



Christel Blomqvist

## Special Gifts Campaign Nears \$3 Million Goal

The Special Gifts Campaign, now in its third year, received an unprecedented number of gifts in cash and pledges during the last two months of 1986, according to Bertha Boschwitz Leubsdorf, chair of the Campaign. More than \$250,000 came in during that period, bringing the Campaign's total to more than \$2.1 million or more than two-thirds of its \$3 million goal.

The following people and companies made new gifts of \$10,000 or more to the Campaign or added to already existing gifts: Bertha Boschwitz Leubsdorf, Mildred Thaler Cohen, Leona Feifer Chanin and Marcy Chanin, Dr. Reva Fine Holtzman, Virginia Levitt Snitow, Dr. Ruth Goldstein Weintraub, Helene Goldfarb, Dr. Phyllis Caroff, Judge Dorothea Donaldson, Lester del Rey, Diana McIlvaine, AT&T, R. H. Macy Company, and two anonymous donors.

In addition to these large gifts, smaller gifts were made to the Playhouse Campaign, which many donors supported by naming a Playhouse seat for \$1,000.

If you are interested in more information about the Special Gifts Campaign or in naming a seat in the Playhouse, please contact Pauline Chapman, Director of the Special Gifts Campaign, (212) 772-4068.

## \* SEEK Program Enters 21st Year

John Sepulveda holds a doctorate from Yale, and heads a community development corporation in Connecticut. Jean Sindab also holds a Yale doctorate. Bernadette Walker is the dean of students at Long Island University. And Felix Diaz is a senior official with the New York State Division of Youth.

All four of these successful professionals are native New Yorkers. All are graduates of Hunter College from the 1970s. Most strikingly, all entered Hunter through SEEK, the City University's bold educational opportunity program for severely disadvantaged students, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

SEEK, an acronym for Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge, was mandated by the State Legislature in 1966 as a response to growing pressure for better representation of disadvantaged minorities at CUNY's other four-year colleges. To get into Hunter or City or Queens in those days, applicants had to have a high school average of 85 or better, which locked out many students whose academic progress had been slowed by educational or economic disadvantages.

For a thousand or so such applicants each year, SEEK promised two great opportunities: the chance to get into one of the four-year schools, and the support services—individual counseling, tutoring, remedial

instruction, and a modest stipend—to help them stay there.

During the next two decades, SEEK was to be rocked by several major storms—in the early years, allegations of mismanagement; later, the trauma of New York City's fiscal crisis; and most recently, the less visible threat of absorption into CUNY's regular remedial and support programs.

But it has weathered all of them, and today, with about 10,000 students enrolled University-wide, the program has never been more secure. Nowhere is it more vigorous than at Hunter, where an experienced staff of 51 instructors and counselors work daily (including many periods when the College is not in regular session) with Hunter's 1,760 SEEK participants.

Andrew Robinson, who has headed the department of academic skills (Hunter's name for its SEEK program) since 1981, attributes the strength of SEEK at Hunter today to the "tremendous support given the program by the central administration," including president Shalala and provost Tilden LeMelle, who headed SEEK for several years in the 1970s. (A symbol of this support, an observer points out, is the prime space SEEK occupies in one of the College's dramatic towers.)

Another reason—not foreseen by most of those who were around at the program's

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## New Session Brings Changes In Legislature

The leadership of the Assembly of the State Legislature, which determines funding for Hunter and The City University of New York, has changed this year due to the retirement of Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink.

Brooklyn Assemblyman Melvin Miller is the new Speaker, and Assemblyman Edward C. Sullivan of Manhattan has replaced Mark Alan Siegel, also of Manhattan, as chair of the Higher Education Committee.

An interview with Mark Alan Siegel, who represents Hunter's district and whose support of educational initiatives has been instrumental for Hunter and CUNY, will be carried in the next issue of *At Hunter*, scheduled for publication this June.



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President Shalala shows Assemblyman Edward C. Sullivan the library's computer terminals during a tour of Hunter's main campus.

## First Lecture In Annual Series Now In Print

"Storm Over the Supreme Court," last year's Albert H. Blumenthal Memorial Lecture in the department of political science, delivered on February 13, 1986 by Archibald Cox, is now available in print.

Cox, professor emeritus at Harvard Law School and current chair of Common Cause, writes about the Court's history of controversy and the issue of Constitutional "intent." Past Solicitor General of the United States during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, Cox directed the Watergate Special Prosecution Force in 1973 and has published widely on issues of American Constitutional law and the Supreme Court.

The Albert H. Blumenthal Memorial Lectures, given each year at Hunter, are open to the public without charge and are made possible by the friends and family of Albert H. Blumenthal.

For a copy of "Storm Over the Supreme Court," write to Pat Falk, Director of Community Relations, Box 373, Hunter College, 695 Park Ave., NYC, NY 10021.

### SEEK (Continued from page 1)

genesis—has been the emergence of a unique identity and *esprit de corps* among the faculty. For example, SEEK's writing instructors, Robinson says, "see themselves as developmental educators, rather than as literature specialists teaching developmental courses."

This is a radical departure from the earlier image of the remedial instructor as a resentful research scholar, displaced from his or her traditional academic discipline because of falling enrollments. It also accounts, Robinson believes, for the high quality and energy of remedial instruction in Hunter's SEEK program. Most of the faculty are members of a national or local professional association, and are actively engaged in developmental education research. Several—under a program Robinson hopes to initiate soon, funds permitting—will be enrolling next fall in the nation's only doctoral program in developmental education, at Grambling State University in Louisiana. Others are already enrolled in local doctoral programs.

Hunter's program has also won recognition beyond the College. On March 6, in New Orleans, Robinson received the Out-

standing Program Award from the National Association for Developmental Education, the field's highest honor.

The picture is not uniformly rosy. Perhaps the most persistent problem is the high drop-out rate among SEEK students—reflecting both the heavy economic and family burdens many of them carry, and the arduousness of the path to a degree for students whose first year or more of college must be spent in remedial instruction, most of which earns no academic credit. Robinson is also concerned about the College's inability to track what has happened to those students who dropped out and to set in motion programs to "reclaim" some of those students whose academic or other problems might be solved.

Unresolved challenges aside, SEEK has certainly vindicated the faith of its early supporters. As Julius C.C. Edelstein, CUNY's former vice-chancellor for urban affairs and an architect of SEEK back in the 1960s, says today: "SEEK takes students who are at greatest risk and introduces them to the world of education. Those who graduate do better than any others of their background who chose any other career path. Even those who do not complete the course find their lives—and those of their children—changed forever."