



# Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Fall 2016  
Issue 31

*Changing Lives One Degree at a Time*

## American Dream

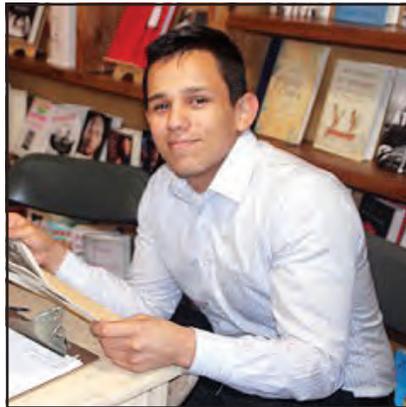
Hello everyone, my name is Daniel Dantes, or as many of you know me, “the kid who does not look old enough to be serving wine at this fundraiser”. Fortunately, for Hedy and me, I’m a 23 years young student at Harold Washington College.

For those asking why the “baby faced kid” is writing this article, I will explain that I am the newest Bardwell Scholarship recipient. I was born in Mexico City in 1993, and when I was 6 years old, my grandmother and my single mother wanted to come to the U.S. to find and live the “American Dream”. At the time we thought it was going to be like the life Julia Roberts lived after finding

Richard Gere in *Pretty Woman*. However, being undocumented and not speaking English was probably not the best way to live the “American Dream”. Until this day, I don’t have an unlimited credit card or shopping sprees to expensive stores; instead, I was stuck working 40 hours a week during my high school years in order to help my mother pay rent and bills. After high school, I skipped college and became a server at a restaurant. As a server I was making well over \$1,000/week and I thought serving was the way I would make the American Dream happen. Reality kicked in and I knew that making money didn’t make the American Dream, but instead, it was knowledge and opportunities that I really wanted.

Within weeks of my epiphany, my best friend told me he was moving to the city to start studying at DePaul and wanted me to be his roommate. With the money I had saved, I told him yes and immediately started

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## I Have Arrived

In 2011, with the help of the Roger Bardwell Scholarship, I graduated from Harold Washington College with an Associate in Arts Degree. That same year I enrolled at National Lewis University. I was on the fast track to reach my goal of becoming an elementary school teacher. In September of 2012, I took a pregnancy test and it came out positive - my whole world changed in that single moment. My pregnancy was unplanned, and my planned future was now filled with uncertainty. That was my last year at NLU. For 9 months I was in a constant battle with myself. I felt a concoction of emotions. I was ashamed, happy, scared- I was unsure of my future.

May, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 I held Leo for the very first time and my future became crystal clear. I knew that I had to pick up where I left off. Shortly after I had Leo, I contacted Hedy Cohen, and I

told her I wanted to continue to pursue my studies. I was afraid of the reaction Hedy would have after learning about my pregnancy, but once again, Hedy wowed me with her kindness; she was more than willing to help.

When Leo was only 4 months old, I enrolled in the adult studies program at Trinity Christian College. I juggled school, work, and motherhood and I survived! A few weeks ago I received my bachelor’s degree in the mail. I held that piece of paper for a long time; tears were running down my cheeks. I had to reassure Leo that my tears were tears from joy. I picked him up and hugged him tightly. I then looked at him and said, “Look, this is what you will get when you go to college, too.”



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looking for a place to live. Once I moved to Chicago I started attending Harold Washington College. For a whole semester my routine was school, class, and work. Then, looking to get involved at school and make new friends, I found a group of Latinos who ran the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS). OLAS at the time was a group of students who advocated for Latinos and even raised scholarship funds for undocumented students like myself. All their hard work and dedication is truly what made me become a member and eventually I became president of the organization. With an amazing board of student leaders and much dedication, being involved in Student Government and OLAS gave me an open path to start networking with administration, teachers, and also businesses outside of Harold Washington. Having no experience in leadership, I was all of the sudden in charge of a budget of more than \$15,000 and telling over 40 officers and members what to do. In no time I started having confidence in myself and regardless of all the failures, I kept my head high and continued to dream big. After leading OLAS in 2015, I started the first athletics club at HWC which created a community of students and staff interested in fitness and sports. Until this day, the athletics club continues, we plan to have a soccer team this year.

In the Spring of 2016, after three years of being a student of HWC, I graduated with honors and got my Associate in Arts. I also got the privilege to be offered a summer internship by Dr. Martyn, the President of HWC. The summer internship consisted in shadowing and being mentored by the President. On top of that, I worked independently to come up with ways to increase student activities and participation. Along with doing the internship, I decided to take 12 summer credits.

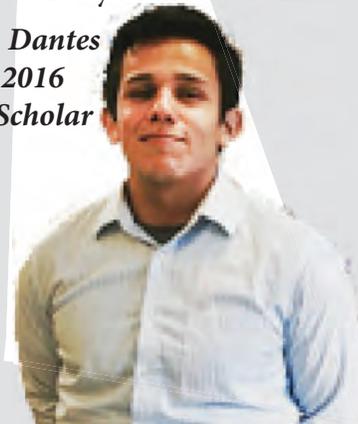
12 summer credits in just 8 weeks is like taking 24 credits in a regular semester! With a lot of red bulls, Colombian coffee, and lonely all---nighters, my work and dedication led me to finish with two A's and a B. Most importantly, Dr. Martyn saw that I gave it my all and extended my internship for the 2016-2017 academic school year. This internship requires me to assist the Director of Student Activities and also be one of the two website content coordinators at HWC. In the Fall of 2017, I will be attending a 4 year university with help from Bardwell Scholarship and

hopefully a full ride given by another organization or school. Once there, I will get my Bachelors in Business Administration.

By writing this, I've had the great and unique opportunity to give you a better idea of who I am and to share a few of my accomplishments. However, this once in a lifetime opportunity would not be possible without one person, Hedy Cohen. Hedy came to my life during one of its hardest and most challenging moments, balancing the important internship and Summer classes. Having Hedy flying over me like the angel she truly is gave me another reason to not give up during the weeks where I would often go up to 3 days with no sleep because of the load of homework.

Along with Hedy, I would truly like to thank everyone who is part of the Bardwell organization and tell you that your contribution has truly made an extreme impact in my life. Please know that you will continue to see me during these fundraisers, and I promise to continue to serve you the best wine.

*Daniel M. Dantes*  
AA HWC 2016  
Bardwell Scholar



*I have Arrived continued from page 1...*

I did it. I finally did it. Hedy Cohen- WE finally did it. Thank you for never doubting me and for being my tower of strength when I felt like giving up.

**I am eternally grateful for the undying support Hedy has given me; without the Roger Bardwell Scholarship I wouldn't be registering for the commencement ceremony in December.**

**RBS helps transform lives. I am not the same person I was in 2011. I am stronger. I am a college graduate. I am a Roger Bardwell Scholar. God Bless you all.**

*With Love,*

*Diana Chacon*

AA HWC 2011

BA Trinity Christian College 2016

Bardwell Scholar

# Books+Wine+RBS

The August 26, 2016 RBS Fundraiser, Wine+Books+RBS, was a truly musical night to remember. The RBS house band played jazz and pop stylings that created a warm and musical setting as donors and scholars intermingled and shared their life experiences and educational achievements. This year the band featured Asim Allakim and Pauleth Rodriguez who entertained the gathering with exciting solos and dazzling duets. Accompanying them was Ewa Sarataczek on violin and Jason Nelson on keyboards, providing melodic and harmonic support to the singers as well as memorable and pop instrumentals. Asim, himself, is a proud RBS scholar and North Park graduate.

RBS wants to thank the many individuals who helped create this memorable evening. Big thanks go to Bookends and Beginnings for graciously hosting the event for the second year, to Vinic Wine Company for their exemplary service, and to the many RBS supporters who donated time, baked goods, silent auction items and support combining to create a successful event.



*RBS Board Members (from left) Anthony Foster, Alba Orizaba, Hedy Cohen, Johnny Phan, Riley Jones*



*Vocalists Pauleth Rodriguez and Asim Allakim*



*RBS bartenders (from left) Jorge Taylor, Johnny Phan, Daniel Dantes*



*RBS Naila Opiangah with her mom, Chantal*



*RBS supporters (from left) Kevin Kipp, Jeff Boarini, Joan Habinek, Dave Studeman*

## Fried Chicken and Bingo

Fried chicken and bingo? A strange but intriguing combination? RBS was honored to participate in this event at River Valley Farmer's Table, 1820 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago, on Sunday night, July 31, 2016. A delicious family style meal was served (fried chicken and tasty sides), then diners were invited to participate in a rousing game of BINGO! Fortunately, the proceeds from bingo card sales went to RBS. It was a fun night for all participants, and a profitable night for RBS.

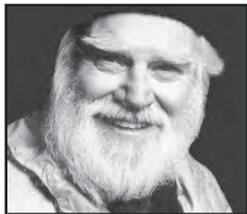
**BIG THANKS to River Valley Farmer's Table for making this happen.**



Contributions, which are deductible to the extent the law allows, are always appreciated and enable us to continue this important work. Please ask your employer if they offer matching funds or corporate contributions to nonprofit organizations.

*(The Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund is a registered 501(C)3 tax exempt organization)*

Contributions to the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund may be made by check and sent to:



**Bardwell Scholarship NFP**

**1204 Monroe  
Evanston, IL 60202**

**or**

**donate on our website through Pay Pal**



CITY COLLEGES of CHICAGO

**Harold Washington**

Education that Works

For further information, or if you know someone who might be a candidate for a Bardwell Scholarship, please contact Hedy Cohen:

Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund, Harold Washington College  
30 E. Lake St., Room 1155 Chicago, IL 60601 (312) 553-3049

***[www.rogerbardwellscholarship.org](http://www.rogerbardwellscholarship.org)***

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