



Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

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Issue 11

Reflections on my College Education



Johnny Phan and Melissa Patenio at Johnny's family restaurant, Ben Tre Cafe.

What motivated me to go to college? There are many reasons. The first was my parents and how hard it was for them to make it here in the US. The second is that my brother was a high school dropout. I think it was good that he dropped out or I wouldn't be where I'm at now. Maybe I would have made the same mistake. I was also motivated by the fact that I wanted to set a good example for my sister.

The two main reasons I went to college were to make my parents proud and to set that example for my sister. In our community, people are very competitive. They will look down on you if you don't have an education or a good paying job. Personally, I could care less about what others think about me, but I knew this would make my parents happy. My college education brings respect to my family. My family is well respected in the Vietnamese community; therefore, it is my duty to become educated, and not make my parents look bad.

Although, my brother dropped out of high school, he is now respected through his experience in mechanics. My sister is young and intelligent and a recent college graduate. She finished before I did, due to good fortune in her life. I needed

to help more in the family business, so it took me longer. I had many family bills and responsibilities to take care of, as well as working and going to school. I worked and followed my goals; those goals kept me going, even when it was a bumpy road.

There's also motivation for me through my friends. Most of them are dropouts, both from college and high school. I still respect them and they still respect me, but I know I don't want to live like them. They work on a day-to-day basis, and when they're not working, they just hang out. Most of them do not have future plans or goals. By not having an education they are limiting their opportunities and resources and this may be the reason why they do not have future plans or goals. For me, it's different. I want to be able to travel when I want, buy what I want, make enough for my parents to retire and enjoy a relaxing life. Those materialistic things won't make me or my parents happy, but if they could relax, that would really be satisfying. Not having to worry about making enough money to pay the bills at the end of the month would be a huge relief. Through my friends, I learned that having a college degree would open up more doors and would give me choices. And in this world it is a good thing to have choices and to be able to make your own decisions.

When my life is stable, I want to travel and experience so many things before settling down. I'm getting my BA in Psychology from UIC in December, and hope to work a year or two in industrial and organizational Psychology, then think about graduate school, maybe in business. I think merging psychology and business is a good combination; in psychology you understand more about how people think and putting that together with business will enable me to build success.

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Phan continued from page 1...

There are 3 people in my life who have most impacted me; the first is Kenny Nguyen, my god brother. Without Kenny, I might still be hanging out on the streets. He provided mentorship for me when I needed it the most. Next, there was Mary Klassen, from Senn High School. She was the coordinator of the CPFTA (Chicago Police Firefighter Training Academy) there. The last few months of my senior year, when I decided to drop out of that program, and accept a seven dollar an hour job, she convinced me to not take that job and stay with the program. Staying in CFPTA program has changed my life in the people I have met and the experiences I have had.



The last is Hedy Cohen. Just about every one talks about Hedy, but I think that there is not enough said about this extraordinary woman who has touched so many lives, and has helped so many people that she herself couldn't even remember. Hedy has helped people get their education and make their

dreams a reality. She has created an organization that has a domino effect; by that I mean everyone who is involved with the Bardwell Scholarship Foundation is helpful, caring, and appreciative. **RBS Students are supportive toward each other and we stay closely bonded. We are like one big family, but from all ages and all racial/ethnic backgrounds. Despite all the differences, we have one thing in common; We all want to get an education and hope for a better life.** Thanks to the Roger Bardwell Scholarship Foundation, thanks to our contributors, and, most importantly, thanks a million to Hedy. Without Hedy, none of this would have happened; my fellow Bardwell Scholars and I would have probably dropped out of college and lived an uneducated, miserable life, working two jobs trying to make ends meet. Instead we meet the future with choices and opportunities and, most of all, hope.▲

Johnny Phan

AA, HWC 2003

BA, UIC, December 2006

Bardwell Scholar

Election Day, 2006

On Election Day, I had the chance to work as a polling place administrator, which was definitely an interesting experience. Rather than serve in a clerical function as I presumed, I was actually a technical advisor, a Polling Place Administrator (PPA), to the election judges. My responsibilities entailed troubleshooting and handling any and all malfunctions of the hardware and software that was used during the election. I, like the other PPAs, prepared with a 3 day class for any seen or unforeseen technical difficulties that might occur on that day.

The climate of the polling place was friendly, and, for the most part, everyone seemed to be patient, cooperative, and understanding. All employees for that day were directed to election central in the event that a situation arose that couldn't be handled by those present at the polls. PPAs were used for the very first time during this election in an attempt to make the voting process operate more smoothly, with less interruptions or delays and, for the most part, things worked for the best.

We were all able to leave at a decent hour, any problems that I faced were fairly minor and remediated and, we were able to accommodate practically all of the voters, both those who voted manually or electronically. So, in my opinion, the effort was successful. Judges who had served during the last election informed me that they were pleased with the fact that PPAs were assigned to the polling place; and they felt reassured that a "tech" was present and on "stand by". It really felt good to be appreciated, needed, and to be of assistance concerning something that so many people view as tremendously important as well as serious! I was really glad that I was able to help the officials, serve the people, and be compensated for it at the same time, so I think that I'll do it again next year.▲

Katrelle Lee

AA, HWC, 2006

Bardwell Scholar

For many years, Roger Bardwell was a local election judge. Rarely missing an election, he would administer the poll from before dawn until late at night. At that time, election judges were barely compensated, but Roger knew how precious it was to protect our right to vote. Unfortunately, election judges in previous elections did not have the help or support of PPAs.

Following this fine tradition of election leadership, 3 Bardwell Scholars served at polling places in the recent election. Joann Washington and Katrelle Lee served as Polling Place Administrators and Chris Clark was an election judge.

Thoughts from a UIC Scholar

The Bardwell Scholarship committee and family have been extremely generous to me. They have been a very vital support group in more ways than one. Initially, they were a source of financial support for completing my AAS at HWC, but, since then, their support has evolved into much more. Upon completion of my degree at HWC, I immediately enrolled at UIC where the Bardwell family continues to play a significant role in my education and life in general.



I vividly remember how I was introduced to the Bardwell Scholarship. I was approaching my last term at HWC and preparing for university academics. The deadline for the application process at UIC was quickly approaching, and I was still in need of two classes for my associates or I would have to wait until the following term for enrollment. I was determined to begin in the fall of 2005, but I had no idea how I would pay for the courses I needed in order to graduate. I searched many venues for financial assistance, but to no avail. Lastly I tried the Bardwell office, and after the application process and my acceptance into the family, I have been on a path of excellence and scholarly accomplishment. Not only did the Bardwell family pay the expenses that would enable me to complete my education at HWC, they also contribute to my academic aspirations while in attendance at UIC.

I am currently a senior, my major is psychology, and I am considering applying for doctoral programs following graduation. However, this reality was materialized or became more tangible for me as a result of the support financially, socially, and emotionally that the Bardwell family granted me. I am ever so thankful and appreciative for everything that has been invested in me: quality time, money, and effort, and I can honestly say that the entire Bardwell family has become not just another agency for the promotion of scholastic achievement, but a family and network that I can call my own. Thank you Bardwell family. I will never forget how courteous, gracious, and helpful you have been in the process of my education.▲

Corey Hudson AA, HWC 2005
UIC student, Bardwell Scholar

Bardwell Scholars at Play

The Bardwell Scholarship Program has meant a lot to me and so many other people over the past few years! But one of the things that I believe is most special about the organization is the sense of family togetherness that is shared between all those involved with the program!! For example, last summer a party was thrown in honor of Ms. Janice Mason at Hedy's home. I got the chance to socialize with some of the Bardwell participants in another atmosphere, outside of the educational environment. It was nice to see some familiar faces, meet some new interesting people, and enjoy one another's company. The food was great, some gifts were presented to the very grateful honoree and the attitudes of those who attended the event were very pleasant. Everyone present seemed to have a good time, reminiscing about memories of school, speaking about their lives pertaining to the present, and planning for their immediate and much anticipated futures. We all relaxed in the solemnness of the beautiful summer afternoon and evening.



However, it was also a day of mixed emotions because several of the scholars had happily graduated, but were leaving for schools out of state. We were all happy that students had been accepted to different universities from all over the country and we all share a strong sense of pride. Unfortunately, good-byes can be painful and, for a brief second, it actually occurred to me that my academic and second family (educational surrogate, if you will) was being disbanded. I think it's safe to speak for all of us when I say that I wish them the best. It was a delightful gathering that revealed how attached we have become to each other and how connected we'll always remain.▲

Katrelle Lee
AA HWC, 2006
Bardwell Scholar

Second Annual Ar

"Oh, What A Night!"

I had a ball! The fun, the food, the festivities and the people were a delight. I am a student at HWC and recently became a Bardwell Scholar for the 2006 fall semester. I just attended my first Bardwell celebration, a fund raiser held on September 21, 2006 at Gallery 203 in the Flat Iron Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago. The Fund raiser was an opportunity for me to spend an evening out meeting new people and getting to know other Bardwell Scholars. Some of the artisans were also on hand to present their craftsmanship. Ms. Edie, a silversmith, and most delightful woman who designs fashion jewelry from silver and precious stones, was just one of the many artists and interesting attendees.



RBS Chris Clark, Joann Washington and Liz Gracia finalize preparations for the night.



On this evening I learned that HWC is a community within itself that networks and interacts with its students, staff and faculty. I could not help but feel their embracement and support for Ms. Cohen, the Bardwell Scholarship Fund, and its recipients.

This close knit community came together and offered Ms. Hedy Cohen their full support. President John R. Wozniak was in attendance with his lovely wife, Delia. Dean Anna Blum and her husband gARTh, who is also an artisan, Professor Margarita Chavez and numerous others were also there. I was especially pleased to receive their warm welcome.



Kimberly Perez Lucas & Jerome Lucas help with the festivities.

I am a person who does not get the chance to go out and mingle with my friends very often so this event was an opportunity to meet new people. I also shared the love, laughter and support the friends, staff, and administrators of the HW community so humbly provided. HWC is a close-knit community that came together to lend their love and support to Ms. Cohen and the Bardwell Scholars. Once again I would like to say, "Thank You" and I look forward to the next event with much anticipation.



Bardwell donor Linda Herried catches up with administrator Hedy Cohen.

*Rita Whitfield
Bardwell Scholar*

Artists' Extravaganza



Jeweler Edith Roberston talks with Bardell Supporter Dan McGibany.



RBS LaTanya Jackson, Johnny Phan, Chris Clark and HWC President John R. Wozniak enjoy the informal atmosphere and a chance to talk.



Dean Anna Blum, RBS Rita Whitfield and HWC President John R. Wozniak socialize and admire the art.



Dean Rosie Banks and Dean John Metoyer talk with RBS Chris Clark.



RBS Helen Bolar and Rita Whitfield prepare for guests.



Delia Wozniak and Dean Rosie Banks comment on the beautiful art.

Generous Contributors Enable us to continue the important work of Roger Bardwell.

Bardwell Scholarships continue to prosper through the generous contributions of individuals. Each contribution is of significance, helping us to extend and enhance college opportunities for deserving, hard-working students.

We acknowledge and thank these individuals who have contributed to Bardwell Scholarships since November 2005. (Donations are listed alphabetically as each donation is important to us. Also, individuals are listed once although they may have contributed in more than one category)

Mary Jo Barrett
George Bickford
Wendell Blair
Anna Blum & gARTh (*in honor of Dr. John M. Wozniak's birthday*)
Captiva Foundation
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Bob Harris & Susan Primmer
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Margo Stern
Barbara & Eric Udren
Jerry Vidis (*in memory of Saul Shapiro & Sammy Rosenberg*)
Shirlene Ward
Linda Weinstein

Irwin Williger
John M. Wozniak
Ann Yoshida

Donations in honor of Gary Shovers' Birthday

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Donations made in memory of Jean Cohen

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Irene Luchinsky
Helene Maram
Susan McClay
Dan McGibany & Eric Warner
Nancy Schamen
Esther Shaw
Nan Simon
Donna Smith
Jackie Stults
Shelley Sutherland
Diana Tomlinson
Robert & Susan Wolfe

On August 17th many Bardwell Scholars gathered at Harold Washington College and gave our fearless leader, Hedy, a surprise birthday roast. Hedy works tirelessly on our behalf so it was nice to do something for her. The roast gave each RB scholar an opportunity to share Hedyisms with the group, as well as thank her for being available and encouraging. We provided the birthday cake, gifts, music, food, and the decorations. It was a wonderful celebration and we enjoyed making Hedy smile on her special day, although, she kept insisting, "Today is not my birthday". Hedy's birthday is the 19th; that's why it's called a surprise!



Most of the time we are the center of her attention, but this time she was ours.

Joann Washington
AA HWC 2006
UIC student
Bardwell Scholar

Ehlert Financial Group Presents a Financial Planning Workshop

While attending the Financial Planners Workshop, Bardwell Scholars and Hedy Cohen learned substantial ways to manage and maximize our finances. Here information sharing by scholars about loans, credit cards, and finances was helpful to all. Nate Eads and Mona Edwards, the planning associates from Ehlert Financial who were generously donating their time, touched upon how to keep our cash flows consistent. Nate and Mona were very helpful in answering questions from scholars about financial issues we encounter; they also covered financial strategies on ways to record and maintain everyday expenses.

This workshop was an excellent tool to learn about financial crises students encounter in everyday life. It was a great opportunity and experience for scholars and Hedy herself. We are certainly looking forward to meeting with Nate and Mona again, possibly in December. As a scholar, I would like to give recognition to Nate and Mona for generously sharing their time for this workshop.

Cashawndra Hunter
Bardwell Scholar



Financial Planners Nate Eads and Mona Edwards talk with RBS Diane Richardson.

Kathy Osterman Award to Janice Mason

Early on the morning of October 3, 2006, a prestigious group of Chicago public employees gathered at the Palmer House Hilton to recognize individuals who have demonstrated superior public service. Among the recipients of this year's award was Janice Mason, HWC building manager and administrative assistant for Bardwell Scholarships.



In attendance, along with Janice and her sons, Elliott and Brian, were Mayor Daley and a large group of public officials who gathered to honor their outstanding employees. Also on hand were Janice's supportive relatives and a wildly cheering group of Janice's colleagues from Harold Washington College.

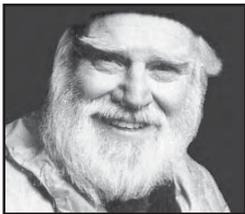
These awards for public service honor the memory of Kathy Osterman, a Chicago community organizer, Alderwoman and Director of Special Events.

Bardwell Scholarships congratulates Janice on this well-deserved award

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.

(Bardwell Scholarships operate under the tax exempt status of Harold Washington College.)

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



Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund
% Ehlert Financial Group
103 Schelker
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



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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