



Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Spring 2013
Issue 24

Changing Lives One Degree at a Time

Bardwell Scholarship Graduates 2013



*Cassandra Banyard
BA National Lewis
University*



*Phillip Burgess
BA Chicago State
University*



*Sunday Joseph
BS DePaul University*



*Cesar Rojas
BS University of
Illinois at Urbana*



*W. David Work
BS Illinois Institute of
Technology*

Bachelor's Degrees



*Andre Wade
AA Harold
Washington College*

Associate's Degree

The Best Days of My Life

Today is the first day of the Best Days of My Life! I am so appreciative for the people that God has placed in my life. To my beautiful and supportive wife, thank you, I love you. To my children Phillip Jr., Dominique, Brittany, Briana, and Justin, I love you all. To my grandchildren Paris, Ryan, Kobey, and especially Omari, my miracle grandchild, aka boogie, you're so special and I love you. To Mama without who's support I never could have come this far and also to Mama Hedy and the Bardwell Scholarship Fund who has made me successful in my endeavors. I never thought in a million years that I would have come as far as I have. You see, May 16, 2013, I'll be graduating with my Bachelor's Degree from Chicago State University. This is so special to me because I will be the first from my generation to graduate at this level. I never thought, when I started this journey, that this would happen, I was just trying to go to school to find out about the disease of addiction because of the life long battle I endured. During the recovery process, with all the suggestions given to me, no one really ever suggested to return to school, but I decided to give it a whirl.

In 2007, I decided that if I was going to advance in life, I had to make a decision to pursue my education. I wasn't sure which direction I needed to pursue, however, I knew I wanted to help someone else who struggled with the same problems that I had endured for many years. Although I worked part-time as a church musician, this could no longer be my primary source of income nor could this continue to be my only way of sowing good seed into life. I wanted to be able to help another individual break the bondage of substance abuse issues at a broader base. I was told that Harold Washington College had one of the best Addiction Studies Programs in the city so the decision became simple. With very little resources, I took a leap of faith and registered at Harold Washington College with a full time schedule. I became acquainted with two of the advisors, Earl Singleton (rest in peace) and Terry Pendelton who, in turn, suggested that I speak to a Hedy Cohen so up to the 11th floor I went. I didn't know what to expect but when I met Hedy something within me suggested that this individual was going to help change my life. Hedy explained to me the details of applying for Bardwell and also told me that normally they don't help first semester students, however, they would see. I followed

the directions given to me, completed the application, wrote a very personal essay, and from that day to this one, Hedy Cohen and the Roger Bardwell Scholarship Fund has truly been a positive motivating force within my life. From tuition, to books, computers, and most of all the mentor ship that Hedy has provided, this is one of the very reasons that as of May 16, 2013, I'm graduating with a Bachelor's Degree with honors from the Board of Governors Program at Chicago State University, minoring in sociology and there's no stopping now!

I have applied to the School of Social Work Master's Degree Program at Chicago State University for the fall semester of 2013, after long debate with my mentor, friend, and sometimes mother, Hedy, about what master's program to attend. I've also taken and passed the state's Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor's (CADC) exam and currently work as the primary counselor at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center, where dreams really do come true. Finally I would like to say thank you Hedy and Bardwell for continually reminding me that today is the first day of the Best Days of My Life!

Phillip Burgess
AA HWC 2010
BA Chicago State University 2013
Bardwell Scholar



Life Changing Events

I believe education is a human right; however, education becomes a luxury when low-income families work diligently to obtain an education; therefore, we have enormous motivation in addition to great potential that should be maximized with a college education. The Bardwell Scholarship eases the pressure of working to afford costly books and a high tuition, which takes time away from endeavors of maximizing one's potential to become a competitive professional. Not only does financial assistance help economically, but it also helps commit to pursue one's dreams. In my case, it allowed me to create the resources necessary to become a successful graduate. Most importantly, the Bardwell Scholarship helped me build a path toward a graduate program and reach closer to my goals.

My educational career had a difficult and somewhat disappointing beginning after graduating from high school and facing the high costs of a higher education. My economic situation hindered my prospects for a four-year university, leaving me with no other choice than to start my post-secondary education at a local community college. Like many other uninformed high school graduates, I attended Harold Washington College with the erroneous idea that community colleges are only for underachieving students seeking an easy path to a degree. However, I later realized that I wouldn't have found the valuable mentorship and education that HWC and the Bardwell Scholarship offered me. 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.

My educational success is a source of great pride for my family, but also for people like Hedy Cohen who has closely followed my career providing support and guidance. I will never forget how people like Hedy and professors inspired me, and disciplined me in order to become a dedicated student who can maximize his true potential under any circumstance. For that reason, I keep going back to the annual RBS Luncheon to share my achievements and show that becoming part of the Bardwell family will always be an important part of every Bardwell scholar's life.

After earning an Associate's Degree of Sciences in Engineering, I moved on and achieved my goal of graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. I would now like to take a step up my career ladder by continuing my education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and earn a Master's Degree.

Cesar Rojas
AA HWC 2010
BS University of Illinois at Urbana 2013
Bardwell Scholar



Cesar Rojas (center) with his wife (left) Yvette and mom, Luz Seiberg

The College Experience

I have spent five years pursuing a bachelor's degree, split roughly equally between Harold Washington College, where I earned my associate's, and the Illinois Institute of Technology, where I will soon graduate with a degree in Political Science. It's been an arduous, uncertain journey, the way paved with hard work and personal sacrifice. And even with my utmost efforts and willingness to pay any price for academic advancement, none of it would have been possible without the generous support of Bardwell Scholars and the IIT Presidential Scholarship.

Being a philosophically minded person – perhaps a bit too much so for my own practical good – I have had frequent discussions, debates, and internal monologues about the meaning of higher education. I first registered at HWC several months after being laid off from a well-paying job during the Crash of 2008, so from the start the most obvious and practical reason for pursuing a bachelor's degree has been the potential for better job opportunities and earning power. In those days I often referred to my strategy as one of “retooling” to develop more marketable skill sets and credentials. Along with that outer shell of career orientation has come a certain amount of inner change – of reinvention, to borrow a word much-used of late in City Colleges of Chicago. But again, what does it mean? Am I now a different person than I was five years ago? The diploma on my wall will certainly signify something but what does it indicate about me as a person? How much have I really changed?

The answer is not as black-and-white as some human resources checkbox indicating that Yes, this applicant is educated and his resume therefore shouldn't go immediately into the garbage bin. That's another of the baseline assumptions about the functional value of a degree that I think is fairly common these days – that while it is no guarantee of securing a decent salary, in today's economy lack of a degree virtually guarantees a life on the economic margins. The young worker entering today's labor economy is like the small farmer facing the agribusiness revolution of the 1960s: one can either “get big or get out.”

So I took my medicine, did my (mental) workouts, and bulked up my academic cred. Again, what have I learned? How am I different?

On a certain fundamental level, I am no different than I was when I started out. For one thing, I am still the sort of person who brings awkward, critical questions to the table when others are content to let well enough alone. I am a compulsive reader – part of the last generation to bridge the gap between text- and net-based styles of thought and communication – and fiercely inquisitive. One of my teachers once compared me to a “force of nature.” Another more recently described me as a “walking calamity.” Both descriptions are, I think, accurate: each represents the positive and negative sides of the same coin of my native intellect – and they would have described me just as aptly as a person pre-2008. The awkward truth, against all claims of higher ed to exclusively signify a person who is either “educated” or “not” in my imagined HR rep's blinkered binary view, is that I am no more or less smart, caring, or passionate than I was as a younger man. College didn't make me the person I am today – I made the college experience what it needed to be for me. It was something I had to take on not only when I was mature enough to be ready, but also out of other viable options for controlling my own future. I did it because I had to and also because I could.

I cannot deny, though, that I have changed significantly, and almost certainly for the better. I may be no smarter but perhaps I am a bit wiser. I am certainly more sociable, more able to relate to others, more apt to step up and lead when occasion requires. I have learned a few new skill sets, some of which may even turn out to be practically useful – things like basic knowledge of behavioral statistics and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), for example.

I am definitely a bit more patient, too. How could it be otherwise after navigating two different college bureaucracies for over five years? I am better able to set and meet long-term goals, to delay gratification, and above all, to show mental fortitude and endurance. If nothing else, college is certainly a test of one's sheer endurance. And I have made many friends along the way with whom I've commiserated over paper deadlines, financial pressures, lifestyle issues, you name it – I have comrades in arms, which, while not intrinsic to me as an individual, definitely changes who I am in a social sense. I can lead and I can follow, and I can

mentor those who follow me and judge who is worth following myself. All of this is new and would never have happened if I had been able to keep my comfy old job in a world where the Great Recession never occurred.

Above all, I am grateful for this experience and ready to move on with my life. I have had the benefit of so much support from my family, HWC, the Bardwell Scholars, my teachers, peers, mentors (including Hedy, naturally) and even my own tutoring students, that to read this accomplishment as an individual accomplishment would be narrow indeed. As I'm applying for my first serious job (in architectural publishing) I realize that my best asset up to this point has been the number of relationships I've made with the many wonderful people the college experience brought into my life. There, in the nebulous network of "social capital," lies the true value of education: it not only brings one into a potentially higher earning bracket, but into academic community and human society at once.

Now the real Work can begin!

W. David Work
AA HWC 2010
BA IIT 3013
Bardwell Scholar



W. David Work at IIT Graduation with his mother Gina Snyder

RBS HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE!!

Keep current about our events, milestones, and scholars' lives by searching "Roger Bardwell Scholarships" on Facebook and clicking "LIKE" on our page.

Click "LIKE" on our page and you will also find the 2013 Luncheon pictures, information about our upcoming BBQ, and much more!



Bardwell Lunch

The annual banquet of the Bardwell Scholarship took place at Harold Washington College, on Friday, April 5, 2013. Faculty, staff, donors, and friends gathered to honor current and past Bardwell Scholarship recipients. Named in remembrance of the late great Roger Bardwell, the Bardwell Scholarship is awarded to Harold Washington College students who demonstrate successful academic potential, but may have unmet financial need. Recipients also benefit from mentoring provided by Bardwell Scholarship founder, Hedy Cohen.

The luncheon opened with a welcome from former Harold Washington College student, and Bardwell Scholar recipient, Trina Coleman. Trina graduated from HWC in 2008, and has remained a constant supporter of their efforts. During her welcome, Trina spoke about how being a Bardwell Scholar and receiving mentoring from Hedy gave her the “hope” she needed to continue her educational journey. Hedy inspired Trina so much that she introduced her to the idea of attending Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Reluctant, at first, Trina knew she had to consider Smith because Hedy had given her great mentoring in the past. Trina was matriculated at Smith in 2008, and graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Education and Child Study.

Other Bardwell Scholars shared their stories of triumph, resilience, and success. Bardwell Scholars leave Harold Washington College to attend schools such as DePaul, Roosevelt, and UIC, to name a few. Many of the students thanked Hedy for her continuous support while at HWC. Some students continue to receive support even after graduating.

The afternoon continued with dialogue, testimonies, and performances led by RBS Phillip Burgess, assisted by fellow Bardwell Scholars Sunday Joseph and David Work. Hedy was very proud to see so many of the Bardwell Scholar friends in attendance. The support of the donors is what keeps the organization thriving. We look forward to seeing all of you again next year.



RBS David Work and Sunday Joseph



*Back: A. Jones, A. Foster, T. Coleman,, G. Washington, J
Mid: A. Scaggs, L. Clark,, D. Hawthorne, H. Bustor,
Front: T. Girten, L. Ayala, H. Rodriguez, Y. Rodriguez, S.*

Year, Spring 2013



HWC Advisor Charles McSweeney with Leslie Villaseñor



HWC President Don Laackman with RBS Executive Director, Hedy Cohen



Bardwell Scholars

. Phan, P. Burgess, D. Work, A. Allakim, R. Jones, H. Bustos

Joseph, A. Orizaba, A. Wade, C. Rojas

More from the Bardwell Luncheon



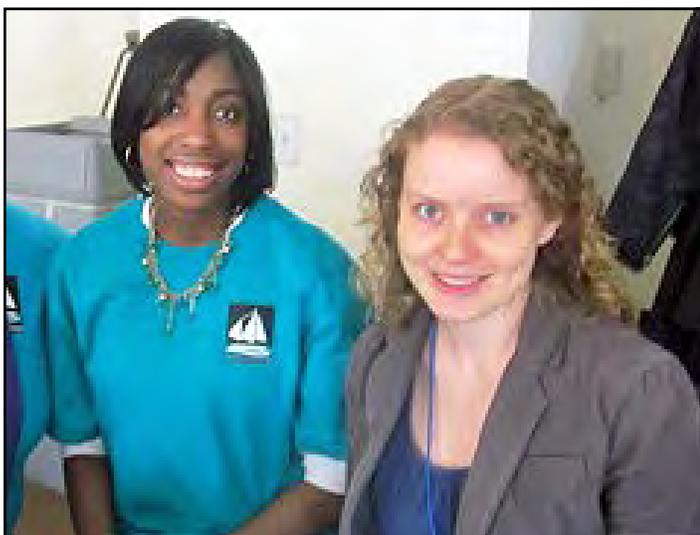
RBS Trina Coleman welcoming friends and supporters to the annual luncheon.



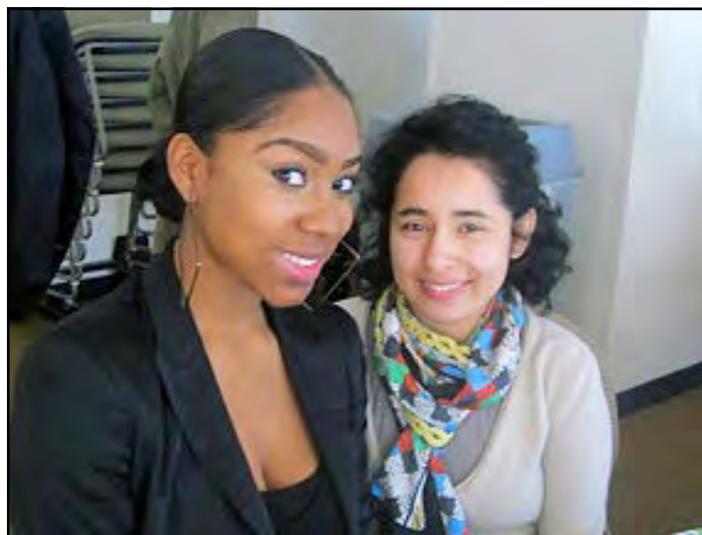
RBS Anthony Foster with Hedy Cohen



RBS Gale Washington



New RBS Latorie Washington with HWC publicity director, Nicole Muzzy.



Angelica Jones with Yunuen Rodriguez

Light at the End of the Tunnel

This year marks my tenth year being in college. I went to a Christian college for the first four years of my college career, and the last six have been spent between Harold Washington College and National Louis University. In a few weeks, I will graduate from NLU with a Bachelors of Science in Management. The road has been long and tough, as this entire time that I have been in college I have also worked full time and supported myself.

Why? Why have I spent this much time in college? Why did I go for my bachelors degree, getting it done in two years, when it took me four years to get an associates, and I had already attended the Christian school for four years prior to that? What inspired me to keep going when I felt like giving up?

Well, there are a lot of reasons. First, I am the oldest of seven children. I wanted to do it for my siblings, to pave the way and encourage them to get a college degree. Second, I did it to prove to my parents and family that I finish what I start. Third, I did it for me. I did it because I knew that if I didn't get a bachelors degree, though I might enjoy being done with school at the present time, I would regret it later on in life. Lastly, and the key determining factor in getting a bachelors degree, was Hedy and the Bardwell Scholarship.

her and the Bardwell Scholarship fund to take a chance and pay for me to take a full load of classes, so I could graduate that semester. She agreed, but at the same time really encouraged me to continue on with my bachelor's degree. At the time, I was burnt out and ready to just be done once I got my associates. I know that had I not met Hedy, or received funding from the scholarship, that I would have been content (at the time) with my associates degree and would not have continued. However, after much deliberation, I decided that if the Bardwell Scholarship was willing to take me on and help support my endeavors, that I would continue on with a bachelors degree.

Thanks to Hedy and the Bardwell Scholarship, in a few weeks I will be the proud owner of a diploma that reads, "Cassandra Bunyard, the degree of Bachelor of Science in Management with High Honors." When I receive this diploma, I will be the happiest girl in the world.

Please know that no matter how small or large your support is of the Bardwell Scholarship, you are CHANGING LIVES by giving your support. The Bardwell Scholarship and all it entails, sure changed mine.

Thank you,

Cassandra Bunyard
AA HWC 2011
BA National Lewis University 2013
Bardwell Scholar



Cassandra Bunyard

When I went to Hedy two and a half years ago, I was a few credits shy of getting an associates degree. I asked

It Is Finished, But Only Just Begun!

Wow! As I sit in front of my laptop, pondering the many words that float through my mind, I ask, "Where do I begin?" Throughout this glorious journey to success, beginning at Harold Washington College, there isn't enough room to incorporate them all for this newsletter. As I look back, I can truly say it really wasn't that hard; though at times I've experienced the feeling of discouragement at the mere thought of continuing on to the next level when that next class is the two required Spanish classes, or the most dreaded of all classes, Math! And Mom Hedy, you knew my hesitancy about English 102! Whew, I made it!

The many times I felt like taking a break, and not wanting to deal with the pressure of the various writings/essays associated with English, then expressing my dismay to Hedy, she would always say, "You can do it, go ahead and take it, it's a challenge I know you can overcome." To my surprise, I did! Receiving an A in something I feared, for that, I say, "WOW!!!!" I would always hear Hedy's voice saying, "You can do it", even in my dreams.

The professors and advisors at Harold Washington were also very encouraging, having faith in what they saw of me and my ability to achieve great grades in each and every class. I still look back and say, "Wow!" In thanking the professors for giving me great grades, they all would say, "I didn't do it Drey, you did it," I would then say "Wow, I guess I did do it."

including my English Professor, Larry Su and Mr. Charles McSweeney, my advisor who also encouraged me to go to that next level, telling me, "You can do it!" I'd also like to thank advisor Diane Richardson, who encouraged me with her words and informed me of her struggles and how she too overcame them.

My journey doesn't end here, as I am betwixt choosing to attend UIC or DePaul to obtain a Bachelor's of Art in Criminal Justice.

I can now truly say, "It Is Finished, But Only Just Begun!"

Andre Wade
AA HWC 2013
Bardwell Scholar



RBS Andre Wade and Asim Allakim

In obtaining an Associate of Art in Criminal Justice, I now see my vision of working in the Law Enforcement field come into fruition; thanking all who played a role in this chapter of my life, Hedy Cohen, Bardwell Scholarships, the various professors I encountered

RBS E-NEWSLETTERS COMING SHORTLY!!

In order to present you with the most current RBS news, we are creating a short and lively electronic newsletter. Please keep an eye out for it!

My Heartfelt Thanks

Crossing oceans makes me feel like a swimmer, crossing bridges makes me feel like a transporter, overcoming barriers makes me feel like a success. I am successful because someone was there for me. I am a success because someone believed in my future. I am successful because I have a friend and a mother. I am a success because God gave me people who I can call my family, the Roger W Bardwell Family. God bless the day I met Mama Hedy. Mama Hedy has been my friend, mother, and counselor throughout my academic journey in the US.

Looking back at Harold Washington College, it seems like yesterday that I began. I couldn't believe I had my Associate's Degree some years ago and am graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Management Information Systems and a minor in International Business from DePaul University. It would not have been possible without God and Mama Hedy. I am grateful to God for life and my recent achievement. However, I am looking forward to the day I will be graduating with my PHD.

Finally, I will like to say a big thank you to Mama Hedy again for being there when I needed help. My big thank you goes to all the RBS sponsors because I am one of the products of your support. Also, I cannot do without mentioning couple of names at HWC. My appreciation goes to Leslie Villasenor, Mr. Charles McSweeney, Prof. Chavez, Devon Glover, Ellen Goldberg and others that have contributed to my life in one way or the other. If had to choose a family again, I would choose you guys.

Sunday Joseph
AA HWC 2010
BA DePaul University 2013
Bardwell Scholar



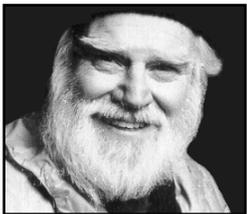
Yunuen Rodriguez congratulating Sunday Joseph on his graduation.

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Make it your home page and start
earning donations to RBS.

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



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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www.bardwellscholarship.org

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