



Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Spring 2007
Issue 12



HWC/Bardwell Scholarship Graduates 2007

Back row: Rahman Fleming, LaTanya Jackson, Cashawndra Jackson, Chris Clark.

Front row: David Williams, Yjimizia Jones, Helen Bolar, Daniela Changuan, Edwina Morgan.

LaTanya Jackson, AA HWC 2007 Bardwell Scholar

My experience as an RBS recipient has been amazing; I have met some incredible people and enjoyed many great experiences.

I will never be able to express the gratitude that I have in my heart for RBS, but I plan to keep this Fire you have lit in my spirit alive forever...I feel that there is no limit on what I can achieve in life and I owe that to Hedy and this amazing organization that she has extended and welcomed me into. I am a lifetime member of the RBS Family.

I especially love the annual RBS luncheons where we share the stories on how we all ended up in the same place at the same time in our journey for higher learning. We

Jackson continued on page 2...

Rahman Fleming, AA HWC 2007 Bardwell Scholar

First and for most I would like to give all honor and praise to GOD, for all the blessings he has bestowed on me, and for allowing me the opportunity to try and improve my life. Secondly I would like to thank Hedy Cohen, Janice Mason, and all the members and supporters of the Bardwell Scholarships. In particular I can never thank enough my friend and RBS graduate, Edilberto Vazquez, and of course the amazing Ms. Hedy Cohen.

I, like many of my friends, came from an environment that was infested with drug dealing and gangbanging. I was a part of a gang and sold drugs, and only through GOD's grace did I manage to survive the 90's and graduate high school. Even with my diploma I was still stuck in the

Fleming continued on page 2...

Edwina Morgan AAS HWC 2007 Bardwell Scholar

My rational for attending college is to better myself and to be a more qualified employee, to be a model for my siblings, and especially for my nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews, and also to be a productive citizen of society.

During my third year of recovery from alcohol and drugs I was feeling depressed as I struggled with trying to get some acceptance, when the doctor told me that my late fiancé had only three months to live.

He was a friend and played a very inspirational role in my life. I didn't know how I was going to cope without him. I cried and I cried until all of a sudden I fell to my hands and knees crying and asking God to help me. I said, "God what am I going to

Morgan continued on page 7...

Graduation 2007

Jackson continued from page 1...

are now a part of an extended fabulous family that will continue to grow in excellence. Never in a million years did I see myself being a part of such a dynamic, special group of beautiful, multi-talented, inspiring individuals. The diversity and love and feelings of acceptance are overwhelming and incredible. To have the support from the sponsors and faculty and our guardian angel, Hedy, we are all blessed and highly favored.

On 3/1/2006 I received a phone call from Hedy that changed my life and gave me a key to open the door to a brand new me, this opportunity has affected my entire family and my community. To see me, a single mom, achieve a dream that began over 25 years ago when I graduated from high-school, I am happy to say that no matter how long it takes, keep striving for your dreams. Once you set your mind on completing a dream or a goal in life, focus and visualize the day you can say "I did it! Harold Washington said this in many times," I dare you to dream" and I end this by sharing a quote from John H. Johnson's book titled Succeeding Against All Odds, "To dreamers everywhere, long shots do come in and hard work, dedication, and perseverance will overcome almost any prejudice and open almost any door." ▲



Celebrating This Moment

For many years, I was victimized by my own fears. I saw a limited future ahead of me. Then a new chapter began in my life. With great support from Ms. Hedy Cohen, family, friends and the Harold Washington administrators, I am delighted to be a part of this amazing moment, to graduate from one of the finest colleges in the City of Chicago. I am also honored to be a part of this momentous occasion that has been a tradition and legend to staff and students of Harold Washington College. It is an honor to have accomplished what has been hardship for me. Thanks to God for his grace upon me and to all who have supported me with my success.

**Cashawndra Hunter, Basic Certificate in Accounting
2007 Bardwell Scholar**

Fleming continued from page 1...

street mentality and stayed in trouble. After living in Texas for a little over two years constantly in trouble, I moved back to Chicago in 1999, and began attending HWC off and on. Needless to say, I still was stuck in my old negative ways, and even though I got good grades in a lot of subjects, I messed up financial aid by continuously dropping classes as well as other things. So my aid was cut, and even though I only needed one class to receive my associate, I just quit and stayed in the streets. I eventually got locked up and spent over six months in county jail.

When I got out I wanted to be done with the street life but felt I had no options. Then one day while downtown job hunting, I ran into my friend Edilberto, and while we were catching up he began to tell me about the RBS and Ms. Cohen. Even though he told me all about how nice she was, and how the program really helped him, I was still a bit skeptical. After all, why should this lady or this program help me. I'm nobody? I met Ms. Mason first and she was very nice and I began to put my doubts at ease, and when I finally met Hedy I knew I'd made the right decision. This was a lady who was genuinely concerned, not judgmental, and above all very, very encouraging. Don't get me wrong she made me work for it and show that I was sincere about bettering my life, but it all was well worth it. Even though I don't get a chance to stop by and say hi as often as I'd like, I have great love and respect for Hedy, and all the people that are a part of the Bardwell Scholarship. I could never thank her enough. I'm about to finally receive my Associate Degree, which is a dream come true, and also to strive for my Bachelor Degree all because this program gave me a chance. **I can say without a doubt Hedy Cohen and Bardwell Scholarships have taught me that nothing is impossible if you strive and remain positive and I can never thank them enough.** ▲

Doing the Unthinkable

**Helen Bolar, AA HWC
2007 Bardwell Scholar**

Hedy! You have given me the drive to do the unthinkable. You! single handedly have trusted, inspired, and demanded my best in your own little way. While you were encouraging me to do well it has caused a rippling effect of self confidence and inspiration to go on. For that I more than thankful and you will always be a light in my life. ▲

Against All Odds

On May 12, 2007, I will be awarded an Associate Degree in Pre-Law, graduating as a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. This day will be the culmination of a three-year journey fraught with many trials: a carjacking in 2004, a car accident in 2005, and an emergency relocation in 2006.

What's the secret of my success? Secret weapon #1: Hedy Cohen - a remarkable woman who removed the financial burden of school, allowing me to focus on my daughter's tuition and my studies. Hedy constantly reminded me that I was a strong student capable of doing well in Statistics, Biology, Humanities, etc. I did.

Secret weapon #2: The wonderful faculty at HWC: Mr. Gaylord Bogguss, who introduced me to Hedy Cohen and supported me as a student and a professional, Dr. Thurman Gardner who used creative methods to make Business Law relevant to everyday life and supported me through my temporary disability, Ms. Fregoso, a social scientist who challenged my perceptions of society and blazed a trail to greater self awareness, Professor Figueroa, who took time - even on Saturday - to teach me Statistics, Professor Matt Usner, a great man that managed to teach me to write nonfiction creatively. Thank you all. I will remember what you taught me.

Secret weapon #3: my daughter who - after seeing me consistently get As - officially pronounced me a nerd (although she says I don't look like one). When times got hard, I persevered because I knew she was watching me, as she had years before when I ran a Chicago marathon. I knew I wanted to be an example of success. I AM!!

Next, my goal is to earn a Doctoral Degree in Law while pursuing a Bachelor in Theology.

***Yjimizia Jones, AA with Honors, HWC 2007
Bardwell Scholar***



***HWC Graduate Daniela Changuan
with her Aunt, Maria Viteri.***

The End is the Beginning

As one part of my academic career comes to a close, with the completion of my earned Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management, 2007 has been a monumental year of achievements. Although much of the credit goes to the individual who completes the task, no one person is a mountain. There are many outside influences that help us develop and maintain a foundation that produces success. With an understanding of a greater power that dwells within each of us, that same power allows us to be drawn to people and causes that promote the prosperity of life. These people and causes do work that may not necessarily be understood in its inception; however, the long-term results are what counts. To that, I would like to pay homage to Roger Bardwell, and specifically The Bardwell Scholarship Program, created in his honor. Truly, all can not be said, of the contribution that Mr. Bardwell made to society, not only through this program but also through his living and unselfish deeds for others. **And though Mr. Bardwell is not**



around today physically to see how his works are being transformed through the success stories of Bardwell recipients, you can believe he is somewhere sitting high and knowing that his living was not in vain.

Honor must also be paid to the one that keeps the porch-light burning through good times and difficult times, and that is Hedy Cohen. Ms. Cohen continues to spearhead the Bardwell Program with tenacity and supportive commitment that inspires and pushes students to go beyond what they only thought they could do. Under her tutelage, the program continues to grow with more students going much further in their academic careers than what they started out to do, including bachelors and masters degrees and Ph.D. Specifically, in what started out as a desire to obtain my GED in 2000 and having met Ms. Cohen along the way, I will be graduating in June, 2007 from University of Phoenix, with my BS/BM. Hedy's continued support and optimistic enthusiasm through teaching, mentoring or counseling makes those that she encounters better for themselves and society as a whole. Truly, the end of one era is the beginning of another.

***Anthony Foster, BS/BM University of Phoenix 2007
Bardwell Scholar***



Bardwell Luncheon

This year's 5th Annual Bardwell Luncheon was phenomenal, beyond words and a great success! It was held in a section of Washington Hall which was a lot bigger than the room used last year. Most of the food was prepared by the Bardwell Scholars themselves and cooked to their liking. There was entertainment when a poem was presented by Octavian Stinga, a Bardwell Scholar, and a presentation by Rita Whitfield, another Bardwell scholar, giving her award winning speech on Barack Obama. The luncheon ended with closing remarks from the HWC president himself, Mr. John R. Wozniak. It was event that couldn't have been better, no matter how hard everyone tried.

The Bardwell family seems to be growing each year and as it grows more and more, we welcome some very brilliant students to join our family. At the luncheon, we welcomed not just students, but faculty, administrators, and contributors who seem to always inspire us to be the best we can be and to never give up on our goals. Thanks to all of those individuals who helped make this luncheon a great success. **This gathering made everyone feel we have a place we can call home and people we can call family.**

*Lisa Ayala
Bardwell Scholar*



*2007 HWC grad
Edwina Morgan.*



Dean Anna Blum with husband and Bardwell contributor gARTH and RBS Katrele Lee.



Season, Spring 2007



Saruul Ganbaatar



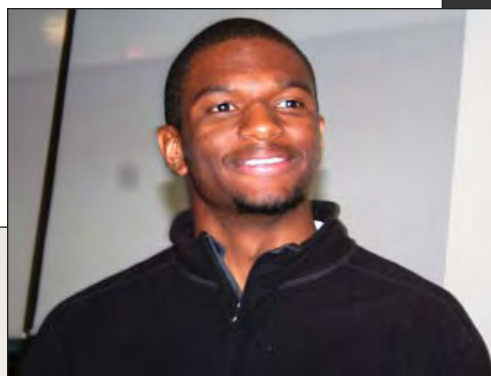
Liz Gracia



*2007 HWC grad
LaTanya Jackson.*



RBS Angelo Perez



*DePaul Student
Mark Grant.*



*Graduate students
Keyla Arzet and
Yolanda Hopkins.*

Steppin Up

When I returned to school after being out for twenty years, stepping up to the next level of my life was exactly what I had in mind. Education allows us to venture out further than our known boundaries, and into new and uncharted areas of thinking and progressing. For many years as an adult, I felt that to be independent and self-supportive was the highest level of achievement for someone like me, from the inner city. I was stuck in a rut and was not aware of how I was stagnating for so long. A quick learner and being moderately intelligent, I did not seek out new challenges and opportunities to expand my horizons. For many years I simply went to work, vacationed when finances would allow, and took the mediocre raises and promotions as affirmation of being on the right path. Then all of a sudden, a major car accident caused me to have plenty of time for reflection about my life while I convalesced for almost two whole years, given the severity of my injuries. Life has a way of shaking us up at times, just enough to make one take stock of their present situation and look to new avenues and pathways to get to the next level.

While recuperating, I formulated a plan of action regarding several areas of my life I wished to have improvement in: health, employment, and home. One thing that came to mind was to get back in school and let a better skill set be the foundation of solving the employment situation. Many are stuck on the wheel in the working world and afraid to get off and see what other opportunities may be out there, so caught up in the day to day grind of just surviving. **Getting a college education is not just about surviving but opening yourself up to new and uncertain possibilities and challenges.** There is a saying that has stifled me in its simplicity: "to whom much is given, much is required". I was one of those people who never sought or felt comfortable in the spot light, for that would mean I would have to step up to play a major or central role. I preferred to stay on the periphery and let the would be stars fight it out for top billing. It was always safer to stay in the wings of life, knowing the lines of all the actors, but never having to be the lead myself.

That all changed when I came to HWC. I saw things differently for the first time in years and it was frightening. It took order to get a new result and I would have to do something new. Being more communicative led to being more noticed, which led to being asked to lead projects and get more involved in the learning process,

not merely going through the motions. My grades were good and I even joined Phi Theta Kappa, something I would have never done before, not due to lack of confidence in my abilities, but because of coming from an environment where being studious is not popular. I was asked by a classmate to join a student organization, and I took a position as senator which was rewarding and educational at the same time. Since then, I have joined two other student organizations and held offices in both groups. I also had the good fortune to meet Hedy Cohen and after applying for the Bardwell Scholarship, I was accepted and have been under her mentorship and tutelage ever since. Being a stern task master, she has guided me to try for higher thresholds and new vistas within HWC where I would not have applied myself. My experience as a HWC student has been strength building, encouraging, and pleasurable all at the same time. Each person encountered along the way to this spring's graduation has had something new to show me about myself. I hope my academic years ahead will be as challenging and rewarding.

*Christopher Clark, AA HWC 2007
Bardwell Scholar*



HWC graduates Chris Clark and Rahman Fleming.

Other Proud Graduates

Also graduating this spring are Rita Whitfield, BA, UIC and Sharon Beauregard, BA, Smith College. They will be telling their stories in the fall newsletter along with Octavian Stinga who will graduate from UIC following summer term.

20th Annual Harold Washington College Black Heritage Month



Rita Whitfield with Speech Professor Sydney Daniels.

Expressionism is the ability to stylize a movement in literature, or a belief or other form of artistry. I am honored to be the recipient of the 20th Annual Black Heritage Month Oratorical Festival Award and Scholarship, in the amount of \$300.00. Artistic expression is achieved through freedom of expression and intellect and I believe the focus of my oratory, U.S. Senator Barack Obama, is a highly respectable man and a viable candidate for the 2008 U.S. Presidential Campaign. My presentation was written with immeasurable Pride and Dignity. I believed what I wrote and I wrote what I believed.

I have Professor Sydney R. Daniels, Coordinator of Speech and Theatre Division and Director of Theater and the HWC Heritage Committee, to thank for my scholarship. Professor Daniels allowed me the freedom of self-expression.

I believe each student in HWC should endeavor to take a speech class. With the skills I acquired in my Speech 101 class, I took the initiative to stand before an audience and project profound utterances that deliver impact. I took the opportunity to pay tribute to a man that is not only an astute politician, but an **Accomplished, Approachable, Credible, Moral and Principled man.** *We too, can become a Barack Obama!*

Thanks, to Ms. Hedy Cohen for her support and believing in me.

*Rita Whitfield, BA UIC 2007
Bardwell Scholar*

Morgan continued from page 1...

do?" and the message that came to my mind was to go back to school.

I was working at Haymarket Treatment Center at the time, which influenced me to register at HWC and I have been making accomplishments every since. I completed all the classes that were required to pass the CADC test, and now I have been a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor and a Certified National Recovery Specialist for ten years. Thank God I have been clean and sober for twelve years.

I have been approached with many adversities. I lost my lovely mother, may her soul rest in peace. I thank her for being the special mom that she was, especially for being there for me. When I was nineteen, I was partially paralyzed after being in a car accident that left me in a coma for four days. I had to learn to walk and talk again. I made statements about giving up, but my momma held my hand and she said, "Baby don't you never give up". And that has always been my motivation to keep on enduring.

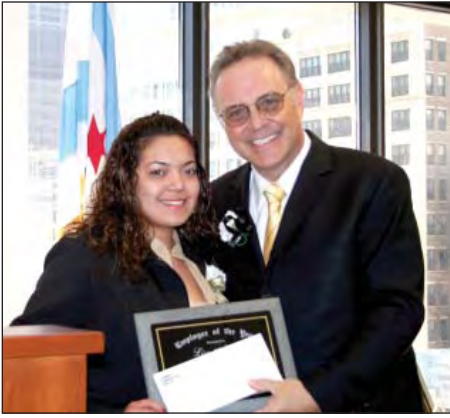
Ms. Hedy Cohen has been there for me financially, emotionally, and socially during this process. And she is like no one I have ever known; she is just awesome. With a lot of support from Ms. Hedy and the Bardwell Scholarship, I have successfully achieved my associate degree in applied science addiction studies. I will continue my education to achieve my bachelor degree in psychology so that I can be more educated and more qualified to help others.

I give thanks to every one involved in the Bardwell Scholar Foundation, and all of HWC staff for helping me along the path of my journey and success. Ms. Hedy Cohen, you and the Bardwell Scholarship have not only assisted me with financial help, you have also been a great inspiration and motivation in my life. ♣



Helen Bolar, Rahman Fleming, and LaTanya Jackson.

2007 HWC Employee Excellence Awards



*Lisa Ayala with HWC President
John R. Wozniak.*

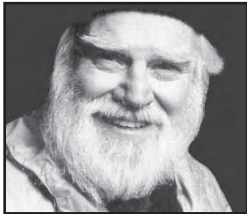
I had the pleasure of attending the Part-time Excellence Award Luncheon on Friday, March 16, 2007. This award is one of the highest honors the college bestows upon the part-time staff. It was a joy seeing one of our Bardwell Scholars, Lisa Ayala, receiving this award for the best part-time support staff person at Harold Washington College. Lisa is a hard working young lady, friendly and dedicated to continuing her education. She is very deserving of this award. Congratulations, Lisa, on a job well done.

*Diane Richardson
Bardwell Scholar*

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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