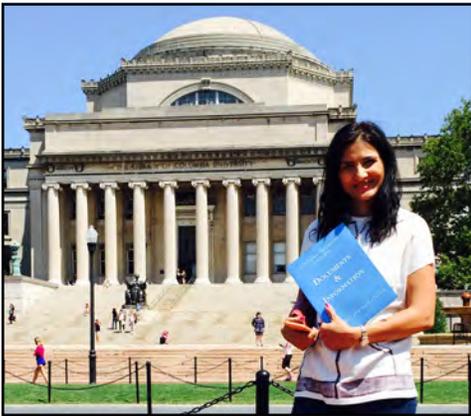




# Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Fall 2015  
Issue 29

*Changing Lives One Degree at a Time*



Dear RBS Community, I hope all of you are in complete health and peace. I miss all of you, mama Hedy, and Chicago, the city that gave me the wings to fly. I finished the college with a 4.0 GPA as valedictorian, and soon after I received an acceptance from Columbia University to study Economics in New York.

The moment that I entered the Columbia University campus for the first time I became speechless, thinking about how far I have come in just two years. I saw very young and happy students coming to the campus with their parents, enjoying that incredible moment together. In that moment I was thinking about the people without whose support I would not have been able to be on this campus. Immediately, I took a picture and sent it to mama Hedy with this note: "This is the art of RBS and HWC, transforming a housewife to an Ivy League student."

I reviewed my life journey in the last two years. At first, when I was accepted to HWC I did not have knowledge of my abilities, talents, and motivations. I had no idea of what I wanted to be but I was sure about what I didn't want to be. I started with the background that I had from Iran, a combination of feelings of insecurity, doubt, and anxiety. To overcome these feelings, I had to pass the courses as soon as possible to find a job to survive in this society. I had no ambitions and frankly I was taught to feel embarrassed to have ambitions and high goals as a 35-year-old woman who wanted to start her education. What I did not know was that I had started my new chapter of my life in an environment with resources and mentors that help people like me to change their lives and never give up until they reach the highest level that they can.

**Soon I realized I was performing well in the classes because of just one reason: I love to study.** I took course after course with passion and I fell in love with my college. Those feelings of insecurity and doubt were replaced with energy, motivation, and happiness. However, one of my biggest concerns, like other American college students, was my financial ability to finish college. Very soon this was also solved with the help of RBS and scholarships from HWC.

I was extremely fortunate to find the RBS and the support I received from them this saved my life again. With this scholarship I felt there would be no obstacles in my way to succeed. Very soon I became a member of the RBS family and I will always be one.

The support that I received was not only financial – I was also in touch with the biggest mentor of my life, Hedy. Under her mentorship I found a different Tamila inside of me. I changed my major from Accounting to Economics. My experiences growing up and living in Iran have helped me to formulate my goal to be an Economist and help others both domestically and internationally achieve economic security.

I also learned that economic stagnation is one of the most horrible tragedies that can happen to a country's citizens. The primary factor that gives people the courage to stand up for their rights is a stable economy. Financial instability kills creativeness and self-confidence.

Every day I am more determined to get to the highest level that I can reach. Thanks to all the skills and lessons that I learned in HWC, I was able to quickly adapt to the new environment and challenges. Fortunately, I managed to do well in the midterm exams and I am determined to take the next steps until I get my Ph.D. I just want to simply say: Thank you for all your support, understanding, and mentorship. You changed my life.

*Tamila Pashae*  
*HWC Valedictorian 2015*  
*Columbia College Student*  
*Bardwell Scholar*

## Shoe Shopping

Hedy's kindness and mentorship does not simply end once you graduate. She ensures that you step into the work world with a fresh pair of shoes to help you walk through the challenges that await you.

This past summer I did the traditional shoe shopping with her. We walked down State Street and chose a pair of nude sparkly summer sandals. It was not an easy process. I felt uncomfortable choosing a pair of shoes, because of all of the help she had provided me in these last 4 years. However, she was persistent and followed through with all recent graduates to ensure they all began their journey with a fresh pair of shoes. She sent weekly reminders; I read them, but did not dare to respond until one day, we met for coffee and she invited me to go shoe shopping. Then I truly understood the importance of this symbolic tradition to her.

I am impressed with her humbleness and readiness to lead and provide a welcoming space to anyone she comes in contact with. Hedy's leadership skills are definitely not easy to find. Her kindness and actions have resulted in creating a network of students and donors who help create better versions of selves and communities.

*Alba Orizaba*  
*AA HWC 2011*  
*BA NEIU 2014*  
*Bardwell Scholar*



## Books + Wine + RBS

RBS Nights Out presented Books+Wine+RBS, a night full of joy, generous donations and warm smiling faces. RBS vocalist Asim Allakim sang melodies alongside excellent violinist, Ewa Sarotaroczek, and extraordinary keyboard player Chris White. Together, the trio created an effortlessly enchanting night. The venue, **Bookends and Beginnings, 1712 Sherman Avenue, Alley #1, Evanston** was lovely. Tables were covered with cheeses, crackers, grapes and indulgent treats. In the back there was a large bar with many wines. In the center a table was covered with auction items; this was constantly revisited as many guests bid and then outbid each other. The light in the room was dim, not bright, adding more enchantment as the night went on.

Not only did guests donate money and offer bids, but they met many RBS recipients who could give testimony about how our donors and friends have impacted their lives and allowed them to persevere. RBS recipients and donors alike all exchanged laughs, thank yous and stories. It was a night we will never forget and many thank yous are due. So thank you to you, our friends old and new, and big thanks to Bookends and Beginnings for sharing their lovely space with us.

Through events like this one, RBS is able to offer tuition assistance, textbook assistance, mentoring and transportation assistance to hardworking college students who might not otherwise succeed.

Please stay tuned for more events and stay updated through our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/pages/Roger-Bardwell-Scholarship](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Roger-Bardwell-Scholarship)

or

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

*Larissa Mares*  
*Bardwell Scholar*

well Scholarships

# RBS Nights Out



*Guests Anna Blum, Sara Trujillo, George Bickford*



*RBS Andrea Scaggs, Larissa Mares, Hedy Cohen, guest Eden Gebre, RBS Tonja Girten, Jacky Sanchez*



*Guests Guy Sellars, Mark Lavendar, Joe Hislop*



*RBS Riley Jones and Hedy Cohen*



*RBS Johnny Phan, Alba Orizaba, Heriberto Bustos*



*Keyboard Player Chris White with RBS Vocalist Asim Allakim*

### Thank You to Contributors

Bardwell Scholars is both proud and humbled that, with your help, we are a 100% donor funded organization. Much gratitude is extended to the individuals listed below for their ongoing support. In addition, we thank those who read our newsletters, visit our website, attend our functions or talk to others about the work we are doing. In a world where many people are doing important work, we clearly thank all of you for choosing to support RBS.

As each contribution is of significance, we list them alphabetically and equally.

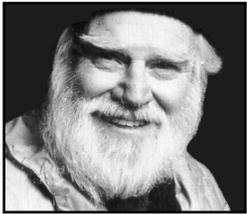
We acknowledge and thank these individuals who have contributed financially to Bardwell Scholarships, NFP, November, 2014- November, 2015.

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**Bardwell Scholarship NFP**

**1204 Monroe**

**Evanston, IL 60202**

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**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:

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30 E. Lake St., Room 1139 Chicago, IL 60601 (312) 553-3049

***www.rogerbardwellscholarship.org***

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