



Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Spring 2002
Issue 2

This issue of our newsletter honors the Bardwell Scholars who have graduated. We are proud to have them share their stories with you.

Our support of Saruul began when his funding ran out, and he was concerned with his ability to stay in school.

My first personal acquaintance with Hedy Cohen, administrator of the Bardwell Scholarship Fund, took place in Spring 2001. It was held in the office of John Wozniak, an extraordinary person who assisted me ever since I've attended Harold Washington College and who also introduced me to the Bardwell Fund.

During a conversation, I discovered that Hedy was a very open-minded and self-reliant person, one whose main priority was to assist those who needed financial help to get an education. I felt so honored to know and be known by such an extraordinary person who dedicated her entire life for the goodness of people.

Ever since that acquaintance, Hedy has helped me endlessly. She has been spiritually enriching and encouraging and has been aiding me in dealing with both emotional and financial challenges. It's a privilege to express my gratitude to the Bardwell Fund Administrators, both Hedy Cohen and John Wozniak, for the enormous contribution that you made into my life, for all the time, help, and support, and for making me feel and perceive myself as someone better than I thought I was.

Saruul Ganbataar
Harold Washington Graduate 2002, Matriculated Loyola Student, Bardwell Scholar

Another story comes from Yolanda, proudly our first Bardwell Scholar to graduate from Harold Washington College.

I am the first person in my immediate family to attend college, so of course this is a big event for my family and myself. I am a recent graduate of Harold Washington College and I am currently attending Roosevelt University majoring in psychology and seeking a Bachelor in Liberal Arts.

My quest for a college degree has not been easy. Throughout my college career I have faced many obstacles. The one with the most significance was the death of my grandmother, because she was always there with words of encouragement; she was my angel.



Saruul and his mother, Ichinkhorloo Dambadarjaa, at HWC graduation, 2002.

My decision to continue with my education is a testament to her. It was not easy financially, but things have been a lot better since I met Hedy Cohen and received the Bardwell Scholarship. I think my grandmother sent Hedy to be my personal angel. The scholarship is helping me get through school and Hedy is helping me get through life.

*In loving memory of my grandmother,
Callie Hightower.*

Yolanda Hopkins
Harold Washington Graduate 2001,
Roosevelt University Student,
Bardwell Scholar

Kimberly Campos was proud to be a Bardwell Scholar even when we had little to offer her but our constant support and problem solving ability.

Hers is a story of great determination.

I tried several times to get my G.E.D. at some of the City Colleges, but I would always get frustrated. Then my self-esteem would hit rock bottom and that meant quitting and dropping another G.E.D. class.

Finally, after ten years, I sought tutoring. This led to my being tested and finally receiving help at the Catherine Wright Center of Illinois Masonic Medical Hospital. This was when I began to believe that there was a light at the end of my many struggles with learning.

In April of 1999, I took the G.E.D. examination, scoring close to the perfect score of 300. I have been attending Harold Washington College since the summer of 1999. I am working towards my Associate of Arts Degree.

My goal is to continue at Loyola University, and eventually obtain my Masters degree in Public Policy with an emphasis in Urban Development.

While gaining momentum in my education, I was informed that I no longer had financial aid to complete my last two semesters at HWC. I spoke to John Wozniak, Vice President of HWC, concerning my financial aid. He informed me that I could qualify for a Harold Washington Scholarship which would cover my tuition, but I would be responsible for any books.

At the same time, Mr. Wozniak asked me if I would be interested in meeting a friend of his, Ms. Hedy Cohen. He thought we had a lot in common. She explained to me that, like me, she had also lost a husband.

In memory of him, she began the Roger Bardwell Scholarship.

The Bardwell committee has assisted me with a laptop computer, printer and books for my Spanish literature class.

Most importantly, Hedy Cohen, Administrator of the scholarship, has been a great mentor. When I feel overwhelmed, she has been there for me. Hedy is there in your face, asking how things are going, what's happening in class or with the schools you're interested in attending; what's happening in your life?



Yolanda Hopkins and Bardwell Scholarships Administrator Hedy Cohen at HWC graduation 2001.

Although I am not your traditional college student and it seems that I should know by now what I want in life, it is comforting to realize someone else cares that you accomplish whatever you're striving for in life.

With deep respect and gratitude,
Kimberly Barbara Perez-Campos
Harold Washington Graduate 2002,
Student Trustee, Matriculated
Loyola Student, Bardwell Scholar

We met Linda Murphy after she had completed her degree at HWC and was on her way to a summer internship in Washington, D.C.



Kimberly Campos and Linda Murphy

The decision to return to school to complete my education after fifteen years has not been one I regret. True, there are times I feel overwhelmed and challenged. Those are the times I seek out support and encouragement to move forward in my quest. Something I never imagined even in my wildest, most vivid and colorful dreams was the care, support and interest that I would receive from being a recipient of the Roger Bardwell Scholarship. I have applied and received a few scholarships, all with the same or similar requirements. The foundations verify information, decide, send out an award letter and mail a check to your school-you never hear from them again until renewal or reapplication time.

This is not the case for someone who is honored with a Bardwell Scholarship. This scholarship is so unique because it is designed to follow each recipient throughout his or her academic career to offer support, encouragement, guidance and financial assistance. In addition, this scholarship has allowed me the opportunity and pleasure to meet not only other recipients, but also Hedy Cohen and John Wozniak. It is not often that one is so fortunate to find educational assistance as well as develop a warm relationship with the grantor, but this recipient appreciates it. It is my hope that other scholarship foundations will dig deep in their hearts to combine their financial gifts with a warm follow-up with their recipients every now and then.

Linda Murphy
Harold Washington Graduate 2001, DePaul Student, Bardwell Scholar

We found Kim Lawrence right under our noses, in the office of the Vice President. Kim shares Roger's passion for public education; he would have been thrilled to walk into a high school English class and find Kim passionately involved in a literature lesson or working with young writers to improve their grammar.

Upon graduating from high school in June of 1994, it seemed almost certain that my life would continually flow as smoothly as it always had. Needless to say, I was wrong.

I realized after a year and a half of schooling at Northern Illinois University, that I was attending that school for all the wrong reasons. In January of 1996, I left Northern and enrolled at Harold Washington College. Initially, I was embarrassed and felt like a huge failure. I thought that taking a step down from university level to a junior college was beneath me. But, once again, I was wrong.

In March of 1996, I got a part-time work-study job in the Vice President's office at Harold Washington College. Under the supervision of John Wozniak and George Bickford, my entire being began to blossom. I completed the requirements for my Associate in Arts degree in December of 1997. However, an Associate degree was just the stepping-stone; it was simply not enough. After working in the College, I developed a desire to pursue a degree in the field of Education.

In the fall of 1998, I enrolled at Chicago State University, majoring in English Secondary Education. The closer I came to completing my degree, the more problems I encountered. The type of financial assistance I received, two grants, covered the entire bill for tuition and books. However, in the fall of 1999, because I had exhausted the maximum number of units for one of my grants, I was no longer eligible. Basically, this meant that I would not be able to afford to pay for my books and supplies. At this time, I was still working part-time at Harold Washington College. I had moved out of my parents' home and was living on my own. My monthly income was just enough to get by with the bare necessities. My family was unable to contribute. And with the cost of books averaging \$450 per semester, completing my degree seemed more difficult than ever.

Again, I was wrong.

My mother always told me that God places you in certain positions at certain times with certain people for a reason. I have truly been blessed to cross paths with John Wozniak and others at Harold Washington College, especially Hedy Cohen. I recall my first formal meeting with Hedy when I explained to her my situation. I remember her saying, "No problem. I will be more than happy to help."

Hedy has such a warm and welcoming attitude that exudes from her presence, along with her delightful smile. She is genuinely compassionate, humble and supportive. With the help of Hedy and the Roger Bardwell Scholarship, I was able to complete my Bachelor's degree from Chicago State University in December 2001.

I am currently an English Teacher at Flower Career Academy High School. On June 1, 2002, when I walk across the stage to receive my degree, I will be eternally thankful to God, my families, (especially mom), and friends, like Hedy Cohen. Thank you Roger, Hedy and John for all of your support. I could not have done it without you!

Kimberly D. Lawrence
Harold Washington Graduate 1997, Chicago State Graduate 2002,
Chicago Public School Teacher, Bardwell Scholar



Kimberly Lawrence at Chicago State University's Graduation 2002

O.T. Buster personifies the idea of lifelong learning. Her spirit, open mind and heart characterize all she does.

I, O.T. Buster would like to thank Harold Washington College and its supportive staff and students who have helped me and everyone else who will be graduating this year. I would like to give special thanks to the administrative office and their wonderful staff. I would specifically like to thank Hedy Cohen and the Bardwell Scholarship. This school has excellent teachers and tutors. The staff gives equal treatment to all students young and old.

I received my G.E.D. in 1983 from Harold Washington College. The doors have always been open for drop out students and many unfortunate people who want to go to school. The school staff that gives the placement tests is very patient and supportive of the incoming students.

I especially want to thank John Wozniak, Sal Diaz, George Bickford, Taiba Peksin and Shirley Glover. I want to say if you can help or teach me, you can help anyone! I'm age 82 and you're never too old to learn.

O.T. Buster
Harold Washington Graduate 2002,
Bardwell Scholar



HWC Vice President John Wozniak and O.T. Buster at graduation 2002

"We did it!"

This was the excited message from a Bardwell Scholar who had recently been accepted to complete his last 2 years at Loyola. "We did it" is what Bardwell Scholarships are all about. We feel that small stumbling blocks often interfere with an individuals' ability to pursue their goals and to follow their dreams. It is our shared belief that clearing a few of those stumbling blocks can make education possible for even the least fortunate of students. This term we are helping 15 students with tuition as well as in many other ways.

*One student in a medical training program receives a transportation card from us each week so that she is able to commute from home to school.

*A homeless woman sought our help to receive training to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). We were able to connect her with a program that will begin soon. We also found government funding to pay for her class and her supplies.

*A student in her 50's, who is working hard to complete her BA after having been out of college for more than 25 years, is receiving tuition assistance.

*A student with an interest in web design received financial support to attend a conference on the latest technology and software.

* A young mother with three children has received our help to take an Excel class so that she might be able to gain an entry-level job.

Our work is based on Roger's belief that education is a lifelong challenge and process. Our students continue to reinforce this belief through their motivation and success.

Thank you for your interest in Bardwell Scholarships.

Jan Heffernan

Jan Heffernan was a special friend to Bardwell Scholarships. Through her brief acquaintance with Roger and her steadfast connection to Hedy, she constantly encouraged Bardwell Scholarships to grow and develop.

She was always available to listen and help solve problems, often drawing on her own background and resources as a social worker.

Jan's life ended recently after living with ovarian cancer for 6 1/2 years.

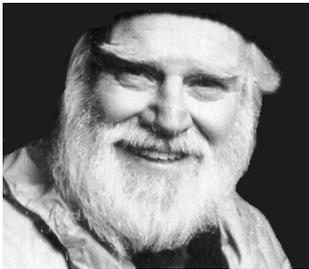
Jan, characteristically and thoughtfully, willed a donation from her estate to Bardwell Scholars. It is with gratitude and appreciation that Bardwell Scholars accept and use this donation which honors Jan, her strength, perseverance and lifelong commitment to seeking and achieving personal goals.



Jan Heffernan

Contributions, which are deductible to the extent the law allows, are always appreciated and enable us to continue this important work. Your employer may offer matching funds for 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 John Wozniak or Hedy Cohen:

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www.bardwellscholarships.org 312-553-5834**

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