



# Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Fall 2011  
Issue 21

## Graduating and Thankful



*RBS Sunday Joseph and Yunuen Rodriguez.*

As I get ready to embark on my last semester at Beloit College, I reminisce about the unique opportunities a college education has brought, realizing that without the presence of many, the path towards attaining my B.A. would have been more turbulent and nebulous. Three years ago, with an avid desire to continue higher education and with a vision to address social inequality, I was uncertain of what the future might hold. Building rapport with professors, staff and administrators at Harold Washington and Beloit Colleges and engaging with urgent questions in the classroom regarding immigration reform, increasing inaccessibility to institutions of higher learning and proliferating female-headed households, the path towards creating policy change at a national level seems clearer and more feasible than ever.

This summer I got to immerse myself in the world of public policy and sociology at Princeton University. I spent the first half of the summer taking economics, statistics, writing for public policy and urban planning classes - a total of fifteen hours every day. The latter half of the summer I worked with a sociologist evaluating national programs that attempt to create more effective ways to increase representation of underrepresented groups in higher education. As counterintuitive as it may sound, this summer left me energized.

Along with my public-policy cohort this summer, I visited the White House, where in addition to seeing Obama's elegant and vibrant puppy, BO, I got to meet with a few advisors to the President. As I sat in a fourth-floor meeting room in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, I was ardent to ask and get a feel for the place of sociologists in the policy arena as well as to get a more immediate view of our country's mechanisms of policy-making. When I asked Joshua DuBois, head of the Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, if he saw a need for sociologists in the policy arena, he responded by saying that there was a critical need. He brought up the fact that President Obama had just launched the "National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse" which endeavors to increase the presence of fathers in their households and children's lives. Already familiar with this initiative via weekly White House emails and multiple discussions on the topic in my sociology classes, I detected the shortcomings of this initiative. Although definitely a well-intentioned one, I thought that federal programs like these could benefit from having someone with a sociological imagination ask the questions of: What are the historical economic and political underpinnings for how this situation has come about? How can we explain the behavior of certain groups of people in context of specific historical processes that have given rise to this kind of behavior? How, based on our historical understanding of such factors, can we move forward?

When DuBois told me that there was a dire need for sociologists and mentioned the Fatherhood Initiative I was already very familiar with, at that moment I felt like I could be that person. I felt like I could be a sociologist who works to create policy at a national level and takes a more complex look at peoples' lives. Although this is my last semester at Beloit, I think of this as the commencement of a career that can have a lasting influence in people's lives.

*Graduating and Thankful continued on page 2...*

### *Graduating and Thankful continued from page 1...*

It would, of course, be comical to claim that attaining my B.A. has been due to nothing else but my own efforts. I am forever indebted to the people who have directly and indirectly guided me, encouraged me, and overall supported me in navigating the world of higher education. These teachers, mentors, and advocates include Hedy Cohen, who initially took on the task of researching schools with immigrant-friendly policies, took me on a memorable road-trip to the campus I fell in love with, and graciously offered, with the assistance of Bardwell Scholarships, to assist with financing the ever-more-costly tuition. The resourceful and acute Robert Brown, one of my favorites in the Admissions Office, took the time to explore multiple college options with me in addition to taking personal time to advise me and discuss issues of concern as I would experience a significant transition from Harold to Beloit. He, always with such alacrity, makes sure I stop by his office when I visit HWC. Ellen Goldberg's sanguinity, readiness to brainstorm and work with students to tailor their schedule, her willingness to offer her networks for the advancement of the student was, and continues to be, pivotal to smooth transitions. Former President Wosniak repeatedly welcomed me in to his office, and I always admired his attentiveness and engagement in details of my academic life; his generosity with his time and resources have also been key in propelling me through higher education. I spent a significant amount of time with former Vice President Lopez, John Metoyer, Dr. Jose Aybar, and Maria Fregoso through preparation for the Hispanic College Quiz Show in 2008. They also have subtly, yet tremendously, been driving forces behind positioning me as a qualified and prepared college candidate. The professors who made my learning experience whole include Maria Fregoso, whose passion to understand and expose inequality, still inspires me. Ferri's "hip" way of telling history as a complex and modern plot also shaped my undergraduate major. Jesu Estrada, an amazing English professor, never blinked about revising my college essay more than once. I also still remember how something she said perplexed me yet resonated. She once told me how she eagerly welcomed intellectual challenges from her students and others; just because she held a doctorate degree didn't mean her analysis was more valid than those who didn't. Her words still ring true for me. Last but not least, Margarita Chavez, as a PTK advisor, is such an advocate for students. Her predisposition to help students connect with other campuses and clubs

so that they can further their own and the school's interests have made her a gem in my career and in the life of HWC. I don't think I can articulate my fortune in having so many humble, intellectual, genuinely interested and resourceful guides in my academic life and although I am graduating, it in no way indicates a disconnection between me and HWC. On the contrary, I am grateful and proud to continue to be part of the RBS and HWC community.

***Yunuen Rodriguez***

***AA HWC 2008***

***BA Beloit College 2011***

***Bardwell Scholar***

## **My Journey**

**A**s I travelled down that academic college road to success I met so many inspiring people who encouraged and supported me along the way. Since I am an adult student, I was not sure if I still had the academic abilities, stamina, and determination to succeed. I am grateful to be a recipient of the Bardwell Scholarship. I received financial and emotional support from my earth angel, Ms. Hedy Cohen, Program Director, affectionately known as Mother Hedy. I made it to the finish line and completed my Associate of Arts Degree due to her support. When I look back at all the people who made a difference on my journey, a warm smile comes across my face. The support that I received from the professors, counselors, staff, tutors, and classmates goes on and on.

I never really understood why the song "People" sung by Barbra Streisand always gave me such a warm and good feeling. I want to thank all the people who were there supporting and cheering me on along the way. You will always have a special place in my heart and mind.

Now my journey continues down another road of success. Upon graduation from HWC, I will be working toward my bachelor's degree. I look forward to being a HWC and Bardwell Scholarship alumni and most of all, being able to give back.

***Caletta Key***

***AA HWC 2011***

***Bardwell Scholar***

# Touch the Dream

My childhood was peppered with memories of “Perry Mason”, a fictional television lawyer, litigating murder trials that usually ended with a surprise witness, ‘the smoking gun’, and the murderer’s tortured confession on the witness stand. As I matured, this memory was supplemented with visions of Johnny Cochran starring in an actual courtroom drama broadcast on most local television networks. Thus, my fate was sealed very early; I would pursue a legal career.

The quest for a law degree was wrought with challenges. I returned to school part-time to complete an associates of arts degree in pre-law while working full time in the architectural and engineering industry. The responsibilities of being a student and employee, concomitant with being a single parent, were overwhelming. The road to a jurisdoctorate degree required three-years of full-time study beyond a bachelor’s degree. As a part-time student with less than a year of college credit, I realized that it would take a number of years to complete. The dream appeared unattainable.

As grace would have it, Gaylord Bogess introduced me to Hedy Cohen and the Bardwell Scholars program. As a Bardwell Scholar, I was able to attend Harold Washington College full-time and earn an associates of arts degree in less time without the burden of working overtime to pay for tuition, books, and fees. I enrolled at DePaul University and earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Management at an accelerated pace by testing out of some required courses. The dream was within reach.

The foundation and support provided by Hedy and the Bardwell Scholars program encouraged me to continue on to law school. While enrolled at Valparaiso University School of Law, I was awarded the Henry T. King Award for Lawyerly Excellence at an international moot court competition hosted by the Canada United States Law Institute. I also received a Leadership Excellence Award from the American Bar Association Law Student Division and recently won my first tax case. Now, I am preparing to graduate with a jurisdoctor (JD) degree in December, 2011 and plan to take the Illinois Bar Exam in February, 2012. I appreciate the Bardwell Scholars Program, Professor Thurman Gardner, Professor Matthew Usner, Mr. Terry Pendleton, and the entire

Harold Washington family for propelling me forward. In just a short time, I will touch the dream.

***Yjimizia Jones***  
***AA HWC 2006***  
***BA DePaul University 2008***  
***JD Valparaiso University School of Law 2011***  
***Bardwell Scholar***



***Yjimizia Jones is receiving her JD in December.***



***Caletta Key is graduating from HWC this December.***

# Bardwell Survey

The Roger Bardwell Scholarship Foundation provides support to students in several different areas: mentoring, tuition payment, computer purchasing, purchasing textbooks, transfer advising, transportation, and scholarship guidance.

In order to gain a better understanding of the RBS student body and how successful RBS have been over the years in helping students succeed in life, a recent in house survey was conducted to investigate how helpful RBS was to students. This survey asked how satisfied Bardwell Scholars were with the services provided as well as presenting a demographic profile of the student base.

Here are some of the results:

- The study shows that scholars were highly satisfied with the assistance they received from the RBS foundation. This measurement was based on a scale of 1-5, 1 being “not at all satisfied” and 5 being “extremely satisfied”; the results yielded a high percentage of extremely satisfied scholars. Not surprisingly, Bardwell Scholars were highly satisfied with the Roger Bardwell Scholarship in tuition payment and textbook assistance; furthermore, mentoring, transfer advising and scholarship guidance showed a satisfaction rate of above 65%
- Non-traditional students represent the majority of Roger Bardwell Scholars. About eight in ten Bardwell Scholars were above the age of 26
- Six in ten Bardwell Scholars were females, while four out of ten were males
- African Americans represent about half of all Bardwell Scholars, while nearly one third were Hispanics. Caucasian/Non-Hispanic, Asian Pacific Islanders and Others represent 20% of the student body
- Nearly 80% of Bardwell Scholars graduated and received an AA Degree from Harold Washington College
- More than half of the students under the assistance of RBS obtained an Associate’s Degree and nearly one third managed to get their Bachelors and/or Masters Degrees

## Roger Bardwell Scholars Testimonials:

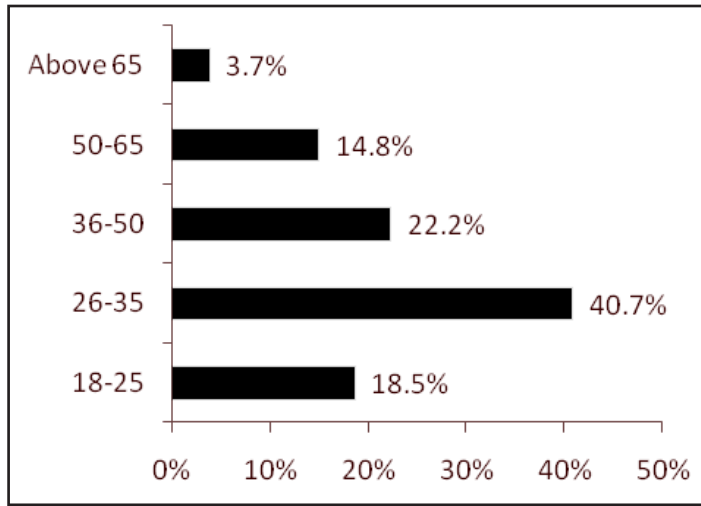
- Survey Question: Ideally, what else do you think RBS should provide?  
“I believe it already provides great student and personal tools to succeed.”  
“I think that everything they currently provide is wonderful”  
“I think more funding would help RBS help more students effectively toward their goals.”  
“I feel RBS provides all the necessary services”  
“RBS is already the best there is out there.”
- Survey Question: How did RBS affect your life?  
“Only in positive ways, I was introduced to a life of higher learning which could not have happened without RBS.”  
“It gave me the money and the encouragement to go back to college at 50 to continue working towards a BA”  
“It provided the mental and financial support I needed to succeed”  
“It helped make my dream a reality.”  
“RBS has provided me with financial support that I would have otherwise not been able to afford, and also provided me with a strong mentor to encourage me to press forward, not to mention an extended family.”

Visit us on the web at  
[www.bardwellscholarship.org](http://www.bardwellscholarship.org)

### Age

More than 80% of Roger Bardwell Scholars were 26 years old or older, and roughly two in ten were 25 years old or younger.

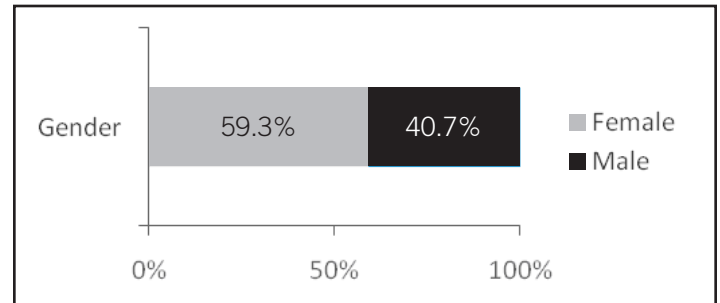
*HWC: RBS Survey 2011*



### Gender

The majority of Roger Bardwell Scholars were Female Students (59.3%).

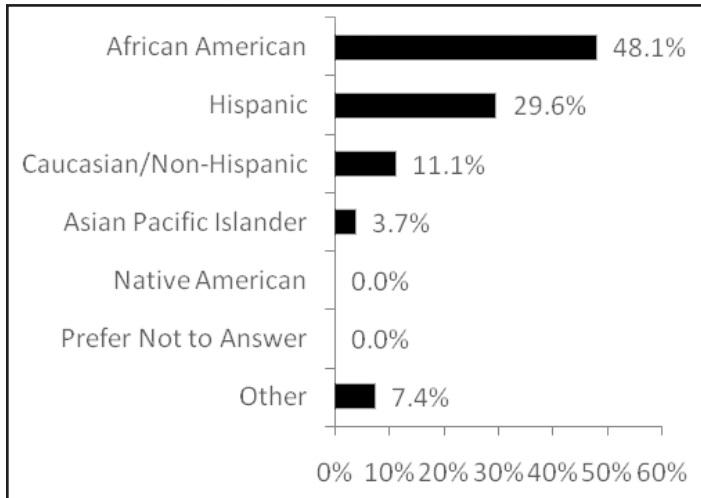
*HWC: RBS Survey 2011*



### Ethnicity

The Roger Bardwell Scholarship foundation supports a very diverse student body. Nearly half were African Americans, and close to one third were Hispanics. Caucasians, Asian Pacific Islander and Others (i.e. Mixed Race) represent the remaining 20%.

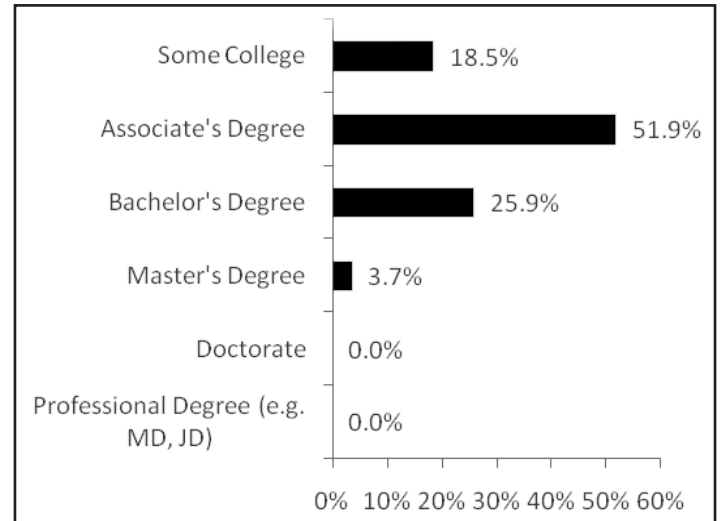
*HWC: RBS Survey 2011*



### Highest Level of Education Attained

Through the support of RBS, the majority of students were able to obtain an Associate's Degree (52%), one in four were able to obtain a Bachelor's Degree, and a small percentage even received their Master's Degree

*HWC: RBS Survey 2011*



Bardwell Scholars generally begin their college education at HWC then transfer to several other institutions such including Beloit College, Erikson Institute, Illinois Institute of Technology, DePaul University, UIC, and Smith College for a bachelors degree.

There are a number of Bardwell Scholars who are graduating this fall and spring including 4 with Associate's Degrees, 2 with Bachelor's Degrees, and 1 with a Juris Doctrate Degree (see Yjimizia Jones, page 2) . Currently there are at least 2 students working on their AA Degrees at Harold Washington College, 5 students working on BAs, 1 MSW, and 1 PhD at four year institutions.

*Statistics analyzed by Johnny Phan  
BA UIC 2006  
Bardwell Scholar*

# Another Milestone Achieved!!!

Greetings to you all, especially to Hedy, my Bardwell family, and Harold Washington friends and colleagues. I am hoping that time has treated you well. I have recently finished my master's degree in Inner City Studies Education at Northeastern Illinois University's Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies located on the near southside. The program has a multidisciplinary approach focused on sociology, political science, economics, and urban communication. What can I say? I am always looking for ways to do multiple things. I am happy to report to Bardwell that I have been able, through the grace of God, to maintain a 4.0 GPA while acclimating to the more self directed learning methodology of graduate school.

It has been a challenging experience and one that has truly helped to mature me as a scholar. I was under the assumption that Roosevelt University had done the breaking me down and remolding process in scholastic evolution, but I still had a lot to learn. Thanks to Hedy always having trepidation (smile) concerning the heavy load of classes I had undertaken in the past, I did well with grades and matriculated undergrad without any mishaps. She has been a staunch supporter of my academic pursuits and like a mother to me and all of her Bardwell Scholars. I could not have matriculated college after being out for twenty years had it not been for help of angels along the way in human form, ones such as Hedy, Joann Washington, and all who have given timely advice and pulled me off the edge of doubt when need be.

At this point in my life I seeking to re-enter the job market and fulfill my goal of teaching African American Studies at the junior college level to help those in the city acclimate to higher learning. At this time in my life, the pursuit of a doctoral degree is not on my academic horizon, maybe just a short MA in history to make myself more marketable. I remember starting Harold Washington and feeling so out of step with so many younger students around me, but I soon became confidant and felt at ease competing academically. You can always start again at a dream deferred if you put your mind to it and stick with it, no matter how long you have been away and what stage of life gets you back to the task. I am grateful for my time at Harold Washington College, Roosevelt University, and Northeastern Illinois University, and will take the

knowledge and experience I gained with me to my next phase in life. Thanks, Bardwell Family.

**Chris Clark**  
**AA HWC 2007**  
**BA Roosevelt University 2009**  
**MA Northeastern Illinois University 2011**  
**Bardwell Scholar**



***Chris Clark graduating with a MA from NEIU in December.***



***Bardwell Scholars and friends at the August 13, 2011 barbecue.***

# Bardwell Scholars Barbecue August 13, 2011

The Bardwell Barbeque was an opportunity to get out and have a great time with old and new Scholars. In spite of a drizzly day, Hedy's semi-annual barbecue saw a good turnout of Bardwell Scholars. Honorary Grill Master for the day, David Work cooked burgers and everyone brought delicious dishes to share. Kevin Pleasant's "famous" potato salad was a hit, as was the pasta salad Cesar Rojas' mom made. It was nice to see some of the veteran Bardwell Scholars like Johnny Phan, and I enjoyed connecting with newer scholars like Alba Ortiz.

Hedy's oldest friend and Bardwell supporter, Linda Johnson, was there with her dog, son, and his girlfriend. And Ellen Goldberg of HWC's Transfer Center was there with her partner Dan Harper ("The Genius - who speaks French.")

My daughter, Mia, also had fun. She had this to say, "I enjoyed the barbecue at Ms. Cohen's house. Everyone was friendly and the food was good. I enjoyed talking to everyone. Also, Ms. Cohen's backyard was really nice. I look forward to doing it again next year!"

I have to give a big shout of thanks to Kevin and his partner Reggie who, in the true Bardwell spirit, gave my daughter and me a ride to and from the barbecue.

**Leonetta Clark**  
**AA HWC 2010**  
**DePaul University student**  
**Bardwell Scholar**



**Johnny Phan**



**HWC Transfer Advisor Ellen Goldberg with Dan Harper**



**Leonetta Clark's daughter, Mia**



**Kevin Pleasant**



**Alba Ozinga**

## Thank you to Contributors

Bardwell Scholarships continue to prosper through your generous donations. Contributions are always appreciated, but in these difficult financial times, it is particularly encouraging to see that education remains a priority for so many.

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

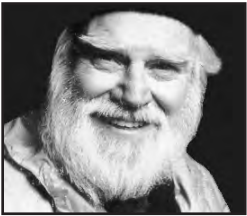
We acknowledge and thank these individuals who have contributed since November, 2010:

Elaine and Ray Asher	Ellen Goldberg	Bonnie Rodin
Wendell Blair	Eileen and Bill Halperin	Gail Sanders
Anna Blum and gARTh	Betty Harris	Nancy Schamen
Julie Bowman and Scott Bates	Bob and Margaret Harris	Marc Schulman
Robin and Peter Baugher	Martha Holman and Raymond Guzy	Carolyn Shoenberger
Margarita Chavez	Elvan Jones	Margo Stern
Cheryl Dias	Gloria Kinney	Dave Studenmund and Joan Habinek
Bonnie and Leo Dohogne	Helene Maram	Barb and Eric Udren
Liz Feldman and Jay Shefsky	Chuck and Sylvia Meyers	Shirlene Ward
Kay and Frank Fennell	Sue and Roy Muir	Joann Washington
Bonnie Fields	Tom Rebori	Jonathan and Anne Weisblatt
Hans and Maxine Friedman	Renee and John Robbins	John and Delia Wozniak

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

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