

Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Bardwell Scholarships were established in 1998 to honor the memory of Roger W. Bardwell and to continue his work in public education. Most Bardwell Scholars attend Harold Washington College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago. Through their resources and the work of John Wozniak, Vice President of Harold Washington College, and Hedy Cohen, Program Administrator, students are helped to attend college and succeed in an academic environment.

Harold Washington College draws on a diverse urban population. Bardwell Scholars are adults with complicated lives, often balancing the needs of parenting, extended families and work while struggling with the complexities of low income urban life. Yet they continue to study and have the desire to succeed in college. The challenges are enormous, so students are assisted in many different ways. All students receive ongoing mentoring, goal setting and problem solving assistance. Many also receive assistance with tuition and most receive their costly books through book vouchers that Bardwell Scholarships provide. Some Scholars have also received the use of computers and other support equipment.

To date, approximately 18 students have been helped in some way through Bardwell Scholarships. We've even had a student graduate with an Associate Degree and go on to university, but that story will be told later.

Many of you have shown an interest in Roger W. Bardwell Scholarships. Some of you knew Roger personally and share his passion for and commitment to public education. Many contributed to the fund directly through donations made soon after Roger's death while others have helped through contributions in the years that followed. Many people have heard of the work we are doing at Harold Washington College and have expressed an interest in knowing more. This first semiannual newsletter is meant to update you on the activities of Bardwell Scholars and to share with you some of their success stories.

As many of you know, Roger was an approachable man with a rare ability to encourage others. This first Bardwell Scholar story, told by the woman who cut his hair, clearly illustrates that.

"Roger Bardwell was a client of mine. He had a wonderful way of communicating with me. He would reel me in by focusing in on what I wanted out of life. Then he would use a theatrical approach to get his point across. He often said, 'Barbara, you should go back to school.' His words always ate away at me. I told him things I told no one else, but I never told him I couldn't afford to go. I would just listen.

When the program was introduced to me, I shouted 'Yes.' The Bardwell Scholarship enabled me to return to school. Being one of its first recipients, I was very nervous and excited and I wanted to do well. I had to relearn how to pace myself. I watched myself grow academically as I entered each course. It gave me a new confidence that I could challenge whatever obstacle presented itself. I would like to thank the Bardwell Scholarship program for giving me the opportunity to turn my silent defeat into an eternal victory."

Barbara Holmes
Hairdresser, Harold Washington Student and Bardwell Scholar



Program Administrator Hedy Cohen with Barbara Holmes

Sometimes Bardwell Scholars, themselves, refer other worthy students to us. That was how we met Earleata Streeter.

"In the 1999 spring semester, I had the privilege of attending Harold Washington College under the Roger Bardwell Scholarship, sponsored by Ms. Hedy Cohen. Initially, I had thoughts of nursing as a career since I had been a certified nurse's assistant for over ten years, but soon I would recognize some latent writing potential that would make my college experience wonderful!

It had been 28 years since I graduated from high school, but my English 101 professor, Joan Morris, made the transition comfortable and rewarding. Her professional yet nurturing instruction rekindled appreciation in me for creative written expression, especially play writing.

I continued writing in the fall semester, in English 241 with Professor Edward Homewood, which eventually led to having two pieces of poetry published in the 2000 edition of the Garland Court magazine!

Currently, I'm still working as a CNA, only part time. However, my dreams are still pointing me toward being a playwright. With Harold Washington being located right in Chicago's Theater District, the experience of attending school there makes me feel that anything's possible and that some dreams do come true everyday. After all, there was a time when I didn't think that I would be able to attend college, let alone be published in a magazine, but it happened.

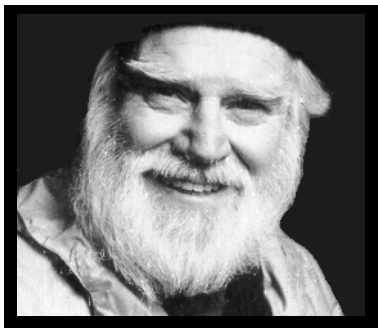
The Bardwell Scholarship gave me the opportunity and the inspiration to discover hidden creative talents. Thanks, Roger. Thanks, Hedy. I'm forever grateful."

Earleata Streeter
CNA, Harold Washington Student and Bardwell Scholar

There are many ways you can share in the work and commitment that Roger began and that we value and continue. We could use help mentoring and maintaining ongoing contact with students. This could be done either in person or via Internet or phone. Contributions, which are deductible to the extent the law allows, are always appreciated and enable us to continue this important work. Your employer may offer matching funds for contributions to nonprofit organizations. Your donations allow us to seek additional students whom we may be able to support.

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

Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund
% Ehlert Finance Group
50 Lakeview Parkway, Suite 102
Vernon Hills, IL 60061



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

Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund
Harold Washington College
30 East Lake Street, Chicago, IL, 60601
312-553-5833



If you'd like to receive future newsletters by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to: gertco1@aol.com.