



# SEO Scholars Program

Fall 2008

Program Update

## THANK YOU TO 2007-2008 SCHOLARS PROGRAM SUPPORTERS

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Trust

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The Xerox Foundation

## Class of 2008 Graduation

### Students awarded \$650,000 in Scholarships for first year

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, in a ceremony generously hosted by Lehman Brothers, 46 NYC public high school seniors graduated from the Scholars Program.

This fall, 63% of the Scholars Class of 2008 are attending a college ranking Most, Highly or Very Competitive. Colleges include **Bates, Bowdoin, Cornell, Duke, NYU, Occidental, Skidmore, Smith and Swarthmore.**

The **Class of 2008** has been awarded more than **\$650,000 in grants and scholarships** for their first year of college, including

awards from the Charles Hayden Foundation, the Posse Foundation and Questbridge.

SEO Scholar Mariel Bazil, who is attending Skidmore College, was awarded the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship, a 10-year award for undergraduate and graduate study.



*Scholars Raquel Paulino, Ebony Thomas and Angelina Leon are all smiles at SEO Graduation*

## Summer Programming

Forty-five rising 12th graders participated in summer enrichment programs abroad and in academic and leadership programs in the United States. One hundred thirty-six rising 9th and 10th grade Scholars attended the 3-week SEO Summer Academy, which featured 90 hours of intensive instruction in Math,

Critical Reading, Critical Writing, Grammar and Vocabulary.

The goal of the Summer Academy is to build core skills in areas essential to student success in high school, college and career. Classes are held in space donated by the NYU School of Law.



## Meet the Scholars



Scholars created storyboards to illustrate details of the program curriculum.

Time Warner's Conference Center was the setting for a 'Meet the Scholars' reception on June 19<sup>th</sup>. More than 100 guests, including foundation and corporate representatives, SEO alumni and board members had an opportunity to meet SEO Scholars and

hear directly from them about their experiences at SEO and their future aspirations.

We are grateful to Lisa Quiroz, Dan Osheyack and the Time Warner Office of Corporate Responsibility for underwriting the reception.

## SEO College Admissions Summit



Goldman Sachs Foundation President Stephanie Bell-Rose provided a funders perspective at the SEO College Admissions Summit.

The SEO College Admissions Summit, funded by the Goldman Sachs Foundation, was held on July 18<sup>th</sup> at NYU. The 75 guests included college admissions and financial aid representatives, members of the New York City College Prep Coalition, other college prep organizations and experts in higher education.

Dr. Jennifer Engle of the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education

discussed *The Double Whammy of Disadvantage*: the challenges facing students who both come from low-income families and are first generation college students. These students have high risk factors that diminish college success.

Dr. Jason Klugman of Princeton University spoke on *Creating Successful First Generation Scholars in Selective Colleges*.

## NYU Law School Partnership



Scholars and faculty enjoy the state of the art learning facility at NYU School of Law.

To help meet the Scholars Program goal of instilling high aspirations in our students, NYU School of Law generously provides space for the SEO Saturday Academy and Summer Session.

In addition to being on the campus of a world-renowned

university, Scholars students and faculty get the advantages of holding classes in well-appointed multi-media classrooms.

NYU's donation of space was valued at \$195,000 for the 2007-2008 school year.