



Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Spring 2006
Issue 10



HWC/Bardwell Scholarship Graduates 2006

*Back row - Katrell Lee, Mark Grant, Kevin Campbell and Edilberto (Tito) Vazquez.
Front row - Joann Washington, Keti Loncar.*

Joann Washington, AA HWC 2006 Bardwell Scholar

For years I had a strong desire to continue my education. I wanted to develop my critical and creative thinking, as well as improve my ability to communicate more effectively. Being a single mother, there was never enough time or money; therefore, this dream was deferred. After working for a major retail company for twenty years in the information systems field, I found myself unemployed when the company was unable to recover from bankruptcy. At the time, I did not realize this was a blessing in disguise. When one door closes another door opens and I walked through the doors of Harold Washington College in January 2004.

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Kevin Campbell, AA HWC 2006 Bardwell Scholar

Never, Never, Never, Give Up!
Before I begin, I would like to first thank God for the miraculous change of direction in my life! Next I would like to thank Hedy Cohen, Aida Diaz, Terry Pendelton, Janice Mason, and the Roger Bardwell Scholarship Fund for taking the chance, believing in me, giving me an opportunity, and making this graduation day a dream come true. Had it not been for all of you, I can honestly say I would not be where I am today-on my way out the door!

It's been said that the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step (which of course is true), but what they fail to tell you about is the

Campbell continued on page 2...

Edilberto Vazquez, AA HWC 2006 Bardwell Scholar

Hello everyone. I cannot believe I made it. First of all, I have to thank Hedy and the entire Bardwell family. I never imagined that I would be graduating from college. I really wouldn't have made it this far if it wasn't for the support Bardwell Scholarships provided for me.

I grew up being involved in gangs and negative aspects on the streets of Chicago. I started coming to Harold Washington in 1997, but at that point of my life, I wasn't focused on getting an education. As a result of my immaturity, I wasted a large portion of my financial aid. So when I really was able to get my act together, I came across a severe obstacle; my financial aid was spent. I was worried; I didn't

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Washington continued from page 1...

At the age of 47, I knew college would be one of my most ambitious and rewarding goals to achieve. I questioned my ability to stay focused on education for several years and the sacrifices that would be required. In addition, I questioned my ability to create good study habits and my sanity for taking a full course load. I had two short term goals upon entering college: to have perfect attendance and to be on the Dean's List. I achieved both goals creating good study habits, being committed to academic excellence and viewing my courses as learning opportunities. In addition, I took advantage of tutors, communicated with my professors, actively sought study partners, and created study groups.

In the fall of 2004, I was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society at HWC. I was also nominated for The National Dean's List in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Moreover, I was awarded the HWC Academic Scholarship in 2005 and the Bardwell Scholarship in 2005. I will graduate in May of 2006 with an Associate in Arts and plan to graduate in 2008 with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication with a minor in African American Studies. **Obtaining my degree has made me realize that it is never too late to bring dreams into fruition.**

I am proud to be the first person in my family to have gone to college; this experience has changed my life. I am not the same person who walked through the doors of this great institution 2 years ago. My collective experiences as a student and a student leader were gratifying and rewarding. I am grateful and humbled by the people who have unselfishly shared their time, resources, and experiences. There were many peaks and a few valleys but the support and encouragement I received were overwhelming and I am left speechless. I want to personally thank President Wozniak, Janice Mason, Shelby Beverly, Anna Blum, Professors Gayle Sanders, Rosa Malcolm, and Bert McAllister for their wisdom and guidance. Also, I want to personally thank Hedy for providing me not only with financial assistance, but also solid and clear direction. She has helped me to stay focused on my goals and things that I can change.

My HWC experience has given me a solid foundation and as prepared me for my next challenge. Presently, I have been accepted at the University of Illinois at Chicago and I am exploring two others universities as well. **The finish line is just the beginning of a whole new race.**▲

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choices in between that determine your final outcome or for that matter how smooth your journey will be. Honestly, poor choices lead to the rougher paths in life and having been down a few, I can truly testify to this. All that glitters is not gold-initially it may appear so, but in the long run you'll always find out that the rougher roads don't pay. Instead they cost in time, money, and relationships.

Thinking about life, it is but a dash... we all have a beginning and an end date; it's what one does with that little dash on the tombstone between the dates that makes all the difference. Two paths to choose from: (1) either be part of the problem or (2) part of the solution. I personally now choose to be part of the solution!

My focus is to always remember that no matter how bad things seem to get, there is always someone in a worse predicament than you. Stay Focused! Constantly reflecting on your bigger goals will make the smaller ones appear to be mere stepping-stones. Make lists; the more you check off the more you feel that you've accomplished.



Kevin Campbell and Edilberto Vazquez.

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Most Importantly, Never Give Up! These were the words that I continued to tell myself while praying for the strength to face the financial giants that I needed to conquer in order to initially get back into school. Grace came when I was introduced by Mrs. Diaz to Hedy and Bardwell Scholarships. **Bardwell Scholarships gleamed through my darkness like a bright ray of light.** Never Give Up! Those are the words that I would tell myself gulping coffee and writing a paper at 4:30 a.m., knowing that my class meets in the morning at nine; I'm sure you can relate. Never Give Up! Are the words that I'd tell myself while trying to juggle 18 credit hours, doing a 300 hour practicum and working work study all at the same time.

Prayer and Never Giving Up are what got me to graduation and I know if I can do it, so can you.▲

A Generous Spirit

When someone is in need you take them to someone who you know can help, and when I was in need, I was delivered into the capable hands of those of the RBS Foundation. I didn't know it then, but I had just encountered the generous, supportive, and loving spirit that is the Roger W. Bardwell Legacy.

Upon entering the program, I discovered more than a student could ask for in a scholarship. The Roger W. Bardwell Foundation gives more than money to pay for school. It is a complete academic support network driven by a great heart to deliver students' success. It seems that no matter the problem, they are ready and willing to work you through anything that may present itself as an educational roadblock. Whether it is a financial issue, personal problem, or you just need a little encouragement, if they can help you, they will. Just ask anyone. Pick a RBS Scholar and they will be thrilled to convince you of the same.



Mark Grant and Katrelee Lee at Graduation.

My own story is that of the typical student who had too much class and not enough buck; my financial aid package had not covered the total need. This left me facing a huge amount of

academic debt that seemed to be growing; a student in desperate need of financial assistance because federal money would not cover the full bill. Unknowingly, I encountered a tremendous blessing who is Hedy Cohen and those who support the scholarship fund in honor of Roger W. Bardwell. In getting to interact with them, I have learned very useful lessons exemplified in the way Bardwell Scholars are handled by the program; these are lessons that I hope to utilize in the future as a counselor and person in general. As you can find by attending the annual Roger W. Bardwell Luncheon, the effect that this organization has on its students is genuine.

The RBS Foundation is there to encourage its people by helping them realize their dreams and full potential. They find joy in helping them believe in themselves and their ability to succeed while alleviating burdensome pressures. They are patient and present, excited about

their achievements and concerned and engaged about student success. These and more are the benefits that RBS has contributed to my college experience. I plan to be that for others in the future.

I came to Bardwell at a difficult time in my life when I was struggling for direction and focus with burdens and stressors that distracted me. Hedy was a caring person who got involved, patient enough to listen even when I didn't make much sense and wise enough to help me settle back on course. And to her I am sincerely thankful. However, not to her alone, but to all of those who assist her in continuing the RBS initiative and legacy. To all of you I am truly grateful. The Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship is a shining light befitting the excellence of Harold Washington College.

I graduated from Harold Washington College in the fall of 2005 with an Associate of Arts Degree and am currently focusing in psychology at DePaul University.

Mark Grant
AA HWC 2005
Bardwell Scholar



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know what to do, but I was determined to complete this step in my life. I wanted to succeed and prove to myself and my peers that I could finish school. That's when I heard about Bardwell. I thought that I would never qualify for a scholarship, but I was wrong. Hedy believed in me and chose to help me.

I want everybody that is a member of the Bardwell family to know that I am grateful for the contribution that Bardwell has provided for me. **Thanks from the bottom of my heart, especially to all the wonderful people who provide the opportunities for people like me to further their education through their funding. Thank you. I have never felt as proud as I do to be graduating as a Bardwell Scholar.** One day I plan to come back as a Bardwell Alumni and be able to provide the same hope to someone that you have provided me. I wish everyone the best of luck and blessing from a proud Bardwell Scholar. ♣

Graduate Katrelee Lee told his story in the Fall 2005 newsletter. Look for New Bardwell Scholar Keti Loncar's story in the fall newsletter.

This Year's Annual Lunch

This year's Bardwell lunch was phenomenal; there was guitar playing by Dalton Christie, there was a speech given by President Wozniak, and, most importantly, there was A Happy Hedy. Being in a new location this year seemed to allow for more mingling. As usual, all the scholars got the opportunity to share with the contributors exactly what the scholarship truly means to them. Interestingly enough, for myself this year, I got caught up in the moment; that morning I just so happened to be reflecting on how far I've come and really just how good God is (which is a wonderful thing) and I just couldn't help sharing that with all of you. Thanks



Leslie Villaseñor and gARTh talk about fundraising for Bardwell Scholarships.

again, Hedy. Following the scholars' speeches, Octavian said a wonderful poem titled "Wisdom is Language" by Christina Herrera. Now normally it's one thing to say/deliver a poem, but to do it in four different languages is a different story. Great job, Octavian! Talk about a group of gifted scholars... To conclude the luncheon, we had a presentation from Katrell Lee who literally blew the whole room away with his dramatization "The Power of One: The Life Story of Aramita Ross". Everyone was so captivated that you could hear a pin drop; he did an awesome job. To conclude, if you missed this year's lunch, you missed out; we'll look forward to seeing you at the next one.

Kevin Campbell
Bardwell Scholar

I enjoyed the Bardwell luncheon on March 31, 2006. It was a great opportunity to meet with many of the new Bardwell scholars. I enjoyed hearing stories about their challenges and successes to achieve a higher education. The food was great and the conversation with the guests at my table was excellent. I'm looking forward to the next one.

Diane Richardson
Bardwell Scholar

Bardwell Lunch

I had a great experience at the RBS luncheon this year and count it a great privilege to be a part of this dynamic group of individuals supporters and scholars. A great time was had by all as students and supporters alike shared laughs and tears as the scholars shared testimonies on the very important place that the Roger Bardwell Scholarship has had in their academic pursuits.

Mark Grant
Bardwell Scholar



New Bardwell Scholar Dalton Christie provided background music.

On behalf of all the recipients of the Bardwell Scholarship Foundation, I use this medium to thank you very much for the opportunity you gave everyone of us, most especially me, in particular. I pray that God almighty will reward you abundantly, and the soul of the late Mr. Bardwell remain in perfect peace.

I was touched by the stories of every one of us because each one of us has a beautiful fairy tale about themselves; the way each individual has struggled in life in order to make ends meet, to provide for their family and, most especially, how life became a struggle of the fittest.

I am proud to be one of the recipients of the most acknowledged scholarship ever awarded in the City Colleges of Chicago, in Harold Washington College.

It is a one thing in life to have a dream, and it is another thing to see a person tailor you through your dreams. You make my dream comes TRUE, my American dream.

A Trillion Thanks,
Lukman Gbadamasi
Bardwell Scholar

eon, Spring 2006

The Bardwell Scholarship luncheon was great. The food was good, the fellowship with the other students, faculty members, and the scholarship committee was rich and enlightening. I am so proud to be a part of the Bardwell Scholars, and yet while my head gets big, and my chest swells up at the thought of being one of the Scholars, I am also humbled by the experience of it.

The luncheon provides not only a way for us to interact with the committee, but it also gives the scholars to a chance to renew our friendships with each other, as well as meet the new scholars.

I look forward to the next one. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it.



Yjimizia Jones tells her story.

Priscilla Williams
Bardwell Scholar

The 4th Annual Bardwell Scholarship Luncheon took place at Harold Washington College on Friday, March 31, 2006. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the founder, Ms. Hedy Cohen, guests enjoyed a delicious lunch, a room full of fragrant floral centerpieces and heartfelt testimonies.



*Johnny Phan and
Ben Tre Cafe
provided the
delicious food.*

During the luncheon, scholarship recipients introduced themselves to donors and guests. They shared their hopes and dreams for a better future. Tears welled up as recipients expressed their undying gratitude to Ms. Cohen. Hedy is incomparable when it comes to her dedication to the needs of less fortunate students. It is clear to everyone, her undying mission is in sync with Roger Bardwell's vision of providing quality education to promising, driven students. As a result of Ms. Cohen's selfless work and compassion, the Bardwell Scholarship Fund continues to thrive.

All guests agreed that this year's luncheon was a huge success, and look forward to the 5th annual luncheon next year.

Keti Loncar
New Bardwell Scholar

2006 Bardwell Scholars



*Standing - P. Williams, K. Campbell, L. Murphy, J. Washington, Y. Hopkins, K. Lucas Perez, M. Grant, D. Christie, S. Ganbaatar, D. Richardson, L. Ayala, J. Phan, L. Gbadamasi, Y. Jones.
Sitting - L. Jackson, K. Lee, H. Bolar, A. Foster, O. Stinga.*

Luncheon Continued



Mark Grant, Johnny Phan and Hedy Cohen discuss luncheon details.



Octavian Stinga enjoys the applause from his four language poetry reading.



Jerome Lucas, John Metoyer and Joann Washington listen to the inspirational speeches.

Friday's luncheon was great! It gave me the sense of a feeling of love within the room. This was my first luncheon with all the Bardwell Scholars and it was great to see that I, too, wasn't the only one that needed help, not just financially but emotionally as well. We are a family, and to finally meet some of them inspired me even more. Lacking love and inspiration, this luncheon was great for me.

Lisa Ayala
Bardwell Scholar

I really enjoyed the Bardwell Scholarship Luncheon which was a warm and inviting family event. The food and the decor were excellent, and there were speakers who commended Janice Mason and Hedy Cohen for all their kindness, generosity, and hard work with the program at Harold Washington College. What I enjoyed most about the luncheon was being able to meet, see, and hear from so many contributing supporters and student recipients who are involved in the scholarship program! It was really a wonderful experience to be a part of this academic, benevolent, and collective family, as well as to have the opportunity to participate in the ceremony in one way or another. All in all, I believe everyone who attended the luncheon rather enjoyed the event, and I personally think it's safe to say that they (and myself, of course) look forward to the next one.



Kimberly Perez Lucas, Bardwell Scholar and DePaul grad student.

Katrelle Lee
Bardwell Scholar

The Bardwell annual spring luncheon was a great time of celebration and refectation. We, the Bardwell recipients, celebrated our academic achievements while we also reflected on the memory of the exceptional man whose vision we keep alive.

On that bright sunny afternoon, each recipient was given the opportunity to personally thank the donors for their continued financial support and encouragement. There are no words to express the deep heartfelt gratitude and appreciation that emanated from the recipients, as well as the donors, that day.

With each academic accomplishment, Roger's spirit and legacy not only continues to thrive, but grows stronger as it transforms us from ordinary to extraordinary.

Thank you Hedy, for being the guardian of Roger's vision.

Joann Washington
Honored Bardwell Recipient

Roper Luncheon

In life, we go through a number of experiences that hopefully enhance the next stages. Sometimes those experiences can be painful and other times they are quite good. On April 12, 2006, a few other Bardwell Scholars and I were treated to one of those “quite good” experiences. We were all invited to the Gerald J. Roper Luncheon honoring Pamela B. Strobel, retired Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Exelon Corporation, as the Business Professional of the Year. What an honor to receive such a prestigious tribute for work that someone does for the betterment of women, minorities and all people in general. Her bio speaks for itself.

However, this was not the highlight for me. Jim Rose was the emcee for the event and he did a great job, especially plugging the newly revamped ABC Studios on State Street. No, that was not the best part either. The best part of the luncheon for me was the reading of the quotes by the two recipients of The Gerald J. Roper Scholarship. The first recipient was Malisa McGee. Her quote was from Reverend Jesse Jackson, Jr. who said, “If they can conceive it and believe it, they can achieve it.” The second recipient was Li Chen. Her quote was from our own Oprah protégé, Dr. Phil, who said, “Get Real.” Both quotes are profound in their own right and they both speak to the very essence of what makes us who we are as students and what inspires us to go on.

After we conceive it and believe it we will achieve it; all we have to do is get real and do it! Oh, the lunch was fine too...

Anthony Foster
HWC, University of Phoenix
Bardwell Scholar



Back row - Anthony Foster and Keti Loncar. Front row - Joann Washington and Edilberto Vazquez at the Roper Luncheon.

Bardwell Scholars on the Air

Early on the morning of August 16, 2005, Harold Washington College hosted one of the most popular radio personalities in Chicago. Cliff Kelley of WVON broadcasted his morning drive time show (6:00 AM-10:00 AM) from Washington Hall. The program was also simulcast on Channel 20, WYCC-TV.



Joann Washington, Kimberly Perez Lucas, Sharon Beauregard, and Chancellor Watson after the WVON Broadcast.

One topic of conversation discussed by Kimberly Perez Lucas and Sharon Beauregard was the ability of HWC graduates to transfer successfully to universities. Another topic discussed by Joann Washington was the completion of the state-of-the-art \$35 million dollar, 3-year renovation to the HWC building. The conversation focused on the new library and multi media center, expanded computer laboratories and the new student union lounge that provides food service. Still another issue discussed by Keti Loncar, was the need for all Americans to be educated, irregardless of age. Keti stressed that many City College Students are of non-traditional age, and that their marketability in the job-force is much greater with an college degree.

Appearing along with HWC President John R. Wozniak were these four Bardwell Scholars: alumni Kimberly Perez Lucas and Sharon Beauregard and current HWC students Joann Washington and Keti Loncar, a new Bardwell Scholar.

Harold Washington College was honored to be featured on the “The Cliff Kelley Show” and Bardwell Scholars were proud to be so ably represented. ▲

Save the Date!
2nd Annual Artist's Extravaganza to Benefit
RBS - September 28, 2006

More Stepping Out

On April 26, 2006 Hedy Cohen, Diane Richardson and I went shoe shopping. We began the shopping excursion at Naturalizer on Wabash where Diane picked out a pretty pair of comfortable toe barring sandals for the summer. Our next stop was Carson's on State where I picked out a funky pair of summer wedges designed for fun in the sun. The shoes were a gift from Hedy Cohen to us for the completion of our Bachelor's Degree programs. The day ended with lunch in the lower level of Marshall Field's where we discussed our plans for continued academic success.



Yolanda Hopkins
AA HWC, BA Roosevelt University, Bardwell Scholar

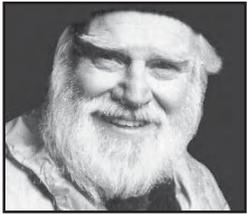


Diane Richardson and Yolanda Hopkins shoe shopping at Carson's.

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:



Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund
% Ehlert Financial Group
103 Schelker
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



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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