

# Urban College Connections

**Urban College of Boston:** A Two-Year College  
178 Tremont Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111  
(617) 292-GRAD (4723)  
<http://www.urbancollege.edu>

**February/  
March  
2003**

## A Message from the President



Welcome to the 2003 Spring Semester at Urban College as we celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> year! Over the last 10 years UCB has helped hundreds of students achieve their dreams of completing associate degree and certificate courses to make them more competitive in today's competitive job market. Additionally, many UCB graduates have transferred to four-year institutions to complete a baccalaureate degree. We continue to work with local higher education institutions to ensure easy transfer to various four-year degree programs.

The UCB faculty and staff are here to assist you with admission, financial aid and Learning Resource Center support. I encourage you **to start using these resources early in the semester.** And, I encourage you to give us your comments for "continuously improving" our UCB services to you. Your feedback helps us in our mission to provide a positive learning environment for you to successfully complete your studies.

Finally, my sincere thanks for the warm welcome and many words of support that you have given me since I arrived as your new president last October. It truly is an honor to work at the Urban College. You inspire me daily.

Best of luck for a successful term!

Linda Edmonds Turner,  
Ph.D.

**P.S. Don't forget there are special \$5.00 coupons for parking in the indoor Millennium Place Garage 3:00 pm to midnight. Call Sabrina Maddrey at 617-292-4723, Ext 6359 for details.**

### Inside this issue:

Urban College Students	2
Urban College Alumni	3
Alumni News	3
Scholarship Update	4
LRC News	4
Coming Soon...	4
Meet Urban College Faculty	5
Policy Notes	5
Scholarship Opportunities	6
Help Wanted	7
Resources on the Internet	7
Dates to Remember	7

## Black History Month at Urban College of Boston

Anthony Sammarco, Instructor of History at Urban College, will present a slide lecture on "*African Americans in Boston*" on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. at 6:00 P.M. in the Cass Room 301, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, at 178 Tremont Street, Boston. The presentation, a component of his spring semester course *Studies in American History*, will last approximately 30 minutes. All members of the ABCD and Urban College community are invited to attend.

Mr. Sammarco is a noted author and historian who often lectures on the history and development of Boston. In recognition of his writings, he was awarded the **Washington Medal of Honor** in 1996 and the **Charles Bulfinch Award** from the Doric Dames of the Massachusetts State House in 1995. Author of over thirty-five books in the Arcadia "*Images of America*" series, his best selling books include *Boston's Back Bay*, *Boston's South End*, and *Boston's West End*. His most recent works include *Downtown Boston, Then and Now*, *Bos-*

# Urban College Students

## Meet Joann Diaz



Joann has been a student at Urban College of Boston since 1997. In that time, she has

received her Certificate in Human Services and expects to graduate this spring with an Associate Degree in Human Services *and* a Certificate in Management! She plans to go on and complete her Bachelors, obtain a Masters in Business Management and eventually, building on her current position as an ABCD administrator, open her own agency in the human services field.

Joann recently told *CONNECTIONS* that as she anticipates graduation, and looks back over her career at UCB, she thinks about "what a positive experience I have had here. Everyone has gone out of his or her way to help me. When I first came in here, it was for registration. The process and procedures made me feel comfortable and I didn't feel lost or overwhelmed." It's been that way ever since. Her Planning and Evaluation course with Bridgette Samuel hooked her for good on UCB. Her Management course with Nina Bono led to the Certificate in Management and her Health and Life Fitness course with Dorothea Keeling "taught me a valuable lesson. Don't worry about something! Don't stress about it! Just do it!"

She is the mother of three children. Rosa is 19 and due to graduate this year from the New England Institute of Technology in RI with a major in

Television and Radio Communication. Iris is 17 and a student at Madison Vocational Tech studying Cosmetology and Daniel who is 11 and learning disabled, has brought great pride to his family by passing the MCAS. Her husband, Daniel, is a cook at D'Angelo's in Hyde Park.

In addition to her full time job, her studies and her family responsibilities, Joann also finds time to use her Spanish bilingual skills to help out at registration each semester at UCB. She also tries to set aside time for reading (fiction and mysteries are her favorites), sports and cooking, and tries to work in a party once in a while!

## Meet Delia Vildoso



Delia grew up in Lima, Peru and came to the United States with her husband four years ago. Her early school ex-

perience is quite a bit different than what most students experience here because in her city, students attend the same school from first grade through high school. She went on to earn a BS in Marine Engineering at Universidad de Lima in 1992. The economy was not good at the time for coastline industries, so Delia broadened her horizons and went to work in the publishing field. For six years, she worked in the production area, coordinating publishing, layout and editing.

Married in 1998, she and her husband came to the States to visit some of his family members living here and

eventually they were both able to arrange to move here. A relative helped her find a teaching position at a child-care facility in Brookline, another relative was attending UCB and Delia came in and applied to earn her Certificate in Early Childhood Education. Loving her work, she decided to stay on and earn her Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education here at Urban College, and she expects to graduate next year. She plans to complete her Bachelor's at UMass Boston and hopes one day to be an elementary school teacher. Delia believes elementary teachers have a huge influence on children and she feels it is a role made for her. She mentions often that the support she and others whose native language is not English have gotten from UCB has been a significant contributing factor to her success and her self-confidence.

One favorite way to relax is to dance and listen to Afro-Peruvian music and she loves to cook. She likes to make a seafood *Flan*, which is a traditional dish of Peru. Delia is also excited that her husband, Walter, will soon be taking the TOFEL exam and hopes to come to UCB!

(Continued on Page 6)

### Timely news!

Income Tax Information is available **free** on-line! You can get your taxes e-filed and even get your refund deposited into your checking account if you choose. Go to [www.tax.freedom.com](http://www.tax.freedom.com) and see if you qualify to use this product. Have your W2s and Social Security numbers of all your dependents with you. Another source is [www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov) which links you

# Urban College Alumni

## Meet Maureen Largey: Associate Degree, Early Childhood Education 2002



Maureen Largey, known to most of us at UCB as Mimi, lives in West Roxbury and has operated her own day-care, The Kitz Shoppe, for s e v e n t e e n

years. She first came to Urban College through LEAP, the Leadership Empowerment Action Project that she became aware of through the Hyde Park, Roslindale and West Roxbury Community Partnership Cluster. She credits one of her first instructors, Doreen Dubique, as someone who encouraged her to pursue her education in the Early Childhood field. "I thought I would never be able to accomplish a college education until Urban College came into my life. The staff and students are like extended family here. Looking back on graduation last June, I feel I am taking home not just my degree, but friendships, self-esteem, a better understanding of all that's involved with children's progress...all this as a result of my courses and my instructors."

Mimi received a lot of support from her husband, her two daughters, and her three grandchildren while at UCB. She also provided support to Urban College, being elected to serve as the Student Representative to The Board of

Trustees. She "found serving a fabulous experience. It gave me an invaluable insight into what happens behind the scenes, how hard everyone associated with the school works, and all of the efforts that contribute to what makes the college work."

## Meet Cheryl Flemming: Associate Degree, Early Childhood Education 2002

Cheryl came to UCB on a journey that began on the island of St. Kitts where she was born and raised. She always wanted to go to college, and in fact began to attend a teachers college in St. Kitts, but for a variety of reasons, had to drop out and go to work. After marriage, she and her husband came to Boston, where she trained as a home health aide, a job she had for twelve years. One day, watching Urban Update on television, she "called, set up an appointment, met Henry Johnson, Coordinator of Enrollment Services and Grace Caines, Coordinator of Early Childhood Education, and I was off and running!"

Working full time, she averaged two courses per semester. She

"appreciated the diversity of the classes and the fact everyone seemed to have two things in common: they wanted to work in early childhood education and everyone wanted to make something better of themselves." Cheryl said she "felt motivated and also felt I acted as a role model for several other students. Sometimes people feel they are too old to go back to school and I felt it was important to show them it can be done! I mentored two women and I am happy to say they are still at UCB! In my country, I would never have been able to get the education I received at UCB. Faculty encouraged me, motivated me and set a high standard for me to achieve. And I did!"

Cheryl, currently a student at Cambridge College, and her husband, an accounting manager in the tax department of the City of Boston, have three children.

## Alumni News and Notes

Joan Keating has graduated from UMass with a BA in American Studies! Congratulations, Joan!

*Send in YOUR news! New job? Studying for a degree? Graduated? Promotion? Family news? Share your good news. Drop a note to Olivia Dybing, Connections Newsletter, Urban College of Boston, 178 Tremont St., 7<sup>th</sup> fl. Boston, MA 02111 or email [dybing@urbancollege.edu](mailto:dybing@urbancollege.edu) Watch for announcements about upcoming alumni networking events.*

*Do you have a story to contribute? Email it to [dybing@urbancollege.edu](mailto:dybing@urbancollege.edu)*

# Scholarship Update

## LRC News

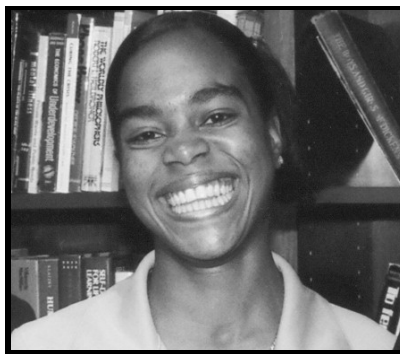
### The UCB – Endicott College Scholarship Update

*A Visit With Sherrie Ann Hodge, the First Recipient*

On June 15, 2001, Dr. Richard Wylie, President of Endicott College and former Chair, Board of Trustees of UCB, announced the creation of the Robert M. Coard Scholarship. Over the next ten years, this scholarship will enable two UCB graduates to attend Endicott College to pursue baccalaureate degrees. The scholarship covers full tuition, room and board

Sherrie Ann Hodge of Dorchester is the first student to be awarded the scholarship and she has just completed her first semester at Endicott, earning three A's and two B's! Sherrie Ann is a Psychology major and was recently selected as a Resident Assistant in her dorm. In addition to being responsible for her floor, as an RA she must also organize three programs during the semester focusing on educational and social themes.

When she recently stopped by UCB for a visit, Sherrie Ann said the courses at Endicott are challenging, the staff is friendly and advisors have been very helpful as she has made the transition to a new school. Her roommates also made her living situation very comfortable, although now that



she's an RA, she has her own room and bath! She also said that she feels that "without UCB I don't know if I could have gone back to school after having been out of school for so long. The night classes at UCB enabled me to work during the day and the help and support I got from my advisors at Urban College and the LRC was incredible. There was no pressure to accomplish my degree at a certain time, so I was able to move at my own pace. Teachers at Urban College are knowledgeable in their fields and have a real working, hands-on understanding of what they are teaching and that counts for so much." She is hoping to spend one semester next year taking part in a program Endicott sponsors in Arizona and, as she looks forward to graduation, she plans to go on to Lesley or Simmons for her masters degree.

*Information about the Robert M. Coard Scholarship at Endicott College is available at the main office and the LRC on the seventh floor.*

### Friday Evening Workshops

Urban College of Boston, in conjunction with the Learning Resource Center, will be offering Friday evening workshops focusing on practical issues and skill building designed to support students as they work toward certificate and/or degree completion.

The first workshop, held in two parts, will be on February 21st and the second on February 28th. Both will take place in the LRC on the 7th floor, from 6 – 7:30 P.M. The first session will cover Using the Internet, Media, Career Fairs, and Networking to Identify Job Sources; Factors that Affect a Job Search; Record Keeping; Creating a Standout Resume; the Importance of Strong References, and Tips for Creating a Cover Letter.

The second session will focus on the Interview: dressing for the interview; the 25 most commonly asked questions and sample answers, questions to ask the interviewer and questions that should *not* be asked by the interviewer; how body language can give you a winning edge; filling out application forms and creating an "after interview checklist." Handouts will be provided at both sessions.

Workshops are free and open to all UCB students and employees of ABCD. Seating is limited, so please stop by the LRC on the 7th floor to sign up or email Olivia Dybing in the LRC at [dybing@urbancollege.edu](mailto:dybing@urbancollege.edu).

## Coming Soon...

### "The Student Express"

For several years, Urban College of Boston published "The Student Express," a collection of original essays, poetry and art work submitted by our students. Many members of the UCB community have expressed interest in contributing to it so we will publish a Spring edition. Deadline for submissions, which can be left in the Student Services mailbox on the 7th floor, is March 27th and publication will be in early April. This is a wonderful opportunity to share skills and talents!

# Meet Urban College Faculty

## Ana Cordero

### Early Childhood Curriculum

When Ana Cordero is asked what major thing that has kept her a UCB faculty member since 1991, her answer is quick in coming. "Urban College is the only place that gives minority students a start to their career at the college level in their native language. This has opened the doors for so many."

Ana teaches courses in her native language, Spanish, and this semester is teaching both Early Childhood courses and Observing and Recording. Students can complete the ECE Bilingual Certificate in Spanish, and this frequently enables them to transition more comfortably into an advanced or degree program. In the past, she says, it had been impossible for those who wanted to establish themselves and move into an educational setting to "find ap-

propriate courses, Urban College gives them opportunities they never had before. Programs like this help them to help themselves make it. These students can take advantage of this support to move on"

Thinking back to her own experiences in early childcare with her children, she remembers that her one-year-old son was in daycare in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury and not one of the providers spoke Spanish. Aware of how stressful a situation like this could be, Ana knows that through a program such as what UCB offers, children can blossom and cultural awareness is reinforced.

A bilingual teacher in the Chelsea Schools for the past twenty-four

years, she and her husband who is a Professor at Roxbury Community College and a member of the Boston School Committee have three children, Alberto, a student at UMass Boston, Denise, 25 and an assistant teacher and Juan, 18, a dancer with the Eugene Ballet of Oregon.



Each issue of "Urban College Connections" will feature an interview with a member of the faculty.

## Urban College of Boston

### Drug and Alcohol Policy

Federal mandate requires that the following Drug and Alcohol policy be distributed to all Urban College employees and students.

Urban College of Boston, in accordance with the U, S, Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, prohibits the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of alco-

hol or of a controlled substance in any of its buildings or as part of any College related activity. Violation of this policy will result in action ranging from mandated participation in drug counseling and rehabilitation programs to dismissal.

Urban College of Boston conforms

to federal regulations regarding privacy acts. The law requires notification of the College within five (5) days if convicted of any criminal drug statute for violations occurring in the workplace.

*UCB policies are available on the college campus.*

# Scholarship Opportunities

Please make sure you check the bulletin boards in the hallway on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor. Useful scholarship, grant availability (and employment opportunities) are posted there and updated regularly. These postings are relevant to both presently enrolled UCB students and alumni.

## Some current postings include :

*USA FUNDS Access to Education Scholarships*: offers financial support to students with economic need. Up to 50% of awards are targeted to members of ethnic minority groups. Application deadline March 15, 2003

*National Hispanic Explorers Scholarship Program*, funded by NASA; will help Hispanic students; merit and need-based schol-

arships for undergraduate degrees in science fields, including computers. Application deadline April 15, 2003

## *Massachusetts Part-Time Grant Program eligibility:*

- MA resident for one year prior to opening of current academic year
  - Title IV eligible with no defaults on previous state or federal education loans
  - Maintaining standard satisfactory academic progress
  - Enrolled in at least six but fewer than twelve credits per semester in UCB Degree or Certificate program
- Awards will range from \$200 to \$1300 for the academic

year.

Please make an appointment with Pat Harden in the Financial Aid Office for further information.

*TALBOTS Women's Scholarship Fund*: Open to women who earned their high school diploma or GED at least ten years ago and who are now seeking college degrees; awards five \$10,000 and fifty \$1,000 scholarships to women enrolled or planning to enroll in two- or four-year colleges; Application deadline March 3, 2003

*Detailed information and applications are available. See Pat Harden, Financial Aid office, or Olivia Dybing, LRC, 7<sup>th</sup> floor*

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## ...Meet Urban College Students (cont. from Page 2.)

### Meet Stephaney Higgins

Stephaney Higgins has been a student at Urban College since 1998. In June of 2002, she received her Certificate in Early Childhood Education, and she expects to receive her Associates degree in May of this year. Stephaney had been employed by ABCD when her director, Lorna Baker, encouraged her to go to school. Her first stop was a workshop at Castleton Square on learning disabilities, which led her to Urban College and she has been here ever since. She says that her "love of children motivates me, gives me self confidence and Urban College has taught me I can do things I never thought I could! Spending time

and teaching children gives me joy!" She is also the mother of two sons, Mark and Marlin.

In addition to her course work at UCB, Stephaney, who came to Boston from Jamaica twelve years ago, is an active member of her church, the Stoughton Street Church of God. She serves as director of the Children's Program where she is responsible for forty + children, ages one through twelve, every Sunday. Some of the most important concepts she tries to instill in them are " love, kindness and patience and that they should love each other, regardless of color or race." She also runs a Girls Club for four and five-year-olds, which meets every other week. They do

"art projects, talk about news events and we try to make them feel special." Stephaney *also* teaches an adult Sunday school and serves as a minister of the gospel, and in her free time (!) she visits the sick.

Her goal after Urban College is to further her education in child psychology and "someday get a doctorate!"



# Help Wanted Resources on the Internet

## Teacher Assistant Jamaica Plain Head Start

Work with teaching teams to establish an appropriate learning environment, as defined by Head Start performance standards. Candidates should have or be in the process of obtaining the following requirements: an active CDA credential or degree in Early Childhood Growth and Development and substantial work experience in an early childhood setting; Bilingual skills are helpful but not required.

## Lead Teacher South End Head Start

The Lead Teacher is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Education Component objectives for the Head Start Performance Standards. An active CDA credential or an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field required. Must have previous experience giving care to pre-school children in a center-based setting. Excellent supervision and interpersonal skills required.

## Teacher South Boston Head Start

Teach children and provide activities that enhance their growth intellectually, socially and physically. An active CDA with at least one year experience giving care to pre-school children in a center based setting.

For additional information call: **Head Start Office (617) 357-6000**

**Send Resumes to:** Action for Boston Community Development, Inc., 178 Tremont Street Boston MA 02111 FAX (617) 423-7693 Email: [hr@bostonabcd.org](mailto:hr@bostonabcd.org) (Attached documents in Microsoft Word )

## Pre-School Teacher – Children's Center of Lexington

OCCS qualified; Send resume to: Children's Center of Lexington, 1580 Mass Ave., Lexington, MA 02320 (781) 862-9370

## Pre-School Teacher: The Horizons Institute

Send Resume to:

The Horizons Institute, 90 Cushing Ave., Dorchester, MA 02125  
FAX: (617) 287-0908

*Remember: check the "Useful Websites" and the bulletin boards on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor regularly!*

## Financial Aid Applications:

*Summer & Fall Courses  
Deadline for mailing:  
April 4, 2003*

Need help? Sign up for an appointment to see a financial aid counselor Monday – Thursday between 4:30 and 6:15 P.M. Appointments available now until April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sign-up sheet posted outside the Financial Aid office, 7<sup>th</sup> Fl., 178 Tremont Street.

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## Financial Aid/Scholarships:

- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.wiredscholar.com](http://www.wiredscholar.com)
- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (under "Paying for College" section)
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.ed.info.org](http://www.ed.info.org)
- [www.collegenet.com/mach25](http://www.collegenet.com/mach25)
- [www.schlarships.com](http://www.schlarships.com)
- [www.fin.aid.org/otheraid/majors.phtml](http://www.fin.aid.org/otheraid/majors.phtml) (scholarships based on specific areas of study)
- [www.srnexpress.com](http://www.srnexpress.com)
- [www.wiredscholar.com](http://www.wiredscholar.com)

## Human services:

- [www.bostonabcd.org](http://www.bostonabcd.org)
- [www.bostonresourcenet.org](http://www.bostonresourcenet.org)
- [www.cityofboston.com](http://www.cityofboston.com)

## Job Sources:

- [www.jobfind.com](http://www.jobfind.com) (Boston Herald)
- [www.bostonworks.com](http://www.bostonworks.com) (Boston Globe)
- [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)
- [www.bostonabcd.org/jobs/index.htm](http://www.bostonabcd.org/jobs/index.htm)
- <http://www.bostonjobs.com>

## Early Childhood Educators:

- <http://earlychildhood.about.com/education/earlychildhood/mbody.htm> (Daycare/Preschool)
- [www.urbancollege.edu](http://www.urbancollege.edu)
- [www.bostonabcd.org](http://www.bostonabcd.org)

## Dates to Remember...

- ⇒ 2/17 Presidents Day (No Classes)
- ⇒ 2/20 Last day to withdraw from 8 week courses
- ⇒ 3/17 Evacuation Day (No Classes)
- ⇒ 3/18 Final Exams, 8 week courses
- ⇒ 3/19 Final Exams, 8 week courses
- ⇒ 3/20 Last day to withdraw from 15 week courses
- ⇒ 3/24 Mon & Wed 8 week courses begin