



Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Spring 2005
Issue 8

Bardwell Scholarships Proudly Celebrate Their Spring Graduates

Obtaining My Goals; I never gave up

*Priscilla Williams, AA HWC,
Summer 2005, Bardwell Scholar*

I have set a few goals in my life, and have achieved most of them. I wanted to get married, have two children, and live happily ever after. I got married, had four children, and a divorce. Living happily ever after is still a work in progress.

I revised one goal and set new ones: raise my children, get a good job, return to school, become a great psychologist, then live happily ever after. I got a very good job, and when my children began to enter college, I entered UIC to earn my degree. However, no one told me that working all night, going to school all day, taking care of teenagers, and studying was disaster waiting to happen. I became very ill, and had to drop out of school as working was not an option.

It is now twenty-two years later and I have returned to school and, thanks to Bardwell Scholarships, I will go through graduation on May 21, 2005 with an AA degree, then attend Roosevelt University to earn my BA in psychology.

I would like to take time here to express my gratitude to those responsible for making it possible and helping me to reach this goal. **Getting an education is very important to me and should be to everyone who wants to grow in wisdom and knowledge.** I will pursue
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Education is Knowledge; Knowledge is Power

*Dell Henderson, AA HWC,
Spring 2005, Bardwell Scholar*

I always dreamed of going to college and becoming successful so that I could ensure myself and my family a better life. I grew up in a large family that included my mother, father and six other siblings. Unfortunately, one of my younger brothers was killed in a house fire at the age of ten months old. I watched him burn to death, and I remember my

mom being so distraught over his death that from that moment on I promised that I would always take care of and protect my mom so that she would never hurt like that again. I felt that the only way to accomplish this task would be to get as much education as I could in order to have a career that would enable me to support my family, especially my mother. I not only wanted to earn a Bachelor Degree, but I had the desire to become a doctor or lawyer.

My parents were born and raised in the south, and were sharecroppers. They moved north in search of a better life for themselves and their children. Subsequently, neither of my parents completed high school, and sadly, they never stressed the importance of getting an education to any of their children. I developed a passion for school and learning from the very beginning when I started public school in first grade at five years old. It was in school and through my teachers that I began
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Priscilla Williams and Dell Henderson celebrate their upcoming graduation.

Education is Knowledge; Knowledge is Power

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to realize that thru education, one could change their outcome in life.

I was an OK student, but feel that had my parents been more supportive of my getting an education and better off financially, I could have been a much better student. Yet, I refused to give up. Three of my siblings dropped out before finishing high school though I begged them to stay in school. I graduated high school on June 10, 1977, being the first in my family to graduate high school. College was out of the question as my parents didn't really value education, and even if they had, they couldn't afford to pay my tuition. I applied for grants and loans to attend college only to be told by my parents that I was a girl and couldn't leave home to attend the University of Illinois in Champaign. I was crushed.

Life's turn of events led me to marry shortly after finishing high school, and my husband and I immediately started a family. I jumped from the frying pan right into the fire. Little did I know that it would take me more than 20 years, to get back on course. After becoming divorced, and my only child having reached adulthood, I figured this is the first time in my life that I have been in total control and I said to myself "Do what you have always wanted and go to college and get your degree." I was so afraid that I wouldn't be successful in college because I had been out of school for so long. I thought surely the curriculum had changed so drastically that I would not be able to keep up with the traditionally younger students. But I knew I had to get into college to ensure my own survival. My life had always been hard financially and emotionally and the only way to make it better would be to educate myself. **I believe that education is knowledge and thru knowledge is power, power to overcome, rebuild and reshape.**

College has been such a liberating and rewarding experience for me. I began college at Triton College, and found that I was in fact able to keep up with the younger students earning a 4.0 GPA. I could barely afford the tuition, but was somehow able to get through the first year. Circumstances led to my transferring to Harold Washington College, which has proven to be the best move I've ever made in my life. The advisors,

staff, instructors, professors and the overall Harold Washington family are a group of wonderful, caring, professional people. I was flat broke by this time, and decided to come in to speak with an advisor to see if there was something, somehow someone could help me to stay in school. I feared that at my age, if I dropped out now, I would never be able to return to school, and feared that I would literally end up hungry and homeless by the time I reached retirement age. I was desperate. I was directed to the most wonderful, caring, giving, human being I've ever met, Ms. Hedy Cohen, administrator of Bardwell Scholarships. Hedy and the Bardwell Scholarships have made it possible for me to stay in college when I would have otherwise had to drop out. Hedy is helping me to fulfill my life's dream.

Hedy has been so much more to me. She's helped me emotionally, as well. She's an ear when I need someone to listen to me, or someone to talk to. She gives advice when I need it. She is such an amazing person, as was her husband, Mr. Roger W. Bardwell. The Bardwell Scholarship was born as a result of his commitment to helping those who desired to get a good education, and those who did not possess the means to do so on their own. I didn't know him, but I have only heard wonderful things about him. I feel such gratitude in my heart for Roger, and for Hedy for keeping his dream alive through me. I can truly and honestly say that what I feel for Roger and Hedy is genuine love. Thank God for such wonderful people.



I am happy to say that I am living my dream of attending college as a psychology major, and will be receiving my AA degree on May 21, 2005. My life's goal is to become a psychologist so that I can help others. My life has at many times been so difficult that if not for the advice of a psychologist, I don't know where I would be mentally or emotionally, that has inspired me to want to give back and to help others.

I am hopeful that I will be able to transfer to a four-year university to pursue my Bachelor Degree, and onto my Masters. I will never forget Hedy or the Bardwell Scholarship, and vow to help keep Roger's dream alive by becoming a contributor to the Bardwell Scholarship for future students. ♣

Education's Midas Touch

Lukman Gbadamasi

AA Harold Washington College Spring 2005,
Bardwell Scholar

Education is a journey; it is like embarking on a voyage of discovery. It is based on this realization that I value education as the "Midas touch" to new opportunity.

My educational journey so far has been a rough one but thanks be to thy almighty lord who strengthens and increases me when I need it most. In fact, I don't know where and how to tell my stories; should I start from elementary, high school or college in Nigeria or here in the states? Anyway, the past is history.

After my successful enrollment at Harold Washington College in Spring 2003 and attending classes without decent employment and struggling to pay my tuition by carrying my balance from one semester to the other, a good friend of mine, Ms. Brenda May, introduced me to my long awaited family who helped me carry my burden.



Since I've been part of this family I feel connected with the legacy of Roger W. Bardwell. How I wish I knew this wonderful person who had vision, a mission and dedication to invest in others, regardless of gender, nationality or race when he was alive. Unfortunately he's gone to the world beyond, but his legacy will live forever. And I'm one of the living testimonies to the fruits of his labor. I met Ms. Hedy as she helped me through the application process and believed in me that I can actually make a difference. Truly yours, I did. She's really my mentor and if I call her my mom I think I'm not exaggerating her sincerity and motherly advice sustain and makes me believe that no mountain is too high to climb with dedication and perseverance.

My vote of thanks is incomplete without mentioning the man that stands for the truth and justice; in person of the president of Harold Washington College, Mr. John R. Wozinak. Mr. Wozinak devoted his time and energy for the services to humanity. Also, A big thanks to Ms. Janice Mason who contributed to my success.

My future goal is to become a reputable and dependable Certified Public Accountant (CPA). I have been working diligently and aiming for the stars towards the actualization of my dreams. In the fall I will transfer to UIC to continue my education. ▲



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learning as long as I am physically and mentally able. So, thank you Bardwell Scholarships.

I will not forget all you have invested in me; I am and will be eternally grateful for your support and encouragement.

While it is better to stay in school if you can, there is nothing more rewarding than returning to finish what you started. You are never too old to learn, never too old to set and attain goals, and never too old to dream. Although living happily ever is a line in fairy tales and is very elusive in the real world, remember, a dream is a wish your heart makes. **Dream your dreams, set your goals and achieve them, and live happily ever after.** ▲



John R. Wozniak Selected as Harold Washington College President

It is with great pride that Bardwell Scholarships congratulate John R. Wozniak on becoming the president of Harold Washington College. John, who worked with and learned from Roger Bardwell, is one of the cofounders of Bardwell Scholarships. His committment to quality secondary education has been easily apparent during his tenure at HWC. The Bardwell Scholarship family looks forward to working with John in his new capacity.



Bardwell Scholarship Luncheon 2005

The Third Annual Bardwell Scholarship Luncheon was held on April 1, 2005, in the Community Room of Harold Washington College. The luncheon celebrates the birthday of Dr. Roger W. Bardwell, in whose memory the scholarship fund was created. During his lifetime, Dr. Bardwell made great strides toward educational enhancement, arming the people he taught with the power of knowledge and the ability to achieve.

Hedy Cohen, the founder and administrator of the Bardwell Scholarship Fund, organized the luncheon. The room was intimately arranged with tables personally decorated by Ms. Cohen displaying fresh spring flowers and sweets. The atmosphere was warm and inviting. Pedro Verges from the HWC music department played his acoustic guitar as the guests arrived. Art, donated by the artist gARTh and the artist/Bardwell scholar Kevin Campbell decorated the room. The art was later sold to benefit the scholarship fund.

Ms. Cohen's passion and zeal to help people is obvious. She clearly takes a personal interest in each of the Bardwell scholars, encouraging them to set goals while continuing their education. Rather than spending money for a catering service, the Bardwell scholars provided food. The great variety of food included shrimp, chicken, and rice dishes, plus an extensive dessert table.

The annual luncheon is an opportunity for the donors and scholars to meet each other. Each Bardwell recipient introduced themselves and described their personal journey of determination and commitment to education.

Guests received a souvenir photo album with the Bardwell emblem as a token of gratitude for their continued support. ▲

Joann Washington, newly elected Student Government Association President, Bardwell Scholar



African Drum Beat

First of all, I hope everyone enjoyed this year's luncheon. This was my first and I am glad to say that I really enjoyed it. It was my pleasure meeting everyone who is a part of the Bardwell family.

Thanks to Lukman, we had a special performance by the Merry Makers Music group. The wonderful performance by Rafiu Ayantoye and his company was a delight. They were a group of three Nigerian men who played traditional African drums. One of the drums called the mother drum would lead the rhythm and other drums responded to its rhythm. In their performance they stated that the mother drum is used as a form of communication. Rafiu said that if you listen well to the mother drum you could hear it speak to you.

This was a wonderful luncheon; this was just a part of the entire celebration. I hope everyone that attended this year's celebration had a splendid time and I hope to see everyone at next year's celebration.

Until then, take care, and best wishes,
Edilberto Vasquez, Bardwell Scholar

Note: Merry Makers Music, Inc can be reached at 773-275-8366 or found on the web at www.merrymakersmusic.com



Bardwell Scholars, 2005

Back - Octavian Stinga, Johnny Phan, Dell Henderson, Edilberto Vasquez, Priscilla Williams, Kimberly Perez-Campos, Graciela Garcia, Saruul Ganbaatar

Front - Anthony Foster, Kevin Campbell, Barbara King, Andrea Scaggs

A special note of thanks to Linda Johnson for her photographs and to David Locke for assisting with our many printing needs.

Friends of Bardwell Scholarships Comment on the Luncheon

It was wonderful to see that despite setbacks, both financial and non-financial, these students are so dedicated to completing their educations and encouraging others to do the same. While I had a general understanding of how much good the Bardwell Scholarship and Hedy are doing, it was not until I heard from the students that I truly understood how much the money and overall support really mean. Thank you for including me in the lunch. By the way, the drums and the music at the end were great!

Regards,

Tammy Wener



I was absolutely touched by the impact this scholarship is making on so many lives. Hedy's ability to listen to the students and support their goals is just as important as the scholarship funds they receive.

Congratulations,

Mary Anne Ehlert



I am always uplifted after the Bardwell Scholars Luncheon because of the BIG PLANS, BIG HEARTS AND WINNING ATTITUDES around me! Thank you for letting me be a part!

Kate LeVan

The passion and vision of the Bardwell Scholars was so evident. Hedy, you and the recipients are very lucky.

Nancy Kramer

I was impressed by a number of things that the Bardwell Scholars talked about at the March lunch at Harold Washington College. All of them spoke of their gratitude to Hedy Cohen for her friendship and support and of their deep appreciation of the value of higher education.

While the students acknowledged the importance of the Bardwell scholarship funds, they also said that Hedy made a difference in their lives because she was always available as a friend to provide needed encouragement. Many of the Bardwell Scholars are the first college students in their families. As such, they don't have relatives who fully appreciate how demanding college work is. Hedy's personal involvement with the Scholars provides motivation to continue balancing their parental, work, and college responsibilities.

The Bardwell Scholars are also impressive because they want to use their education to 'give back' to society. I talked with a woman whose goal is to get an MSW degree. Several men spoke of past difficulties in their lives; one wants to be a substance abuse counselor. The Bardwell Scholars are articulate, hard-working, goal-oriented, high-achieving students. Hedy helps them realize how much they can achieve through higher education.

Bonnie Dohogne

We are Bardwell Scholar supporters and also Bardwell Scholar luncheon "groupies". Each year we look forward to attending this event. This year in particular, we both felt the beneficent spirit of Roger W. Bardwell emanating from the blown-up photo in the center of the room. His warm and wise smile was particularly evident after John R. Wozniak announced that despite his temperature of 101° and a bad cold, he, too, would never miss a Bardwell Luncheon.

gARTh & Anna



Winter Workshop with Professor Dortch

On a cold blustering winter afternoon in February, we all made our way to Harold Washington College for a Bardwell Scholar luncheon focused on setting and reevaluating goals as our plans changed over time. I was unsure of what to expect, but my fears were soon laid to rest once the seminar began. Professor Sammie Dortch of the Applied Science Department at Harold Washington College was to preside over our learning session, and that is exactly what it was. A high school teacher once said to me that the best students are the ones who never stop learning, no matter what their age or what their accomplishments have been so far and this workshop clearly illustrated that.

The luncheon began with the twelve Bardwell Scholars introducing ourselves and giving a brief history of our educational path and career aspirations. I myself did not value education in high school, and I did not attend college when I graduated high school in 1997. It was not until 2002 when I was laid off from a brokerage securities company that I decided I needed to do something more to enhance my career, my life even, so that is when I made the decision to go to college. I began classes at Harold Washington College in January of 2003. My original goal was to work towards an Associate Degree, while exploring various social science subjects to discover which would satisfy both the intellectual and humanitarian in me. I started off slowly; however, my course load progressed to full-time status by January 2004; it has also been full-time since then.

One year later as I sat at the luncheon listening to Professor Dortch's opening remarks about how our plans and goals are going to change, that we should allow them to be as fluid as life is, I realized my goals were completely different now.

Obtaining my Associates Degree now was the last thing on my mind, albeit only being a few classes short of reaching that degree. The schools I am applying to do not require me to have an Associates Degree (University of San Francisco and DePaul University) to gain admittance as a transfer student. They only require me to have completed 30 semester hours, which I had accomplished before the start of this semester.

I must have switched my major to almost every discipline under the social science umbrella: psychology, sociology, economics, but I have decided on political science. More specifically, it is political science with a concentration in public/social policy. I want to be a college professor and then work for a think tank before retiring. I want to write whenever I can for whatever and whoever is willing to help me spread my views. Those goals are a far cry from my original intention to be involved in the business field two years ago. But teaching is what I want to do. Affect change is what I want to do. And I feel that I am on the path to doing so.

As the luncheon went on, I listened intently to some of the older Bardwell Scholars talk about their life experiences. I found myself rather inspired as I learned about the heartache and struggles of the people who sat before me. A couple of people talked about how they felt their life was down in the dumps because of personal loss or what have you, but they found the passion and desire to rebuild their lives, to reassess what they were here on Earth to do. And you know what? They had clearly done it and emerged as undeniable and inspirational.

The overall feeling in the room was one of content, a safe, comfortable learning environment blistering with warmth and satisfaction. It was open to all of us sharing our experiences with no need for a safety net. Professor Dortch presided over the seminar with a meditative tone: even-keeled, inviting, and soothing. She noted how we should take the time to rethink what our aspirations are and the path we are on, not to just let life suddenly shock us into a new reality. She said we should be the ones to shock life into a new reality. Take control was the mandate. Always set goals and be willing to change those goals as need be was the mantra.

Hedy Cohen, our fearless and beloved administrator and leader said at the end of the session, "This is what we all needed." How right she was. Smiles and hugs were exchanged as we all said good-bye and thank you, for we had just spent a little over 90 minutes getting to know one each other, learn from each other, and become better equipped to face the challenges of meeting our goals.▲

William Mohring, Bardwell Scholar



Retirement Contribution

After 33 years of dedicated service as a teacher of deaf and hard of hearing students, Hedy Cohen is retiring at the end of this school year from her most recent employer, the Low Incidence Cooperative Agreement (LICA) Program. As a token of her devotion to furthering education to needy scholars, she has requested that the money collected for her retirement gift be channeled into the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund. This is a testament to her life of giving to people with special needs whether physical, emotional, or financial.

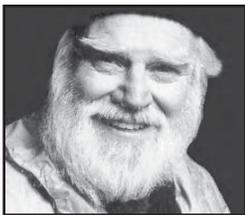
Jan Stafford, Program Secretary, LICA



Sue DiLillo and Jan Stafford, secretaries at LICA, present Hedy Cohen with a check for the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund.

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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