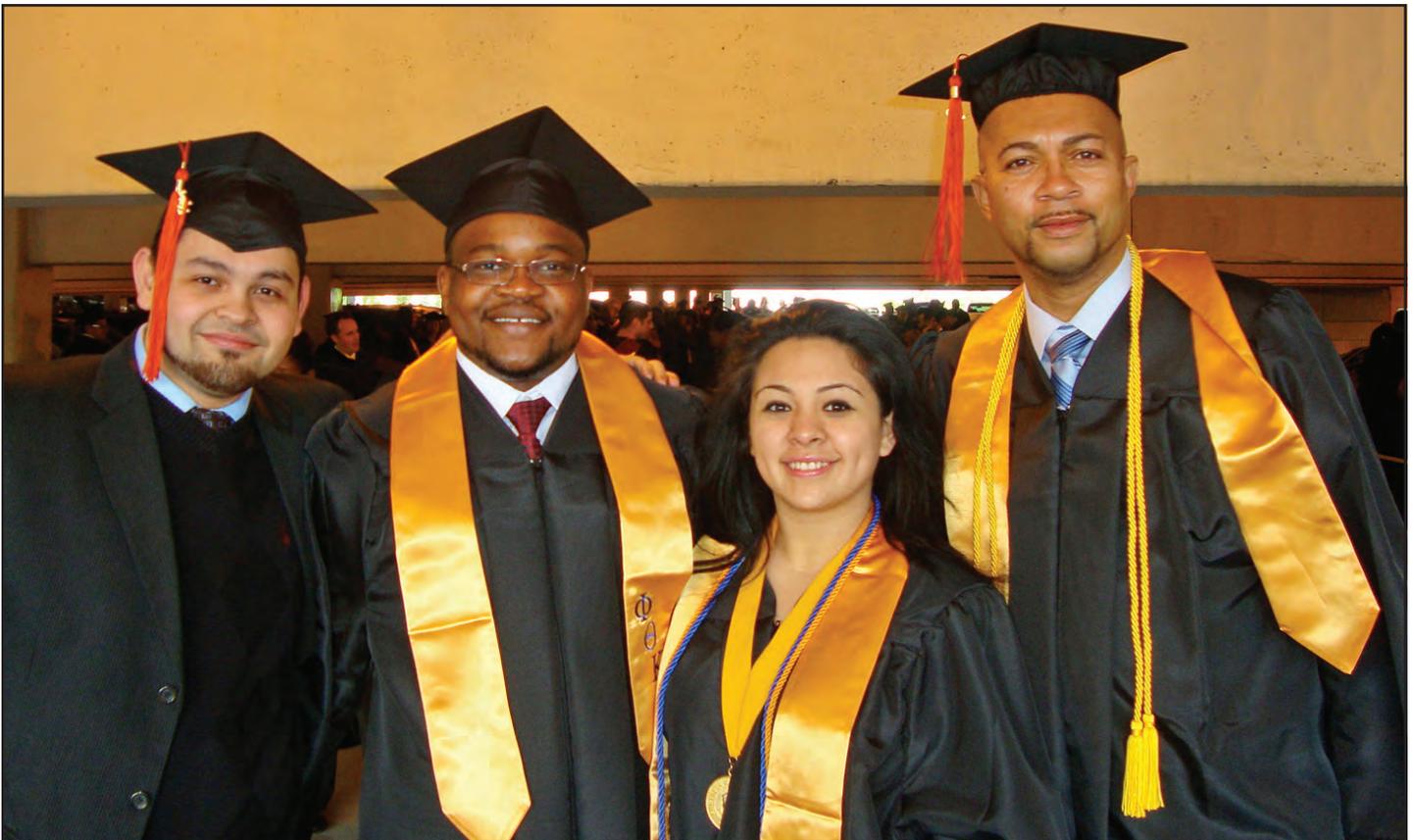




Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Spring 2012
Issue 22

Bardwell Scholarship Graduates 2012



Heriberto Bustos

Jan Afungchwi

Alba Orizaba

Asim Allakim

HWC Graduates



Lisa Ayala
BA National Lewis
University



Corey Hudson
BA University of IL at
Chicago



Edilberto Vazquez
MSW/UIC-Jane Addams
College of Social Work



Anthony Foster
MBA University of
Phoenix

From Dream to Reality

Sometimes I wonder what keeps me going, what drives my existence. Now, as I mature and proceed with my life in the absence of my beloved mother, I'm 100% sure that she, as my guardian angel, is my driving force...

As the son of immigrant parents, and an immigrant myself, I was not blessed with many of the benefits that the United States offers its citizens. I cannot apply for Federal Financial aid, grants, or any other governmental based assistance to finance my education. I did, however, have the privilege to attend grammar school and high school in the US, unlike my older siblings, who had to work from day one in the United States. Graduating from grammar school and high school was a blessing for me; I could not believe that I was actually going forward in my educational goals. But shortly after high school, my dream of continuing my education was shut down. I realized that higher education is very expensive, and even with the low tuition rates of community colleges, it seemed almost impossible to continue. I began to think that higher education was starting to become nothing more than a mere dream. As I was beginning to give up on my dream, my good friend told me about the City Colleges of Chicago, specifically Harold Washington College.

Harold Washington College has opened many doors for me, not to mention the fact that it has encouraged me to continue my dream of pursuing higher education. The institution has allowed me to grow as an individual, meet new people, and develop necessary skills to strive in a professional environment. When I first started at HWC, the only person I knew was my friend from high school; he helped me establish a new foundation for interaction with individuals as he introduced me to the International Honor Society of Phi Theta Kappa. As I climbed to the executive board of the organization, I also had the opportunity to meet an array of loving and professional individuals who encouraged me to continue my education. PTK allowed me to improve certain skills, and establish connections with individuals who I will take with me for the rest of my educational path. Recently, I met my mentor, whom has allowed me to continue my education without all the extra stresses that come with financing an education. As the coordinator of the Bardwell Scholarships, she has guided me with advice and support to complete my Associates in Science within a reasonable amount of time. Hedy

Cohen, has given me advice and support that has helped me continue my educational endeavors. Looking forward, I hope to enroll in a four-year university as I continue to pursue a career in Mathematics. My dream of becoming a math teacher, or perhaps working with numbers, is that much closer. All this success is due to the help of my family, my friends, and all the loving individuals who have brought me this far.

As I move forward on my educational path, I will take with me valuable skills, loving individuals, and a new sense of accomplishment that would have not been possible if it were not for all those people who pushed me to my extremes. From graduation forward, I leave this wonderful institution knowing that this is the place where my dream began to unfold and become a reality.

Heriberto Bustos
AA HWC 2012
Bardwell Scholar



Heriberto Bustos at graduation

Harold Washington College; my Present Life and my Future Plan

My name is Jan Afungchwi, an international student from the Republic of Cameroon, Africa. I am a 27 year old male and the second of four siblings. I am also the first of my family to travel and study in the United States of America. There have been many challenges from language, food, and weather to being home sick. It is not always easy moving to a new country with no family and friends, yet I was eagerly anticipating the start of school at Harold Washington College. My first day at HWC was not as easy as it sounds. Sitting in class I faced the challenge of language and the pressure to succeed. With French as my first language, taking English classes was very challenging to me. I did not understand the sentence structure and the use of verbs. But through hard work and utilization of the resources including the writing lab and tutoring centers, I came to understand language structure better.

My experience at HWC has helped to define me as a person and who I will be in the future. HWC brought diversified classes where I sat with people from different cultural backgrounds and experiences. Sharing experiences with my fellow classmates gave me an insight into the cultures of different counties and I could also share my own. This was very important to me because it gave me the opportunity to see how similar and slightly different are the cultures of people around the world.

As an international student and from Cameroon with no family in the US, I got to make friends at Harold Washington who helped me not only enjoy my college experience but know more about the city and life in the United States.

Through HWC, I had the opportunity to meet Hedy Cohen and God bless that day. Hedy has not only been a mentor to me, but I must say she has been a mother as I call her “Mama Hedy”. Mama Hedy introduced me to the rest of the Bardwell Scholars, most of whom are student and staff of Harold Washington College. From then on I always felt like I have a family here.

The academic experience and knowledge I have gained from Harold Washington has given me the opportunity to further my education into a four year college: Kent State University in Ohio, here, I will major in nursing.

The experiences, knowledge, and academic support I have received from HWC have put me in a better

position to go into a four year college and complete my Bachelors of Science in Nursing. Then I will be in a perfect position to realize my goal: going back to Cameroon and helping to improve the county’s health care services. All this would not have been possible without the help and support of Mama Hedy and the endless family spirit and belief shown to me not only by Hedy but by my fellow Bardwell Scholars.

I also want to thank my fiancé and wife to be Christine Clark. Christine and I meet while volunteering with the kids at the Cabrini-Green neighborhood through Urban Initiatives Work-to-Play program. Urban Initiatives is a Chicago based organization serving kids of underserved neighborhoods through soccer, healthy eating, and activities that expose them to other cultures and activities around Chicagoland.

I am very happy to have been a part of Harold Washington and the Bardwell Family as I move onto Kent State where I will be a great ambassador of HWC and RBS.

*Jan Afungchwi
AA HWC 2012
Bardwell Scholar*



Jan Afungchwi speaking at the Bardwell Scholars’ Luncheon.

When One Door Closes...

"Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens..."

I enrolled at Harold Washington College in the fall of 2009, determined to succeed. While there, I developed several skills that will help me achieve my goals in the future. Analyzing the world around me helped me discover the importance of incorporating discipline into my life. The following experiences prepared me as an individual and made me more confident to transfer to a four year university.

The first lesson I learned was through Mahatma Gandhi's quote, "You must be the change you want to see in the world." As an undocumented student, I have faced countless obstacles and missed lifetime opportunities due to my status. As a recipient of the U.S Leadership Scholarship, I learned that the scholarship was created by two undocumented students who grew frustrated by the limited financial aid available to them. They worked with various faculty members, staff, and HWC's Organization of Latin American Students to create a scholarship open to undocumented students. As part of my involvement with this program, I assisted in fund-raising that will contribute to the scholarship fund. This scholarship gives hope to students who are underprivileged like me, this engagement has taught me to strive for new opportunities.

As a recipient of the Roger Bardwell Scholarship, I learned that a door can open when least expected. After high school graduation, I enrolled in college even though I did not know if I would be able to afford it. I worked 70 hours a week while attending HWC my first year as a part time student. I felt lucky the day my former classmate, Cesar, informed me about the Roger Bardwell Scholarship and its open-door policy toward undocumented students. I took the initiative to apply and was fortunate enough to receive the scholarship.

As president of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), Mu Pi Chapter, I have practiced and enhance my public speaking and leadership skills. PTK has provided me with many opportunities to master the indispensable art of public speaking through meetings and events. As the President of PTK, I have become a more patient, understanding, and attentive leader.

After completing several semesters, I found my direction. Dedicated people such as Hedy Cohen, Amelia Lopez, Robert Gilbert, and Domenico Ferri inspired me to

continue my journey in this competitive world despite the difficulties I face. Their words of wisdom and passion for student's success have pushed me to continue.

In conclusion, HWC has taught me the importance of perseverance. As a student maintaining a 3.57 GPA, full time employee, and President of PTK, I learned that every minute is essential. My time management skills improved greatly. My classes helped me become a more independent and disciplined student. I significantly developed and grew both as a person and a student. HWC taught me the vital skills required to succeed at a four year university and exposed me to some of the wonderful opportunities that life has to offer.

Alba Orizaba
AA HWC 2012
Bardwell Scholar



Alba Orizaba at the Friends of Harold Washington Scholarship Luncheon accepting one of their awards. She is with her mother, Rosaura and Hedy Cohen.

Visit the new website for the Bardwell Scholarship Program

www.bardwellscholarship.org



Knowledge is Power

There is a buzz in the air that the economy is not getting any better. The unemployment rate rises and falls. This is just one sign of the “lingering” signs of a great recession that has not recovered. However, as all things go up, they must come down, and vice-a-versa! When the change happens, will you be ready? Are you educating yourself enough to be in the game when the playing starts? Are you preparing yourself for the 50 people who will be applying for the same job that you’re applying for?

We should all be ready for the influx of those who have been out of work for a while and those who are hungry for new starts. The difference for many of them is that they will not have the education necessary for an increasingly competitive market. We are, or should be, preparing ourselves for the next phase of this new beginning. Through this preparation, we should be educating ourselves and preparing our minds to compete in a new market of displaced workers. Or are we? Are we going through the motions of obtaining degrees, getting into debt, and taking years out of our lives without getting educated? We know how to make it through a class to get a passing grade and then on to the next. We know there will always be instructors who won’t hold us accountable for not performing our very best. But that burden, we will have to bear. This is a time for us to understand how important it is to have walked across the stage ready for what’s to come. Not only will you have to have some kind of a degree to get the job, but you will also have to understand what you have learned in order to keep the job.

As a recent MBA graduate, I can attest that through the process of simply getting grades to get to the degree, I began to understand that it would take more than that to be able to sustain the position. As a result of obtaining a degree, I can attest that a few letters behind my name looks good on paper, but the demonstration of what I’ve learned through the process, looks better on my paycheck! Knowledge is power!

Anthony Foster

HWC

BA University of Phoenix 2009

MBA University of Phoenix 2012

Bardwell Scholar



Anthony Foster speaking at the Bardwell Scholars' Luncheon.



RBS Sunday Joseph and Yunuen Rodriguez



Andre Wade speaking at the RBS Luncheon.



Bardwell Lunch

Amidst a humid March morning, vibrant smiles, reunion hugs, and catch-up chats filled Room 1115. With an amazingly large, generous, and resourceful RBS family, it should come as no surprise that a few new members joined this year. The luncheon kicked off with Tito, a remarkable Harold Washington Alumnus, who proudly graduates with an MSW degree this May. As soon as he finished welcoming everyone and delivering remarks about joy and gratitude, the group slowly but surely gravitated towards the wafting chicken, delicious cheesy salad, superb chocolate chip cookies, and refreshments. After meeting and greeting returning familiar faces, I was personally delighted to meet other RBS'ers, where I discovered that superficial differences of academic majors, age, gender, or occupation, didn't really separate us. Rather, the longer we conversed, the more commonalities we learned we shared.

Over food and conversation, Phillip, aided by his crew, enchanted the audience with his jokes, music, and overall gregarious personality. Before moving on with the scholars' testimonies, President Laackmann delivered an insightful speech where he acknowledged that institutional change not only happens through a top-down approach, but it also happens through a more personal one-on-one approach, like the work Hedy does with RBS. Through student testimonies we learned that graduation not only comes with hard work, but also with consistent support like what RBS and Hedy provide. That's why the RBS continues to expand its number of successful scholars, now reaching beyond 120 since its inception.



Joann Washington with Dean Emeritus Anna Blum



Back: (left to right) D. Work, K. Pleasant, A. Allakim, P. L. D. Hawthorne, Y. Hopkins Front: R. Chacon, J. Washington



RBS Tonja Girsten and Leonetta Clark

ean, Spring 2012



College Advisor Charles McSweeney with Executive Director Hedy Cohen



RBS Scholar Cesar Rojas and wife Yvette

Bardwell Scholars



Burgess, T. Foster, L. Clark, A. Wade, C. Key, J. Phan, E. Vazquez Middle: C. Rogas, A. Orizaba, J. Afungchwi, ton, Y. Rodriguez, S. Joseph, T. Girsten, Y. Jones.

Go After Those Dreams

First I would like to start off by congratulating my fellow Bardwell Scholars who graduated this year: job well done. Secondly, I would love to thank all those who have supported the Bardwell Family throughout the years. Bardwell has become more than just a scholarship fund in my eyes; I have come to see Bardwell as a family. I really have to thank Hedy for her guidance. Hedy has always been there when I needed to talk and that has been priceless. To be able to have a person such as her in your corner is a powerful thing.

I started my journey with Bardwell when I found out I didn't have financial aid in 2004. Hedy was hesitant to work with me based on my track record. The reason my financial aid was exhausted was because I dropped out of college not once but twice. However when I came to Hedy I was ready to get educated. I wanted more from life than what I knew. I grew up involved in gangs, in and out of jail, drugs, and violence. I was shot twice because of the lifestyle I lead and it was time for change.

Hedy eventually took a gamble and invested in my education and I can't be more thankful for her doing so. It was a struggle; I was going to school full time and raising a family as well. However, with the support of the Bardwell family and Hedy, I was able to get the job done. I graduated from Harold Washington in 2006, and went on to graduate with honors from Northeastern Illinois University in 2010. Bardwell was there for me through it all. Now I have the honor to say I am graduating with my Masters in Social Work from UIC-Jane Addams College of Social Work.

This feels so surreal; I never imagined I would be getting a Masters. When I first came to Hedy I was just hoping to finish community college but with her mentoring and confidence in me, I was able to have confidence in myself. I chose to prove myself and society wrong. Throughout my life, I have come to realize if there's a will, there's a way; never give up on your dreams. To all my fellow Bardwell Scholars: continue your education, go after those dreams, climb those mountains. At the end, it will be well worth it. As long as you believe in yourself, it can be done. As for me, I plan to work in the field with at-risk, marginalized, and underserved youth as well as with citizens returning from prison. I feel I survived for a reason and God has blessed me with angels such as Hedy so now it's my turn to be someone's angel. I also plan to eventually pursue a PhD,

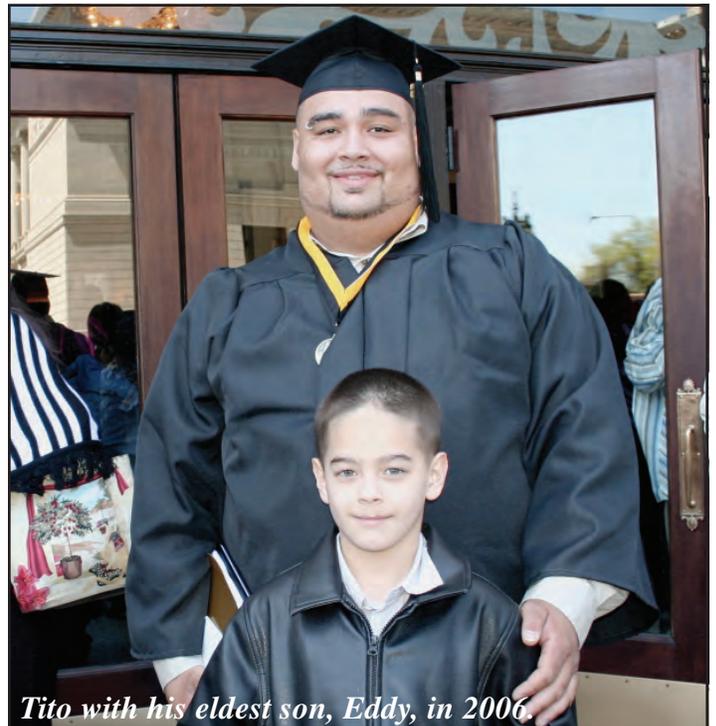
but for now the streets are hurting and I need to get out there and do my part. Thanks to all who have ever been involved with Bardwell, know that your efforts have not been in vain...

Edilberto Vazquez

AA HWC 2006

BA NEIU 2010

***MSW/UIC-Jane Addams College of Social Work 2012
Bardwell Scholar***



Tito with his eldest son, Eddy, in 2006.



Tito and Eddy, in 2012.

My Harold Washington Experiences

My experiences at Harold Washington College have given me a deeper insight and appreciation into the concept of “citizenship.” If a citizen is the smallest unit of a nation, then the quality of that society is reflected on the quality of its citizens. Our nation becomes stronger once its citizens become educated and consequently concerned and sensitive to the plight of others.

Because I have been fortunate to study in a multicultural academic environment such as HWC, I’ve learned to observe and appreciate the commonality between us. That commonality serves as a bridge that fosters understanding and communication between all people.

At HWC, I have been elated by the unrestricted freedom to satisfy my intellectual curiosity. To my surprise and joy, the professors encourage us, even challenge us, to take nothing for granted. These teachers remind me of the words from Khalil Gibran’s book The Prophet, “The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and his lovingness. If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.” My teachers at HWC have indeed led me to the threshold of my own mind.

Lastly, it is critical that we students, develop our own sense of compassion to balance and complement our intellectual development. Our academic advancement means nothing but arrogant vanity if we are not sensitive to the plight of those among us. I can personally speak of being disadvantaged because I was once a homeless veteran. Ironically and sadly, I was reacquainted with those painful memories when I encountered a fellow veteran in one of my classes. She had to sleep on buses while still attending school. Moreover, I knew several other students in the same situation which deeply grieves me because this is totally unacceptable in a country as great as ours.

As I reflect on these poignant memories at HWC, I realize that these experiences have molded and motivated me to become a better citizen. It is my conviction that I must take my HWC experiences with me to effect progressive change. The true purpose of higher education is to prepare us to improve our world.

Moreover, if we stay true to these ideals, then we shall become better citizens and consequently improve our world. This is our responsibility as students.

Asim Allakim
AA HWC 2012
Bardwell Scholar



Asim is speaking at the Friends of Harold Washington Scholarship Luncheon as the winner of one of their scholarships.

JOIN THE RBS FUNDRAISING FUN!! HERE'S HOW:

As part of a larger effort to continue bringing higher education closer to talented students of humble means, Roger Bardwell Scholarship recipients, or as I'd like to call them, RBS'ers, have come up with an innovative fundraising strategy. This strategy works in 5 very simple steps:

- Step 1: You look at the list of services you think you, your friends, and/or family may need/want
- Step 2: Once you've decided on specific service(s) you'd like to receive, send an e-mail to Yunuen at yunuen_rodriguez@hotmail.com with your request(s) and the total purchase amount
- Step 3: Yunuen will write a confirmation e-mail along with the information of the RBS'er providing the service so that you can touch base and discuss specifics
- Step 4: Write a check for your total amount addressed to Bardwell Scholarships and mail it to:
Bardwell Scholarships
1204 Monroe
Evanston, IL 60202
- Step 5: Jump up and feel good! You'll have just made higher education possible to those who otherwise would not have had the chance. And of course, you, your friends, and/or family will in turn enjoy services you might have just purchased from someone else anyway!

This new strategy really works for everyone. Not only are your donations still tax deductible but they also allow you to get the services you need/want while you simultaneously help RBS'ers thrive. In addition, keep in mind that these services are not performed by novices. Services are executed by RBS'ers who have expertise in the field.

VARIED SERVICES:

- Corey: Personal training sessions (5 lessons for \$150 or \$30/hr)
- Sunday: Guitar lessons (5 lessons for \$150 or \$30/hr)
- Heriberto: Spanish lessons, yard work, elementary-high school math tutoring (5 lessons for \$150 or \$30/hr)
- Tonja: Personal Assistant--helping someone over 50 years (5 hours for \$150 or \$30/hr)
- Kevin: Making ten pounds of potato salad for \$40 or 5 lbs. for \$25--order 1 week in advance
- Angelica: Fashion and makeup consulting (\$50/hr)

- Johnny: Cooking a Vietnamese meal for maximum of 5 people (supplies and materials must be provided [\$40 per person]), Vietnamese Cooking, Vietnamese Language, & Self-Defense Lessons (3 hours for \$90 or 30/hr)
- Diana: Babysitting

MOSTLY TUTORING (\$30/hr max 5 hrs):

- David W.: Tutoring in any area
- Jan: French language tutoring, soccer instruction, or yard work
- Alba: Spanish tutoring and babysitting
- Cesar: Any kind of tutoring, including Spanish
- Yunuen: Spanish, writing/research/editing, resume/cover letter crafting lessons
- Hugo: Philosophy, literature, & logical argumentation Imagine sitting back on a steamy summer day enjoying a small BBQ/Vietnamese Food/Potato Salad get-together while the kids enjoy an interactive language session. And also, by the time the day is over, maybe you can come out to the front yard and mesmerize at its new look! Make a fun service combination...you really can't pass up the wealth of expertise.

Looking forward to your e-mail!

Yunuen Rodriguez
Bardwell Scholar



Yunuen Rodriguez at the Bardwell Scholars' Luncheon.

Hello to A New Future

As I reach my final steps for graduation there are many aspects that I look back on and just say, "Wow": I have accomplished so much and have done the very best I could during my on-going journey.



Between getting my associates from Harold Washington and now getting my bachelors at National Louis, I am completely lost for words. First I would like to thank Hedy and the Bardwell Scholarship Program for giving me the opportunity to be a scholar. If Hedy had not come into my life, I wouldn't have finished. If I didn't have her during the rough time I was going through when I started, I wouldn't have done it. I am now graduating with my Bachelors in Behavioral Science and starting next term; I will begin my Masters in Community and School Counseling. I love helping people and lending an ear when one is needed. The greatest fear that many people have is not having someone to turn to when they are lonely, like I did when I met Hedy.

A couple of other people I would like to thank are those who employed me at Harold Washington College and let me continue my studies and work at the same time. Many people struggle with having a job and going to school, leading to increased numbers of drop outs because security financial stability during economic lives is primordial. Now as I continue my journey, this is not a good bye for me but a hello to a new future that lies ahead!

Thank you,

Lisa Ayala

AA HWC 2007

BS NLU 2012

Bardwell Scholar

Finally Famous

As I sit at this computer, the cursor flashes, but not because I am at a loss for words, but because I have so much to say and I want to be careful to express precisely what I am feeling at this stage in my life. As many of you know, the journey to attaining my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago has been anything but a stroll on Michigan Avenue. There was much pain, turmoil, and struggle, yet I have finally arrived; Finally Famous!

This period of my life is one of extreme elation and celebration. I've learned that life has curve balls that move at a velocity exceeding Kerry Woods' pitch in his prime. However, as cliché as it may be, whatever doesn't kill you, makes you stronger indeed! I am grateful for all of the encouragement and support that I have received from the Roger W. Bardwell family over the years via prayer, emotional empathy and sympathy, and even finances. All forms were equally pivotal in my success, and for that, I am eternally grateful, humbled, and indebted to you. As I take this plunge into the workforce and life beyond undergrad, I will carry with me the memories of the mountains we've climbed together, holding hands with a grip so firm that the friction of slippage creates a palm burn. I love you all, and thanks to you, I am Finally famous!

Corey Hudson

AA HWC 2005

BA UIC 2012

Bardwell Scholar



Corey Hudson at the Bardwell Scholars Luncheon.

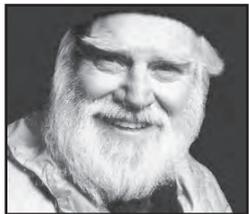


Bardwell Scholars are always ready to sell you a t-shirt!

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.

(The Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund is a registered 501(C)3 tax exempt organization)

Contributions to the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund may be made by check and sent to:



Bardwell Scholarship NFP
1204 Monroe
Evanston, IL 60202



CITY COLLEGES of CHICAGO

Harold Washington

Education that Works

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

www.bardwellscholarship.org

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