



Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

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Second Chance

When I walked through the doors of the former Dawson College in 1988, my dream was to get my GED. I wanted to be a good mother to my three sons and felt the only way I could help them was to have at least a high school diploma. If someone had told me then that I would not only get a GED but a master's degree and a great job, I would have laughed in their face. I could not have even dreamed that one day that would happen.

City Colleges offered me a second chance at educational dreams. I was a teenage mother and high school dropout at age 17. I got married at age 18 and believed in the fairy tale that I would be married forever and my husband would take care of me

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The Power of Belief in Yourself

The ultimate power of belief rests in the individual. Believe that you can do it regardless of what people say. Believe that you can move the mountain even though it sounds ridiculous and seems absolutely impossible. This is the belief that all RBS share, the belief that "All things are possible with God," and if you try, you can be whatever you chose to be.

My American dreams and educational journey rested on this belief. With this belief of mine to open new doors of opportunity and possibility, I knew that with perseverance and faith all things are possible. It is not coincidental that all RBS share this philosophy, because of the legacy of Roger Bardwell for

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...the fascinating journey...

I graduated this past August with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago. I can't believe that time has gone by so fast. It is two and a half years since I graduated from HWC and transferred to UIC. Now, at this time in my life, to have completed this milestone makes me extremely thankful. I am thankful for the Roger Bardwell Scholarship that cheered me on with each victory and picked me up with each defeat. Their continued encouragement has contributed in a major way to the successful completion of my undergraduate studies.

I remember being overwhelmed the first day I was on the UIC campus. I felt a mixture of emotions. I was

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whom we're all reaping the fruit of his hard labor.

Earlier in his life, Roger Bardwell was "a committed and passionate man who developed a belief system that centered on the strength of the individual." His philosophical doctrine and attitude are what make all RBS exemplary and distinguish us from others. Roger is no more today, but his legacy, doctrine, passion, and dedication to humanity live on. WHAT A LIFE WELL SPENT.

I was introduced to RBS by a friend by chance when she realized I was unable to afford my tuition. It didn't take me much time to realize I was in good hands. Good hands in the sense that when I saw Mama Hedy, as she's fondly called by all her admired children, she openly welcomed me with all my worries and concerns. I will forever be thankful to God and Mama Hedy who came to my rescue when I needed it most.

She's been more worried about my educational success than I am. Many times she goes the extra mile to meet my financial needs, and all the time when I think I have run out of gas, she has filled my tank and given me extra just in case I needed to refill my tank later. With her words of inspiration and motherly advice, she has ignited my spirit, and made me do what I thought impossible.

I graduated last May from one of the most prestigious universities in the world, UIC, with a Bachelor of Science in Finance Degree. This journey is incomplete without thanking the people who contributed in one way or another toward my success. **Often I don't regard this as my success but as our success. This success is for all RBS, Mama Hedy, President John R. Wozniak and is a success story to share with all well wishers and donors.** Thanks to those who contributed financially to keeping up the legacy we believe. Thank you all for believing in us.

Lukman Gbadamasi
AA HWC 2005
BS UIC 2008
Bardwell Scholar

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excited about the endless possibilities of this new journey and where it would take me but felt apprehensive about the unknown, a path untraveled. I knew if I applied the same philosophy I developed at HWC, such as setting goals, hard work, discipline, and perseverance, I would be successful in my studies at the university level. This winning philosophy allowed me to make the dean's list three semesters at UIC.

It is amazing what one can accomplish, and looking back, I have much to be thankful for. This past year will be remembered as the most challenging of my life, for there was as much pain and loss as there was joy and fulfillment. However, through it all, RBS stood with me. They mentored and supported me financially, which enabled me to focus on my studies and not on personal challenges. **I feel fortunate to have found an amazing network filled with people who inspired me to do my personal best. It is truly a humbling experience and I am honored knowing so many have had a hand in my achievements.**

When desire whispered education into my heart, I had no idea of the fascinating journey I would embark upon. **This journey has been a life changing experience.** It has tested my faith and determination to stay committed to a long term goal and has increased my overall knowledge of the world, thereby creating a new self-awareness.

Ralph Waldo Emerson stated, "Once you make a decision, the universe conspires to make it happen." I have been blessed through my affiliations with City Colleges of Chicago, the Student Government Association, Phi Theta Kappa, the Roger Bardwell Scholarship, and by the support of family and friends such as Hedy Cohen, John R. Wozniak, Shelby Beverley, Anna Blum and Patricia Cuevas. These special relationships are unending and they are ones I will always cherish and honor.

Through this experience, I have figured out more about life as well as myself. I am thankful to God for all that He has provided for me and all the opportunities that have been made available to me.

Joann Washington
AA HWC 2006
BA UIC 2008
Bardwell Scholar

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and my sons. When that fairy tale ended in 1988, I was forced to see the true reality, that I was a mother with three sons and no education. I, like many other women in this country, was forced to go on welfare as I had no other means of support. One day at the welfare office I met one of the meanest women I had ever met. The words that she spoke to me were the motivation for my wanting to go back to school. I know that when a situation may seem to be at its worst, there is something good coming later.

I enrolled in a 16-week GED program at Dawson College, and completed it in 8 weeks. My teacher, Mr. Mason, called me to see why I was not coming to school and I informed him that I had taken the GED test and passed. A few weeks later, Mr. Mason called again asking me to come and speak to the class to motivate them. He told me to go talk to a career counselor, and that's when I met Mr. Long. I told him I had never worked before but I needed a job. He encouraged me to sign up for the very first Information Technology classes because computers were the next biggest thing and I would be able to get a job. He was right. Nine months later, I graduated and received an Advanced Certificate in Office Information Technology, I was hired two months later by the Human Services/CDA program at Chicago City-Wide College. I worked with that department for 10 years before becoming full-time with the Public Agency and Special Programs at HWC. I continued to take classes and received my AAS from HWC in Computer Information Systems. I then enrolled at National Louis University and 18 months later received my BA in Applied Behavioral Science. I was sure that I was finished with school but I still had this strong desire for more knowledge. Shortly before I transferred to the Registrar's Office at HWC, I registered in the graduate program in psychology at NLU and, two years later, I had my master's degree. I currently work as a College Advisor at HWC and I often share my story with students letting them know they should keep dreaming. Just because your dreams are delayed doesn't mean that they cannot come true. I have told myself that I have accomplished a lot and this will be my last degree; however, there is a buzz in the air about a Ph. D. For now I say no, but you never know. I'm sharing my life story to be an inspiration to others, like so many other people have been an inspiration to me.

The journey has been long but it has been well worth it.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who has helped me along the way with their prayers, encouraging words or simply a listening ear when it was needed. I would like to first thank my family who stuck by me when I had to be at school or in the library and missed some events that were important in their lives. They knew I was with them in spirit. I would like to thank my second family which is HWC. There has not been a day when there was not someone to encourage me or congratulate me on achieving a degree. Their words of encouragement have inspired me when I was ready to give up. And I cannot find enough words to say thank you to my best friend, Claudia George, who was there for me every step of the way through the good times and the bad times. She has never been too busy to listen or give me advice and encouragement.

Finally, I want to say how thankful I am for the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Program. I am proud that our College President, John R. Wozniak, is a part of the Bardwell Scholarship Program. He takes the time to talk to us and tell us how proud he is of our accomplishments and is willing to help us whenever needed. Hedy Cohen, my mentor, always believed in me when many times I did not believe in myself. I am encouraged and thankful when I hear about my fellow Bardwell Scholars achieving their dreams and inspiring me and others to keep striving for our dreams.

Diane Richardson
AA HWC 2004
BA NLU 2006
MA NLU 2008
Bardwell Scholar



(L to R) Lukman Gbadamasi, Johnny Phan, LaTanya Jackson, Saruul Ganbaatar, Samson Wamani, Chris Bell, Diane Richardson, and Joann Washington at the barbecue.

Bardwell Scholars on the Road

Road Trip

On Friday morning, October 17th, we felt a chilly breeze at Beloit College received us with a warm welcome. Hedy, Daniela Changuan and I were on the road, visiting this small liberal arts school in southern Wisconsin. Being an hour early, we decided to grab lunch at the cafeteria. And as we filled our plates with an array of delicious food, we noticed that it was an intimate space, yet full of youthful energy.

We sat next to a few students, and soon conversation sprouted. Eager to find out how students liked the college, we freely asked why they chose Beloit, what they liked best about their classes, what they did for fun, what they thought about the diversity on campus, etc. Their responses only asserted that we were in the right place. They spoke highly of their teachers saying they encourage independent thinking, and self-responsibility. As students they have the freedom to explore diverse academic fields. Their responses conveyed that anything done at Beloit revolved around enhancing the students' experience.

When we walked back to embark on the tour, Hedy, Dani and I were surprised to notice such immense facilities for a total of 1300 students! We walked through a building for foreign languages, their huge theatre, and the anthropology center. We walked through an amazing green-technology science building, the gym, two cafeterias, and an extensive library.

When the tour finished, we met with admissions counselor Mr. Urish. He answered our questions very objectively and we could tell he was very enthused about us applying.

We loved visiting Beloit, and are enthused about applying as well.

Yunuen Rodriguez
HWC Bardwell Scholar



Yes We Did!!!!

The word was out to volunteers everywhere that the Obama campaign needed our help in Indiana. So Bardwell Scholars Joann Washington and Yolanda Hopkins along with Hedy Cohen and RBS supporter Kate LeVan answered the call! On Sunday morning, November 2, 2008, we hit the road to South Bend, ready to do what it takes to have new, dynamic, hopeful leadership in the White House.



Yolanda Hopkins, Hedy Cohen, Joann Washington, and Kate LeVan canvassing in South Bend, Indiana.

It was an unseasonably warm fall day and our work filled us with hope and promise for this country's future. After meeting at the local Obama headquarters, we knocked on doors and talked to voters, young and old, in a racially mixed working class neighborhood. Most of the voters we spoke with were almost as excited about the possibilities of an Obama presidency as we were.

As our President-Elect said on election night, "This is our time. Our time to turn the page on policies of the past. Our time to bring new energy and new ideas to the challenges we face. Our time to offer a new direction for the country we love."

And, when Indiana turned blue on that USA map, our hearts were proud of the contribution we had made to the process.

10th Anniversary BBQ

I had the privilege of attending the Bardwell Scholarship's Annual Barbeque hosted by Hedy Cohen. When I first arrived and entered the backyard, I was greeted by Pearl, one of Hedy's two dogs, who was very gentle and friendly. Gert, Hedy's other dog, was near the picnic table, so if anyone wanted to give her something to eat, she would not have to travel far to get it. These dogs were friendly and very much a part of the family. I couldn't help but think they should also be wearing Bardwell tee-shirts.

The grill was smoking, the beverages were chilling and there was a variety of food on the tables. Each of us brought something to share and Hedy provided any and everything else that was needed. There were Bardwell scholars and supporters gathered around the table and scattered throughout the yard. We were discussing recent graduations, stories of success, academic achievements, and the challenges we faced in the process.



Gertie, Pearl, LaTanya Jackson and Chris Bell party at the barbeque.

When RBS Diana Richardson was asked how long it took her to complete her academic journey, she responded that getting her associate's degree took the longest. Diane now has not only an associate's degree but she has also obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees. Now when I feel overwhelmed, I remind myself of Diane who stayed committed to her journey and it restores my confidence that I, too, a non-traditional-age student, can obtain my master's degree.

Another Bardwell scholar, Joann Washington, brought her vision board with her; it contained personal reminders of things she wanted to accomplish. She cut out pieces from magazines and other sources and glued them to this board. Everything on the board meant



(L to R) Samson Wamani, LaTanya Jackson, Lukman Gbadamasi, and Chris Bell at the barbeque.

something to Joann, and that's why she posted them. I love the idea of having a visual personal reminder of the missions I plan to accomplish and I plan to make my own vision board.

When I asked Joann what she plans to do next, she said she feels so excited and realizes how educationally and career driven she is. For now, she is planning to work at HWC. She told me, "If I fail to plan, then I plan to fail." I want Joann to know her words had such a positive impact on me; she motivated me to write out a career/academic plan for myself.

I also had the honor of meeting Samson, a physician from Uganda, who was visiting in the Chicago area. He had been traveling with Hedy and seemed to fit right in with the rest of us Americans. It reminded me that all of us, regardless of where we come from, need resources and mentors to help us make it.

Lukman, another recent graduate, was also in attendance. We talked about his recent graduation and, because his family is in another country, some of the Bardwell Scholars came to his graduation. They were wearing Bardwell tee-shirts of course. As the barbeque came to an end, he used his truck to give rides to many Bardwell Scholars that did not have a way to get home. Just another fine example of how the Bardwell Scholars help each other out.

As I was leaving, scholars were still coming. Saruul Ganbaatar and his family, accidentally went to the backyard next door. We all laughed and welcomed them, happy they had made it there.

On my last glance around the picnic, I got the feeling that Roger Bardwell's memory was amongst us all. I am sure he was smiling on us.

Chriselda Bell
HWC Bardwell Scholar

Sunday Tea in the Garden

On Sunday, August 24, 2008 Hedy, Joanne Washington, Kim Perez Lucas and I went to the Sunday Tea in the Gardens at the Chicago Botanic Gardens as guests of HWC. It was a glorious day. The highlight of the day was when Hedy won first prize in the raffle. She was so surprised that she barely recognized her own name.

The Tea was a wonderful event. Food was served buffet style, and tours of the garden were conducted by train or walking. The many gardens were spectacular. Flowers of every kind and color were in full bloom. The wonderful waterfalls and ponds were a sight to see. Everything was picture perfect.

Hedy also used our time together in the car to discuss our plans for the future. She inquired as to what direction I wanted to take at this point after having earned my BS, and she provided me with some valuable input relating to my career and graduate studies.

Dell Henderson
AA HWC 2005
BS Loyola University 2008
Bardwell Scholar



(L to R) Dell Henderson, Joann Washington, Hedy Cohen and Kimberly Perez Lucas at the Sunday Tea in the Garden.

Generous Contributors Enable Us to Continue the Important Work of Roger Bardwell

Bardwell Scholarships continue to prosper through the generous contributions of individuals. As each contribution is of significance, we list them alphabetically and equally.

We acknowledge and thank these individuals who have contributed to Bardwell Scholarships since November, 2007.

Fran & Bernie Alpert

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Robin & Peter Baugher

Wendell Blair

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Susan & Steven Sidell *in honor of*
Foxy Williger & Marge Waldner

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Bernice Trabman

Barb & Eric Udren

Shirlene Ward

Jonathan Weisblatt

Foxy Williger

John & Delia Wozniak

Gail Woods

Marilyn Zilka

Stepping Out Shoe Shopping Event

Hedy took Lukman and me on a stepping-out shoe shopping extravaganza at DSW Shoes. We were celebrating our graduation from college and earning our bachelor's degrees.

Hedy had been shopping for shoes that she thought I might like before I arrived. She pointed me to a few shoe selections and immediately handed me a pair of copper colored Michael Kors to try on. Then we looked around in case I saw something that I might like more. In the meantime, she suggested that I wear the Michael Kors around, just to be sure the fit was good. Wouldn't you know it. After walking around looking at every woman's shoe in the store, I could not find a single pair that I liked more than the Michael Kors that Hedy had selected. She also showed me a pair of shoes that she was certain Lukman would like.

Hedy and I had finished shopping for me when Lukman arrived. Ironically, after looking at what seemed to be every shoe in the store, Lukman also ended up choosing the pair that Hedy had indicated he'd like. Lukman was so funny, he kept going back and forth looking at shoes but would always return to the pair that Hedy had picked out for him. In all honesty, I did not select the because Hedy liked them; I really thought they were the best pair in my size. Talk about knowing her children.

New shoes to step out into our new world, our new journey.

Dell Henderson
Bardwell Scholar



Shoe Shopping... symbolic for a new beginning

On a warm summer afternoon in July, I had the pleasure of shoe shopping at Macy's with Hedy. As a RBS, I looked forward to this ritual that honored the completion of studies on the undergraduate level. On the surface the practice may appear to be an opportunity to shop for new footwear. However, dare to dig deeper and see the true meaning of the practice is symbolic of a new beginning with new possibilities. The outing not only allowed me to focus on my past accomplishments, but it also allowed me to open myself to a new start

Joann Washington
Bardwell Scholar



The Day I've Been Waiting For

At times in our lives, we all deserve to be treated justly and pampered. This is the reward I get for completing my bachelors degree. Mama treated me to a five star shoe clinic that I can never forget in my life and I wish to share the experience with you. Please don't be jealous; wait for your time because your time is definitely around the corner if you stay focused, believe in your self, and complete your education. Personally to me, days like these are worth waiting for, because Mama knows the importance of launching us into a new world. She knows it's as important as when we are trying to take our first steps in life. This is a reward that was well deserved after completing and graduating with a bachelor's degree.

Hedy knows how important it is to successfully graduate from a reputable college so it is no wonder when she finally announced the shoe shopping day. I got excited and I could not wait. Earlier that day, I got butterflies in my stomach. Even though I arrived very late, she already knew my taste as she pre-chose the type and design of the shoes she thought I'd like. To her surprise, I happened to choose the same pair of shoes she'd already chosen for me. This is to prove the point that Mama already knows me more than I know myself.

Lukman Gbadamasi
Bardwell Scholar

The Best is Yet to Come

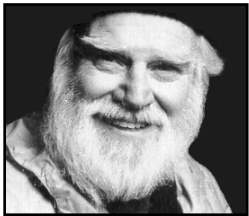
I have made my way to Smith College, Northampton, MA. As I continue to reflect upon my life at HWC, I am forever grateful to my professors, mentors, Bardwell Scholars and friends. I can truly say that I am blessed. **HWC is the best City College in the world. Ask me how I know this? Simple; my experiences there set me up for what could prove to be the changing point of my life. Academically, socially and mentally, I am prepared. Thus far, I have come here and have shown exactly what it is to come from a city college, and more importantly, HWC.** But I must again, pay homage to Hedy and the Bardwell Scholars. This organization continues to serve as a beacon of my success. Whenever I need you, you are there. I know that because of you and the Bardwell supporters, many others will have the opportunity to experience such a wonderful educational endeavor. Where would I be if I didn't know you? Who knows, but thanks to Dr. Barrington Edwards for having the notion to introduce me to you, and you for accepting me. As I continue to cling to the HOPE which your organization has given me, with a grateful and humble heart, I again say, THANKS!

Trina L. Coleman, AA HWC 2008, Current Ada Comstock Scholar-Smith College, Bardwell Scholar

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.)

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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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