

Urban College Graduates Largest Class in UCB History

The Urban College of Boston (UCB) is revving up for its 11th Annual Commencement exercise on Wednesday, May 31, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Boston.

With student enrollment increasing steadily since the College's founding in 1993, it will be no surprise that the College will graduate its largest class of over 150 graduates, who will receive associate of arts degrees, certificates of achievement and child development associate credentials.

In fact, the student body has grown from 300 students enrolled in fall 1993 to 779, proving that the College is fulfilling its mission to Boston-area residents who are pursuing an education to become successful members of the workforce.

Urban College President, Dr. **Linda Edmonds Turner**, expressed pride that so many students will be honored at the ceremony, saying, "This is a great achievement for them."

Remarkably, many students are the first in their families to graduate from college. You can actually feel the highly charged excitement exhibited by the graduates and their families during the commencement ceremonies, an excitement justified by the self-motivation, passion, and commitment that was necessary to achieve their hard-earned degrees.



It is fitting that the largest graduating class ever will be addressed by a fellow graduate, **Pauline Prospere**, who is a Pastor at Full Life Gospel Center in Dorchester, and who will deliver the invocation and benediction at Commencement.

In addition, the Urban College of Boston is pleased to announce that **Julie Kahn**, Vice President and Market Manager, Entercom Boston, will deliver the keynote address to the graduates. ❖

UCB College Fair Focuses on Non-Traditional Student

On Tuesday, March 28, 2006 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., the downtown Urban College of Boston campus was buzzing with energy and excitement from the annual College Fair.

With representation from more than a dozen schools, the College Fair drew a record number of students, who found many programs to review. Armed with a sense of confidence developed during their studies at UCB, students came prepared with a list of questions for the representatives.

"UCB students usually have a lot more questions, and that makes it a fun experience," remarked **Rafael Muroy** from Suffolk University.



Urban College of Boston students (l-r) **Michelle Johnson** and **Shirley Corcione** chat with a college admission representative at the 2006 College Fair.

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The Dream of an Urban College Degree Comes True for a Great Grandmother

To Urban College of Boston graduate **Pearline James**, 60, a mother of four, grandmother of eight and great grandmother of one, who struggled every day to make ends meet, the dream of obtaining a college education is beyond value and for a long time it also seemed beyond hope.

In 1989, Pearline lost her son, **Conrad C. James**, who was murdered at the age of 16. Yet, like many Urban College students, Pearline overcame tremendous odds in order to help children who she said "are my heart." Over the next ten years, Pearline established a



scholarship in honor of her son for Hyde Park High School seniors. "My inspiration for the Scholarship is to make a difference in the lives of Black students such as **Kemar White**, who now attends Wentworth Institute of Technology.

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From the President

My greetings to all readers! It is a special joy for me to be able to write this letter to let you know of the successes and achievements we at the Urban College of Boston continue to accomplish. Our 2005-2006 Academic Year has been particularly noteworthy for the many reasons mentioned below. Please join me in celebrating and congratulating all who have made this possible – our students, our faculty, our administrators, our friends, our donors, and our Board of Trustees.

Our **enrollments** have continued to increase. In the fall of 2005, we had 754 students with 1107 class registrations. In the spring of 2006, we have 779 students registered, with 1190 class registrations. This increase in our enrollment and class registrations is a validation of our mission to provide high quality post-secondary education opportunities to those who have been traditionally underserved by higher education. We continually prepare for increased numbers of students as we strive to serve an even larger group of excellent students. *Please join me in spreading the word to anyone who might be interested in joining our student body!*

The Board of Trustees has led the way in successfully completing the first phase of the **UCB Strategic Planning Initiative** that will help guide us in securing our future. Building an infrastructure of support through careful planning and thoughtful evaluations gives a picture of our potential that is very exciting. *Please join me in giving great thanks for all the work that has already been done and all of the work that is yet to be done by the Board of Trustees!*

Urban College has recently been evaluated by the **New**

England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) for continued accreditation. This process has involved a self-study, many meetings, much writing, collection of tremendous amounts of data, along with extensive preparations for the NEASC team visit. *Please join me in both congratulating and thanking the UCB team members, led by Dr. Sheila Taylor-King!*

UCB Commencement in 2006 will be a stellar event with the largest graduating class ever. All of our graduates and certificate students are true success stories, both in their personal lives and in their educational pursuits. This year's commencement exercises will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Boston. While we are so proud of all of our graduates for their successes, we are even more proud of the impact our graduates have on the quality of life in our communities. *Please join me in celebrating and applauding the 68 degree candidates and the 73 certificate candidates who will walk across the stage that evening.*

With all of these success stories to tell, is it any wonder that we have so much joy at the Urban College of Boston? I invite you to share in my joy!

Urban College Fair (continued from page 1)

"To maintain the mission of extending opportunities for entry into higher education institutions, the College Fair serves as a vehicle to further the aspirations of our students, many of whom may never have expected to attend college," said Dean of Enrollment Services, **Dr. Henry J. Johnson**, who coordinates the annual College Fair.

"I like how the Fair works with my schedule because I have a family at home," said UCB student **Gale Coplin**, who is interested in attending UMass Boston to pursue her bachelor's degree

in criminal justice.

Similar sentiments about the benefits of the Fair were also expressed by students **Warna Nadunge, Dolores Castillo Cosme, Zhong Fang Lin, and Rosalia Diaz**, who is the student representative to the College's Board of Trustees.

This year, three new institutions were added to the roster, which includes Regis College, Northeastern University, Harvard University Extension School, Lesley University, Cambridge College, Boston University, Wheelock College, Suffolk University, Bay State College, University of Phoenix, Springfield College, Simmons College and Endicott College. ❖

UCB Trustee Profile

The Board of Trustees of Urban College of Boston welcomes its newest member, **George Regan**, President of Regan Communications. Mr. Regan's appointment to the Board was approved by a unanimous vote at the Urban College Board of Trustees Meeting on February 16, 2006.



The College is extremely pleased to have Mr. Regan, a proven leader in the communications and media industries, join the Board of Trustees. Mr. Regan founded Regan Communications Group in 1984 after spending eleven years in the Office of Mayor Kevin H. White, the last ten as Mayor White's press secretary. He previously worked as a reporter for the Boston Globe.

During his career at City Hall, he specialized in crisis communications and media strategy. He served as a media consultant to President Carter, Senator Maurice Udall, and Senator Henry Jackson. Mr. Regan received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Suffolk University and a Master of Science in Public Relations from Boston University.

Mr. Regan has built his firm into New England's largest privately held public relations company. He is actively involved in Boston community events and charitable organizations. In 1998, he was one of the four extraordinary individuals who received the Community Leadership Award from Franciscan Children's Hospital & Rehabilitation Center.

In October of 2002, Mr. Regan, along with Red Sox legend Dwight Evans, was honored as Man of the Year by the American Liver Foundation in an All-Star Tribute held at Fenway Park. This tribute is a celebration of individuals who demonstrate an outstanding show of concern and compassion for others.

Urban College of Boston Congratulates ABCD's LearningWorks College Pathways Graduates

UCB President Dr. **Linda Edmonds Turner** served as keynote speaker at the College Pathways Program graduation on February 12 at ABCD.

Family and friends looked on as 13 students graduated from the 14 weeks of free college preparation classes, which are offered to adults who wish to pursue higher education but need assistance in doing so. Dr. Turner shared some of her personal experiences with higher education and offered to meet

individually with each graduate to discuss his/her dream and future plans. UCB has been a partner with LearningWorks in the program since its inception in 2002. Present at the graduation ceremony were Program Director **Clare Shepherd**, Coordinator **Edward Downie**, and Instructor **Kelly Qualman**.

In addition to job-readiness and a placement program for low-income adults, LearningWorks offers literacy programs, GED preparation, college preparation services, financial literacy, economic empowerment training, and health education workshops. Call Clare Shepherd at (617) 557-6000, extension 7516 for more information. ❖



Dr. **Linda Edmonds Turner**, Urban College of Boston president, addresses proud graduates at ABCD's LearningWork's College Pathways Program Graduation on February 12.

Financial Aid

Priority deadline dates for financial aid for fall registration are:

Early Registration:	June 19, 2006
Regular Registration:	August 5, 2006

Students who need additional assistance in completing the application may go to the Higher Education Information Center at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square. The center is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am until 9:00 pm, and Friday and Saturday from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. Services are free and the staffers are multi-lingual.

UCB Development

Urban College Annual Appeal

The Spring Appeal for 2006 was mailed to over 50,000 current and new donors during the first week of April. We are testing the winning appeal letter from the 2005 year-end mailing against a new package designed this year. Tax-deductible contributions may be mailed to: The

Urban College of Boston, 178 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. Checks should be made to Urban College of Boston. To make a gift using our secure online giving, log onto www.urbancollege.edu/donate/index.html. The goal is to steadily grow the number of supporters of the Urban College by soliciting supporters of comparable organizations.

Great Grandmother

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If there's any truth to the saying "you get what you give," then it's no wonder that Pearlline received the Malkin Scholarship from the Urban College, which allowed her to meet her life-long dream to obtain a degree.

"Had it not been for UCB, I don't know how I could have achieved a degree," said Pearlline, who credits her academic success to the support she received from Urban College faculty and staff members, such as Degree Program Division Chairs Dr. **Grace Caines** and **Nancy Daniel**, LRC tutor **Olivia Dybing** and Administrative Assistant **Jane Dolloff**.

For Pearlline, a native of Jamaica, where she became a care-giver early in her childhood, the decision to pursue a degree at the Urban College served to solidify her commitment to children. She has been in the childcare business for 25 years, and her reputation as an outstanding provider in the greater Boston community is well known.

After seven years of taking one to two courses per semester and juggling the responsibilities of family, work and community service, Pearlline will finally receive her associate of arts degree in early childhood education at the College's May 31 Commencement. ❖

Scholarship Opportunities:

Bright Horizons Family Solutions, the world's largest provider of employer-sponsored early care, education and work/life solutions, recently announced their **5th Annual Bright Futures Award: National ECE Scholarship Program**. Four \$2,500 scholarships are available for students pursuing degrees in early childhood education or in a related field. The deadline for the application is **May 31, 2006**. For additional information, please contact Mr. **Josie Hatuëy**, Director of Academic Support.

The **Early Childhood Educators Scholarship Program**, funded through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, is no longer accepting applications for the summer semester. New applications for the 2006-2007 academic year will be available at the end of May. The scholarships are designed to provide financial assistance for currently employed early childhood educators and providers who enroll in an associate or bachelor degree program in early childhood education or a related field. For additional information, please contact Ms. **Erin Knepler**, Director of Academic Grants.

English Support Workshops

For information on fall 2006 English Support Workshops, please contact Mr. **Josie Hatuëy** at the Academic Support

Services Department at (617) 348-6507.

The Academic Support Services Department has created a new workshop for ESOL students, which started the week of March 13. This new

workshop focuses solely on improving **reading/reading comprehension and English pronunciation**. To find out about the times and days of the

new workshops, students should stop by or contact Mr. Josie Hatuëy on the 7th floor of 178 Tremont Street or call (617) 348-6507.



(l-r) Urban College of Boston Director of Academic Support Services **Josie Hatuëy** and Academic Dean **Dr. Sheila Taylor-King** assist students who are registering for the PEECE Grant in the Learning Resource Center.

Urban College Student Receives Scholarship from Lost Coin Fund

Thanks to the generosity of The Lost Coin Women's Fund, Inc., UCB student **Yvonne Murphy** will be able to continue her studies in the College's early childhood education associate's degree program for the fall 2006 semester.

Helping Yvonne apply for the Scholarship were Urban College Director of Academic Grants **Erin Knepler** and a member of the Awards Committee of the Lost Coin Women's Fund, **Marie Sheehan**. Congratulations, Yvonne!

The Lost Coin Women's Fund was established in the early 1990s by a small group of Massachusetts women to support academic opportunities for women in need of assistance in undergraduate studies and training.

To request an application form write to:

The Lost Coin, Women's Fund, Inc.,
17 John Hall Cartway, Yarmouthport, MA 02675

Urban College of Boston Graduate Barbara Rodriguez Continues Success at Endicott College

In 2002, Dr. **Richard Wylie**, President of Endicott College and former Chair of the Urban College of Boston (UCB) Board of Trustees, initiated the **Robert M. Coard Scholarship** at Endicott College. Named after UCB's Founding President, this full scholarship enables a graduating UCB student each year to continue his/her undergraduate degree at Endicott College.

Boston native **Barbara Rodriguez**, 20, credits the personal attention and strong academic support at UCB for her transition to a bachelor's program in psychology at Endicott College.

Now a full-time student, Barbara learned how to successfully balance work, school and other commitments, while pursuing her associate of arts degree in early childhood education at Urban College.

"The excellent support system offered by UCB's faculty

helped prepare me to meet the expectations of an Endicott



UCB graduate **Barbara Rodriguez** is the second recipient of the **Robert M. Coard Scholarship** at Endicott College.

College student," said Barbara, who added that she followed the step-by step advice of UCB Advisor **Nancy Daniel** on how to pursue this extraordinary opportunity.

Barbara will attain her bachelor's degree in June 2008 and looks forward to continuing her education in the master's program in education at Boston University.

While the Urban College has seen more students like Barbara, most still reflect the non-traditional student profile: most students are older, have been out of school for many years and are working to support their families. "Our small classes, student and tutoring services, writing workshops, and one-on-one advising are

designed for working adults who have the responsibilities of balancing family, work, and school," remarked Urban College President, Dr. **Linda Edmonds Turner**.

Recognizing the growing population of non-traditional students, Endicott College has prioritized plans to provide appropriate housing accommodations to meet the needs of these unique students.

UCB students who are interested in learning more about the Robert M. Coard Scholarship opportunity at Endicott College may obtain more information from the Academic Dean, Dr. **Sheila Taylor-King**, at (617) 348-6503. ❖

New Faculty at UCB:

Jessica Grecco was recently added to the full-time faculty staff as an Instructor of English. Ms. Grecco joined the adjunct faculty in 2004. She received a master of arts in English from Rutgers University and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Lynchburg College. Prior to joining the faculty at UCB, she taught English at Camden County College, Rowan University, and Gloucester County College.

Mei-Hua Fu is currently teaching in the Early Childhood Education department. She began teaching at UCB as an adjunct faculty member in January 2006. She received a master of bilingual early childhood education from Lesley University and a master of education from National Taiwan Normal University. She holds the Massachusetts Early Childhood Education License (K-2) as well as the Mass-

achusetts Transitional Bilingual Education License, Chinese/English.

Cynthia Hoisington also began teaching in the Early Childhood Education department in January 2006. Ms. Hoisington holds a master of education from Bridgewater State College and an educator's certificate in early childhood (K-3) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Dr. Leslie Oliver began teaching English for UCB in January. He received his doctorate from Boston University in Reading and English; holds a Master of Education from Boston State College in Reading Education; and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education – English from Northeastern University. He also serves as a mentor/advisor for English Language Arts Teacher Interns at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Ms. Joanne Daly is currently teaching College Math for Urban College. She received her undergraduate degree in math-

ematics from Salem State College at Salem and her master of education from Boston State College.

Academic Dean Announces Dean's List for Fall 2005

Dr. **Sheila Taylor-King**, Academic Dean, recently announced that the following students have achieved the academic status of being named to the Dean's List for the fall 2005 semester:

Denise Antone
Daisy M. Caban
Gale Coplin
Ana G. Estevez
Irma R. Gomez
Wanda Guerrero
Tanisha L. Holloman
Michelle Johnson
Marcilene Malaver
Jennifer Miller
Jazmin C. Moreno
Dominga C. Ortiz
Pauline M. Prospere
Jenny C. Sequeira
Xiao Feng Xu

Susan Arias
Pui (Kathy) W. Choi
Cindy E. Diaz
Valerie M. Giltinan
Laura Guerrero
Marcia M. Harrison
Delenora A. Jemmott
Kasim Kahrin
Suzeline Michel
Melsada E. Molyneaux
Maria Nina
Ezra Prevost
Barbara L. Rodriguez
Rosmary A. Tejada

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

Dr. Taylor-King, Urban College of Boston Academic Dean, Addresses Early Child Care Providers at ABCD Head Start Conference

ABCD held its 9th Annual Head Start Citywide Professional Day on February 22 at the Marriott Hotel Copley Place where more than 400 Greater Boston-area licensed family child care providers, staff and supporters gathered for the day-long conference.

The conference featured programs and workshops designed to support the professional development of early care and education staff, and to provide resources and referrals to them.

As part of the program, Urban College of Boston Academic Dean, Dr. **Sheila Taylor-King**, spoke about the PEECE Project. In 2004, the Urban College of Boston, in collaboration with ABCD Head Start and Lesley University,

received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to launch the Project, which provides professional development for early childhood educators working with low-income children in Boston. The Urban College is the only college in New England offering Bilingual Early Childhood Education Programs in Spanish and Cantonese. In addition the College is the only federally-recognized Hispanic-Serving

Institution in New England.

Another highlight was the exciting raffle, presided over by Urban College Director of Institutional Advancement **Bruce Preston**, who gave away Urban College accessories to eight lucky winners!

This year, Department of Early Education & Care Commissioner **Ann Reale** and Assistant Regional Administrator for Children and Families **Louise Eldridge** joined ABCD Vice President of Head Start & Children Services **Sharon Scott-Chandler**, Vice President of Field Operations **Michael Vance** and Director of



Urban College of Boston Academic Dean Dr. Sheila Taylor-King speaks to early childhood educators at the ABCD Head Start Citywide Professional Day Conference on February 22.

Child Care Choices **Laurie Glassman** in offering remarks. ❖

NEASC Updates

Urban College of Boston hosted their second New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) comprehensive accreditation visit March 6-8, 2006.

In preparation for the visit, UCB began an extensive self-



Dr. Grace Sawyer Jones, Three Rivers Community College President and Harold Mezoff, UCB Trustee

study process in October 2004. A self-study is the internal review and exhaustive evaluation of an institution with the objective of measuring the activities of the college against eleven standards: Mission and Purposes, Planning and Evaluation, Organization and Governance, Academic Programs, Faculty, Students, Library and Other Informational Resources, Physical and Technological Resources,

Financial Resources, Public Disclosure, and Integrity.

Representatives of the Board of Trustees, administrators, faculty, students and alumni comprised the steering committee. Chaired by Dr. **Sheila Taylor-King**, Academic Dean, it provided oversight of the writing of the self-study, which contains descriptions, appraisals and projections covering the eleven standards. All members of the Urban College community were involved in this process – reading and offering com-



(l-r) Debbie Bellucci, Springfield Technical Community College dean of continuing education chats with Nancy Daniel, UCB division chair, HSA/GS degree programs and Academic Dean Dr. Sheila Taylor-King



(l-r) Dr. Stephen Fagbemi, Capital Community College Professor and John Drew, UCB Trustee at the NEASC brunch at the Hyatt Regency Boston.

ments for incorporation.

The NEASC visiting team, chaired by Dr. **Grace Sawyer Jones**, president of Three Rivers Community College, Norwich, CT, headed a three-day intensive inquiry March 6-8. Other members of the NEASC team were Ms. **Debbie Bellucci**, Springfield Technical Community College, Dr. **Stephen O. Fagbemi**, Capital Community College, Dr. **Ralph Kidder**, Newbury College, Dr. **Lisa M. Montgomery**, Hostos Community College, and Dr. **Ruth Sherman**, Community College of Rhode Island.

Results of the accreditation visit will be announced at the

fall 2006 meeting of NEASC. Interested parties are encouraged to visit the College's website to read the Self-Study report. ❖

In the News

The Urban College of Boston President was featured in the Boston *Sunday Globe* Boston Works Section on February 12, 2006. The article, entitled "How to Strike a Balance," highlights college programs designed to meet the needs of the working adult student who is balancing academic and work responsibilities. UCB President Dr. **Linda Edmonds Turner** was quoted in the article as saying, "Our evening program allows students to attend classes at night while working during the day so that they can continue to support their families."



Mission: The Urban College of Boston was established to provide post-secondary education and professional mobility to members of the urban community who have been traditionally under-served by higher education.

The Urban College of Boston is committed to the belief that access to career-related and quality liberal arts education, and to an accompanying system of comprehensive student support, results in the professional and personal success of those who might otherwise remain unemployed, under-employed and unfulfilled.

Programs of study at the Urban College enrich lives through an integrated and individualized approach to the acquisition of learning and career skills, and to knowledge of today's world and workplace. Students are asked to apply acquired skills and knowledge in "hands-on" situations, with internship and study opportunities furnished by the diverse cultural, educational, and business resources of the city of Boston and the organizations of the Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. network.

The Urban College of Boston faculty understands the collective and individual needs of post-secondary learners of all ages, drawing upon the life

experiences of their students to make education relevant and timely. A supportive environment and the availability of helpful services unique to the Urban College assist students to move forward on the path to personal fulfillment, while empowering them to manage responsibly their own progress and achievement.

The purposes of the Urban College of Boston are far-reaching, extending well beyond the threshold of the Urban College campus. Our graduates, newly empowered as educated citizens, will enjoy more satisfying and productive lives. Equally significant, they will be prepared for the responsibility of contributing to the betterment of their communities and the well-being of their neighbors. Thus, the Urban College mission purposefully addresses the spectrum of urban issues and needs by ensuring the educational advancement and personal growth of its students.

Adopted by UCB Board of Trustees, December 12, 1994

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