



# Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Fall 2017  
Issue 33

*Changing Lives One Degree at a Time*

## The Rescind of DACA



**RBS Heriberto Bustos (left) and Alba Orizaba (second from right) protest the rescinding of DACA in the Loop on September 6, 2017.**

**D**reamers: the good immigrants who obtained DACA. The benefits granted through DACA include a social security number card, work permit, and deferred deportation. “Dreamers” are one of the media and politicians latest hot topics and bargaining chips. They are the ones who have been privileged to arrive before the age of 16 in the United States. They are the immigrants who assimilated into the US culture and society. They learned how to survive and navigate a home that continuously rejects and places millions of obstacles in front of them. Many of them do not have a thick accent from their homeland. The majority are Mexican but some come from India, Jamaica, Lithuania, Colombia, Poland, and many other countries. They are the young undocumented folks who are under 40 and still participate in our economy today. They are showcased as model minorities who completed degrees and certificates. They are the “illegals” who broke the law before some even knew how to speak. They are considered the “innocent ones” while their parents get criminalized and continuously

exploited and deported. I am one of the estimated 800,000 young adults who was granted DACA under Obama’s presidency.

In September, 2017, President Donald Trump signed an order to repeal the program Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals – DACA- if no congressional action is agreed upon by March 2018. Briefly, in October, 2017, USCIS stopped taking applications for DACA renewals. The only ones who were able to renew were the ones whose work permits expire between September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. I am one of those thousands who did not qualify to renew due to my work permit expiration date. I am one of the DACA recipients whose life relies on Congress and this devastating political climate.

As a DACA recipient, I analyzed how and when it was done. Deadlines were chosen strategically; the least amount of people covered by DACA fall in that time frame. They also chose to end this program the day after Labor Day, 6 days before the 9/11 attack, the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, and 2 weeks before the attempted “Operation Mega”- a strategic plan designed by ICE operations to deport thousands of immigrants in order to exceed quotas and be able to request more funding in the future. It was the best time of year for politicians to do this. Many Americans typically feel patriotic and resentful towards immigrants and Muslims in that time of year. It was a great way to feed into the “Make America Great Again” propaganda.

I was overwhelmed when I first heard about this pause. However, I reminded myself that this was something that was going to happen sooner or later because it was not a law. DACA was an

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executive order and never meant to last. It was designed to be a temporary Band-Aid until something else was decided. Out of anger and consciousness, thousands of DACA recipients like myself marched and have fought back in our own unique ways.

Throughout these last 5 years and in times of crisis, I have recognized how valuable it is to obtain an American college education regardless of citizenship status. For the last 2 years, the Mexican government and some non-profits in the US created programs that allowed DACA recipients who are college students or graduates to visit their homeland and have access to participate in political and educational programs. The groups that went were in the safe hands of politicians, activists, lawyers, and other allies in case they were denied entrance back to the US.

According to participants, the Mexican government extended a helping hand to any future deportee who attended this program. Participants stated that they were considered an asset to the country due to their educational attainment and language proficiency; therefore, the government will help them find a job or pay for their master's degree. This is something that is not offered to other people who have been deported. These opportunities were only promised to the educated and selected few who met the criteria to attend this program.

Canada's response to DACA's pause also reminded me how other countries are short in educated, westernized, and young working bodies and therefore, more likely to welcome them. Some of Canada's politicians have expressed interest in welcoming DACA holders who are college educated or certified in something, if the program is not improved or removed. They too see DACA graduates as their gain due to the high number of ghost towns, graying of a nation, and small retention rates of international students. Most of Canada's international students go back to their country of origin once they complete their educational goals.

**If you have ever asked or doubt yourself**

**on why you should continue to support RBS an organization that publicly supports undocumented students, please remember that undocumented people are humans not legal or illegal aliens. Some of us want to reshape, resolve, and lead. We, too, want to compete and have a bigger piece of the pie. We want to have stable relationships, families, jobs, and overall normal lives. We do not want to live all of our lives by looking at an expiration date and dealing with the law; hence be in limbo all the time. With my minimal examples, it is clear that education empowers people to fight back injustices and also opens doors when least expected. When you voluntarily chose to support RBS, you help create tomorrow's leaders from all paths of life.**

*Alba Orizaba  
AA HWC 2012  
BA NEIU 2014  
Bardwell Scholar and Board Member*

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

Roger W. Bardwell Scholarships

# My Dream Internship this Past Summer

I am, Naila an international student from Gabon. This past summer I had the great opportunity to intern for one of the finest architecture firms, Adjaye Associates, at their New York office. David Adjaye was recently named Time Magazine's most influential architect of the year and knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. One of his most important works is the National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington D.C. He is a British-Ghanaian architect that I discovered a little over 2 years ago when I transferred to IIT.

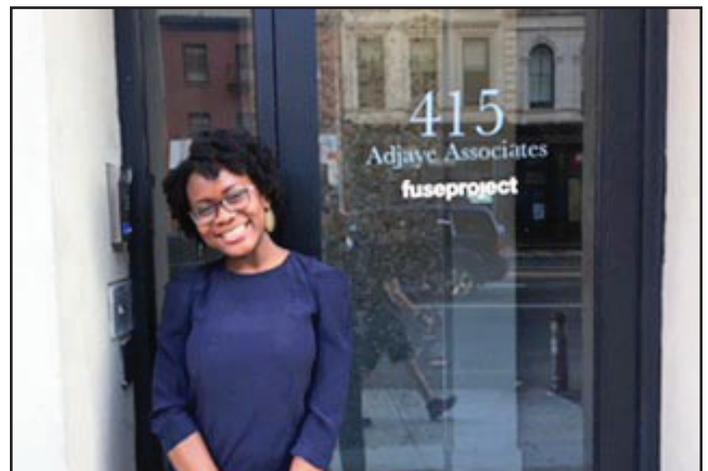
Back then, I did not have a particular architect that I looked up to or really loved. Discovering David Adjaye was one of the highlights of my architecture education because there was an instant connection that I felt through his work. I was inspired and motivated to be like him one day, a very accomplished African architect. Although I got the opportunity to meet him twice last year, interning for David Adjaye was a dream that I never thought would come true. This opportunity would have never happened if I wasn't getting an education in one of the best architecture schools in the US. I would have never gotten to study at IIT if it weren't for the Bardwell Scholarship, that has assisted me since my second year at HWC.

When I started the internship, I did not expect to be very involved in big projects. I was very surprised when I was introduced to a new project on my first day of work. After working a little on that one, I spent the next weeks working on 4 different projects including two waterfront developments in Ghana. These two projects were very important to me because I hadn't expected to work on something that was so close to home. Although Ghana is far from my country, we do have a lot in common when it comes to urban settings. My project leader Matthew Storrie, always pushed me to share my views on the work we were doing and even let me give him some lessons on African prints and fabric in order to develop a design idea we were pursuing. I developed some technical skills for several design softwares such as Rhino 5 and Vray. I also improved my design communication techniques

and gained a lot of confidence while discussing ideas and presentations. One of the best memories was staying until 3 am on a Sunday because of a big deadline we had that week. Although I am used to working so late at school, the bonus in this case was actually working on something that would have a real impact on people and communities. It feels amazing to know that you get to provide spaces that people will enjoy and own. I developed more love for civic projects and had a clear confirmation that architecture is really my vocation. If not, why would I love being in an office at 3 am on a summer weekend?

I am slowly getting closer to graduating with my bachelors and I am very grateful that despite the many obstacles that have come my way, I am very blessed to always find a positive outcome. Today I am happy to know that I have gained more knowledge of my field at an internationally acclaimed firm. I hope to work for them again some day but also to find more opportunities for work post graduation. I deeply thank everyone who works for the Bardwell Scholarship, especially Hedy. The impact you have on all of us scholars is immense!

*Naila Opingah*  
*AA HWC 2014*  
*IIT student*  
*Bardwell Scholar*



# RBS Nights Out

On Friday August 25, 2017, Bardwell Scholars held its RBS Nights Out Celebration at Bookends and Beginnings at 1712 Sherman Avenue, Alley #1 in Evanston. Attending the event were approximately 50 friends and supporters, including some Bardwell Scholars and board members. There was a suggested donation of \$25 (\$15 for students) collected at the door. Additional donations were collected for drinks and for the raffle. The total proceeds for the event exceeded the 2016 RBS Nights Out Celebration.

The fabulous musical entertainment was orchestrated and presented by RBS Asim Allakim and featured Miku Sanwei on the violin, Jason Nelson on the keyboards, and the amazing Pauleth Jaurgui along with Asim on the vocals. A music graduate of North Park College, Asim takes his job very seriously; he puts together a stunning group of musicians and selections to feature at this event.

A creative trivia game of Family Feud, hosted by Shelley Sutherland was fun and educational for the participants and spectators. There was a nice variety of appetizers and homemade desserts, generously provided by RBS supporters.

The short film by the Women's Forum of New York, A Network of Leaders in the Professions, Arts and Business, entitled "2017 Education Fund Video" was unable to be shown, due to technical difficulties. The six-minute film, can be viewed by the following link: <http://www.womensforumny.org/index.cfm/videos/education-fund-video/2017-ellys-video/>. The video features the inspirational stories of three strong women who overcame a variety of abusive relationships and hurdles to achieve college educations. One woman, Tamila Pashae, came to Chicago from Iran, graduated valedictorian from HWC and is now on her way to completing a degree with honors in Economics and Mathematics from Columbia University. Tamila is proudly a Bardwell Scholar. Please take a moment to view this powerful video where Tamila proclaims, "I'm hoping that my son learned that a woman can be more powerful than a man."

Books+Wine+RBS is an annual event that brings Bardwell Scholars and supporters together to back a great cause, enjoy the music, the goodies and the fun. As with all RBS events, it gives supporters and students a chance to personally interact and donors can see the power of their contributions.

*Ruby Froeter*  
*Guest Contributor*



*Hedy Cohen and Tonja Girten*



*Anne Harkonen, Stephanie Mathless, Barbara Smith and Julie Froeter participate in the game Family Feud.*



*Vocalist Pauleth Jaargui*



*Vocalist Pauleth Jaargui, Violinist Miku Sanwei, Keyboardist Jason Nelson, Arranger/vocalist RBS Asim Allaki*



*Tom Rebori, Shelley Sutherland, Gary Shovers*



*Anna Blum and Debby Miles*

# Electrical Engineering Internships

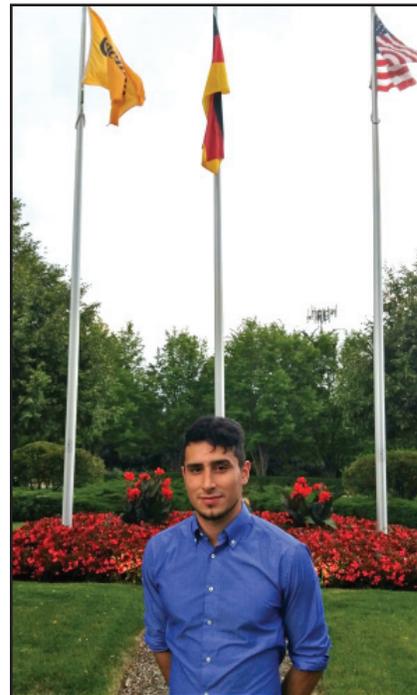
For many that don't know me, I am a DACA student. I was brought to U.S. by my parents at the tender age of seven months. I grew up in Chicago and eventually graduated high school. DACA recipients don't receive FAFSA and numerous scholarships require citizenship and we aren't eligible for loans. Therefore, college has been an extremely hard ladder to climb by myself. Consequently, I was happy to have applied for and received two recent internships, a summer internship at Continental and my current fall semester co-op at GE Appliances.

Continental is a large German automotive manufacturing company that makes car tires and automotive electronics such as transmission controllers, transfer case controls and sensors. As an electrical engineer intern, I worked on many interesting projects and received firsthand experience on how engineers work together to solve problems. It all seemed very mystical to me because it was my first internship and I've always wondered about an electrical engineer's work environment. But, to my surprise, most engineers work in cubicles and labs designing and/or performing experiments.

My first project was to work with a transfer case control module and perform experiments on the electrical hardware. The module was designed by electrical engineers, to power 'on' under certain circumstances. Unfortunately, there was an error in the hardware design and the module would still power 'on', even if it wasn't supposed to. I was given the freedom to design my test plan and track down the cause of the problem. I learned how to document my progress, compose engineering reports, and how to communicate with engineers and managers. I increased my knowledge of electronics and learned how to use specialized testing equipment.

Another important project I participated in was quality/reliability testing. In school, everything is taught from a theoretical point of view and the math works out nicely and predicts the behavior of anything that an electrical engineer designs. Unfortunately, this is not true and I didn't know the consequences it had in the real world. It turns out that companies invest millions/

billions of dollars to have their final product go through rigorous testing and experimentation to make sure everything works as intended by the customer. A customer can be the general public or another company/manufacturer. In my case, it was for Jeep and I had to perform temperature vs power tests on a circuit that electronically controls the transfer case of a car's transmission. In the final stages, before pre-production, I had to verify that it worked under a range of scenarios specified by the customer. The duration of the testing was about 2 months and there were shortcomings because every module cannot be physically manufactured the same, so there were differences electronically. These small differences, not predicted by math or simulations, are a big problem in the real world for companies that manufacture electronics. These small differences can make the product behave in abnormal ways or completely fail – another important fact that I learned.



Finally, I worked on another transfer case module project for the final three weeks of the internship. This was more of a serious project because there was a hardware issue that the engineers didn't detect in the early stages of testing and post-production – Continental was gearing to hit mass production

for its customer, Jeep, in the following weeks. In other words, there are millions of dollars at stake. I worked with many lead engineers that helped us find the root cause of the problem. This was the highlight of my internship. I witnessed how engineers work with last minute high priority issues and how money/profits affect engineering decisions.

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## Honoring Diane

Ms. Hedy and the Roger Bardwell Scholars organized a retirement luncheon for Diane Richardson. It was held at HWC to wish Diane the best in her upcoming activities and hobbies. She was and will always be an advisor. She motivated me to look forward and to pursue my career dreams and to never give up. At the luncheon everyone had an opportunity to share memories of how they met Diane and of everything that she did to help them in times of need. I will always remember that day when our eyes were watery and some tears escaped. They were tears of joy and thankfulness of having met such a wonderful person. We had a great time with Diane Richardson and we know that we will be able to make more memories like that with her because she will be taking part in the Roger Bardwell Scholar activities. Again, thank you Diane for helping us and introducing us to more precious people like you and thank you Ms. Hedy for organizing this luncheon that will now become another great memory.

*Maria Esmerelda Amaro*  
AA HWC 2016  
St Xavier College student  
Bardwell Scholar

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Currently, I am doing my second internship at General Electric in Louisville, KY and I have worked on many projects as well. These internships have been the most rewarding learning experiences of my professional life thus far. I have received real life experience and concepts that I wouldn't learn in school.

I'm extremely grateful for these opportunities and I would like to thank Hedy and the Bardwell Scholars program for the tremendous support. Without them, I really don't think I would have come this far in my life.

*Jorge Taylor*  
AA HWC 2010  
UIC student  
Bardwell Scholar

The day that most of us hoped wouldn't arrive, arrived too soon. Now I found myself at a luncheon that Ms. Hedy prepared with much love for Diane Richardson. We had a nice lunch and as we ate, we shared our stories about meeting Diane and how she impacted our lives. The room was filled with a variety of emotions. I'm sure that all of us had a great time.

Personally I met Diane Richardson at HWC. I couldn't make an appointment with the assigned advisor because she didn't have available days. So my sister made a appointment with her advisor, Diane Richardson. Diane welcomed me to her office and she even managed to get my schedule together! From that day on, she became my advisor.

It was through Diane that I got the opportunity to meet many wonderful people that keep influencing and impacting my life. I know we all will miss Diane Richardson very much. I hope she'll enjoy her time at home with family and friends. Let's not be sad because I'm sure we all will continue to see Diane for RBS activities.

*Maria Rubi Amara*  
AA HWC 2016  
St. Xavier College Student  
Bardwell Scholar



*Back row, left to right: Maria Amaro, Alisa Williams, Maria Amaro, Leonetta Clark, Diane Chacon, Tonja Girten Front row: Ellen Goldberg, Diane Richardson, Hedy Cohen*

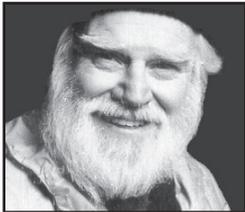


*RBS Tamila Pashae presenting at the Advena World Conference in Washington DC on August 25, 2017. Her presentation, “Gender Roles in Iranian Textbooks”, received the conference award for the best scholar presentation.*

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)*

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

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