



# Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Fall 2009  
Issue 17

## The Inestimable Value of Service

Looking over the many things in life which have provoked and inspired me, I see a pattern of continual dissatisfaction with the selfishness, shortsightedness and dysfunction of the human condition. Despite the great resources and accomplishments of our species, I see a world in pain, and in need of improvement. I think this perception is common, and idealistic rather than cynical. If we are content with “good enough,” we invite that-which-is-not-good through acquiescence to entropy; and even if we achieve some measure of good, it can never wholly compensate for the extent of the world’s evil. In short, we must always strive for something better, or else give up that which makes us human in the most optimistic, benevolent sense. We fight the tide or it washes us away. And I do not point a finger without facing a charge of my own: I too am frequently selfish, shortsighted, and dysfunctional, undermining my own long-term best interests through inaction or wrong action; so I regard this worldly problem of improvement or excellence as my own personal, as well as worldly, challenge.

So how do we define excellence? How do we manifest it? How may we guide ourselves along a righteous path, and discriminate between those pursuits which enrich the world and those which impoverish it? In some cases there may be no outward difference between a good course of action and a merely mediocre (or even evil) one – but I’ve come to believe that Service is the lodestar which may guide our culture and our selves along a path to greatness.

Simply put, our first and foremost aim should be this: Be useful to others. From a careerist standpoint, this seems somewhat counter-intuitive – we are not acculturated to altruism, approaching every relationship, particularly working ones, with the primary concern of “What’s in this for me?” And therein lies the root of all our selfishness, shortsightedness, and dysfunction: when this self-centeredness obstructs our ability to



*Francesca Sbarboro and David Work at their October wedding.*

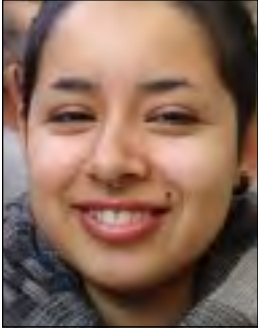
objectively reflect on our relations, we forget that our value to others is weighed by the quality of our service to them. When every person is focused solely on what advantage one can gain for one’s self with no thought for what one offers the world in return, society becomes impoverished, and those who serve gladly and well are regarded as tokens whose labor props up the “winners” of the zero-sum outlook.

It is impossible to overstate how damaging this attitude is to our culture and our humanity. When we exalt behavior based on a winner-take-all dynamic, and the honor of doing a thing well for its own sake has no cultural currency, we face inevitable decline. I therefore regard it as my personal mission to fight against the rising tide of cruelty, greed and despair; to find a better way forward; and to lead others along that path by my own emerging example. It does not matter where I find myself employed, for so long as my work is deemed of benefit to others, the laws of both marketplace and divinity assure me of due reward. When I have found what I have to give, what I gain from it shall follow. This

*Work continued on page 2...*

## Knowledge, Not Only From Books

As we start getting ready for the cold and gloomy weather, in Beloit, Wisconsin, it is a different story. At Beloit College there seems to be a vibrant and colorful atmosphere. This is not only due to the yellow and orange foliage of trees but also because of dynamic social activism, intense curricula, and like-minded students who seem to be an almost perfect combination to maintain a picturesque vibrancy all year round.



My name is Yunuen Rodriguez, and I graduated from Harold Washington in the fall of 2008. With the support of committed faculty and staff at Harold Washington, I was able to continue my studies at Beloit College. I now have an interdisciplinary major that includes the fields of Sociology, History, and Political Science.

Although it saddens me to not be in physical proximity with my family, friends, and professors in Chicago, life here in Beloit keeps me from missing them too much. My course schedule this semester includes Social Stratification, Juvenile Delinquency, History of the Atlantic, and Race and Gender in Early North America. I have chosen to design my own major within the disciplines of Sociology, History, and Political Science because I want to examine how negotiations for power based on race, gender, and class in colonial North America continue to reproduce themselves in different but similar forms. Although it sounds broad, it leaves leeway for me to get as specific as I want each semester and be able to apply for or create my own projects.

Another thing that is great about Beloit College is that the students represent an interesting sample from the world's population. This semester there are students from Japan, China, Russia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, South Africa, and Peru, among others. And when we get together for dinner it feels like I have just walked into a dynamic and interactive classroom lecture. The difference is that this lecture is led by friends from these various areas in an informal and zesty setting. I am truly learning that knowledge is not only obtained from books, but it also comes from interactions and thoughtful exchanges among people with very diverse backgrounds.

I am deeply glad I have the opportunity to continue growing in multiple levels, and I am impatient to have other students from Harold Washington join me!

**Yunuen Rodriguez**  
**AA HWC 2008**  
**Beloit College Student**  
**Bardwell Scholar**

*Work continued from page 1...*

determination of excellence and self-esteem transforms labor in bondage to mastery of craft, unlocking all the riches of the world.

My undertaking of scholarship is informed by this attitude of service. I am in training so that I might one day be of greater use to others in my career and personal life. The better I become at my subjects of study, the greater my capability for excellence as a professional. But in order for me to continue on this path, I must seek the service of others – and that's where "scholarship" in the sense of endowment comes in. At a time when millions in our nation find themselves ill-used and under-served, it is more imperative than ever that we all invest in a better future. Whether we relate to the Roger Bardwell Scholarship as students seeking financial aid, or as donors providing it, we all share the same obligation to serve our society – not selflessly as martyrs to an abstract ideal, but reciprocally as citizens of the same reality.

With this in mind, I urge our readers to give some consideration to what the Bardwell Scholarship offers to students of City Colleges of Chicago: an opportunity not only for a degree and a good job, but for a higher ideal of service to our community, an enrichment that hopefully rebounds to our contributors in some visible if unforeseen way. The special pursuits of Bardwell scholars make this ideal very concrete, as many of us choose careers in social work, addictions counseling, or other fields of service for society's most needy individuals. I would become an architect – a builder of a better human world. Let us all give aid to each other as well as we can, and watch as our mutual dividends grow beyond compare.

**W. David Work**  
**HWC Student**  
**Bardwell Scholar**

## Hitting A Homerun!

Perhaps no one was more surprised than I the day I graduated from Smith College. Not that I lack a healthy dose of faith in my intellectual capacities; I believe in myself, and graduated in May with Latin Honors. What sparked my momentary disbelief at commencement had more to do with the disciplines I studied. Majoring in Sociology and concentrating on urban education, I often noticed my life story woven in many unfavorable statistics. In essence my coursework mirrored my life and the reflection was both heartbreaking and positively life altering.



*Keti at Smith College graduation, May 2009.*

Raised in economically barren environment on the south side of Chicago, and born to working-class non-English speaking immigrants, the odds of gaining acceptance to a leading liberal arts college was supposed to be near impossible. Yet there I was, in New England, among many elite students in the proverbial ivory tower—I was the outlier and good fortune had finally shined on me. However, the day I entered my first classroom at Smith, fortunate was the last thing I felt. More often than not, what I felt was unprepared.

No book, journal, magazine or professor can articulate the devastation an urban student feels when s/he realizes that attaining an exceptional education is largely dependant on the economic status you're born into—something beyond your control. At Smith I often felt slighted when I reflected on my high school

education. It seemed as if education was the colossal divider rather than “the great equalizer.” It was evident that the quality of training I received was sub par in comparison to privileged students, who no doubt came from schools with excellent resources and studied course material that prepped them for the rigorous level of work expected from a student at Smith. The inequity at times was palpable, and it was easy to identify classmates “born on third base,” so to speak, and students like myself, in the batter’s box, nonstop waiting for a pitch.

Luckily for me, with a lot of hard work, and untiring support from mentors, I did catch up to my well-prepared counterparts. In fact, I excelled. However, I still left Smith unsatisfied and departed with bittersweet emotions. On one hand I rejoiced at the fact that I moved beyond the bleak possibilities of my former environment. Although conversely I lamented on the many stories, like my own, with devastating outcomes. Stories of deserving students whose results are not as favorable, yet are deserving of equal opportunities.

What I learned most about my account and that of other successful Bardwell Scholars is that our experiences unequivocally substantiate scholarship programs for urban students who otherwise would not be able to reach their full potential. Had it not been for the Bardwell Scholarship, the Harold Washington Scholarship and the Ada Comstock Scholarship I would not have defied the statistics I intensely studied. Moreover, because of the compassionate and relentless devotion of people like Hedy Cohen—who believes in the possibilities of change, education and demonstrates the most unwavering faith in her scholars—I now have the chance to become the person I know I was always meant to be. I now have a chance to show those on third, that given the chance, even I can hit one out of the ballpark!

Thank you for the pitch, Hedy. I promise to stay in the game!

***Keti Loncar***  
***AA HWC 2006***  
***BA Smith College 2009***  
***Bardwell Scholar***

## Annual RBS BBQ

The BBQ at Ms. Hedy's house was such a warm scholarly gathering with a host of Ms. Hedy's family and friends, despite the rain. The Bardwell Scholars joined with one another under a backyard umbrella. We proceeded with much feasting and fun, laughing at our early efforts, reflecting on our old times as well as sharing with each other our unfulfilled experiences. Several Bardwell Scholars related to all their ideas of continuing success. We expressed our desires to become neurosurgeons to physicians; many other accomplishments were told as well.

However, for myself, as I am sure for all, the most delightful thing about the entire gathering was that we all were able to join together as one family. By the way, the food, provided and cooked by RBS David Work, was delicious!

**Cashawndra Hunter**  
**AA HWC 2007**  
**DePaul Student**  
**Bardwell Scholar**



*David Work and Sunday Joseph provided the music.*



*Sharon Beauregard and Anna Blum at the RBS BBQ.*

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

Bardwell Scholarships continue to prosper through the generous contributions of individuals. In these difficult financial times, it is particularly compelling to see that education is a priority to so many.

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

We acknowledge and thank these individuals who have contributed to RBS since November, 2008.

Fran and Bernie Alpert	Martha Holman and Wayne Guzy	Bernice Trabman
Mary Jo Barrett and Dennis O'Kefee	Gloria Kinney	Barb and Eric Udren
Peter and Robin Baugher	Elissa and Hal Leider	<i>in memory of Gertie</i>
Wendell Blair	<i>in memory of Bernice Trabman</i>	<i>in memory of Bernice Trabman</i>
Charles Burns Jr.	Brian Meister and Linda Herried	Jenna Udren
Kevin Coughlin and Sue Burzawa	Chuck and Sylvia Meyers	<i>in memory of Ahmed Behery</i>
Judy Elkayam	Roy and Sue Muir	Shirlene Ward
Stephen and Jennifer Farber	Tom Rebori	Joann Washington
Kay and Frank Fennell	Bonnie Rodin	Jonathan and Anne Weisblatt
Bonnie Fields	Sanghamitra Saha	Irwin Williger
Hans and Maxine Friedman	Betty Sandlow	<i>in honor of Marge Waldner's birthday</i>
Bob and Margaret Harris	Caroline Schoenberger	Ann Yoshida
Bob Harris and Susan Primmer	Donna Smith	Ellen Zemel
Ed Harris	Margo Stern	
Joe Hislop	<i>in honor of Robert Rubenstein's birthday</i>	

## Mother to Son (and more)

“Life for me Ain’t Been no Crystal Stair”:

Encouragement to the Bardwell Family

Well, son, I’ll tell you:

Life for me ain’t been no crystal stair.

It’s had tacks in it,

And splinters,

And boards torn up,

And places with no carpet on the floor --

Bare.

But all the time

I’ve been a-climbin’ on,

And reachin’ landin’s,

And turnin’ corners,

And sometimes goin’ in the dark

Where there ain’t been no light.

So boy, don’t you turn back.

Don’t you set down on the steps

‘Cause you finds it’s kinder hard.

Don’t you fall now --

For I’ve still goin’, honey,

I’ve still climbin’,

And life for me ain’t been no crystal stair.

Hello fellow Bardwell Scholars. My name is Corey Hudson, and I declare that on the path to achieving my bachelor’s degree, “life for me ain’t been no crystal stair”. This is a very famous quote from the poem above which was penned by Langston Hughes entitled Mother to Son. Basically, a mother recounted the struggles that life has given her. She discussed her challenges. She exclaimed that life has not granted her the greatest or most ideal conditions, however, she continues to strive. She is determined; she is persistent.

Bardwell Scholars, I encourage you to continue to press your way through the hard times that both life and academia impose on you. You will cry, but cry with an agenda. You will sweat, but remove it from your brow and sweat some more. Remember the goal. Life is a journey and not a trip! As you traverse the various terrains that will lead you to your respectful professions and careers, know that there will be winding roads, bad weather, and mountainous terrain. However, you can and will make it, if you only persevere. Endure!

The reward is that much greater and treasured when you have worked diligently for it. I admonish you to be mindful that both wine and diamonds are created by pressure. Gold is purified by the flames of fire. Let the pressures and difficult times of life be the mechanisms by which your character is enriched, your heart is enlarged, and your identity is shaped. Continue on the path to success and remember this very familiar idiom “easy come...easy go!” You are a good steward over that which requires diligence, hard work, blood, sweat, and tears. So I attest to the words of the mother portrayed in the poem Mother to Son that says “life for me ain’t been no crystal stair...but I’ve still a climbing! See you all at the various commencements really soon!

**Corey Hudson**

**AA HWC 2006**

**UIC Student**

**Bardwell Scholar**

### Patrick Pitcher

November 16, 1982-July 27, 2009

It is with great sadness that Bardwell Scholars note the passing of Patrick Pitcher.



Patrick enrolled at HW in 2006 and came to RBS in the spring of 2008 as an eager student with the motivation to succeed. He steadily attended classes while continuing treatment for a brain tumor that had been diagnosed when he was in high school. He saw his disease as a challenge to achieve as much as possible for as long as he was able, and that he did. Patrick was just one class away from his AA degree, with a GPA of 2.88.

Patrick was a sincere, hardworking student, who majored in biology. He loved to talk, often stopping in the RBS office just to check in and chat. Conversation with Patrick revealed that he questioned the world in a personal, slightly irreverent way that was sometimes humorous and always engaging. Many staff and students at HWC will miss his acerbic wit, unique world view, and willingness to help others.

He is survived by his wife, Mara.

## One Step Closer

As the end of the 2009 fall semester approaches, I am so excited to be one step closer to receiving my undergraduate degree in Education and Child Study from Smith College. Yes, I am still holding on to the hope that what was once seemingly impossible has not only become possible, but is now within arm's reach! All owing to my friend and mentor Hedy and the Bardwell Scholars, my matriculation to Smith will forever change life for me and my son.

One of the greatest aspects of being at Smith is the autonomy to find experiences which relate to your field of study, and Smith's full support of those experiences. I have done some wonderful things since coming here, and I want to share them with you.

- 2009 Smith Elects the World Conference Presenter-I was one of 41 students selected from a nomination pool of over 100 students to participate in a conference which highlights the internships, volunteer work, and experiences of Smith students outside the classroom.
- 2009-2010 Talloires Network Student Peer Advisor-I was nominated by a Smith administrator for my deep commitment in youth development to participate in dialogue with students from around the world regarding their civic engagement efforts. You can visit my profile @ [www.tufts.edu/talloiresnetwork](http://www.tufts.edu/talloiresnetwork), click the student tab, then click student peer advisors, scroll down...and there I am!
- 2009-2010 Ada Comstock Scholar Cabinet Member-I hold the position of fundraising chair.
- 2009-2010 Residence Life Staff member-House Coordinator
- 2009-2010 Praxis Summer Internship Recipient-I worked with Hasbro Corporation and the Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative to provide literacy support to underprivileged children and youth at the Dunbar Community Center. The goal was to STEM summer reading loss because research says children lose at least 2 months of reading during the summer time. As a result of my efforts, students at my center gained an average 3.69 words per minute.
- 2009 Successfully organized the first ever students of color family weekend celebration. As a result, I have been asked to put the event on again next year.

- 2008-2009 Project Coach Volunteer-Service learning component with one of my professors, where sports therapy is used as a way to build children's self-esteem, leadership, and communication skills.
- 2008-2009 Urban Education Fellowship Recipient-Selected to complete an internship during winter break with the Jack Schuler Foundation in Waukegan, IL. I assisted the foundation's high school scholars at 3 different high schools with writing essays for admittance into summer programs.
- 2008-2009 Rise Up Project-Tutored a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student in reading via the World Wide Web.

As you can see, my time here at Smith has been well spent. I am currently working with one of my professors and classmates trying to understand as well as make sense of the achievement gap as it relates to two communities. As I continue to thrive and grow, I am reminded of the following quote found on Smith's homepage-"Smith College provides women of high ability and promise an education of uncompromising quality." And then I'm reminded that "I AM SMITH!"

**Trina L. Coleman**  
**AA HWC 2008**  
**Smith College Student**  
**Bardwell Scholar**



**Trina Coleman at Smith College.**

## Stiletto Steps

Shoes. The very word causes me incomprehensible excitement, joy, and anticipation of the next great find. Maybe that is why I am standing in Macy's shoe department with my heart racing, barely able to focus on the vast menu of shoes before me. I stand directly outside the elevator, looking around and trying to take it all in. Suddenly, I remember that this adventure was not to be undertaken alone; I am supposed to be one of three ladies relishing this treat.

It is shoe shopping day with Hedy Cohen, Bardwell Scholars' founder and student mentor. She has invited me here to celebrate graduation from DePaul University with a new pair of shoes. AWESOME! I find the group in the casual section of the store. After Hedy purchases a fellow scholar's shoes, we head over to the dress shoe section - my favorite area. It is there that I am tantalized by stilettos in every style and finally decide on a black, patent leather, strappy, 4 3/4" heel dynamo. I stare at the shoe in amazement, parroting "What a beautiful shoe...this is a beautiful shoe...what a beautiful shoe...." I thank Hedy for the gift, visions of patent leather racing through my head. I see myself gliding across the stage, sassy black shoes accenting my graduation gown as I accept my Bachelor of Arts degree. Ohhhh, life is good!

Thank you, Hedy, for a wonderful graduation present. The shoes looked fantastic with my outfit, and even better under my cap and gown. I will cherish the shoes and the memory throughout this next season of my life as I pursue the JD/MBA degree...maybe I will even wear the black patent stilettos as I accept my law and MBA degree :)

**Yjimizia Jones**  
**AA HWC 2007**  
**BA DePaul University 2009**  
**Bardwell Scholar**



*Yjimizia Jones admires her choice of shoes.*

## Shoe Shopping Extravaganza

This is the time when Hedy Cohen gathers all the RBS recipients who have obtained a Bachelor's Degree and rewards with them with savvy shoes. I felt honored to be celebrated by Hedy for my accomplishment. Hedy has been a beacon of light to many of us (Bardwell Scholarship Recipients) who couldn't see our way as we travel the road of higher education. I am grateful to have mentors such as Hedy and Prof. Sammie Dortch who have been great inspirations in my life, encouraging me to further my education. My dreams are reality now and my goals are attainable; now, I am learning how to enjoy this journey called life. My future education plan is to find an excellent master's program in the field of education and counseling.

I want to thank all of the contributors who give unselfishly to help RBS recipients maximize our potential and successfully achieve our dreams.

**Andrea Scaggs**  
**AA HWC 2007**  
**BA National Louis University 2008**  
**Bardwell Scholar**



*Andrea Scaggs models her graduation shoes.*

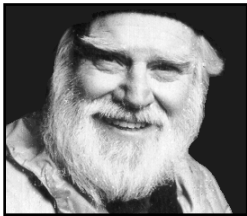


*Proud current and former Bardwell Scholars at this summer's BBQ. (L - R back row) Gale Washington, Johnny Phan, Andre Rankin, Corey Hudson, David Work, Lukman Gbadamasi. (Front) Cashawndra Hunter, Kimberly Perez-Lucas, Sunday Joseph, Sharon Beauregard, Yjimizia Jones.*

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:



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**Lincolnshire, IL 60069**



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

Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund, Harold Washington College  
30 E. Lake St., Room 1139 Chicago, IL 60601 312-553-3049

***[www.bardwellscholarships.org](http://www.bardwellscholarships.org)***

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