Duke Scholar and Publisher Move to Her ‘Crush School’

By PETER MONAGHAN

THE GRADUATE CENTER of the City University of New York has attracted one of the country’s academic power couples, Cathy N. Davidson and Ken Wis- soker.

Both are among the most desirable hires in their fields. They will take up new positions in July at the center, which offers some 40 doctoral and master’s programs, in such fields as anthropology, chem- istry, and urban education.

Ms. Davidson, at Duke University, is a leading interdisciplinary and learning-innovation scholar. Mr. Wis- soker, who joined Duke University Press in 1991, has been in charge of its editorial operations since 1997. The press has built its reputation in such fields as cultural studies, postcolonial theory, gay and lesbian studies, and literary criticism.

“This was totally not a spousal hire,” said Ms. Davidson by phone last week. Graduate Center officials “never once used the words ‘partner hire’ for either of us. I made a joke at one point that I wasn’t sure that I’ll be going, but I knew they’d still be pursuing Ken. He has many admirers there.”

Ms. Davidson, a scholar of academic and cultural history, incubated while “the only partner hire” for either of them. “I never once used the words ‘spouse hire’ for either of us. I made a joke at one point that I wasn’t sure that I’ll be going, but I knew they’d still be pursuing Ken. He has many admirers there.”

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