



Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

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Issue 7

Bardwell Scholarships Proudly Celebrate Their Fall Graduates

College Years Move Quickly

Keyla Arzet, BA Northeastern Illinois University, December 2004, Bardwell Scholar

I cannot believe how fast my college years have flown by. Lord willing, I will soon be graduating from Northeastern Illinois University with a focus in English and Linguistics. Several things have contributed to my success and I would like to acknowledge them by stating the following: First, I thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for his strength, wisdom and guidance. Secondly, I thank my family and friends for their endless support and words of encouragement. **I'm also grateful for wonderful people like John R. Wozniak, Hedy Cohen and all of the Bardwell supporters. These are people with tremendous hearts who help students accomplish their academic goals through Bardwell Scholarships.** I've been extremely blessed by their financial support, which has paid for my books and tuition for the past two years.

John R. Wozniak and Hedy Cohen came into my life at the right time and without a doubt a blessing from heaven. Prior to meeting them, I was working to pay for my academic and personal expenses and could only afford to take part-time classes. However, with the help of Bardwell Scholarships, I was able to enroll as a full-time student and take advantage of the benefits that come with it by being involved in several organizations including Inter varsity Christian Fellowship, University Ambassadors, ENLACE, GEAR UP and the Girl's Volleyball team. These organizations have played a

Arzet continued on page 2...



December 2004 graduates: Keyla Arzet and Denisa Coropca

Life-goal To Become a Teacher

Denisa Coropca, BA Northeastern Illinois University, December 2004, Bardwell Scholar

I have long desired to become an early childhood teacher. When I finished high school, I was accepted at one of the best teaching schools in Chicago, Northeastern Illinois

University. During my first four years at NEIU, I was eligible to receive financial aid. Unfortunately, during my fifth year there, I was no longer eligible to receive any financial support. Issues at home and my financial instability started to overwhelm me and I found myself in debt.

I came to meet Hedy Cohen through a close friend, Keyla Arzet, who is also a Bardwell Scholar. Without me knowing, Keyla had explained my financial situation to Hedy. When I heard the news that Hedy was willing to assist me financially, I was shocked and amazed at how my prayers had been answered.

After attending five years of full-time classes at Northeastern Illinois University, I am finally finishing my student teaching requirement and am graduating this December with a Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood Education.

I am so grateful to Bardwell Scholarships for providing the financial support I needed to finish my degree. I am indebted to all of you. I wish all the Bardwell Scholars success now and in the future. 🙏

College Years Move Quickly

by Keyla Arzet

Arzet continued from page 1...

crucial role in my development as a student leader and it would have been impossible for me to participate without the Bardwell Scholarship.

I would also like to express gratitude to my professors who have equipped me with the tools necessary to succeed professionally. I have learned to be disciplined and organized and I know that these virtues will help me through the rest of my endeavors. Juggling my daily activities has been a daunting task, but with God and support from the Bardwell staff I have been able to manage well.

Once again, I want to thank you all for believing in me. You have enriched my college experience and because of you I'm now a better person. I will never forget your kindness and how you were an answer to my prayers.▲



Good friends Denisa Coropca and Keyla Arzet looking forward to graduation from Northeastern Illinois University.

Return to College Makes Dream a Reality

Andrea Scaggs, AA Harold Washington College, December 2004, Bardwell Scholar

Faith, family and a circle of friends have given me the courage to pursue my dreams and I am thankful. I honor my God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit for my life and this opportunity to fulfill my dream. My husband, Marcius Scaggs, has been a great support, being my personal tutor, and I appreciate all he did to help me. Also, I am grateful to my pastor, Apostle Vivian L. Harris, who encouraged me to return to college in August 2003.

I elected to attend Harold Washington College because of its terrific social work program. There I met Professor Sammie Dortch. She entered my life at a crucial time because I was financially challenged and couldn't afford to stay in school. She stepped in and helped me to obtain finances for the fall semester of 2003. I ended that semester with a 4.0 GPA. I am grateful that Prof. Dortch saw something in me to invest in my future. She's a phenomenal woman, a mentor, and a great inspiration to the lives she touches.

Through Prof. Dortch I was introduced to another outstanding lady, Hedy Cohen. She interviewed me for

the Bardwell Scholarship and I appreciate Hedy for investing in the advancement of my education. The Bardwell Scholarship has been a great resource in my life and in the lives of others. Hedy Cohen has a sweet, warm spirit of concern for those who are in need and are serious about their education. Hedy is always checking on all the Bardwell scholars to see how we are maintaining in our classes, and if we are lacking in an area; she is willing to assist us in any way possible. Hedy Cohen has also been a great inspiration and mentor in the lives of many people.



Andrea Scaggs

I will graduate in December 2004. This would not have been possible without the great support and investment provided to me by a host of family and friends. Thank you, again, for helping make my dream a reality.▲

Thank You for Providing Us with a Life Option

Daniela Changuan, AA Harold Washington College, December 2004, Bardwell Scholar

It has been a long time since I stopped to seriously reflect on the circumstances that initiated me into the student life. I suppose that I was motivated by my parents with their only desire to give me an education, and with that a better opportunity to succeed in life. As the years went by, I began to understand that in addition to my family's impulse, there were other reasons to introduce me to the world of education. For instance, there is a responsibility of the government to educate the population. And there is the inalienable and universal right of receiving an education which every individual has.

Subsequently, a new reason to continue with my education emerged in my conscience. There is a strong motivation, a product of my convictions, necessities, and desires which allows me to believe in a solid academic preparation, which is fundamental to my personal growth and necessary to contribute to the search for superior levels of social interaction.

But there is one more reason that encouraged the continuity of my academic projects and my professional future. I am referring to the invaluable support that the Bardwell Scholarship organization has given me. This organization, without any other interest than the satisfaction of helping, undertakes a spectacular task to benefit dozens of people that have decided to pursue a college education. For many of us the laudable task of the Bardwell Scholarship constitutes a decisive opportunity for our lives. Allowing us to have access to education not only

keeps us away from the many dangerous social problems that we face but it also opens the doors to diverse options of intellectual growth as well as better options of life.

Through these lines I want to make public my recognition of the Bardwell Scholarship organization and Hedy Cohen for the immense and invaluable impact they are making in our lives. Also, I want to pay homage in my name and the names of those who have benefited from this organization.



Daniela Changuan (at right) with her sister Karen (at left).

Surely, Roger W. Bardwell would be proud that in his name many people can now get an education with the only purpose being to become a better citizen. ▲

Graduates on the Move

Saruul Ganbaatar Joins Banking Staff

It's been four months since I finished taking my classes for my Bachelor Degree at Loyola University Chicago. It's been four months since I started my new career as a mortgage banker at 21st Century Mortgage Bankers. The new career path that I've chosen isn't proving to be easy, but the challenges I'm encountering along the way are definitely going to help me to become much more experienced in this field.



Saruul Ganbaatar with his sister, Uyanga

This position allows me to provide real benefits to my customers. It is challenging. However, it's much more rewarding to see the tangible benefits that I bring to my customers. As a mortgage banker, I'm given opportunity to help and benefit thousands of people who have dreamt about owning and have been

looking to purchase their own homes but were denied in the past due to their nonstandard credit or income profile. I'm given the opportunity to help people get out from the Chapter 13 bankruptcy stranglehold, save them hundreds in their monthly payments,

and offer them a fresh start. I'm given the opportunity to provide people with loan options that aren't matched by any other lender due to the professionalism I bring along with my services. It's a rewarding position and rewarding career, and I can't be happier about it. ▲

Saruul can be reached at 224-392-9434

Graduates on the Move

Life's Lessons Energize Kim Lawrence

Kimberly D. Lawrence, BA Chicago State University, Masters Student, National Louis University, Bardwell Scholar

I have officially titled the year of 2004 my "growing up" year. This year, I have been faced with so many obstacles that I look back in awe at how I triumphantly overcame everything placed in my way. I know that I can only attribute my success to the Lord above, and the strong support system He has placed in my life.

Briefly, these are some of the battles I faced this year: I had my four wisdom teeth removed at one time, I suffered from a bad case of the flu, I ended my relationship with my fiancée of two years, my mom received a double lung transplant in March and spent the next six months in the hospital, my grandfather passed away in September, I was the victim of credit and check fraud over the Summer break, the research project in my Master's class is almost due, I was told that I would have Sophomores this school year (some of the same students I thought I would get rid of), and I have been earnestly trying to lose weight!

Sadly, that's not all! Overall, I had to realize that life goes on. Even though the winds and the storms rise in your life, life will go on! You will survive! And whatever it is that you are going through, it too shall pass. In life, growing up will present some rainy days. It is then that you have to remember the sunny days. I have learned that patience is truly a virtue! It is essential for survival. I have learned to set realistic goals, and put forth my all in order to reach those goals. I am beginning to realize my purpose in life. I have learned to help others, to give of yourself first, and in return, you will be blessed.

My teeth are much better now. I am better prepared for the flu season this year. My fiancée and I are still friends. My mom is still home recovering. While I miss my grandfather very much, I am at peace knowing he is truly in a better place. Money is not everything, and the sting of having it stolen from me has subsided. I managed to get three B's and an A for this past semester in my Master's program. My students and I are off to an even better start this year! I am so very proud of them. And as of my last weigh-in, I have lost 53 pounds!

The lessons I have learned this year will prepare me to become an even better person in the years to come. I know that I did not go through the things that I went

through for nothing. I went through them so that I can share with someone what I have learned. Therefore, it is my hope that you gained something from my message to you. Good luck in all of your future endeavors!▲

Graduate School In Future For Two Bardwell Scholars

Kimberly Perez-Campos BA Loyola University, Bardwell Scholar

Hello to all the Bardwell Scholars and Supporters, Since completing my last three classes this summer, I took a Caribbean Cruise to Mexico and Belize. The trip was seven days of sun and fun; no exams and no essays. I actually read Dan Brown's book The Da Vinci Code, the first book I have read for pleasure in four years.

Recently, I have been visiting universities, studying for the GRE examination, and working part-time for Parmaley Hearing Institute. Also, I have completed some testing so that I could decide what would be the best place to do a masters program for an old girl like myself (non-traditional student). Wish me luck! I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon for the holidays which are right around the corner.

*Love and Peace,
Kimberly Perez-Campos*

Yolanda Hopkins, BA Roosevelt University, Bardwell Scholar

Since graduating this past December things have been a lot different than I expected. I've been paying back student loans and searching for a job in the social service industry, which has turned out not to be such an easy task. Despite the minor snags I've continued to persevere. I will be attending graduate school this coming spring term, with a new outlook toward the future.▲



Kimberly Perez-Campos and Yolanda Hopkins

Graduates on the Move

DePaul graduate and Bardwell Scholar Linda Murphy and her story of resilience and achievement was featured in Dawn Turner Trice's May 21, 2004 column in the Chicago Tribune. We proudly reprint it here.

Future teacher earns degree in tenacity too

I first met Linda Murphy about seven years ago when she came to my house for Thanksgiving dinner. In a crowded room, Murphy, now 43, isn't the type that stands out. She's small in stature, shy and unassuming.

At the time, Murphy worked at the same company as my husband. When he learned that she was a single parent with two sons and couldn't afford a car-her commute entailed getting up at 3 AM and taking two buses and a train-he included her in a carpool.

The thing that stuck with me most about Murphy was that a few years before we met, her 6-year-old daughter, Ashley, died of cancer. It turns out that was just one of several tragedies in her life.

Murphy eventually left the company where my husband works, and the carpooling ended.

Every now and then she would call my husband, or he would call her just to check in. During the summer of 1999, she told him she had entered Harold Washington College.

Even though she had come from a family that hadn't focused much on education, she always wanted a degree. None of her 13 siblings had degrees.

When the family lived on a small farm in AK, they were concerned mostly with making a living. Murphy recalled how her mother used to wash and iron for the wealthier folks in town. Her father worked as a plumber and a carpenter. Her older siblings quit school and picked cotton to supplement the family income.

When Murphy was 11, the family moved to Chicago's South Side. She eventually graduated from Robeson High School. She married young, had her first son, enrolled in college and started a job. But she dropped out to meet the demands of her family.

A decade and a half later, Murphy was divorced and working jobs with low pay and little opportunity for advancement. So, on the afternoon when she called to say she had enrolled in HWC, it was a celebration, albeit a quiet one, because Murphy isn't one for much fanfare.

A year later, Murphy called again. This time it was to say she had been accepted into an honor society at

the school. The society held conventions around the country and she flew for the first time to attend one. She also had won several academic scholarships and an internship at the U.S. Department of Education.

Not long after that, she graduated from HWC with a 3.96 grade point average. My husband happened to call her, and she mentioned the graduation, a few things about family and ended with, "by the way, I've been accepted into DePaul University's education program."

She said she wasn't interested in standing before a large group of students, teaching. She hoped to conduct research.

When Murphy and I chatted for this column, I learned there were times when she couldn't afford food, but was too proud to ask for help. One summer, she worked four part-time jobs tutoring and cleaning houses just to feed her family. Her days were long, often starting at 2 AM, so she could study and complete chores. Though her sons helped out, in 2002, she was hospitalized for extreme exhaustion.

Though the journey has been tough, she says she doesn't regret a moment of it. Next month she will graduate from DePaul with honors. She has decided against becoming a researcher.

"I was student teaching, and it was like I exploded in the classroom," she said. "I opened up. I felt like this is my calling. I know it won't be easy. But I found that if students see you're more concerned about them learning and not them as people, they'll turn you off. I let them know I was concerned about them as human beings."

Two weeks after she graduates, Murphy will begin teaching full-time at Robeson, her alma mater, beginning



Linda Murphy with her granddaughter, Ashley

Murphy continued on page 6...

Murphy continued from page 5...

with summer school. During the job interview, she was asked why she wanted to teach in the Englewood neighborhood when she could teach at a school with far less needy students.

“I told him. ‘I need to be where there is need,’” she said.

This time of year, you will find inspiring graduation stories with elements of transcendence, perseverance and achievement. Murphy’s story has all of those bundled into one.

She said her graduation finally is sinking in. “Last week I took out a photo album of my daughter and I said, ‘OK, Ashley, Mommy did it.’” ♣



Visit us on the web at
www.bardwellscholarships.org

Bardwell Scholarships on the Go

Jan Schakowsky

The Ninth Congressional District covers a wide area, from Uptown north through Evanston and west to O’Hare. This district is one of the most culturally diverse in the country; it is proudly and ably represented in Congress by Representative Jan Schakowsky.

Recently, a small group of Bardwell Scholars and supporters had the opportunity to enjoy lunch with Representative Schakowsky. As a resident of Evanston, Ms. Schakowsky knew of Roger Bardwell. She was interested and pleased to know of the work that was continuing in his name.

The group met at Tien Giang, a fine Vietnamese restaurant on Argyle Street, owned and operated by the aunt and uncle of Bardwell Scholar, Johnny Phan. In fact, Johnny himself was there to personally wait on us! Over delicious food, topics as diverse as President Bush, the election and immigration were discussed. Ms. Schakowsky proved to be as good a listener as a speaker; she eagerly questioned students on their backgrounds and career goals and applauded their individual paths to success.

In difficult times such as these, it is gratifying to know that Rep. Schakowsky represents us in Washington with a strong and compassionate voice. It is representative government at its most accessible and at its best. We are particularly proud to include her as a supporter of Bardwell Scholarships.

Mission Statement

Bardwell Scholarships assist students who would otherwise be unable to receive a college education. Supporting a strong belief in the process of education, Bardwell Scholars are working adults needing financial assistance. They are dedicated and determined students setting and achieving personal and academic goals.

Joins Scholars for Lunch

With elections behind us, I am reminded of my own experiences with politics just this past summer. Most would take any opportunity to simply meet a respected figure in our government. Not only was I able to do just that, but I was also able to have lunch with the U.S. Congresswoman of the 9th Congressional District in Illinois, Jan Schakowsky. Although one might expect a Congresswoman as she to be too busy and unreachable, especially for young students such as myself, she was definitely an exception to the rule. Based on my experience alone, I came to realize that she is extremely down to earth and someone that one can really talk to. Just listening to her own experiences in politics helped me to conclude that her line of work is not easy.

Being a Bardwell Scholar has not only given me the opportunity to meet other wonderful scholars, but it has also opened the door to other experiences, such as lunch with our legislator, Jan Schakowsky. **In retrospect, being a Bardwell Scholar and the memorable experiences would not be possible without the generous donations from contributors as well as Hedy Cohen's hard work and effort to make it possible for us to reach our goals.▲**

Johnny Phan, Harold Washington College Graduate 2003, UIC student, Bardwell Scholar

“Phil•an•thro•pist” What’s the first image that word evokes? A Carnegie or Rockefeller? I automatically think of my friend Hedy Cohen. Philanthropy: “A desire to help mankind; benevolence.” I do not believe Hedy thinks about having her name inscribed in some public building. She just loves challenging and supporting Bardwell Scholars.

Hedy Cohen helps mankind in many ways. Last year we went together to a benefit dinner of the Ted Fund, which sends low-income kids in Evanston to summer camp. Hedy won a silent auction item at the benefit: lunch with our Congressional Representative, Jan Schakowsky. Hedy invited me to the lunch, knowing that I value the good work of Rep. Schakowsky. Also included were Bardwell Scholars Saruul Ganbaatar, Kimberly Perez-Campos and Johnny Phan. I welcomed a chance to talk with Rep. Schakowsky about Center for Independent Futures, an organization that supports adults with disabilities in their communities.

Rep. Schakowsky had a great story about President Bush that I will share with you. When she and members of the Congressional Black Caucus were finally granted a meeting with him, Rep. Schakowsky was wearing an Obama button in support of the candidacy of our now Senator-elect Barack Obama. Rep. Schakowsky said that the President did a noticeable double take when he noticed the button, very likely confusing the name with Osama. When the President said he had never heard of Obama, Rep. Schakowsky predicted “You will!”

*Bonnie Dohogne
Supporter, Bardwell Scholarships*



*Kimberly Perez-Campos,
Representative Jan
Schakowsky and Hedy
Cohen meet to
take pictures after lunch*

Why I contribute to Bardwell Scholarships!

Every year I look forward to attending the annual Bardwell Scholarship luncheon. This is where I meet a most amazing and interesting group of people, the Bardwell Scholars. My favorite part of the luncheon is listening as each scholar gets a chance to tell us his or her story. Invariably, they thank Hedy Cohen for being available and encouraging. I know they are grateful for the scholarship's financial assistance, but it is obvious that Hedy's unfailing personal commitment to each one of them is among the most important ingredients in the Bardwell Scholar's success. In this way Hedy greatly multiplies the effect of modest sums of money.



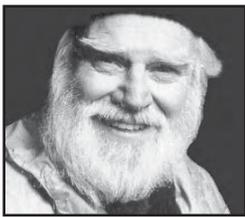
Hedy Cohen & Robin Baugher

I give to the Bardwell Scholarships because I can see the effect of my donations. I know the scholarship money is well used, because I get to hear the stories and meet the people it helps. These stories of courage and perseverance in the face of daunting obstacles to education are inspiring. The scholars don't seem to realize how heroic they are. They are a very optimistic group, and their optimism is contagious. Each year I leave the luncheon determined to do more to help John R. Wozniak, Hedy Cohen and Bardwell Scholarships.

—Robin Baugher

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.

Contributions to the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund 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 Janice Mason or Hedy Cohen:

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