



Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Spring 2004
Issue 6

Bardwell Scholarships proudly Celebrate their spring University Graduates.



Linda Murphy, HWC Graduate 2002, BA DePaul University, Cum Laude 2004, Bardwell Scholar

It is the time and season. Family and friends meet to celebrate the accomplishments of those who prove that perseverance in mind, body, and spirit is what has kept them in their educational journey. Whether this journey's goal was to obtain a high school diploma, a certificate, or higher learning degree, even more significant is how they got to that point and what costs had to be paid.

I write of a journey that can fairly be told by the one who traveled it. Me

It has been my desire to pursue an undergraduate degree before I graduated from a Chicago public high school in 1979. Life's

Murphy continued on page 2...

Saruul Ganbaatar, HWC Graduate 2002, BBA Finance Loyola University, Magna Cum Laude 2004, Bardwell Scholar

It seems like it was only yesterday when I packed my bags and made my first trip to the U.S. to fulfill the long-awaited dream I had ever since my childhood years - to see what it is like to get an education in the U.S. The last five years served as a long enough time for a personal assessment of what it's like to live and study in American society.

I remember my first day in Chicago and being charmed by the beauty of the city, its giant towers and massive highways. I can still feel the excitement I had when I had made my first step on American land and pictured myself as Americo

Ganbaatar continued on page 3...

Kimberly Perez-Campos, HWC Graduate 2002, BA Sociology, Loyola University 2004, Bardwell Scholar

The imposing Lake Shore Campus of Loyola University is a mix of old and new architectural structures from the towering dormitory at the north end to the Franklin Lloyd Wright Piper Hall seen when approaching the south end from Sheridan Road. Within the campus area there are numerous interesting buildings and landmarks: libraries, chapels, a Jesuit residence, and classrooms in buildings that have stained glass windows and terra cotta roofs. I have spent 2 years attending this university. My experience has been enlightening as there have been many hurdles for me to overcome.

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turns and challenges caused several detours that altered, hindered, and delayed my desire. Dreams of mine to graduate with a bachelor degree lay dormant for nearly 20 years. It was not until I was fired from a customer service job which I liked a lot that my desire was resuscitated. Through the devastation of losing the only income I had to maintain my household and two sons, I realized that I had to reinvent myself and come to terms with the things in life that make no promises. Those realizations were not easy, nor were the decisions thereafter. Nevertheless, decisions had to be made.



I made the decision to return to college. I was so out-of-touch with the whole process of filing for admission to college that I decided to apply to a nearby university. I was rejected. I tried one community college

before planting myself at Harold Washington College. I entered the doors of HWC in confusion, frustration, tiredness, and hunger. I was in a state of mind where I could have turned around and walked out the door or stayed to see where this would lead me. Thank God someone was at the front desk to greet me with gentleness, kindness, patience. Just the presence of one concerned and knowledgeable person brought me comfort. I followed his directions, met another person who was even more pleasant and patient, and, in spite of my feelings, was able to successfully complete the entire admission and financial aid process that day.

As the cliché goes---The rest is history. I successfully completed a two year stay at HWC with a GPA of 3.96. My time at HWC was filled with excitement, invigorating challenges, and a host of fabulously wonderful people: students, professors, staff, and administrators. I became part of organizations, events and causes that have molded me into a far greater person. I developed relationships with just about everyone as I value relationships that place individuals in the center of my heart.

One such organization is Bardwell Scholarships. It is not just an organization. It is a foundation established to celebrate an individual---Roger Bardwell. His dream was to give himself to a cause that can change the lives of individuals and catapult their attitudes into new and greater dimensions that can only be obtained through an education. It is through this organization that I have met even greater people. They have supported me in

my further endeavor to complete my undergraduate degree in education at DePaul University. The support was always available via a visit, a phone call, or an e-mail. I was assured that wherever I go, they would be there for me with financial support to buy books, to pay for a class, for transportation, or fees for certification exams. They would, most meaningfully, be there as a sounding board or when I needed a shoulder to cry on.

At DePaul, history was repeating itself in my life. I became part of causes that centered on the education of underrepresented children in the Chicago Public School system. I worked diligently in imparting to the children in my care the importance of knowing how much the gift of education means. Far greater than that, I tried to instill in them how much they are deserving of an excellent and quality education that will help them become great people. I desire for each child to know that they have a voice and I am sent to listen, to work with, and to serve them.

Bardwell Scholarships has allowed me to be a part of something that is greater than me. It's birth was from someone who possessed greatness that flowed in and out of everything he touched and dreamed. I never met Roger, but I feel like I know him through the people who knew him and whom he penetrated with his greatness to keep it alive and flowing through people like me who, in turn, will go out and spread the message of his greatness to others.

Roger's message was part of what enabled me to persevere in my mind, body, and spirit. The other parts came through prayer, having the support of family and friends, being able to visit and being a part of organizations and programs that challenged me to be a part of greatness.

Traveling this journey has not been easy. When I look back over the four years it has taken me to receive my undergraduate degree in education, I think I am in shock and it will take some time for it all to settle in my soul and spirit. I am the first in my family of twelve other siblings and my mother and father to graduate from college, and the second to graduate from college when my nieces, nephews, and one of my sons are included. I do have that sense of accomplishment. It has been a worthwhile journey and one I have waited over 25 years to come to pass. I am privileged to be able to graduate with high honors from DePaul.

I want to say thank you to everyone for helping me to bring to life a once deferred dream. I want to say thanks to God for sharing Roger with so many people during and after his visit here on earth. ▲

Linda recently accepted a position with CPS teaching English and Reading to transitional 8th graders at Robeson High School.

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Vespucci opening up America for myself only five centuries later. It was both thrilling and exciting.

Looking back at the past years, I never regret the uneasy decision to come to the U.S. and pursue my future goals here. Filtrating into this new-for-me society, learning its values and customs, was an experience of a lifetime. During this time, I had an unmatched opportunity to explore a new culture and open up a new world.

I really do believe that the type of experience I've had during the last five years has become a crucial investment and contribution to my future career goals. I've had a chance to expand my knowledge on the subjects I've been interested in and get a lot



more detailed overview of them. This period allowed me to dig into the world of finance headed by Wall Street and to acquire a better understanding of how it operated, and made me realize that there are so many opportunities that can be tapped if you focus and stay

determined on the longer term goals.

Overall, the last five years made me grow: I turned from a teenager who barely knew what he wished for in life to an individual with a strong educational background and precise determination. 🏔️



Visit us on the web at www.bardwellscholarships.org

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Loyola University has been extremely supportive. Maggie Rogers, my learning assistance counselor, has made me feel comfortable coming to her for advice and support. Maggie explained to me that her mission was to make my educational experience as smooth as possible, but that I had to walk through doors if I needed help. Maggie has definitely been one of my guardian angels.

The professors at Loyola are phenomenal. Most professors have been educated at Ivy League Universities. As hard as it was sometimes, I would never trade the experience I have had here. I've had the opportunity to meet and converse with celebrities such as director and writer Spike Lee, author/lecturer Cornel West, the poet/political activist Amiri Baraka. I have been in the same lecture hall with persons I never thought in my lifetime I would meet.



I pride myself for the dedication that I have put forth, but I also realize that this path was not walked alone. Fortunately, I have had the support and encouragement from my family and friends. My mother may have given birth to seven children, but my family has extended far beyond them. **I am a life time "family" member of the Bardwell Scholarship Foundation.** Hedy Cohen and John R. Wozniak have encouraged me since I was a student at HWC two years ago. Their friendship and dedication to seeing me succeed has been incredible.

This past summer, although many institutions, companies and households were struggling financially, the Bardwell Foundation said yes when I asked for help for summer school. Without that help, I would have been unable to stay on track for graduation. Time is of the essence and, as far as I am concerned, I am seriously contemplating graduate school. I am on a roll and it feels fabulous.

The knowledge that I obtained a degree has empowered me in such a manner that I have a difficult time with people when they say that I can not do some thing, especially when I have not been given the opportunity to try. This is what Bardwell Scholarships has done for me outside of academia. They have given me the confidence to strive for the best and proved, most importantly to me, that I am capable of achieving. In order to accomplish my goals, I sometimes need a little financial support and encouraging words, both which I have received from the Bardwell Scholarship Foundation. 🏔️

Bardwell Scholars Annual Spring Celebration

The Second Annual Bardwell Scholarship Luncheon was a huge success and a great honor for scholarship overseer Hedy Cohen as well as Bardwell Scholars. The luncheon honored the memory of Dr. Roger W. Bardwell who throughout his lifetime made many strides toward educational enhancement, arming the people he taught with the power of knowledge and the ability to achieve.

The luncheon was used as a forum to introduce new Bardwell Scholars and praise the accomplishments of current members. Each scholar was given the opportunity to tell his/her story of success and triumph. Most talked about their first meeting with Hedy, and how it changed their lives and how since meeting her they have developed a different outlook on life. We also got a chance to thank the many contributors to the fund who were on hand. The luncheon featured food from many different cultures all prepared by our scholars. We all pitched in to make it a success. Thank you to all of those who made this a success and who support the Bardwell Scholarship Fund. 🍴

Yolanda Hopkins
Bardwell Scholar



Priscilla Williams



Lukeman Gbadamasi



Yolanda Hopkins

Bardwell Scholars 2004



Back-Keyla Arzet, Lukeman Gbadamasi, Diane Richardson

Mid-Andrea Scaggs, Dell Henderson, Barbara Holmes, Olga Vilenskaya, Priscilla Willams, Linda Murphy, Debby Bates, Johnny Phan

Bottom-Daniela Changuan, Barbara King, Kimberly Perez-Campos, Saruul Ganbaatar



Barbara King



Dell Henderson



Keyla Arzet



Barbara Holmes



Anthony Foster

Roger's Smile

Roger's smile truly filled the room on Friday, April 16th during the second annual Roger W. Bardwell Scholar gala. His smile appeared on the faces of all our scholars as they shared their stories. All their stories had the common thread of unmet financial need, an insurmountable impediment to continuing in school, a short-term financial crisis, or simply coping with the necessities of life that we can identify with. Whatever had brought them to the Bardwell Scholar program, their appreciation was heart felt and their self-confidence radiated.

Since Hedy Cohen approached me with the idea of establishing the Bardwell Scholarship program here at Harold Washington College, a world of good has come of it. This year we share in the pride of our four university graduates; Yolanda Hopkins from Roosevelt University, Kimberly Perez-Campos and Saruul Ganbaatar from Loyola University, and Linda Murphy from DePaul University. Their stories are inspirational. They are still pursuing their dreams.

After the luncheon, I had a chance to tour the finished portion of HWC's 37 million dollar renovation with a group of scholars and benefactors. It brought personal joy to see Kimberly Perez-Campos, an alumna of Harold Washington College, gasp with pride when she saw the newly renovated library facilities and note how pleased students were to have them.

On behalf of the entire Harold Washington College community I wish to thank Hedy Cohen and the benefactors of the Bardwell Scholar program. ▲

John R. Wozniak
Interim President
Harold Washington College



Interim President John R. Wozniak shows the newly renovated library to former students and scholarship supporters.

Anticipating and Trusting in the Power of Transformation

Who will I be? Who will I become? These are new life questions I ask myself as I anticipate and embrace change. I live with excitement, bewilderment and a newfound anxiety as I look forward to change. Beginning in August, I will embark on a new adventure and a new life at Smith College. I am anxious to go and anxious to stay. Leaving the known and arriving at a big unknown can be a daunting task, but I'm willing to risk the known in order to see what lies ahead, to see what I can become and to encourage growth for me and my children. Why not?

The HWC family and the Bardwell Scholars have been my home and now they serve as my launching pad to new ideas, new ways of knowing and thinking and my foundation upon which I build my future.

How did it all happen? The seed was planted about two years ago by Social Science professor



Sharon Beauregard with friend and fellow Bardwell Scholar, Kimberly Perez-Campos.

Jacqueline Kirley. She suggested that I might want to check out the three sister colleges Mt. Holyoke, Smith and Wellesley, who were actively recruiting nontraditional students as part of their commitment to diversity and to women. At this time, I listened but I was not ready. My life had reached a point of normalcy and I was not ready to jump or create change. Then, while taking a Humanities class, another professor, Dr. Arlene Zide, would show up in my life and approach me about the same three colleges. Well, things had definitely changed by the time I met Dr. Zide. After a year and a half, I was already thinking about my bigger picture and what steps I wanted to take next. This

time, I not only listened, but I decided to apply. I sent applications to Mt. Holyoke and Smith. I was accepted to both. I received generous financial packages from both and eventually I visited them. To my surprise, I liked both campuses and I came home more dazed, amazed and perplexed than before I visited. I had to make a decision and I chose Smith College. I chose Smith because of the city surrounding it, Northampton, which seemed to offer more enrichment and culture for my children. I could see a life outside of the campus and this was important for me as a single woman with kids.

As I look back, I am grateful. I am thankful to Bardwell Scholarships because they provided the financial support I needed to pursue my education. I am thankful to HWC for providing the excellent instruction from some truly remarkable teachers including Sammie Dortch, Jacqueline Kirley and Arlene Zide.

I am sad to leave but I know that I must go in order to grow and growth is both good and necessary. I look to the future with anticipation of all the new possibilities and opportunities. I look to my present and past and I am comforted by all of those who have touched me, encouraged me and inspired me. Once again, I would like to thank Hedy Cohen, John R. Wozniak and Sammie Dortch who have continued to be my supportive base throughout it all. **Thank you so much and thanks to all of those who have supported the Bardwell family. It is a family that pushes a student beyond the limits and encourages them to soar.** ▲

**Sharon Beauregard, HWC, matriculating Smith College Student
Bardwell Scholar**



Sharon Beauregard & her 2 sons, Nicholas (l) & Corey (r).

Pursuing Teaching Goals

My name is Olga Vilenskaya. I came from Russia six years ago, March 1998. After two weeks of living in America, I took free ESL classes at Truman College. Two months later, I was already a student in a credit program. One year later, I decided to apply for a work-study position. Since I always liked to be around children, I decided to apply at Truman's Child Development Center. I spoke with Mary Kaleta, Director of the Child Development Center, about taking me as work-study student. Pretty soon, I started to work there and take courses in Child Development along with all my General Requirements. I decided to finish the Associate Degree in Applied Science in Child Development.

I learned a lot while I was working at the Child Development Center. Two years later, I got a part-time position at the same center. I tried to be a good



Scholarship administrator Hedy Cohen with Olga Vilenskaya.

teacher and a good model for the children. The children accepted me. I really liked my job.

In May of 2003, I graduated from Truman College with Associate Degree in Applied Science with High Honors. Along with the degree, I received a Certificate in Advanced Occupational Skills. I also have been selected for The National Dean's List, 2002/2003.

The same year, I lost my job and I almost gave up. However, many teachers from Truman College who believed in me suggested I go to National-Louis University. In order to be accepted in the special program in the University, I needed to take additional courses at City Colleges of Chicago. So, I started to take classes. Since I did not have any financial aid at the College, it was hard for me to pay for the classes. Nevertheless, I decided to continue my education. My future goal is to obtain the a BA in Early Childhood Education and become a good teacher.

In fall of 2003, I came to Harold Washington College to take a class. At the same time, I began

to take some classes at National Louis University. I applied for a Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship and other ones.

By the end of the fall semester, I received a call from Hedy Cohen. She made me an appointment to see her. We had an interesting conversation with each other. Finally, she told me that she is not taking new students, but because I just needed to take just one class, she agreed to help me. I am really glad that I met Hedy in my life. Her smile and belief energized me. It was almost good fortune that I needed to have.

In the May of 2004, I will get my second degree at City Colleges of Chicago. The name of the degree will be Associate of Arts Degree in Undeclared Major. I would like to thank everyone who helped me to achieve this success. Especially I would like to thank Hedy Cohen for helping me to complete the class as a Roger W. Bardwell Scholar, John R. Wozniak, and Mary Kaleta who helped me a lot all these years and continues to help in my career. **Moreover, I am really honored to write my achievement in the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship newsletter.** ▲

**Olga Vilenskaya
Graduate Truman College AAS 2003,
Harold Washington College AA 2004, NCE Student
Bardwell Scholar**



*Johnny Phan and Dell Henderson
help prepare for the Bardwell
Luncheon.*

An Observation from Lunch

Hedy, John, Scholars and Supporters,

I have been fortunate in many aspects of my life including finding a career where I make a very good living. I believe in sharing my financial good luck. I do my best to guess where it can be of good use. I want to thank you all for taking the guesswork out of my choice in sharing with the Bardwell Scholarship Fund. You all are an inspiration and I was moved and touched hearing your stories during lunch. Please take any opportunity to share your stories and lives for you are a powerful force. 🙏

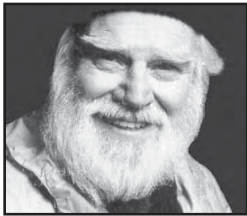
In Peace, Brian Meister



Diane Richardson with Brian Meister at the Bardwell Luncheon

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.

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 Janice Mason or Hedy Cohen:

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