the College's partnership with the Harvard Extension School, should contact the Academic Dean Dr. Sheila Taylor-King at (617) 292-4723, extension 6503.

## Donate to the Urban College Annual Appeal

As a private college, the Urban College of Boston pursues a variety of fund-raising and development initiatives to provide high quality educational experiences and important support systems that meet the needs of its non-traditional student body. Through annual gifts, government and private grants, corporate and individual sponsorships, and fund raising events, the Urban College of Boston is able to fulfill its mission to serve inner-city residents.

One successful fund-raising approach, which helps keep tuition costs truly affordable for our unique student population, is the Urban College Annual Appeal.

Many Urban College alumni who benefited professionally and personally from their experience at UCB have been giving back with an increasing number of donations to the College.

With the holidays around the corner, the College is gearing up for another Annual Appeal. The Appeal will continue to assist in the expansion of tutoring, computer access, resource materials, and academic and personal counseling for our students, who are determined to succeed in education "against all odds."

### *How to Make a Donation to the Urban College*

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to: The Urban College of Boston; 178 Tremont Street; Boston, MA 02111. Checks are payable to *Urban College of Boston*. If you have any questions about the Urban College Annual Appeal, please call the Institutional Advancement Office at (617) 292-4723, extension 6325 or email Tina Cabral at [cabral@urbancollege.edu](mailto:cabral@urbancollege.edu). UCB is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

## From the Academic Dean's Office

Exciting things are happening at UCB, and the world is beginning to take notice! – in no small part because of the extraordinary work of our faculty and staff. Because of the reputation for success of UCB and our graduates, the College has been awarded several grants – both from governmental and private sources – which will help us continue and expand our academic and professional development programs. These include:

**Classroom Connections: A Hispanic/Latino Service Partnership** – a collaborative grant with the Education Development Center and ABCD Head Start (Jamaica Plain and East Boston) to provide support for teachers on cultural competency and preparing staff to work with Latino children and

families (see page 2).

**Building Careers in Early Childhood** – provides resources for the college to work with Community Partnership Centers in Boston, Cambridge, Chinatown, and Somerville in order to offer four courses in ECE for 25 students.

**PEECE: Professional Enrichment in ECE** – a partnership grant with ABCD to improve the knowledge and skills of approximately 470 early childhood educators. UCB will provide course work, advising, and tutoring for approximately 150 students who are employed in the ABCD Head Start agencies.

**Mifflin Memorial Fund** – provides additional student services support.

**REGAL: Retention and Educational Gains through Assessment of Learning Styles** – funded by the U.S. Department of Education, this grant supports ongoing programs, improves retention, and expands student services.

Funding from an anonymous donor will provide new computers, printers and other technology for the Learning Resource Center. In addition, faculty are—once again—planning a day-long

professional development meeting in which they will increase their knowledge and skills in adjusting curricula and instruction to meet the individual learning-style needs of our students. The participation of faculty—full and part-time—demonstrate their commitment to continuous professional improvement and the needs of our students.

So, all-in-all, we're off to a great and challenging year!

### *Malkin Scholars Named...*

In May 2003, the Urban College of Boston awarded the first Malkin Scholarships and named the first Malkin Scholars. This award, made possible by the generosity of Moses and Hannah Malkin, recognizes Urban College students who have completed at least 33 UCB credits in a degree program while maintaining a grade-point average of 3.40 and who are planning to continue their studies next year. The Malkin Scholars are assured funds to pay tuition for two courses in each term of the next academic year.

The 2004 Malkin Scholars are:

Wilhelmine P. Beaupin  
Doreen Blaikie  
Li Jia Chen

Mara I. Coelho  
Ines C. De La Cruz  
Jesse Foster  
Loretta Jacobs  
Pearline James  
Shao Ping Pan  
Daisy Pena  
Radaysis Pimentel  
Donna Prefontaine  
Sylma Prevost  
Juana Quezada  
Priscilla Rivera  
Yuk Ngan Tam  
Lois M. Weinstein  
Chun Yu

For information on the Malkin Scholar Program, contact the Academic Dean Dr. Sheila Taylor-King at (617) 292-4723 extension 6503.

### *Students Make Dean's List!*

Academic Dean Dr. Sheila Taylor-King recently announced that the following students have been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2004 semester:

Tarlise L. Conner	Zhong Fang Lin
Mary A. Greenaway	Sylma Prevost
Marie-Murielle Jacques	Christian Torres
Georgia Washington	

*Eligibility for the Dean's List is established by earning twelve credits and multiples thereof, with a grade point average of 3.30 or higher, with no grade of "F."*

### Faculty and Staff News

Josie Hatuëy joins Urban College as a LRC bilingual tutor. He received his Master of Education and Bachelor degree from UMass Boston. Josie comes to UCB with experience in counseling and advocating for students and their families as well as ESL tutoring. We are excited to have him on board!

Mayra Cuevas-Contreras teaches early childhood educa-

tion courses in Spanish for UCB. She brings over ten years experience working with young children and training educators and daycare providers in curriculum development and assessment. Mayra has a Master of Education from Lesley University.

Jessica Grecco comes to UCB from New Jersey where she received her Master in English from Rutgers University. Jessica has several years experience teaching

English, composition, and literature to adults; and is teaching College Writing I and II at UCB. She also worked in business publishing as a news editor – copywriting, proof-reading, and formatting publications.

Kenneth Grout joins UCB also as a College Writing I instructor. He received his Master in Writing and Literature from Emerson College where he taught English to college freshman. Ken has authored marketing

research and focus group findings. Ken, currently, works as Manager for Information Technology Services for ABCD.

Margaret Thomas received her Master in Social Work from Simmons College and is a Licensed Social Worker. Margaret teaches for the Human Services department. She works as METCO Assistant Director for Lexington Public Schools and offers her students over 15 years' experience in human services.