

THE BAY STATE Banner

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Banner Education & Career

Two Latina sisters at the Urban College of Boston — one inspiring story



Elizabeth Rodriguez (left) and her sister Gladys Ruiz, who are owners of The Little Children School House in Brookline Village, were among the UCB alumni at the June 12, 2008, donor reception. (Photo courtesy of Urban College of Boston)

Driven by a love of working with children, sisters Elizabeth Rodriguez and Gladys Ruiz chose the same path and both graduated with Associate of Arts degrees in early childhood education from the Urban College of Boston (UCB).

While the sisters complement each other today, they had chosen different professional fields when living in their native Peru. A member of UCB's class of 2003, Gladys had previously earned a bachelor's degree in English to become a teacher. Elizabeth, who graduated from UCB in 2004, had earned her degree in computer science.

Many years into their respective careers, the sisters decided to move to Boston. They again chose to

attend the same college, but this time, they elected to study the same field of early childhood education at UCB.

After more than 10 years working in the field of early childhood education, Gladys had the opportunity to open the Little Children Schoolhouse in Brookline Village. One year later, Elizabeth joined the staff as part of the school's teaching team. Each day brings the sisters

the opportunity to learn by working side by side, helping each other to provide the best care for children in Brookline Village.

The school was built on the idea of providing a nurturing and loving environment for children — an extension of each child's home and family life. Their combined professional experiences have prepared them for working with children, but sharing the bonds of family has allowed them to create a warm, home-

like experience for their students and their families.

Due to the outstanding success of their first schoolhouse, Elizabeth and Gladys have opened another center in Brookline. Inspired to give back by UCB faculty Nancy Daniel and the late Dr. Grace Caines, Gladys

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and Elizabeth are the college's leaders of alumni giving.

In recognition of their outstanding service to child care, Gladys and Elizabeth will be honored at UCB's 3rd Annual Early Childhood Education Awards Luncheon on April 3, 2009, at UCB's Wheelock College/Brookline campus. For more information about the Urban College of Boston, call 617-348-6359 or visit www.urbancollege.edu.