

SPRING 2016 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 Spring 2016 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.



Alumni Updates

Students Share Their Success and Inspirational Stories

Igraduated from NEIU last December with a degree in Political Science. Aside from that, I currently serve as an AmeriCorps volunteer at Project YES!, located in the Northwestern Settlement House. Our focus is youth, education and service. To promote this, I am an assistant teacher in 9th grade Algebra, 10th grade Geometry and 12th grade College Writing.

-Cydni Hinton, HWC 2012

Ttransferred from HWC to Mount Holyoke College Lin early 2013, where I studied anthropology and philosophy for two years. It was a wonderful experience!! The school awarded me with a nearly full tuition scholarship from within their Frances Perkins program for 'non traditional' women over the age of 24. I am now working as a newspaper reporter in central Vermont, and I teach sewing lessons to kids on the weekends. In the fall, I will begin graduate study at the University of California, Berkeley, for which I was awarded a full-tuition fellowship. In their cultural anthropology department, I will conduct a field study in the Peruvian Amazon, looking at how traditional medical systems are changing as the jungle becomes more and more modernized. Can't wait! -Tracy Brannstrom, HWC 2012

fter completing my Bachelor's of General Studies last May through the fantastic program at Eastern Illinois University, I immediately applied to Roosevelt University. I am happy to say that I enrolled last fall, and I just wrapped up my second semester this week. I will graduate May, 2017 ,with a Master of Arts in Teaching with a Type 03 (Elementary Education) Certificate. I hope to volunteer a few days this summer with the children's reading clinic the university holds each year. I can truly say that after graduating from HWC in 2009, I have remained focused and worked hard to continue my studies. I am so thankful for the time spent at HWC; as you can see, the college really prepared me!

-Leonetta Clark, HWC 2009

Just checked my application status for UIC, and it now says, "You have been admitted!" It's the best day ever!

-Rey LaMadrid, HWC 2016

ife at Wellesley is really wonderful! I have Lebeen really involved in electing our alum, Hillary Clinton, to office and have even gotten to meet her a few times. I also have been dancing with Harvard Ballet Company since my first week and it has been such a godsend. The company is made up of different former professional dancers from Harvard, MIT (where I am taking a class next semester), and Wellesley. We perform at Harvard next week. I am particularly excited right now because I obtained the school's Global Engagement Grant, which will fund an internship of my choosing this summer (looks like I am going to be working in politics, as well as in theatre here in Boston). I have one more bit of exciting news: I won first place for the Wellesley College English Department Prize, which was such a great surprise in my second semester. Hope all is well.

-Lilly Strieder, HWC 2015

I am enjoying my time at UIC, and am currently looking for an internship over the summer or part time job. I am most proud of maintaining a good standing in my math class, which had a huge lecture component.

-Ryan Melendez, HWC 2015

Today, I received word that I was accepted into IIT for my undergrad in Computer Science. In addition, the university has awarded me the Presidential Scholarship!

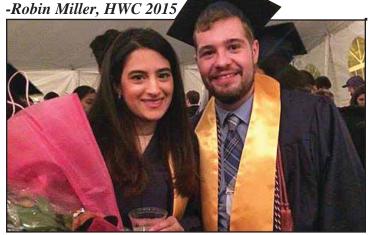
-Matt Higbee, HWC 2016



Alumni Updates Continued

Tcompleted my first year at Mount Holyoke LCollege, which has been the most challenging experience of my life. I can't even formulate the proper words to explain the rigor [or intimidation] that comes with studying and working alongside world-renowned professors that are the top scholars in their discipline. I have completely transformed as a result. I worked incredibly hard and remained focused earning all As spring semester. I was elected president of my scholarship association, and I'll be conducting research on black gentrification and housing politics with one of my professors while working on an independent study regarding the intersection between Hip Hop and geography with one of my deans, and a professor from Northeastern University. For all that have called, e-mailed, visited, picked me up off the floor (yes, it was that real) or sent me some love---THANK YOU. I made it through with your support #love #HWC #MHC #FP #scholarinthemaking -April Graham, HWC 2015

I am very happy to tell you that I received an e-mail today stating my admittance to the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design at University of Michigan-Ann Arbor as a transfer student for Fall, 2016. As reflected on College Board, only 35% of transfer students who apply are admitted, so I'm sure you can understand my excitement. Best regards from one of your rockstar students.



Shout out to the HWC rockstar alumnus, Michael Halpin (pictured here with his friend Humaa)! He graduated in Spring 2016 from the UlC with his bachelor's in Political Science and has his sights set on law school! Way to go, Michael! You do so many things every day to make the world a better place! We are all so proud of you! #rockstar



Sarah Tusing is a transfer rock star! She transferred to Roosevelt University for Fall 2015 to study Music Education and Vocal Performance. She left her legacy at Harold Washington College as she served as Secretary of the HWC Student Government Association and as both the President and Vice President of the Pride Alliance. She was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and Inspired Creative Expression (ICE). Sarah would like to thank the amazing people she met at HWC for her success. Damon Washington, Student Activities Director, Wendell Blair, Dean of Student Services, Lindy Buglio-Simons, music coach, and her awesome professors, Adriana Tápanes-Inojosa and Sarah Kakumanu. She got several scholarships at RU including a 5K Music Scholarship and PTK Scholarship. Go Sarah! YOU ROCK and inspire!



Shout out to the awesome Jose Vazquez, HWC Alumnus! He graduated from the UlC with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences! Here, he is pictured with his proud father! Way to go, Jose! You rock and INSPIRE.

Spring 2016 City Colleges Spring Break College Tour

Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 7:30 a.m., the 33 students from the City Colleges of Chicago Spring Break College Tour left Chicago bound for 6 Schools in Tennessee and Mississippi. It was a life-changing trip for all!







The CCC college tour group at Tennessee State University (TSU)

Harold Washington College had two students who attended the awesome City Colleges Spring Break College Tour. The picture includes (from left to right), Ellen Goldberg, Transfer Center Director of HWC, Evan Gilbert, and Daniel Vales. They both came back truly transformed by the trip!

HWC Success Stories



Eileen Bowen is a Harold Washington College Rockstar! She graduated in Summer 2015 with her Associate of Fine Arts in Studio Art. She transferred to the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore, Maryland, one of the best art schools in the nation, on an almost full-ride scholarship! Her major is Illustration with a concentration in Book Art. Eileen was a leader on campus as the Secretary of the Pride Alliance and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She loved her time at HWC and attributes her success to many, including her amazing college advisor, Laura Clark (pictured on left), her rockstar art department professors, Rick Repasky, Jelena Berenc, Jessica Taylor Caponigro, Paul Wandless, and Vassilen Vasevski, her Humanities professors, Erica McCormack and Jennifer Wilson, her English/ Literature Professors, Elisabeth Greer and Kristin Bivens, and the Transfer Director, Ellen Goldberg. As you can see, Eileen has a big heart and is grateful to everyone at HWC! We are so proud of you, Eileen! You rock and INSPIRE!





Yichun (Maggie) Cheng is a Harold Washington College Rockstar! She graduated with her Associate of Arts Degree in Fall 2015 and transferred this Spring 2016 to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) to major in Photography. In fact, she received a merit-based scholarship from SAIC due to the high quality of her portfolio! When asked who helped her achieve success at HWC, she gave shout outs to her rockstar advisor, Rachel Cabrzynski (pictured on left), her awesome Photography Professors, Thomas Shirley and Stephanie Burke, her Photo Tutors, Tressa O'Brien and Leo Hernandez, and her ESL and English Professors, Michal Eskayo and Elisabeth Greer. Way to go, Maggie! You rock and INSPIRE!

Omar Aboalnadie is a total and complete Harold Washington College Rockstar! He graduated this Spring 2016 with his Associate in General Studies and will be transferring this Fall 2016 to the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) to study Civil Engineering! Omar was a leader on campus as he was the Public Relations Person for the Student Government Association, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and a member of the STEM Club. When asked who were the people in the City Colleges of Chicago that helped him achieve success, he gave shout outs to his rockstar College Advisor, Ainka Clepper (pictured on right), and to his awesome professors, Domenico Ferri and Nedjla Ougouag, and to the Transfer Center Director, Ellen Goldberg. Way to go, Omar! You rock and INSPIRE! You make everyone at HWC and CCC extremely proud.

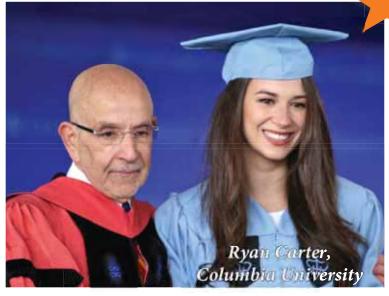
HWC Alumni that graduated with their bachelor's degrees! Woohoo!

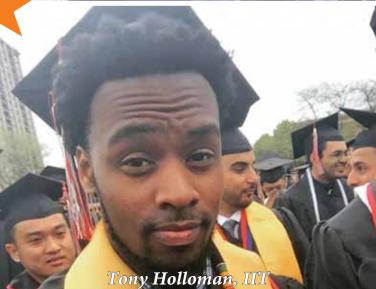












More HWC Alumni that graduated with their bachelor's degrees! Woohoo!

I transferred from HWC to Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts in the Fall of 2014 with help and support from amazing HWC faculty and staff, particularly Ellen Goldberg, Dave Richardson, Erica McCormack, and Marta Lacorte. This spring, I completed my bachelor's degree magna cum laude with a major in biology and a minor in computer science. I've just started my new job as a junior web developer for Common Media in Hadley, MA, where I had an internship over the Summer of 2015. I have greatly enjoyed my time there, and I'm happy that they will be allowing me to work remotely so I can move back to Chicago in August. Can't wait to go home!



-Janelle Thorson, HWC 2014

Shout out to the rockstar Harold Washington College Alumna, Susann Louise Olofsson, who graduated this Spring 2016 from the Columbia University School of General Studies! Here she is pictured with her proud mom! Way to go, Louise! You rock and INSPIRE! HWC 2013



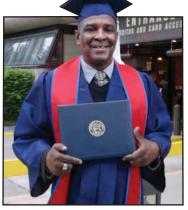


Good News from Vanessa Mannings! Thanks for sharing this, Vanessa.

"Harold Washington College 2010 grad here. Transferred to Robert Morris University, then on to John Marshall Law School. I am proud to say, I am now a law school grad. I will be sitting for the Illinois Bar Exam this July."

We at HWC are so proud of you, Vanessa. You are a total Harold Washington College Rockstar!

An Open Letter to New Harold Washington College Students By James Barnett



So you've made the decision to start college. Congratulations on making a decision that will increase your chances of success in the future. Maybe you're a little apprehensive about this new journey; maybe you've heard that it's difficult and

demanding. The very first thing I would tell anyone starting college is "YOU CAN DO IT! Yes, you can!" No matter what your challenges might be, there are resources to help you surmount those difficulties.

The City Colleges of Chicago will not set you up for failure. Because the faculty and staff want you to succeed, they will start you out on the level that you can handle. The staff will test you to determine if you need remedial courses before starting courses for graduation credit. If you do need remediation, these classes will help prepare you to work at a higher level.

Your academic advisor is there to help you navigate towards a degree that will help you in your career choice. Before registering for classes, be sure to discuss your choices with your academic advisor and enlisting his or her help. He or she will help you to choose classes that will lead to a degree. You don't want to end up taking a bunch of classes and not have met degree requirements.

If there is something in class that you are having trouble understanding, tutoring is available for every subject. I know this first-hand! I started with remedial math courses and used tutoring throughout my entire time at Harold Washington. What's more, I found that the tutors enjoy helping and generally don't get frustrated if they have to explain the subject matter to you more than once.

If you have physical challenges such as visual impairment, hearing impairment, or even if you have a learning disability, The City Colleges has a Disability

Access Center (DAC) that will facilitate your ability to succeed in the classroom in spite of those difficulties. The DAC is equipped with the proper technology and a knowledgeable and understanding staff to assist students with most documented challenges.

I would also urge incoming students to explore the many extra-curricular activities the school has to offer. These clubs and organizations are opportunities to increase your ability to work with a team to achieve goals, to build a network, gain valuable experience in how business is conducted in the real world, and often have fun at the same time.

For those who may need a little extra financial help, there is an opportunity for work/study. This is an excellent opportunity to work part-time in one of the school's departments where it is recognized and respected that your classes take top priority. You would be earning extra money while you're in school and building your resume at the same time.

What I won't tell you, however, is that succeeding in college is easy. It is work and must be approached and respected as such. College is adult education, and being an adult is work. Your education must be right up at the top of your priority list if not on the very top. This means not getting side-tracked by people, places, and things that are not conducive to reaching your goal (That Degree!). This means studying as long and as hard as it takes for you to grasp whatever assignment you might be working on.

Believe me, though, in the end college is worth every bit of struggle and sacrifice it takes to finish. Through my investment in school, I have gained not only the degrees, but friendships and acquaintances that I will value for a lifetime. Even more importantly, I gained the knowledge that yes, "I can do it!"

James Barnett is a 2012 graduate of HWC who went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2014 and is currently working on a master's degree in social work at UIC's Jane Addams College of Social Work.



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