



Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

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Issue 16



Facing My Challenges

My name is Angela M. Farr. I am a mother of four daughters, Shanelle 14, Shavyae 12, Shakyra 10, and Shamaurie 3. I am in school achieving an AA and working toward a Masters in Social Work. Recently have also thought about some psychology somewhere down the line.

I became a recipient of the Roger Bardwell Scholarship after learning, on the first day of class this semester that I had exhausted my financial aid at the community college level. I later realized how this happened; being a mother of four makes it hard to keep up.

When I first started Harold Washington College in August 2004, I began as a part-time student because I'm disabled. I wanted to
Farr continued on page 2...

Truly Blessed

As I go through my journey in life, I have learned that I will meet people who will forever have an impact on my life! Hedy Cohen has been a mentor, counselor, and friend to me in only a short period of time. I would sincerely like to thank her and her Bardwell Scholarship organization for helping me to complete my last semester at Harold Washington College.

Many times as people we struggle through life and worry on a daily basis about how we will make it to the next level. Two years ago, I had no idea how I would pay for my education, but each and every semester God made a way! I am elated to say that I will be a Harold Washington graduate this May!

Hedy has helped open my eyes
Jones continued on page 2...

Looking Ahead

The Bardwell Scholarship has indeed helped me complete my last year at Harold Washington College. I'm so thankful to have met Hedy Cohen who is such an encouraging, motivating, and caring person. The financial assistance Hedy provides is a blessing to those in need. I feel truly blessed to have her assistance on my side. **Before receiving the Bardwell Scholarship I was considering sitting out a semester to work more hours so I could pay for my classes, but luckily I caught a blessing and received the Bardwell Scholarship.** My future plans after graduation are to attend the University of Illinois at Chicago in the fall and I'm going to major in criminal law, and justice. The criminal justice staff at HWC has inspired me to
Lewis continued on page 2...

Graduation 2009

Farr continued from page 1...

push myself a little more, so I became a full-time student in August 2006. I have been here at Harold Washington for a long time, but for a good cause. I have faced many challenges while being here. The challenges have made me a stronger person and have taught me that I can work beyond my disability.

I have come to know some really great people at HWC. Once I found out about not being eligible for financial aid, my thinking cap was on. I went to see Joyce McManus, who sent me to see Janice Mason, who in turn sent me to see Kimberly who in turn introduced me to Hedy Cohen. All this really seems like a journey, but the best is yet to come. I plan on transferring to Northeastern University in the Spring 2010. I have learned that I have to leave room to breathe because I am a hard worker and will stack too many things on my plate, so I'm going to take a semester off.



Angela Farr and her daughters. I want to thank everyone who has played a part in my journey, who listened to my stories, who gave me advise, and those that are friends. I want to personally thank Raeann Caldwell, the secretary of the math department. She has really been a good friend and an inspiration to me and my children. **I want to also thank all of those who help keep the Roger Bardwell Scholarship going. You have helped make a positive change in many peoples' lives as well as mine.** I had the opportunity to meet with some of you at the luncheon.

Thanks to all of you, and it was a pleasure to meet you.

Angela Farr
AA HWC 2009
Bardwell Scholar

Jones continued from page 1...

and assured me that anything is possible. I am now an active member and public relations officer of Phi Theta Kappa's Mu Pi Chapter with volunteering being on top of my to-do-list. Currently I give back to the community by visiting inner-city high school students and speaking with them about life issues as a teen and how to build self confidence.

This year I anticipate entering Roosevelt University as a junior with a major in public relations.

The Bardwell Scholarship organization has truly been a blessing to me. Like many of the other Bardwell Scholars, I greatly appreciate my relationship with Hedy Cohen and I am very thankful for what the scholarship has done for me. I extremely excited about what life after Harold Washington has in store for me! God Bless!!!

Angelica Jones
AA HWC 2009
Bardwell Scholar

Lewis continued from page 1...

continue with higher education. I love learning about the criminal justice system. After graduation from UIC which should be about 2-2½ years from now, I plan on doing some type of social work in the criminal justice field. I also plan on attending law school so I can achieve my goal of becoming a criminal law attorney. Thanks for everything, I'm truly appreciate for everything you have done.

Delilah Lewis
AA HWC 2009
Bardwell Scholar



Looking to the Future

For many years of my life I could never really look to my future being so caught up in the throes of daily living. The dilemma kept me not stifled professionally, but limited in terms of advancement above the glass ceiling of academic credentials here in this country. Bettering my situation in life through school had always been a goal of mine, but in adulthood it proved to come second to family problems and just surviving. And, when you least expect it, God opens up a window to new opportunities in your life, and sometimes God will introduce trials into your life to make you triumph instead. It has not been easy, going back to school in middle adulthood, thinking of four years as an eternity, but the time flies and on May 15th I will graduate. This would not have been possible without the Bardwell Scholarship and even more importantly Hedy Cohen for helping without fail, pushing us students to achieve and being that mother voice when needed. My years at both HWC and Roosevelt have been challenging yet so rewarding and informative to both my mind and spirit. I could not have done it without you; thanks from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and patience.



Several years ago I had a disabling accident which turned my life upside down and provided to be a blessing in disguise. While recuperating I decided to fulfill my aspirations of obtaining my bachelors degree. I am proud to say that this spring I will be graduating from Roosevelt University with a double major of Psychology and African-American Studies. I hope to utilize my degree to affect change in the world in which

I live and to help people where and when I can. I am no longer letting my past or current situations keep me from making it to the next level. I am proud to announce that I have been accepted into the graduate program at Northeastern Illinois University and I will be going for my Masters of Arts in Inner City Studies. Where my life will go from here I hope will be onward and upward; but with hope and faith I am looking to the future and what it brings.

Chris Clark
AA HWC 2006
BA Roosevelt University 2009
Bardwell Scholar

A Moment Like This

I remember the sunny day that I strolled into the doors of Harold Washington College determined to earn an associates degree, yet uncertain of my ability to complete college coursework with an acceptable GPA. I imagined that the professors would be waiting to hand me an exit pass and that, even if by some miracle I made it past them, the financial responsibility would be my undoing.

Neither happened. The professors at Harold Washington were very supportive of me as an adult learner and the wonderful Bardwell Scholarship removed the financial burden, allowing me to focus on my studies and graduate with honors.



My success at Harold Washington strengthened my resolve to earn a doctorate degree in law. With this goal in mind, I enrolled at DePaul University. In June 2009, I will be graduating

ahead of schedule with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in General Studies focusing on Business Management. I was granted the Senior Scholars Award and have been offered a scholarship to law school to cover half of my tuition. I am so excited!

I could not have achieved this honor without the wonderful professors and staff at Harold Washington! Thank you Matthew Usner for challenging me to write creatively. Your strategies for writing successfully helped me win the Senior Scholar Award and many other honors. Thank you Dr. Thurman Gardner for telling me “You are going to do this (law) and you are going to be GREAT!” Thank you Hedy Cohen for supporting me and allowing me the time to be great.

As I face the challenge of law school, I am confident that I have what it takes to do great things...because I have great people believing in me!

Yjimizia Jones
AA HWC 2007
BA DePaul University 2009
Bardwell Scholar



Bardwell Luncheon

2009 Bardwell

Bardwell Luncheon: A Smashing Success

Roger Bardwell Scholars held their annual luncheon on Friday, March 20, in the spacious community room on the 11th floor of Harold Washington College. The luncheon provides a yearly opportunity for scholarship donors and HWC faculty to get acquainted with current and former Bardwell Scholars, and to celebrate their collective accomplishments.

Music was provided by RBS Philip Burgess and other members of the Inescapable Mutuality Music Club. Students brought food for a delicious pot-luck buffet, and Kimberly Perez-Lucas sold new Bardwell Scholarship T-shirts and pins to raise funds and awareness for the scholarship. Scholars, faculty and benefactors alike dined at tables decorated with colorful covers, candy and confetti, lending a remarkably festive air to the sun-drenched space on HWC's uppermost floor.

HWC President John R Wozniak gave a brief, informal keynote address, reminiscing about his experiences working with Roger Bardwell at University of Illinois, Chicago, and relaying anecdotes from the late, great educator's life. Wozniak recalled Bardwell's story of a leisurely journey through Europe immediately after World War II, returning an ambulance to the British Army after serving as a medic in Italy. Bardwell opted for the scenic route homeward to Britain, getting a "grand tour" of the post-war continent that no doubt had a great impact on him.

President Wozniak also related the origin of Roger Bardwell's given name. Bardwell's father was so impressed with the educational ethic of a nearby summer camp, that he not only sent his son there – he gave his son the same name as the camp's namesake, Roger. The camp's ethos of building character by trying one's self against nature translated readily to Bardwell's passion for sailing his boat, Raven, on Lake Michigan – an activity Bardwell utilized to impart life lessons to some of the many students he mentored over the years.

Regarding UIC's consciously post-modern architecture, Bardwell once joked to Wozniak that UIC would be better off commissioning "a basic box" than its extant



Back row from left: P. Burgess, A. Foster, M. Grant, S. Gar Richardson, C. Bell, K. Perez-Lucas, C. Hudson Front row:



veon, Spring 2009 ell Scholars



U Ganbaatar, U Ganbaatar, D. Work, B. King, L. Gbadamasi, D. A. Jones, Y. Rodriquez, A. Scaggs, D. Hawthorne, A. Farr

custom-designed structures, on the premise that people, not buildings, determine the quality of an educational program.

“And Roger was right,” said Wozniak with a grin. “As time has passed, UIC has run into considerable expense with maintenance of those buildings.”

After President Wozniak’s remarks, scholarship administrator Hedy Cohen introduced several key scholarship contributors, all of whom reflected sentiments of happiness and honor at having the chance to participate in Bardwell and Cohen’s ongoing work. Then the Bardwell Scholars each took a turn to stand and introduce themselves to their benefactors.

Several new scholarship recipients were introduced. Previous and continuing recipients checked in as well. All of the scholars present expressed deep gratitude for the efforts of Cohen and the Bardwell contributors. Newcomers who were introduced to just this sampling of Roger Bardwell’s legacy left with an uplifting and lasting impression of the great things people can do when they try to do something good for others.

***W. David Work with assistance from Kimberly Perez-Lucas
HWC student
Bardwell Scholar***



Continuing My Educational Path

Being a student at Harold Washington College for the last 2 years was such a growing experience. I met so many professors who are not only extremely knowledgeable about their field of study, but who also love sharing their passion to explore and question the world around them with their students. I am looking forward to receiving the symbolic fruit of my efforts in May; I will be crossing the stage for my Associate's Diploma in Liberal Arts!

Completing my associate's degree last fall, 2008, with the amazing support of Hedy Cohen, I am now able to continue on my educational path. I transferred from Harold Washington College to Beloit College. This spring, being my first semester, has been an enormous yet amazing transition. I am finding myself buried under weekly reflection papers, group presentations, and rigorous readings. I used to sleep like a baby but now, sometimes, I find myself waking up in the middle of the night only to remember that I was wrestling with concepts explored in class. Every time I get out of class, my brain literally feels like it expands, I feel like it throbs from a billion thought processes taking place at once.



Yuneun Rodriguez & Pearl at Beloit College.

If at one point I thought I knew most things, I am constantly being challenged. I never imagined that I would be challenged to think critically about the ways in which our government is run based on Marxist, Lockean and Burkian principles. I am being encouraged to think about the socio-historical, socio-economic, and socio-political implications of

our construction of race. I am learning to challenge my own pre-conceived notions; I am learning to embrace differences, yet always finding ways to connect with others in order to improve collectively.

Sometimes it feels like professors give as much homework as they can in order to weed students out of college, and I have felt overwhelmed by the amount of work, the intensity of critical thinking, and the skills

that professors expect, but I know I am not the only one. I enjoy every second of being here, even if it means not seeing my family and loved ones as often. I feel like I am thinking critically on issues that not a lot of people get to think critically about, and I feel like I am really getting ready to contribute in a significant way outside of Beloit.

I am learning to live on my own and be responsible for my own decisions. I am learning about myself, about others, and about the immense and complex world around me. I just finished registering for next semester, and wish fall semester would already start! I truly can not wait!

Yuneun Rodriguez
AA HWC December, 2008
Beloit College student
Bardwell Scholar

****Rita Lorraine Whitfield, AA, HWC 2007, BA
UIC 2007*
*1952-2008****



On September 23, 2008, former Bardwell Scholar, Rita Whitfield, succumbed to a chronic illness. Rita was an early supporter and campaign worker for President Barack Obama in his days as a community organizer and state senator.

During the Fall 2006 semester, Rita attended and assisted the Bardwell Fundraiser at the Flat Iron Building. She went on to take second place in the Oratory contest in 2007. She reprised that speech for the annual Bardwell Luncheon that year.

Rita had dreams of returning to South Africa to work with children there.

Nancy C. DeSombre Scholarship Award

After being out of school for nearly twenty years, I decided to return in order to pursue my dreams. I chose HWC and began my academic journey. Things had changed a bit since I had been in school; the students here at HWC that were fresh out of high school seemed much smarter than students were back in my day, and now most of them are a lot younger than me. I keep reminding myself, "It's never too late."

I knew in order for me to be successful I was going to have to step up, kick the dust off my brain and aggressively pursue my dreams. It has not been easy, but I have been diligently attending classes, studying at home, going to tutors, getting help from classmates and meeting deadlines. I never knew anyone was paying attention to my grades, my GPA, my attendance, etc., but Hedy Cohen from RBS was on the job. She had been quietly monitoring my progress all along and constantly providing guidance and support.

Then, out of the blue, I received a phone call from Leslie Villaseñor who informed me that I had been recommended by Hedy to be the 1st recipient of the Nancy C. DeSombre Scholarship. The phone call itself reassured me that Hedy believes in me. After a long lengthy screening, I was granted the opportunity to meet with President Wozniak and former HWC President DeSombre and Dean Franz to discuss the scholarship.

I pulled out my business suit, practiced what I was going to say and went to school that day feeling very confident, until I got there. The very second I entered the President's office, my knees started to tremble, my palms started sweating and I forgot everything I planned to say. President Wozniak started the conversation, which gave me a second to relax, take a few deep breaths and regain my focus. He made me feel comfortable and so did President DeSombre, who was delightful, smart, intelligent and very nicely dressed with a beautiful hat and matching blouse. She is such a classy lady. It is an accomplishment just having the opportunity to meet her. Dean Franz was also very friendly, informative and easy to talk to. I could tell right away, that there is a lot to be learned from both of them. They all had specific questions. Then we got to the formal part of me stating what makes me a good candidate I was able to tell them why I thought I should be selected as the 1st Nancy C. DeSombre Scholarship Award Recipient. After our



HWC President Wozniak awarding Chriselda Bell the Nancy C. DeSombre Scholarship.

meeting I thought to myself, well I gave it my best and even if I am not selected, I had the pleasure of meeting and talking to Presidents Wozniak and DeSombre and Dean Franz. I could hardly wait to call Hedy and let her know the outcome of the meeting and to thank her for believing in me, for recognizing my determination and for providing countless resources. I also thanked her for embracing me in the Bardwell family and providing me with the necessary tools in order to succeed. Each semester has been rewarding, as I have learned something new to carry with me from every class that I have attended here at HWC.

By the time I arrived home, I had received an e-mail from President Wozniak, which let me know I had been selected as the 1st recipient of the Nancy C. DeSombre scholarship and I am so proud and so honored. Thank you.

***Chriselda Bell
HWC Student
Bardwell Scholar***

RBS Cashawndra Hunter, Phillip Burgess, and Kimberly Perez-Lucas model fabulous new black Bardwell T-shirts, Available in sizes S-XL for only \$10.

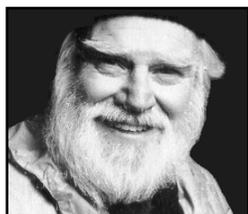
Also available: Gorgeous turquoise RBS T-shirts (\$10) , polos (\$20) and lapel pins to support RBS for \$8. Stop by Room 1139 at HWC to do your shopping or call 312-553-3049.



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 Schelter
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



For further information, or if you know someone who might be a candidate for a Bardwell Scholarship, please contact Hedy Cohen:

Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund, Harold Washington College
30 E. Lake St., Room 1139 Chicago, IL 60601 312-553-3049

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