



# Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Fall 2010  
Issue 19

## Bardwell Scholarships Honor Harold Washington College President Emeritus John R. Wozniak

*It is with much gratitude and a bit of sadness that Bardwell Scholars dedicate this newsletter to John R. Wozniak on the occasion of his retirement. As cofounder of RBS, John has shared his unique ability to organize and network in an organization. Most importantly, he has displayed the rare ability to care for and know students as individuals. His constant commitment has been to quality education and opportunity for all students.*

*While considering what will be next for him professionally, John is in good health and enjoying time with his family including his many grandchildren.*

### Dear Mr. Wozniak:

I was saddened to hear of your retirement yet very happy to know that you plan to continue your support of the Roger Bardwell Scholarship. I want you to know how very much I appreciate you and what you mean to me. You were the one who introduced me to Hedy and RBS. My life has been forever changed and enriched since that day. I truly believe that you were a GOD send to me.

My mind always goes back to my graduation from HWC and my receiving my Associate Degree in the Spring of 2005. I replay in my mind hearing my name called and walking across the stage, and your smiling face as you handed me my degree. I wanted to just grab you and hug you and just jump up and down with you because, as I looked at your smiling face, I was thinking "I wouldn't be here, Mr. Wozniak, were it not for you." I didn't want to hold up the graduation ceremony, so I graciously took the degree and just said "Thank you."

I am proud to say that I continued on to earn my BS degree from Loyola University in Spring 2008. RBS continued to support me throughout my college career and for that I am eternally grateful.

Also, I thank you for all the recommendation letters you've written, and for allowing me the privilege and honor of using you as a reference.

Your shoes will be pretty hard to fill at the CCC, but I hope the person who fills them will be as caring and committed as you. It's people like you who make life so much better for those who are less fortunate. I feel blessed to have made your acquaintance. I wish you the best in all your future endeavors.

*Dell Henderson*

*AA HWC, 2005*

*BA Loyola University, 2008*

*Bardwell Scholar*



*RBS cofounders Hedy Cohen and John R. Wozniak at the 2009 Bardwell Luncheon.*

## Commitment and Dedication

Commitment and dedication are two words that I think best describe John R. Wozniak's service to Harold Washington College and to the City Colleges system as a whole. I first met then vice president John Wozniak as a student in the late 90's. It was through his office that I learned about Bardwell Scholarships. Over the years I've watched John Wozniak work hard to make Harold Washington the place to be, with record enrollment and top notch faculty and staff his work speaks for itself. His leadership is going to be greatly missed but the foundation that he laid is going to keep Harold Washington moving forward in the future.

*Yolanda Hopkins*

*AA HWC, 2001*

*BA Roosevelt University, 2004*

*Bardwell Scholar*



*John R. Wozniak and Yolanda Hopkins at HWC graduation 2001.*

## Thank You, Mr. Wozniak

I would like to just take a moment to acknowledge John Wozniak for all his support to us the Bardwell Family, and for allowing us the chance to pursue our educational dreams. It's people like Mr. Wozniak and the Bardwell supporters who continue to inspire us to achieve our educational goals in spite of the hurdles we may face in day to day life. Words really can not express my gratitude for all that you all do and have done for us. I would like to say, "Thank you Mr. Wozniak for all your support, and for inspiring us as Bardwell Scholars to go on and pursue our future educational dreams. Happy Retirement and may you enjoy some relaxation. You deserve it."

*Debra Hawthorne*

*AA HWC, 2008*

*CSU student*

*Bardwell Scholar*

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## Making an Difference

As a Harold Washington alumna, I have to say, I am saddened I will not get to see former President Wozniak whenever I pay a visit to campus. However, it does brighten my day to think about the significant difference he has made in my life and the life of the institution.

His qualities as a person and as the former president of Harold Washington are almost indescribable, but not because words do not come to mind, rather because his efforts to further students' academic success and keep a vibrant and healthy institution go beyond words.

Let me elaborate with a few examples.

I remember being a part of Phi Theta Kappa. Whenever the officers would meet with him he would listen avidly, engage in questions, provide feedback, and offer resources in whatever form they might come. Given his busy schedule, I also remember he made time to come to some of our events.

It is remarkable that despite conversing with various students throughout his day or even through his years at Harold Washington, when I last spoke with him after having graduated, I thought he would not remember details or lose interest in my academic journey but he actually proved me otherwise! He was able to recall my major at my new school without any hesitation; he impressed me. He is a man who demonstrates genuine interest in students' careers.

I also remember he was very helpful in offering advice on transitioning to a new institution and when I would go visit him, he encouraged me to speak with specific professors and staff who would be of further support to my specific situation.

Every encounter I have had with him made my Harold Washington experience a lot more valuable; he has helped direct my academic career and contributed to a more solid journey.

These examples are just some of many. Former president Wozniak has proven to be a leader who is supportive, approachable, and resourceful and who is genuinely interested in students' academic success. But I still feel that these adjectives do not do justice to all he has had to offer me, and to other students and his institution, Harold Washington College.

I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors, and I will still miss him every time I visit campus.

*Yunuen Rodriguez*

*AA HWC, 2008*

*Beloit College Student*

*Bardwell Scholar*

## Words of Encouragement and Reassurance

I just wanted to share a few memories of the experience I had with meeting John R. Wozniak, former President of Harold Washington College. I met John a few years ago through the Bardwell Scholarship Program. I believe, in fact, that it was John who directed me to Hedy Cohen, in my need for financial assistance at the time. However great that was, my best memories are when we had our annual luncheons. Coming from a background such as mine, I am always amazed at the language and mannerisms of successful, humble people. When John was asked to come up and share a few words at the end of everyone's "testimony" about their thankfulness for being blessed through the Bardwell Scholarship Program, his words of encouragement and reassurance always moved me and gave me a sense of empowerment over my life. He always reminded us that we should be very proud of the work we were doing and had completed. He made us feel like it was meaningful and not to be taken lightly. I know that he will be missed at the college, not only for his leadership but also for his personal attention to the students that walk the halls. Thanks, John, and may the rest of your life be the best of your life!

*Anthony Foster*

*HWC*

*BA University of Phoenix*



*Daniela Changuan, John R. Wozniak and Sharon Beauregard at Phi Theta Kappa Induction 2003.*

## Welcoming Hands and Warm Reception

It is with great pleasure that I am writing these few notes addressed to John Wozniak. I met John Wozniak for the first time in the fall of 1999 when I was all alone in a foreign land, without my family, without tangible emotional and financial support from anyone. I still remember going through an ample amount of stress from the situation I was in at a time, stressing if there was anything else I could do besides praying to God for help. Luckily, or by fortune, I was introduced to Mr. Wozniak who immediately took my situation seriously and made it his priority to reach out to his friends and colleagues to lend a hand to a boy from a not so well known country at a time, located somewhere in the central region of Asia, Mongolia. Ever since that first encounter with Mr. Wozniak, I have had the opportunity to run into him several times, sometimes by chance and sometimes by appointment, and every single time I could count on his welcoming hands and warm reception. He has helped me many times afterwards, some by giving his advice, words of wisdom, motivation and encouragement, and some by simply being a good friend who always found time to listen to me.

It is a definitely a pleasure to know and be known by such a person as John Wozniak, who has a warm heart and great will to help anyone and everyone around him in every way he can. My notes may be brief, but the inner thoughts and appreciation they encompass for everything he has done for me are immeasurable.

*Saruul Ganbaatar*

*AA HWC, 2003*

*BBA Loyola University, 2004*

*Bardwell Scholar*



## Mr. Wozniak, My Lucky Charm

It all began when I first met Mr. Wozniak. I was a junior in high school. Preparing for my senior year, I was invited to an event with the City Colleges of Chicago, and Mr. Wozniak was the speaker for the event. All I can remember from the event was that, as a part of the CPFTA (Chicago Police and Firefighter Training Academy), I would be receiving a two scholarships to attend Harold Washington College. Who would have thought that attending this event would change my life forever?

The second time I saw Mr. Wozniak was at HWC, and this time I was student at the college. Anyone who has been to college can attest that the transition from high school to college is not easy. Some of the difficult things we all can agree on were the class sizes, workload, and distractions. I, for one, was lazy and not very motivated, but when I found out that I was failing a below college level English course, I realized that I was not only wasting my time but also blowing my free ride through college. I then got my act together and worked hard throughout the next few semesters. When my second year of college came, I found that I was taking classes I did not need and I was two semesters behind from obtaining an associate's degree. I also found out that the scholarship was only good for those two years. During that time I landed a part time position as an administrative assistant in the Office of International & Non Traditional Programs, assisting several administrators in the office, including Mr. Wozniak. Stressed out by not knowing what to do, I was lost and confused.

Mr. Wozniak heard about my situation and introduced me to Ms. Hedy Cohen and the Roger Bardwell Scholarship Program. I applied and not long after that, I heard from Ms. Cohen that I was accepted. From that moment on, I studied even harder and completed my AA degree in 2003, and transferred to University of Illinois at Chicago.

Ms. Cohen and Bardwell Scholarships continued to help me during the next two and a half years at UIC. I received moral support, motivation and guidance from Ms. Cohen. At the end of 2005, I mentioned to her that I was looking for an internship position to complete my requirements for graduation. She quickly thought of Mr. Wozniak and told me to reach out to him. Sure enough, I did that the very next day and Mr. Wozniak, without hesitation, told me to come into the college

where he introduced me to Mr. John Metoyer and Dr. Keenan Andrews. This led to my professional career. From intern to part time staff, I was then was promoted to Research Associate at HWC. All I could think was that this was great! Every single encounter I had with Mr. Wozniak was great news.

After two years of working at HWC, an opportunity came up. A marketing research company nearby. I wanted to apply, but I had a difficult time telling Mr. Wozniak. For all these years, he had been supporting me and helping me. With my strong sense of loyalty and having such a meaningful job, I was having the toughest time deciding whether to stay with HWC or look for new challenges in life. Then I figured that the people who supported me all these years would always want the best for me. So I went for it and applied for the position. Although I was nervous, I went to Mr. Wozniak. I told him that I was applying for this job and what he said was "That's great Johnny. I knew that this wasn't for you." At that moment, I knew he didn't mean it in a bad way. What he meant was that he knew that I would continue to challenge myself and continue to learn and grow; he was excited for me. In the end of our conversation, Mr. Wozniak said, "Johnny, let me know if I can help with anything" and I replied, "Can I put you down as a reference?" He replied, "Of course." Exactly one week later, the hiring manager at that market research company called Mr. Wozniak. I received a phone call from the company to come in for an interview, and they told me that they were very impressed with my list of references. That led me to where I am today, a Senior Analyst at major market research company.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to and thank Ms. Hedy Cohen, Mr. George Bickford, Mr. John Metoyer, Dr. Keenan Andrews, Mr. Frank Perry, and Mr. Salvador Diaz, all Roger Bardwell Scholar supporters, and a big thanks to Mr. Wozniak, my lucky charm. If it weren't for all of your kindness, support, and mentorship, I would not be where I am today.

**Johnny Phan**  
**AA HWC, 2003**  
**BA UIC, 2006**  
**Bardwell Scholar**

## I am so Grateful, John

It's a privilege to know you, President John R. Wozniak; you are a leader and a mentor to me. The first day I met you, I never knew you were the president of the school until my friend told me. Your humble character got my attention which makes me see you as someone I can emulate. You are a father and a friend to me since I met you and that has been my pleasure. I am glad I worked under your regime.

John Wozniak was loved by all students and staff working under him. He made himself available to both students and staff; he encouraged the student body and rendered full support to make sure the student body was in good shape. I have received help from him, both financial and academic wise. He believes that everyone can achieve their dreams and goals in life. Those lessons I learnt from him were very helpful to me while I was one of the student leaders at HWC. I am proud of President John Wozniak as a good leader who is worthy of emulation. He has lead and served the City of Chicago and the Chicago area.

If I was to re-choose a leader, I would choose you again and again. Thank you for all your help and support you've rendered to me during your time. All the awards and scholarships I got during your time, you knew about them all. I am grateful to have you as my mentor. I wish you an excellent journey in the rest of your career and in life. As a student body, we love you and will miss your leadership and wise counsel.

*Sunday Joseph*  
AA HWC, 2010  
DePaul student  
Bardwell Scholar

## A Great Inspiration

I want to congratulate you for your many years of hard work as a great leader for Harold Washington College. You have been a great inspiration and support system to many students. Thank you for your contributions to the Bardwell Scholarship Program. And may your future plans be met with great success.

*Andrea Scaggs*  
AA HWC, 2005  
BA NLU, 2008  
Bardwell Scholar



*John R. Wozniak and RBS O.T. Buster at graduation 2002.*

## Best Wishes

As a student and an employee, President Wozniak always offered advice and helped me along my way here at Harold Washington College. There never was a moment that I felt I couldn't go and talk to him. Every morning I always looked forward to seeing him just to say GOOD MORNING! I just want to wish him the best of luck; may he have days of laughter and happiness and a lifetime full of love.

Always,

*Lisa Ayala*  
AA HWC, 2008  
Bardwell Scholar



*Lisa Ayala accepting the part time excellence award from John R. Wozniak.*

## Setting the Bar

An organization is only as strong as its leadership. As I reflect on my days as a HWC student, I understand why I was able to matriculate to Smith College and be a very successful student. The faculty and staff here at HWC prepared me for the rigorous course work of Smith. Whether it was Myra Cox and the foundation she gave me in Child Development, Arthur Divito and his very necessary math experiments, or Donyel Williams and our work in the English department, all of my professors at HWC were chosen to teach here as a result of what you envisioned as outstanding teaching for the students of HWC. Mr. Wozniak, you set the bar for my professors, and I will be forever grateful to you and the HWC family. Specifically, I want to thank you for taking the time to make HWC a stop on your career path. In your well deserved retirement, I hope you enjoy the time you will have to spend with your immediate family. But always know that your HWC family will miss you deeply.

**Trina Coleman**  
**AA HWC, 2008**  
**Smith College student**  
**Bardwell Scholar**

### Thank you to Contributors

Bardwell Scholarships continue to prosper through your generous donations. Contributions are always appreciated, so in these difficult financial times, it is particularly encouraging to see that education remains a priority for so many. As each contribution is of significance, we list them alphabetically and equally. We acknowledge and thank these individuals who have contributed since November, 2009:

Elaine and Ray Asher	Keeley Lucas
Sid Bardwell and Sayoko Miyazaki	Brian Meister and Linda Herried
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## An Attitude to Emulate

John R. Wozniak, as President of HWC, was a friend to me in ways that may seem minor on the scales of relative position or close familiarity – but he nonetheless exuded a positive and at times critical influence on the course of my education at HWC.

The first opportunity I had to know the man beyond a hello in the hallway was at a Bardwell luncheon. John spoke for a few minutes about his memories of Roger: their shared desk at then Circle Campus, their long friendship as fellow educators, and Roger's joking critique of UIC's architecture. The typical image of a college president as someone stern or superior in their bearing could not be more at odds with the warmth and ease John evinced. He left early, running off to other duties before I could talk to him but other occasions revealed the same affable candor I saw at first. One could not imagine John having enemies, or even very harsh critics. He just seems too likable for that.

The one occasion I really needed to rely on his benevolent judgment, he proved himself true, intervening personally to help Club Des Architectes successfully make a trip to Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin home. Had he not cared enough to listen to our problem and offer up solutions, my classmates' and my own hopes would have been dashed. But President Wozniak didn't let us down, and we were able make our pilgrimage.

Then of course, how could we architectural students forget the green roof project? John Madsen, Ivan Tejada and Dolores Ochoa helped a revolving crew of architecture students develop a plan for HWC that may soon become a constructed reality. Again, that door would not likely have opened without John Wozniak's trusting and zealous support.

My memories and regard for John's tenure as president might best be summed up by the last paragraph of an open letter I wrote the man himself:

“Let me compliment you yourself, dear John Wozniak, on piloting such a blessed ship, and for keeping your ears and your door open, against all stereotypical expectations of a ‘big man upstairs.’ I'm fairly ignorant of academic politics, etc., but your friendliness toward students and staff alike, as well as your progressive attitude toward the future of HWC “have earned you high marks with everyone I've heard offer comment on your administration. If I ever find myself in a position of such high trust, yours will be one attitude I will try my best to emulate.”

**W. David Work**  
**AA HWC, 2010**  
**Bardwell Scholar**

*A final RBS story of determination and inspiration.....*

## **In Gratitude**

**B**ack in Maine in the 1950's, I struggled with school starting in kindergarten. I actually had to be coaxed away from my mother's hand by the teacher, Mrs. Osgood, telling me that my dad had designed the classroom just for me. I believed her since he was an architect. I had polio that year, missed a lot of school and felt that I had to catch up ever since.

I decided not to go to college after high school because I had no direction and was just trying to make it through the end of the 60's. At seventeen I left home and got a job as a nurses' aide in Boston. After three years in various jobs, I moved back to an island in Maine and spent ten hard working years as the first lobster woman in the area. I designed a house on that island and built it with my first husband.

When I left the island, I moved to New York City to try to get my life back under control. After a few years I realized that I needed to continue my education and attended Hunter College. I found out that I was smart! I still had a hard time finding the direction to go with my studies though I did try out the teaching program and worked in East Harlem student teaching. I was discouraged with some of the teaching practices and dropped out of that program. Next, I got married, had a baby and dropped out of school. I found it hard to switch my brain between taking care of my baby and studying. I chose to enjoy taking care of my baby and later had a second one.

I met Hedy when I moved to Evanston and she encouraged me to go back to school to continue my studies, as did a number of my friends. She told me about the Bardwell Scholarship Fund and I applied to Northeastern Illinois University. I began writing there and soon dropped out again to confront some life problems. Eventually, I left the Midwest and moved to California to once again be by the ocean.

Searching for the next step in my life, I found my way back to college and completed my bachelor's degree at New College of California. I had amazing professors who encouraged my writing, and I created a chapbook of poems and songs for my degree. I then went on to the graduate program in Creative Inquiry for my Master of Fine Arts. Although New College went under, my program was taken on by California Institute of Integral

Studies, and I graduated from there with a book that I had started back in Illinois. I graduated at sixty, and am now doing a rewrite of my book so that I can get the story published. It is about an island in Maine!

I thank Hedy for believing in me and for her dedication to helping those who need a hand. I remember Roger and feel his light shining on, as each one of us who receive from the Scholarship get to take our next steps and in turn reach out to help others.

*Debby Bates*

*BA New College of CA, 2007*

*MFA CA Institute of Integral Studies, 2009*

*Bardwell Scholar*



*Debby Bates with her sons Owen and Keith Willis.*



Did you know that people can make donations in many different ways? RBS has been privileged to receive the gift of time and service from several generous people. We would especially like to thank Kate LeVan and Anna Fedyshyn for working with individual Bardwell "graduates". By sharing their own professional expertise, Kate and Anna have enabled these students to be more confident as they navigate their own professional paths.

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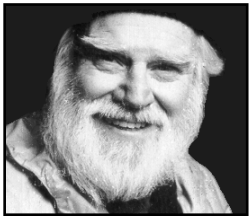
*Fridays nights at 7:30 pm*

*Tune in every week, but especially on  
January 28, 2011, when Bardwell Scholars will be featured.*

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.)*

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***[www.bardwellscholarship.org](http://www.bardwellscholarship.org)***

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