In March, 40 GEAR UP scholars arrived at Long Island City High School ready for a three-day trip that included college tours and historic sightseeing, making stops at Georgetown University, Howard University, Rutgers University, Towson University and New Jersey City University.

The first stop was New Jersey City University (NJCU), only a short distance from Manhattan. GEAR UP scholars were impressed with the university’s state-of-the-art technology and advanced facilities. They also toured historic Rutgers University, one of the nation’s leading comprehensive public research universities.

On day two, GEAR UP scholars arrived at Georgetown University, where students learned about the university’s rich Catholic identity, academic rigor and international presence. At Howard University, scholars were impressed with the sense of community fostered on campus. GEAR UP scholar Sabrina Cyrille observed that she felt at home the moment she set foot on campus. Howard University is the founding institution of Greek organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta, Inc., Omega Psi Phi, Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma, Inc.}

Talent Show “Haiti Relief”

The GEAR UP Program collaborated on a talent show with Long Island City High School’s music department in April to raise money for Haitian earthquake relief. Students showcased their talents through music, dance and poetry, all related to Haiti.

A raffle was held and prizes included two brand new iPods and two autographed Yankee baseballs. Inspired by the students’ passion, guests donated over $1,500 to this worthy cause.

PAC Workshops LIC: Easing the Path to College

The transition from high school to college is often stressful, so as a result GEAR UP created a series of workshops to make the process manageable for parents and students. In April, GEAR UP Director Yvette Morgan hosted the first parent workshop.

Ms. Morgan discussed different methods parents can use to help their children succeed and covered the many requirements that must be completed in order to graduate from high school. Parents were given an explanation of credit requirements, examinations and grade point averages. They learned about the impact that grades and community involvement have on college applications.

GEAR UP provides parents with a support system for navigating this stressful time. Parents also attended a “Stress Less” workshop, facilitated by the Leadership Program. The workshop explained various types of stressors to parents and discussed coping mechanisms for dealing with mental and physical stress.

Out of State College Tour

In March, 40 GEAR UP scholars arrived at Long Island City High School ready for a three-day trip that included college tours and historic sightseeing, making stops at Georgetown University, Howard University, Rutgers University, Towson University and New Jersey City University.

The first stop was New Jersey City University (NJCU), only a short distance from Manhattan. GEAR UP scholars were impressed with the university’s state-of-the-art technology and advanced facilities. They also toured historic Rutgers University, one of the nation’s leading comprehensive public research universities.

On day two, GEAR UP scholars arrived at Georgetown University, where students learned about the university’s rich Catholic identity, academic rigor and international presence. At Howard University, scholars were impressed with the sense of community fostered on campus. GEAR UP scholar Sabrina Cyrille observed that she felt at home the moment she set foot on campus. Howard University is the founding institution of Greek organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta, Inc., Omega Psi Phi, Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma, Inc.
The Saturday Science Program students spent a day learning the aerial arts at the iFly school. Before the students had the opportunity to “fly,” they created various objects that tested the velocity, altitude and speed of objects when launched in the air.

Students and staff were then placed in harnesses and shown various tricks while hanging on a trapeze, learning the effects of gravity, mass vs. weight and the interaction between a moving object and the motion of air. For many of the students, iFly was the highlight of their Saturday Science experience.

Students learned more about aerodynamics at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Long Island, NY. At the Museum, they viewed aircraft from different eras, including World War I, World War II, The Cold War and the “Space Race,” as well as contemporary aircraft.

As the warm weather approached, students started their own fruit and vegetable gardens. In doing so they learned about the organic composition of soil, the process of fertilization and the chemical make-up of vegetables and fruits. Elizabeth Sosa, a student from I.S. 45, said that what she liked most about Saturday Science was creating the garden with her fellow students.

The Computer Workshop, facilitated by Mr. Blanchard, returned last April to Long Island City High School. Participants learned essential skills such as using Microsoft programs and how to get the most out of Internet browsing.

The popular program “Women in Science” also made its return to I.S. 145 and I.S. 126. Approximately 50 female students from both schools eagerly signed up to take part in a week full of academic learning and interaction.

The girls participated in an archeological dig held at the Tanglewood Preserve, excavating artifacts and learning how to set up archeological grids. The girls also learned how to identify and define fossils and their characteristics.

Later, the girls toured the Medical School at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT). Many girls plan to pursue a medical career and were extremely interested in the various medical programs offered by NYIT. I.S. 145 student Varinia Guerrero, who hopes to become a surgeon, said, “When I apply for medical school, I will definitely consider NYIT.” The girls also practiced on medical dummies as they interacted with current medical students.

On their last day of “Women in Science,” the girls visited the Homeland Security Center in Bethpage, NY. During their tour of the Homeland Security Center, one student was allowed to sit in the chair where the President sits when he visits the facility.

Thanks to “Women in Science,” the girls realized how science and technology benefit all our lives.