



# Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Spring -2014  
Issue 26

*Changing Lives One Degree at a Time*

## Bardwell Scholarships Celebrate Spring 2014 Graduates



*Shirley Doty-Lewis (middle with two fellow graduates at Mount Holyoke graduation)*

I am happy to announce that I graduated from Mount Holyoke College, Sunday, May 18, 2014. I like the sound of that!

Today I found out that I am also going to receive my Associates Degree from HWC. I am beyond excited. I wanted to share the news with you for without your help none of this would have been possible. Thank you Hedy for being there in my time of need. I will forever be grateful to you and the Roger Bardwell Scholarship for helping to make my dream come true. I have a big hug for you.

*Shirley Doty-Lewis*

*AA HWC 2014*

*BA Mt. Holyoke College 2014*

*Bardwell Scholar*

*(Shirley will tell her story in the Fall 2014 Newsletter.)*



*Hedy Cohen and Francis Akwafo at UIC graduation, May 2014. Francis told his story in the Fall 2013 Newsletter.*



*Riley Jones at CCC graduation, May 2014. Riley's story is on page 3.*

## RBS Wishes Farewell to Dean George Bickford

Change is coming to City Colleges, as notable faculty and administrators retire from Harold Washington College. With sincere gratitude, the scholars of the Roger Bardwell Scholarship would like to acknowledge Associate Dean George Bickford who will be retiring from City Colleges after 40 years of service. Dean Bickford has been a continued enthusiast of RBS through financial contributions and mentoring. Whatever the situation, he is there to offer a solution to students and the HWC family. Dean Bickford's mantra includes lyrics from the famous 60's song *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*, "No wind, No rain, No winter storm, shall stop me baby". In other words, no matter the challenges you face in life, nothing should keep you from reaching your dreams, academically or professionally. Dean Bickford is a true inspiration and will be missed by all.

Congratulations on your retirement; we salute YOU!

**Tonja Girten**  
*HWC student*  
*Bardwell Scholar*



*George Bickford and Tonja Girten*

Bardwell Scholarships would like to congratulate Dr. Margie Martyrn on being named Interim President of HWC.

## President Don Laackman

I take this opportunity to congratulate President Laackman for his service and accomplishments at Harold Washington College. In his three years of leadership, he helped to increase the graduation rate at HWC from 4% to 9%. Despite the hard work that comes with the job, he still managed to be visible around campus. I saw him at student organization events, the College to Careers Program, and the RBS annual luncheons. He will be leaving the RBS and HWC community to begin his role as President of Champlain College in Vermont, starting on July 1, 2014.

I wish to thank President Laackman for the unlimited support he provided the RBS family. Without his support, scholars could have missed opportunities that RBS and HWC provide including the great programs such as the College to Careers. Three RBS scholars proudly took advantage of this life changing opportunity and all landed an internship and/or job including Carla Ramirez at AON. All three scholars and others also successfully transferred to 4-year universities. All of this would have not been possible without his support. His presence, words of encouragement, and superior leadership skills will be missed. We wish him a successful transition and hope to see him at our future events.

**Alba Orizaba**  
*AA HWC 2011*  
*NEIU Student*  
*Bardwell Scholar*



*President Lackkman and Alba Orizaba*

## Traveler for Life is Still Traveling

Several years ago, I started out on the mission of obtaining a college degree. At the time, I didn't have an area of specialty, I just knew I wanted a degree. As I write this story, I have to laugh because I started this journey of seeking higher learning in 1991 and 23 years later I am only half-way towards reaching that goal. Now many might say that is a laughing matter that it took this long just to get this far, but I'm laughing because I was recognized along the way. Life was preparing me for my final destination of graduation. Life doesn't always deal you the perfect hand and you have to play the cards you're dealt. That said, when I was attentive to the cards, I reaped immediate rewards and sometimes claimed double the prize. When I failed to apply a thought process to playing my hand, the results were less planned and desirable.

This failure to focus was compounded by failing to enroll for consecutive semesters or thinking that I could be just as successful even if I delayed my educational goals. The funny thing about success is it sometimes allows you to become too comfortable. Success can make you lax and believe that a degree may not be necessary to accomplish certain feats. During my journey, I put off attending because I was being promoted on my job, was being recruited by state agencies to lead their units and had even created supplemental income through the skills I learned from my job. However, I failed to recognize I was being promoted, because they felt I was enhancing my ability through education. They felt I was investing in myself so they would invest in me. **I attended school without consistency until the agency began to prepare themselves for future projects and I began to get passed over, because to validate their credibility, they sought candidates who had degrees.**

They began to hire and promote individuals who I felt had less knowledge about the agency and were less committed to helping them succeed. This prompted me to refocus my priorities and reestablish the goal of earning a college degree. In 2011, I began to attend Harold Washington College with consistency. It was during this time that I was introduced to the Bardwell Scholars and the infamous Hedy Cohen. She provided me with multiple areas of support and guidance with the focus on accomplishing each stage instead of the entire race. This was until March 2012 when life dealt me another opportunity I was not expecting.

In March 2012, I was given the opportunity to join the Chicago Fire Department. By accepting this challenge, I ventured into a field that required not only rigorous physical training, but the educational aspect of learning to be an Emergency Medical Technician while still enrolled at HWC. I informed Hedy I may have to drop my classes and, as mentioned, she was so supportive. She actually had more safety concerns for me due to the dangers associated with being a fire fighter than I did. Not once did she make me feel that I was abandoning my goal. I renewed my commitment to college despite how difficult it became. That commitment and consistent check-ins from Hedy and my girlfriend, challenging me to do better, contributed to passing both of my courses.

On November 1, 2012, I graduated from the Fire Academy while still continuing my studies at Harold Washington. Although there were some moments that challenged my intellect and ability, I found by taking a deep breath and focusing on the issue, I was able to be successful. On May 3, 2014, I graduated with honors from Harold Washington College. On that day, I, (along with at least 1,800 other City College Students) obtained my Associate's Degree. I have become better at playing the cards dealt and I will fulfill the ultimate goal and graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree from National Louis University in December 2014. However, none of this would have been attainable without Hedy and the Bardwell Scholarship, and my children, who I leaned on heavily for guidance, along with a strong desire to succeed.

**My reason for sharing is to note that we all share some of the same challenges, despite the image we may display.** Like myself, many use a good poker face that masks the obstacles. I want everyone to know that when things get stressful, you should turn to your faith, learn to keep your eye on the prize, and persevere. There is a reward waiting for you at the end of the road. That reward is a renewed feeling of self worth and a distinctive piece of paper that says college graduate.

*Riley Jones*  
AA HWC, December 2013  
Bardwell Scholar



# Bardwell Lunch

## Thanksgiving in Spring

Every spring, we gather at Harold Washington College for the Annual Bardwell Scholars Luncheon. It has become something of a yearly cycle, like the monarch butterfly migration or the return of the swallows to San Juan Capistrano – though much more modest in scale, of course.

Like any recurring ritual, those who witness it regularly become familiar with the rhythms and patterns of our gathering. Those of us who have helped stage the luncheon over the years know it even more intimately than our loyal supporters and guests.

First, Hedy and a handful of RBS arrive to decorate the meeting room on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of HWC (which has the best views of downtown Chicago in the entire building). The RBS T-shirts and luncheon programs are arranged with great care; the room is joyously decorated by the time Philip Burgess and his fellow musicians arrive to begin setting up their equipment.

There is some fussing with the PA and podium, drinks are iced, and scholars in their T-shirts hustle checking off the details under Hedy’s lively eye. Every year is a little bit different, but familiar.

And there is always just a moment, right around 11 o’clock, when we’re not quite certain we’ll get it all right. Will everyone committed to bring something show up on time? Will there be enough food? Can we get it all together and celebrate with our guests over a long Friday lunch hour?

Then all the promised food arrives, pans are slotted into the chafing dishes, the musicians begin to play, and we all breathe a tiny sigh of relief and let the flow of the festivities carry us along. Every year the Bardwell Scholars pull it together like the family we have become. We give thanks to our supporters, break bread with our guests, and show each other our appreciation for accomplishing our goals as individuals and a community.

We are a family, and every spring is our Thanksgiving.

\* \* \* \*

This year’s feast was provided by RBS Trina Coleman and her grandmother, Vemadell Jones – enough for all and then some, as always. Asim Allakim treated us to

three wonderful vocal performances, accompanied by Sunday Joseph, Phillip Burgess, Matt Shevitz and Corey Biggerstaff. Cesar Rojas, a proud University of Illinois 2013 graduate, gave the opening remarks.

Thanks to our donors for making it all possible and to this year’s contributing scholars for showing their pride and appreciation!



*H. Bustos, E. Rabin, M. Chavez, D. Work  
C. Schoenberger, T. Pashae*



*C. Rojas, G. Razo, J Fakhrid-Deen*



*A. Scaggs, G. Washington, L. Ayala*

# ean, Spring 2014



*A. Allakim, C. Biggerstaff, M. Shevitz*



*A. Orizaba, H. Bustos, M. Chavez*



*C. Rojas*

## 2014 Bardwell-Scholars



*(L-R, back) T. Girten, H. Bustos, T. Pashae, D. Work, P. Burgess, T. Coleman, A. Allakim, T. Foster, C. Rojas (middle) L. Clark, J. Afungwchi, C. Banyard (front) S. Joseph, Y. Rodriguez, A. Orizaba, H. Rodriguez*

# WHY I SUPPORT ROGER BARDWELL SCHOLARSHIPS



*I support Bardwell Scholarships because they have provided a lifeline of support for many of my students who often had no other place to get assistance.*

**Charles McSweeney (with Leslie Villaseñor)**  
College Advisor  
HWC



*I support Bardwell Scholarships because Hedy Cohen will leave no Bardwell Scholar behind.*

**Anna Blum (with Joann Washington)**



*I support the Bardwell Scholarship because it provides financial support, guidance and encouragement on a long basis. Led by Hedy Cohen, those who have received support in one way or other become dedicated to provide encouragement to new and more recent recipients. Indeed it is an example of the importance of dedicated people working together to make a positive difference.*

**Betty Harris (with Edilberto Vasquez)**  
Retired Professor  
HWC



*I support the Bardwell Scholars because it brings me great joy to see the success stories after having been given amazing mentorship from Hedy, funding, help and support for so these inspirational students can achieve their dreams. I had a professor once tell me that “every face has a story,” and I always love listening to stories about the success of these rock star students!*

**Ellen Goldberg (with Phillip Burgess)**  
Director of Transfer Programs  
HWC

# WHY I SUPPORT ROGER BARDWELL SCHOLARSHIPS



*I support Bardwell Scholarships because the recipients are amazing! Their stories show remarkable strength, courage, perseverance, and especially achievement. The Bardwell Program makes a difference that we can see in so many lives.*

Shirlene Ward (with Joan Habinek)



Like us on  
**Facebook**



*I support Bardwell Scholarships because they help deserving people who need a little help to get college degrees, one amazing person at a time!*

Shelley Sutherland (with Bonnie Roter)

*We help Bardwell Scholars as a tribute to Roger who was the consummate educator; who cared for individuals who struggled; who taught and administered with vigor to create communities of learners. No greater reflection could exist than the Scholars program. It is though he is with us.*

Chuck and Sylvia Meyers



*I support Bardwell Scholarships because I believe that one woman with a vision can make a difference in the lives of people that want to make a better life for themselves.*

Barb Udren (with Chuck Meyers and Hedy Cohen)



*I support Bardwell Scholarships because with RBS, a little goes a long way to make a very big difference. And a little more does even more :)*

Tom Rebori



*I support Bardwell Scholarships because it is a resource for very promising students that often do not have access to traditional, mainstream financial resources. RBS helps to provide a safety net for emerging talent that needs a bit of support.*

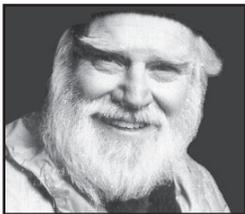
**Wendell Blair**  
Dean of Student Services  
HWC

*(L to R.) Wendall Blair, RBS Trina Coleman and Anthony Foster*

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**

**or**

**donate on our website through Pay Pal**



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.rogerbardwellscholarship.org](http://www.rogerbardwellscholarship.org)***

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