



Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Spring 2011
Issue 20

Bardwell Scholarship Graduates 2011



Cassandra Bunyard

Diana Chacon

Francis Akwafo

Cesar Rojas

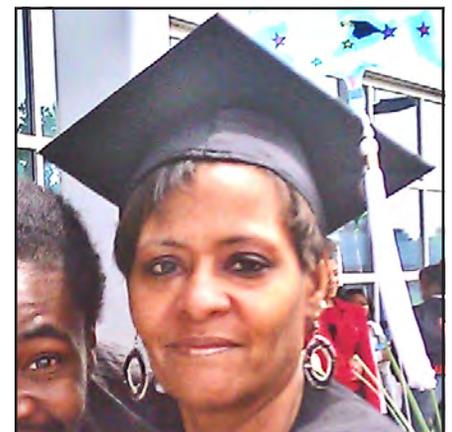
HWC Graduates



Angelica Jones
BA DePaul University



Trina L. Coleman
BA Smith College



Debra Hawthorne
BA Chicago State University

I Can, I Must, I Will

My time has finally arrived! I will be receiving my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications Studies with a Minor in Sales Leadership Marketing from DePaul University. My college experience has been full of hard work and dedication on my part and I have thoroughly been inspired by Ms. Hedy Cohen to push myself to the limit.

In 2006 I started my studies at Harold Washington College and was fearful that college wouldn't be the right fit for me. However I met some of the most supportive professors who encouraged me to pursue my Associate of Arts Degree. I was introduced to Hedy Cohen in the fall of 2008 and from that moment on my perspective about my education changed for the better. I was convinced that I wouldn't be able to excel at an elite school and that the financial cost would be overwhelming; Ms. Cohen however, saw the best in me and told me that I was capable of achieving whatever I put my mind to. This was two years ago and I will be a graduate in June.

Hedy Cohen and Bardwell Scholarships have been the backbone for many students like myself, giving us the chance to get steps closer to our dreams. Many of the recipients of the scholarship have formed a network of support and each of us are inspired by each other's accomplishment and obstacles. Sometimes as individuals we don't see the best in ourselves but others do and this is the dynamic behind our Bardwell Family.

Upon graduation from DePaul I will be seeking graduate school in school counseling and secondary education. I have set higher standards for myself and I am blessed and thankful to be a part of the Bardwell Family. I look forward to giving back to others in need of this scholarship so they too can have the opportunity to pursue their dreams just like me!

Angelica Jones
AA HWC 2009
BA DePaul University 2011
Bardwell Scholar

A Sincere Thank You

I just want to say thank you and the Bardwell family for your support through my college endeavor. I'm not sure I would have made it without you all. When I started this journey 4 years ago I was unsure I could make it due to financial instability but through perseverance I did it. My family also continued to encourage me and to let me know that with God all things are possible. With that, I simply and sincerely say thank you.

Debra Hawthorne
AA HWC 2008
BA Chicago State University 2011
Bardwell Scholar



Debra Hawthorne (3rd from the left) with her children Tenille Hawthorne, Darren Harrell and Porche Harrell.



Angelica Jones will graduate from DePaul in June.

Impact of HWC on My Future Plans

Summer 2009 marked the beginning of a new page in the life of a desperate immigrant who had just arrived in the United States of America: a period that will forever be part of this individual's future history; a defining moment in his life. That was the time I enrolled for academic courses (though I have taken a class in public chauffeur training in the same school). I owe thanks to the founders of this noble institution, Harold Washington College, whose vision and hard work have helped in diverse ways in transforming the lives of many individuals, including myself. "Success Starts Here," the slogan of the school, has played a significant role in shaping my outlook throughout my stay at the school, because I see myself as a person moving on a track of success. Learning independence, tolerance, and dedication has played an essential role on my life throughout my stay at HWC.

Independence of thought is the most important idea I have learnt during my time here. In various subjects, such as humanities, English, mathematics, and philosophy, we learn to think critically. The practice of liberated, autonomous thinking has been essential to my personal development. As I am about to graduate, there are numerous challenges ahead, and thinking independently will help me overcome these challenges.

Another important experience I have gained throughout my stay at the college is the spirit of tolerance. Learning to live in harmony in a diverse institution is imperative. Open-mindedness is very critical for any individual who wants to be successful in modern life. Learning to live in a cordial relationship with fellow students is seriously instilled in students at the college. Imbibing the spirit of tolerance from the college will help shape my life outside the school.

Dedication to my responsibilities has been another major virtue from HWC that will forever influence my mind as a former student of this noble institution. Working tirelessly on my assigned homework and classwork has earned me a 4.0 GPA throughout my stay here. Earning a good GPA has eventually given me the opportunity to win the HWC Academic Achievement Scholarship. In addition to such scholarships, a good GPA also allows me to transfer to any four-year university of my choice, to pursue my dream of becoming a Certified Public Accountant.

Nonetheless, these experiences of independence, tolerance, and dedication would not have been possible without the support of the following: the teaching and non-teaching staff; the director and members of Roger Bardwell Scholarship; Friends of HWC; and the entire student body. I would also like to recognize the contribution of individuals like Hedy Cohen, RBS Director, and Ellen Goldberg, Director in Charge of Transfers, whose encouragement have seen me through this challenging process of education. **The roots of education are sown in toil, but its fruits are delicious.** As I leave the familiar confines of HWC, it is my fervent hope that the experiences acquired at this noble institution will propel me toward my dream of becoming a CPA.

*Francis Akwafo
AGS HWC 2011
Bardwell Scholar*



Francis Akwafo receiving a scholarship award from Leslie Villaseñor representing the Friends of HWC.

Hello World

As a college student and full-time employee I sometimes feel defeated by the world around me. At times I feel a sense of despondency take over me, but when these pernicious thoughts creep into my mind I think of Hedy Cohen, Diane Richardson, and the many faces at Harold Washington College that are cheering me on. My success at HWC started with a visit to Diane, one of the best advisors I have ever met. She sat behind her desk for hours listening to my personal problems, goals, and hopes for the future. She introduced me to Hedy, who gave me the opportunity to continue my education by awarding me the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship. Hedy has been a great support; an amazing mentor who has been my tower of strength.

When I think of Harold Washington, I think of the tears falling off Ellen Goldberg's face as she listened to the life story of a RBS member during the Bardwell luncheon. She genuinely cares about every single student and she will do whatever it takes to help a student in need. I think of Professor Domenico R. Ferri and the amazing recommendation letter he wrote for me one semester. I read the letter over and over again whenever I feel low- spirited. I smile when I think of Professor Farah Movahedzadeh. She made me fall in love with the human body in her biology course. She is also the reason why I want to teach science in the near future.

I think of the many professors, advisors, and mentors who have helped me become a stronger student – a stronger person, and I am eternally grateful. Without the support of my friends at HWC I wouldn't be graduating this semester with an Associate in Arts Degree. I thank my friends for challenging me and preparing me for the future. This upcoming Fall I will be transferring to the UIC to complete my B.A in elementary education.

As I transition from one institution to another I will cherish the values I have learned at Harold, which I know will lead me to success. When I reach my goal – which I know I will – I want nothing more than to give back and commit to my future students, just as my family at HWC did for me. When I walk across the stage May 11th I will not say goodbye to HWC, but hello to the world for which it has prepared me . Thank you.

Diana Chacon
AA HWC 2011
Bardwell Scholar

A Long Road

Looking back at this past year, a lot has happened in my life that is positive. The best part, that I can think of is receiving the Bardwell Scholarships. This scholarship literally made it possible for me to graduate this semester. I have been in community college for the past four years, taking two to four classes a semester, while working full-time at a very busy hospital. It has been a long road, but so worth it. My college education has been long because before doing community college, I went to a Christian college for four years. At the end of my senior year I decided that being in the Christian scene full-time was not what I wanted to do with my life, so all the time and money I spent there went down the drain because the school I was going to was un-accredited. All of that to say it really has been a long road. Eight years in college and now I'm finally getting my associates degree.

Last semester I found out that I had to take twelve credits to graduate, but I had only budgeted for six credits. When I spoke to my academic advisor and told her how important it was for me to graduate this semester she told me to talk to Hedy. The e-mail I sent her changed my life. **Thanks to the scholarship I was able to take a full load and graduate this semester.**

I finally feel like I have accomplished a milestone in life. So many more opportunities can be available to me now that I will have my degree, including going to a four year school and working towards my Bachelors degree. Thank you to all of you that have donated money to make this scholarship possible. It was such a blessing and has truly changed my life and brought me to where I am today. God bless you all.

Cassandra Bunyard
AA HWC 2011
Bardwell Scholar

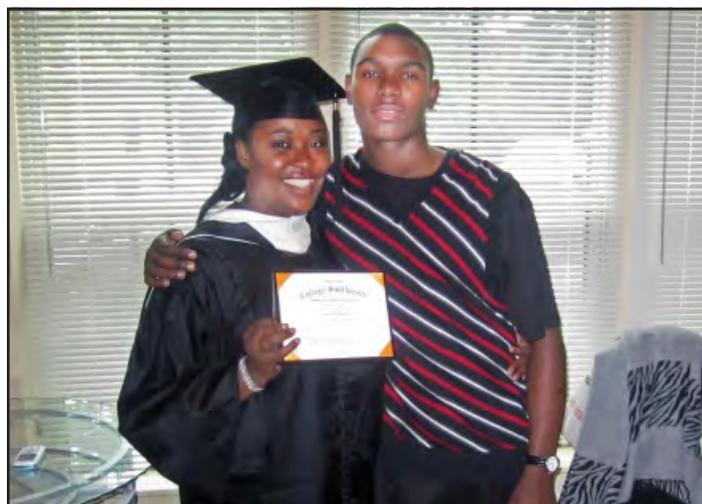


Never Could Have Made It...

Without YOU! Thank you so much Hedy Cohen and the entire Bardwell Scholars Family for your support. Because of you, I am a candidate for my Bachelors Degree in education and child study from Smith College, on May 15, 2011. It would be an untruth to say this journey was easy. I set sail to Smith College on August 1, 2008 with my son and a “beacon of hope.” Smith was known for it’s rigorous coursework, high expectations, and providing “women of high ability and promise an education of uncompromising quality.” Even with these qualities, I had no idea of what to expect. **I have broken barriers within my family and community, as well as thrived at Smith, all owing to the foundation instilled in me while at Harold Washington College.** Despite my success at HWC, many people doubted my potential, but not you, Hedy. In fact, you talked to me about coming to Smith, and I am forever grateful for your ability to believe in me. The “beacon of hope” I had for myself has become a reality.

My life, and the life of my son, Joell, will forever change. Joell now knows first hand the results of hard work and determination. I can’t say Joell would not have had this experience if I had matriculated to any other college, but I know that being at Smith has had a profound effect on his life. Hedy, you are an excellent mentor, friend, and outstanding role model. I look forward to making money donations to the Bardwell Scholarship to ensure the continuity of the program. The Bardwell Scholarship is necessary, and has literally turned so many of our lives around. Thank you, again, for all that you have done for me. As I lead the Ada Comstock Scholars class into commencement, I will think of you and the Bardwell Family. Forever your friend,

Trina L. Coleman
AA HWC 2008
BA Smith College 2011
Bardwell Scholar



Trina Coleman with son Joell at Smith College graduation.



Melvin Coleman, Gwendolyn Coleman, Trina L. Coleman, Joell Davis, and Dwayne Coleman at Smith College Graduation.



Bardwell Lunch

One would find it hard to believe that the lonely room on the 11th floor of Harold Washington College can turn into such a jovial family-like room. Well, this was the case for the Roger Bardwell Scholars' family reunion on February 22nd, 2011.

During this time, right amid everyone's lively work and school schedule, we gathered to celebrate another semester of enrollment in higher-education, to honor those who provide invaluable support, and to welcome new members into the family. From what I've seen over the years, this family just keeps growing and growing! This year we were privileged enough to be joined by new supporters, new scholars, and yes, former President Wozniak.

As part of the welcoming, we were able to aquinesse the RBS story made possible by Jay Shefsky of Channel 11, an avid supporter and family member of RBS this time, the video was formally and excitedly introduced by Hedy. This story truly reveals Hedy's tremendous work in maintaining the vision of the RBS family, including helping with some of the hardest and most tedious parts of making graduations possible each year for students of modest means.

To accompany the convivial mood, Sunday Joseph and Philip Burgess, the traditional animated duo, played colorful jazz. Amid their performance, the audience, as well as the duo, was nicely surprised by a candid young man by the name of Noah Shevitz, who decidedly walked over to the piano to play a very well-executed melody. Although he is only 6 years old, there is no doubt he will be professionally joining the duo in the near future.

To complement the music and warm mood, food needs to be mentioned. Food makes every gathering much more special and enjoyable and the array for this year can't go unmentioned. It was absolutely phenomenal. The eclectic home-made arrangements ranged from soul to Japanese to Italian cuisine. Dessert was a delicious assortment of cheese cake courtesy of Marc Schulman, Mr. Eli himself. My favorite was creamy triple chocolate! Some couldn't help but get additional servings, myself included!

As food settled, scholars took the floor to share their

stories and academic progress. These moving stories show nothing less than resilience. They inspire many of us and highlight the pivotal role of support. With the different degrees of support everyone offers, higher education all of a sudden seems more achievable.

It is a true honor to be part of the RBS Family and I definitely look forward to next year's reunion.

Yunuen Rodriguez



*Back row: Francis Akwafo, Philip Burgess, David Work, Ed Shirley Doty-Lewis, Kevin Pleasant, Lawana Loving
Middle row: Cashwandra Hunter, Joann Washington, Diana
Front row: Andrea Scaggs, Sunday Joseph, Yunuen Rodriguez*



Jan Afungchwi and Shirley Doty-Lewis tell their stories



Bardwell Scholars

*Gilberto (Tito) Vasquez, Anthony Foster, Cassandra Bunyard, Gale Washington, Diane Richardson,
...a Chacon, Jan Afungchwi
...ez, Yolanda Hopkins, Debra Hawthorne*

Bardwell Scholars Updates

It seems like such a long time since I have added any new updates or content for the Bardwell newsletter so I was thrilled to hear Hedy's voice and request for an update. I am still on my journey, working on the completion of my PhD at the University of Wisconsin. This year was particularly difficult because I lost my eldest brother and his wife and one of my other brothers suffered a stroke. To say that I lost concentration on my goals, my research and education would be an understatement but I am persevering and have made peace with those life happenings that are out of my control.

This year has also been one of great joy. My oldest son, Nicholas has completed his first year at Howard University and my youngest son, Corey, who is becoming your typical "drive you crazy" teenager at 15, is really finding his academic footing and grounding. Overall, my life is good and I know that I am humbled by so many who root for me from faraway places. I carry memories that make me keep pushing and not give up even in this midst of great pain. Everyday I am reminded that my life and my path has been set and laid and none of this struggle is in vain.

Peace,
Sharon Beauregard
BA Smith College 2008
University of Wisconsin PhD candidate
Bardwell Scholar

Basically, effective the 1st of February, I'm being appointed as a Deputy Chief of the Mongolian Stock Exchange. As it may sound, it is a very notable position, especially in the current state of the economy, where we're expecting vast amounts of windfall profits from the mega mining projects expected to launch early next year. Along with it, there is a plan to modernize the Stock Exchange, bring its operations to the next level, and turn it into an attractive place to raise capital from both domestic and foreign investors.

I am expecting the workload to be huge, and the responsibilities to be enormous. Thus, I am both excited and focused on the coming challenges ahead.

Again, I wanted to reiterate that it all wouldn't have been even remotely possible if it weren't for you.

Thank you again for your help and support.

Yours,
Saruul Ganbaatar
AA HWC 2002
BBA Loyola University 2004
Bardwell Scholar

More photos from the 2011 RBS Luncheon



Gale Washington shares her powerful story.



Retired English Professor John Thissen and Tito Vasquez reminisce about English 101.

Bardwell Scholars Updates

Although almost nothing parallels going home to Chicago after a long semester in Beloit, Wisconsin, I can't help but feel anxious to get started on my summer plans. This summer I was humbled to find out that I will be one of thirty fellows, out of 536 who applied, for a fellowship at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy. This program is about seven weeks long and it entails taking classes and engaging in field research in the areas of quantitative methods, economics, policy analysis and writing, and intercultural dimensions of policy making. I will be swamped with policy knowledge by the end of these weeks. Although I'm bracing myself for nights of no sleep, what drove me to test my luck in this intense application process was that I have felt and seen the dire need for good policy for people of color, including immigrants, youth and families of modest means.

After this institute, I have also secured an internship position working with sociology professor, Marta Tienda, at this same institution, researching how immigration influences the well-being of migrant children and youth. Since I'll be working with her six hours a day for the month of August, I thought that I'd have time to "hang out" with day-laborers at a convenience store nearby. I want to collect ethnographic data to see how it is to be in the shoes of these hard-workers and see what role they play in our larger society.

I can't wait to come back and share. Wish me luck!

Yunuen Rodriguez
AA HWC 2008
Beloit College student
Bardwell Scholar



Cassandra Bunyard tells her story.



Noah Shevitz cranking out a tune at his first professional performance.



RBS and mentor Tony Foster shares his observations on achievement.



Yunuen Rodriguez and Sunday Joseph catch up.

Opening Doors to a Successful Future

Despite having self-discipline and intellect, earning a college degree or even attempting to go to college is not an easy thing for an underprivileged student like myself. The outrageous cost for an education is almost impossible to afford for a working family. I firmly believe education is a human right. However, it often becomes a luxury for low-income families who work diligently to obtain a degree. Fortunately, Harold Washington College offered me the best opportunities to obtain a quality education at a reasonable price.

Like many other uninformed high school graduates, I attended HWC with the erroneous idea that community colleges are only for underachieving students seeking an easy path to a degree. Luckily, in my search for scholarships at HWC, I came across the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship. During the application process, I had the pleasure to meet a caring and enthusiastic woman, Hedy Cohen. She did not only become my financial support, but also a valued mentor even now that I no longer attend HWC. I was extremely fortunate to find a person like Hedy who has been there for me, happy to spend her valuable time looking for schools after HWC, scholarships, and even listening to personal problems. Her determination and guidance lead me to the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), where I was able to earn the Presidential Scholarship, which would have financed almost my entire education at IIT.

Thanks to the HWC professors and Hedy, I soon realized that it wasn't the quality of the school that holds people down, it is the lack of judgment. **I will never forget how mistaken my prejudices of the City Colleges of Chicago were, how the professors and staff inspired me and disciplined me in order to become a dedicated student who can maximize his true potential under any circumstance.**

After completing all the necessary courses to transfer and earning enough credits for an Associates Degree in Engineering Sciences, I was able to transfer to one of the best civil engineering programs in the nation at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. HWC enabled me to stand among competitive students from all over the world. In UIUC, I realized that the student-professor experience I obtained at HWC was precious. Now, with 50-minute classes of 150 students followed by hours of independent studying, I appreciate and

understand that the three-hour classes at HWC were necessary. **HWC facilitated the transition from high school to university and provided me with a valuable education at a low cost.**

Now, a few weeks away from graduation, I look back and imagine my life without HWC. Not only would I not have been able to afford a college education, but I wouldn't have found the valuable mentorship and education HWC has offered me. Not only was I privileged for receiving the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship, but also thanks to Hedy, I gained the motivation I needed to continue my education. Due to her generosity and dedication, her office on the 11th floor of HWC has become a commonly visited place by all her children, the Bardwell Scholars. For those reasons, I believe that I made the right decision by enrolling in the City Colleges of Chicago, a decision that I believe helped to shape me into the person I am today.

Cesar Rojas
AES HWC 2010
University of Illinois Engineering Student
Bardwell Scholar



Cesar Rojas, Hedy Cohen, Francis Akwafo and Diana Chacon at CCC Graduation May 2011.

A Final Tribute to President Emeritus John R. Wozniak

Dear John,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to work for you at City Wide and Harold Washington College. You have never been too busy to take the time to speak, encourage me with my educational growth, or simply ask about the grandchildren. I will miss you.

Your advice and gentle spirit has been tremendously helpful and important to me over the past twenty years. I truly appreciate the confidence you showed in me by allowing me to continue to manage the PASP office when the dean of the program left. I remember when I received my Associate of Arts Degree and you shook the hands of all the graduates but when I came across the stage you gave me a big hug and told me how proud you were of me. You just don't know how good you made me feel that day. There were many other times when I needed your advice, sometimes on personal family issues, and again your door was always open. When I was promoted to college advisor you again took the time to tell me how proud you were of me and that you thought I would be a great asset to the students of Harold Washington College. Words are powerful and your words of encouragement have truly been a powerful force in my life. I feel blessed to have known you.

I would also like to thank you for the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Program. Without the RBS many students would not be able to continue their education. Most scholarships are based solely on your GPA, however, Bardwell evaluates the person's needs and goals. As an older student returning to school, the RBS was a blessing. I was working however I could not pay my bills and purchase textbooks. I would have been denied scholarship money from most programs simply because of income. The compassion, care, love and support I have received by being a Bardwell scholar goes beyond money. The mentoring and the feeling of someone truly caring about my education cannot be compared. You and Hedy are priceless. When we have the thank-you luncheon each year you and Hedy make the scholars feel so proud because you give us support and you truly believe in us. It's not every day that a student gets to meet people like you. You will be truly missed.

Sincerely, Diane Richardson
AA HWC 2003
BA NLU 2005
MA NLU 2007
Bardwell Scholar



Diane accepting the Employee of the Month Award from Dean John Hader, February 2011.



Tito Vasquez talks with RBS Founders John Wozniak and Hedy Cohen at the annual RBS Luncheon.

RBS Welcome President Donald J. Laackman to HWC

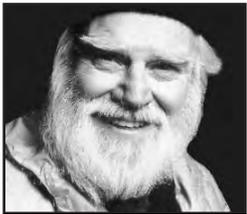


(Back row)
Shirley Doty-Lewis,
Andre Wade,
HWC President
Donald J. Laackman,
Jan Afungchwi,
Diane Richardson
(Front row)
Lisa Ayala,
Caletta Key,
Sunday Joseph,
Joann Washington,
Alba Orizaba,
Francis Akwafo

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 Schelster
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

CITY COLLEGES
of CHICAGO

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

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