

Harold Washington College  
One of the City Colleges of Chicago

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# Transfer- Mation



AN INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTER FOR THE TRANSFER  
CENTER AT HAROLD WASHINGTON COLLEGE

## FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

### *A note from the Transfer Center Director*

Hello fabulous students, advisors, administrators, faculty, and staff of Harold Washington College. Welcome to Transfer-Mation, the Fall 2017 edition of the Harold Washington College Transfer Center Newsletter! This publication offers tips for making a seamless transfer from HWC to four-year institutions and alumni updates about the success that your classmates have achieved after graduation from the City Colleges of Chicago.

We call the newsletter "Transfer-Mation" for two reasons. First, it provides you with transfer information. Second, it celebrates each student's personal "transformation" as they pursue their education. HWC students are continually growing and changing. This growth will continue beyond CCC as well.

We at the City Colleges of Chicago are proud of our students, and this newsletter highlights their accomplishments personally, professionally, and academically. We look forward to our students earning degrees, jobs, and accolades throughout their entire lives!

**-Ellen Goldberg, Transfer Center Director**  
egoldberg1@ccc.edu

### Transfer Center Services

Located at Harold Washington College in Room 1139  
Students can do the following:

- Make an appointment to talk about transferring to four-year institutions.
- Get an unlimited number of application fee waivers for your transfer destinations. To qualify for waivers, the Estimated Family Contribution for Financial Aid should be zero. (However, exceptions can be made.)
- Learn about scholarships and other funding opportunities after graduating from CCC.
- Attend workshops that help you in every step of your transfer process.



*This is the HWC Transfer Team for Fall 2017.  
It consisted of Rachel Cabrzyński,  
Alysandra Cruz-Bond, Ellen Goldberg, and  
Paul Castillo (Not pictured is Cindy Kokuma!)*

# Alumni Updates



In January 2016, I transferred to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to pursue a degree in Communication Studies to help me prepare for a career in ministry working with underprivileged young women.

I stayed on campus during my studies and the whole experience was so rewarding. I and a

group of residents at my dorm were friends for the entire time I was there. I didn't have any nightmare professors and they all loved me.

I got married July 22, 2017, and I completed my degree on August 7, 2017 after three online classes. Commencement took place on December 23, 2017. I walked across the stage as Brittany King-Pulliam.

I'm so thankful to HWC for giving me the jumpstart that I really needed to succeed at Illinois. The support you all showed me was phenomenal, and I learned so much.

I currently work as a Point of Contact at All American Essentials in Livonia, MI. I spend my days communicating with some of the company's most lucrative accounts and making sure they get everything they need.

My life isn't a breeze but it is extremely blessed! I am abundantly grateful to God for perfectly measured of steps and leaps to help me mature and grow as a person.

*-Brittany King-Pulliam, Spring 2016*

After graduating from HWC with an AA in 2012, I transferred to Mount Holyoke College and earned a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology and philosophy. This May, I will graduate with an Master of Arts in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley. The past two years in this program have been challenging but fun! I spent three months in the Peruvian Amazon doing ethnographic fieldwork for a project that looked at how knowledge of traditional medicine is made. I also learned about the demands of teaching, working as a Teaching Assistant with 80 undergraduate students each semester. And the highlight may have been working as a graduate student speaker, presenting simplified versions of my research to middle school, high school and community college classes in the Bay Area. In the fall of 2018, I'll begin a Ph.D. program in cultural anthropology at the University of Chicago, where I received a fellowship to research alternative treatments for opiate addiction in the Northeastern US. I'll miss the California weather, but am excited to come back to Chicago where this whole journey began.

*-Tracy Brannstrom, Spring 2018*

I graduated from Smith College in December with a degree in engineering. I live and work in New England as a software engineer at an Aerospace company.

*-Sara Callahan*



# Alumni Updates



**Jolaade Adesibikan** transferred to the University of Virginia in the Fall 2017.

I transferred to DePaul University fall of 2017, and I couldn't be happier with my choice! Everyone at DePaul is so helpful, and they have a lot of resources for their students. It wouldn't have been possible without Harold Washington College! I'm always confident that the first two years of my studies there prepared me well for DePaul. In addition, I joined the DePaul Accounting Club last quarter and have met a lot of professionals from different accounting firms. Being able to do this helped me gain more perspective on the industry.

I recently finished going through the winter internship recruitment process for public accounting. After a couple of interviews, it came down to two very reputable firms. I am so happy to share that I have decided to go with Ernst and Young YAY! The best part is this is only the beginning!

**-Lou Stephamae Sarangaya, Spring 2014**



**Richard Greenfield**

I graduated from Illinois State University with my Bachelor of Science Degree cum laude, majoring in Political Science.

I now work for Illinois State University in the Office of the President as the Governmental Relations Associate. In this role, I work with the director of Governmental Relations to advocate for Illinois State University Springfield and Washington D.C.

**-Richard Greenfield, Spring 2015**

I will be attending The University of the Arts grad program in Book Arts and Printmaking with a Trustee's Scholarship that covers half of my tuition (49%, to be exact)! Sorry for the last minute update, but I'm in the thick of midterm thesis reviews here at Maryland Institute College of Art.

**-Lee Bowen, Summer 2015**

**Transfer Center**  
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# *Alumni Luncheon for Out-of-State Transfers that we hosted last Summer 2017.*



***Jolaade Adesibikan with Shelley Lemons, District Director of Transfer Programs and Services. Jolaade transferred to the University of Virginia.***



***Daniel Betancourt, Christopher Jean, Athena Guizar, and Ian Griffiths transferred to NYC! Daniel, Christopher and Athena are at Columbia and Ian is at City University of New York.***



***All of these rockstars transferred out-of state to the top schools in the nation! YAY!***



***Mariya Chukhnova and Daniel Dantes who transferred to Columbia University***



***Maris Karner transferred to Wellesley College.***



These Five Rockstars transferred to women's colleges in Massachusetts. They are (from left to right) Kimberly Barrios (Wright College Student), Yuliya Lavysh, Vanessa Morales, April Graham, and Miralini Pandey. Kimberly, Yuliya, and Vanessa transferred to Smith College. Mirilini transferred to Mount Holyoke College. April will graduate this year from Mount Holyoke College, and she came to the luncheon to talk to the new transfer students about their new dream schools.



This is Jessica Skondin who was not able to attend the luncheon due to already having moved to attend Smith College. She was one of the four students in the City Colleges who transferred to Smith in Fall 2017.



Here are the four Harold Washington College Rockstars that transferred in Fall 2017 to Smith College. They are (from left to right) Vanessa Morales, Jessica Skondin, Yuliya Lavysh and Paige Patrick!

We ♥ our  
Rockstar  
Alumni!

# Memories of Fall 2017



Paul Sereno was the keynote speaker at the City Colleges Transfer-Mation Leadership Conference this year. He is a Paleontologist from the University of Chicago. He is pictured here with Alysandra Cruz-Bond, a Rockstar College Advisor and her mom Thelma Bond who are longtime friends of Professor Sereno and who asked him to speak at the conference. He really wowed the crowd!



Ashabi Owagboriaye is a Harold Washington College Rockstar. She graduated with her Associate in Arts and graduated from Northeastern Illinois University with her Bachelor's in Psychology and stopped by to visit her former advisor, Charles McSweeney, and the Transfer Center Director, Ellen Goldberg. Alumni will always have a home at HWC! YAY!



November 21, 2017, the Transfer Center held a Transfer 101 Workshop for the Night Student Advocates (NSA). They are a student club that supports students who go to school mostly at night. It was an amazing group!



This Fall 2017, the Transfer Center at Malcolm X College hosted a campus visit of our STAR Scholars to visit Northwestern University. In the spirit of collaboration, the Harold Washington College Transfer Center sent six HWC STAR Scholars to join the trip!

# Memories of Fall 2017

The Harold Washington College Transfer Center has a lot for which to be grateful!

We host the Transfer Leadership Class (TLC) two times per semester! It is designed to help students transfer all over the United States and Illinois to the top schools in the nation and to get funding! Here are photos of our graduates.



Fall 2017 Session 1



Fall 2017 Session 2

## *“If I knew then what I know now.”*

This is a phrase I have often heard people use in speaking of their life. I have used it myself. We use it because it refers to our reflecting on the things we have done in life and our acknowledgement of what we would have done differently if we had been afforded the luxury of foresight. I use that phrase sometimes when I speak of my relationship with Harold Washington College (HWC). At the beginning of my time with HWC, I was not aware of the historical significance this institution would have in Chicago. I could not understand the impact that the educational experience at HWC would have on further studies. I could not foresee how the road to my career would be built on the principles and structures forged at HWC. If I knew then what I know now, I would have been more attentive and more involved. I would have taken greater advantage of the opportunities placed before me.



In 1987, I graduated from Loop College. But, for good reasons, I have no need to mourn its passing. That same year, the school was renamed to honor Mayor Harold Washington who had died in office. So, while the school whose name is on my degree no longer exists, it has given rise to an impressive institution that I have the right to claim as my alma mater. I am a graduate and Alumnus of Harold Washington College. Take that to the bank!

While at Loop College, I met and worked with a strong group of young people (mainly through Phi Theta Kappa) who helped me to see the importance of making my life count in every way and on every day. These young people were progressive, insightful and bright. I also had the privilege of being ‘schooled’ by professors who did not spare tongue nor pen in keeping me guided and focused. Because of the strong connection I forged with folks at Loop College, I returned in 1988 to HWC to work as a tutor and conversation coach for international

*continued on page 8...*

## “If I knew then what I know now.” continued

students. Upon completion of my Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics at Northeastern Illinois University, I returned to my native country, Belize, to teach and mentor young people. There it became clear to me that while I had paid a lot of attention to the formal education I was receiving in Chicago, I had given little thought to the indirect training (life lessons) I had been a part of through those years. Loop-Harold Washington College had given me an opportunity to interact with people of multiple nations, lifestyles and a myriad of belief systems I had not been exposed to before I left Belize. That interaction had shown me how to respect, honor and celebrate the differences I recognized in others while teaching me to be proud of who I am. In my new role as an educator in Belize, I was being asked (no, I was expected) to embody tolerance, understanding and good citizenry. I had been well prepared.

In 1997, I completed a Master’s degree in Computer Science at Loyola University-Chicago. While studying at Loyola, I returned to HWC as a tutor and adjunct instructor. During that period, I worked with one of HWC’s senior professors to investigate academic persistence and performance in adult learners with educational disadvantages. As I watched the struggles of the young adults who were participating in our project, I realized the massive impact that good advice and positive modeling had on my life. These young people were bursting with the potential to succeed but they struggled to see the promise that accompanied their pursuit of success. I listened to their stories and learned about their challenges. I realized how critical it was to help them frame the stumbles and falls of their youth to form stepping stones and pathways to a new view of life and the possibility for success. But these young people had jobs, bills to pay, children to care for, and aging parents to support. They did not have the luxury of endless study time and an active campus life. Things had to be done on a different day. We had to change our marketing and we had to redesign our product. We had

to make the student the center of all that we were doing: a true student-centered approach. The team from HWC rose to the challenge. Together, we crafted an approach to teaching that centered on keeping the student engaged and involved. It was an exciting adventure for all of us. I wanted to keep working with the HWC student body. I decided that someday I would return to participate in this effort in a more effective way.

In 2008, I returned to HWC as a College Advisor. This role has placed me in a position where I could function as a teacher, tutor, mentor, therapist, life coach, sibling and even parent all in one day. It is a ‘calling’ or vocation much more than it is a job. I get to work with the struggling student and see his/her progress over time. I



*Charles and Bobbie Bowman*

get to bask in the success of the high achieving student, and I am afforded frequent opportunities to engage students in non-academic

but life-changing discussions. It is a fully packed, high intensity, deeply rewarding role.

I look back at my time at Loop and at HWC and think of how fortunate I was to have come to this school at a time where I would be blessed to have tasted of the old and would then get to embrace the new. I have been a student at Loop-HWC. I have becoming a proud Graduate and Alumnus. I am now a part of the workforce at HWC. This journey has taught me so much about life, mentorship, and giving back. It is wonderful to be able to reflect and still be able to say with great pride that this is MY school and it always will be!

*Charles McSweeney MSc.  
College Advisor,  
Harold Washington College*



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