

A GEAR UP summer in New York.

School may be out in the summer, but GEAR UP sites around the state continued to offer programs that provided students with both fun and enrichment. College tours, cultural activities, computer workshops, classes in robotics, and camps of all kinds on college campuses were among the activities available to GEAR UP students.

A couple of examples of what GEAR UP can accomplish: 11 eighth grade students in CUNY Lehman's Bronx Institute GEAR UP and ENLACE programs qualified to attend the prestigious and highly selective Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University this summer. Nearly 80,000 students apply for admission to CTY programs every year, and all students must score in the highest percentile range of the SAT to be considered. The success of these eighth graders was called "unprecedented" by one CTY coordinator.

In the Yonkers City School District, NYGEAR UP students worked in teams to produce videos and learned about video technology, researching a subject, creating storyboards, scriptwriting, editing, and acting. They put in extra time on these projects after school and on weekends, and also produced their own awards show for the premiere showing of their videos.

All of the GEAR UP programs in New York have their own successes to cite, and this issue highlights some of the experiences they are providing to their students.

— Susan Nesbitt Perez
Vice President,
Outreach Programs and Financial Aid
Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities



Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federal grant program designed to prepare more low-income students to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The federal government awards GEAR UP grants to states or to local partnerships consisting of at least one college or university, at least one low-income middle school and one high school, and a minimum of two other partners (such as community organizations or businesses). Each GEAR UP partnership provides services to a cohort of students at high-need schools, beginning no later than grade 7, and follows these students through high school. Services include: academic preparation; tutoring and mentoring; admissions and financial aid awareness activities for students and parents; college visits; and professional development for staff. Systemic change is the goal of this mix of direct and indirect programming and services.

In 2005, New York State received its second GEAR UP grant, called "NYGEAR UP II." This new grant followed on the heels of the 1999-2005 GEAR UP grant, and is again administered by NYSHESC. After a competitive process, NYSHESC awarded its NYGEAR UP funds to 11 community partnerships. In September 2005, these partnerships began providing services to a cohort of 7,285 students. These students in grade 8 in academic year 2006-2007 will be followed through 2011 (contingent on federal funding).

The federal government also awarded six-year grants directly to five community partnerships in 2005. These "Federal GEAR UP" partnerships began providing services to more than 5,000 students in grades 6 or 7. In 2006-2007, three additional partnerships received six-year federal GEAR UP grants to serve an additional 4,600 students in grades 6 or 7.

A group of key partners in the state's NYGEAR UP program provides additional services to GEAR UP in New York State. These "Sector" partners include: the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu), the Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC), City University of New York (CUNY), State University of New York (SUNY), the College Board, and New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association (NYSFAAA).

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Inside: Resources, information, and inspiration.

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Sharing Ideas and Successes.

The NYGEAR UP Sites



City School District of Albany

► NYGEAR UP College Visit

March 20, 2007

Location: Skidmore College

Participants: 30 students, 2 teachers, 2 Albany City School District staff

Purpose: To give students an opportunity to visit a college campus and meet an admissions representative.

Agenda:

- Arrive at Skidmore College at 8:45 am
- Tour of campus
- Q & A session with admissions representative
- Lunch in dining hall
- Depart at 2:00 pm

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Arnelle Ullrich, a Skidmore College graduate and Extended Day Coordinator and Director of After School Programs for the City School District of Albany

Students learned much about Skidmore College and were joined by an alumna who gave them insights into college life. Students also enjoyed eating in the dining hall.

► Entering the College Zone

April 21, 2007

Location: The College of Saint Rose

Participants: 73 students (majority were NYGEAR UP students), 10 parents, 2 school superintendents from the Albany and Shenendehowa school districts, National Black Child Development staff

Purpose: To educate students on how to prepare for college.

Agenda:

- Registration and continental breakfast
- Q & A session with college student panel
- Workshops: "The ABCs of Entering the College Zone"; "Financing Your Way Through College"; "Creating a High School Plan with an Eye Towards College"; "Accessing College Information by Computer"

- Lunch with role models and a motivational address by L. Oliver Robinson

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: L. Oliver Robinson, Superintendent, Shenendehowa Central Schools

Students enjoyed discussions about college life with the panel of college students and experienced a multi-approach to preparing for college.

Additional Activities

► "Stomp the Yard" Field Trip to Regal Cinema Megaplex, Crossgates Mall, Albany NY

On February 1, 2007, 200 NYGEAR UP students and 16 teachers viewed "Stomp the Yard," gaining insights into college fraternities and other social perspectives.

► clcu/NYGEAR UP College Quests for Students and Parents/Guardians from the City School District of Albany (CSDA)

On April 11 - 13 and June 25 - 27, 2007, NYGEAR UP students, parents, CSDA staff, and clcu staff visited 11 private (independent not-for-profit) colleges and universities in New York State (33 students and 11 parents and chaperones toured Canisius College, Daemen College, Hamilton College, Keuka College, Niagara University, St. John Fisher College, and Utica College in April and 16 students and 16 parents and chaperones toured Le Moyne College, Niagara University, Syracuse University, and the University of Rochester in June).

► Presentation by Career Development Center (CDC), SUNY University at Albany

On May 23, 2007, 27 students and 3 teachers were treated to a lunchtime PowerPoint presentation by Noah Simon of the CDC on preparing for work, for college, and how to gain work experience.

► Sage Career Quest

As part of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities' summer opportunities for NYGEAR UP students, July 2 - 27, 2007, 4 students attended week-long sessions at The Sage Colleges exploring various careers including law, health sciences, criminal justice, forensic science, and musical theatre.

► Siena College Summer Enrichment Program

From August 6 - 17, 2007, 40 students attended enrichment and college awareness activities on the Siena College campus.

CUNY Brooklyn College Community Partnership

► Musicians 4 Harmony

May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2007
June 8, 2007

Location: HS for Human Rights

Participants: 25 8th grade students, 1 teaching artist, 1 musician, 1 NYGEAR UP site director, 1 photographer, 1 videographer, 1 teacher

Purpose: To introduce students to the music and culture of other countries such as Ghana, Cuba, India, China, and Lebanon. All students received a book about world cultures with photos of the monthly food purchases of families from different cultures and the contents of their homes.

Agenda:

- Morning sessions on each culture, with discussions about similarities to and differences from the U.S.
- Lunch, along with meeting musicians and listening to performances on traditional instruments, presentations on musical themes, and improvisation

Many students had never met people from the countries featured in these sessions. They enjoyed the music, and discovered that they had much in common with people of other cultures.

► Brooklyn Cyclones Baseball Game

June 23, 2007

Location: KeySpan Park, Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY

Participants: 25 NYGEAR UP students from the HS of Human Rights, 1 student mentor, 2 parents, 1 teacher

Purpose: To celebrate the end of school, students attended a Brooklyn Cyclones baseball game (a minor league team affiliated with the New York Mets).

Agenda:

- Students met at the George Wingate HS campus and left for Coney Island
- Student Daniel Wood was chosen to pitch the opening game ball
- Brooklyn Cyclones won the game!

Additional Activities**► Black History Presentation**

On February 27, 2007, a presentation on black history centered on the negative connotations of the "N" word. Students performed a skit, followed by a PowerPoint presentation with photos of Ghana.

► PSAT College Board

On March 14 and 15, 2007, 300 8th graders, with the assistance of CUNY Brooklyn College staff, homeroom teachers, and 2 volunteers, gained experience in college entrance exams by taking the PSAT. After the test, students' strengths and weaknesses were assessed.

► College Experience Days

From January – June, 2007, 440 students participated in CUNY Brooklyn College Art Lab (BCAL) activities at least once.

Long Island University/Brooklyn

► Introduction to Information Technology

April 7 and 14, 2007

Location: Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY

Participants: 30 students, 15 parents

Purpose: To provide computer training for parents who have never used a computer.

Agenda:

- Parents received help in navigating Microsoft Word and used Microsoft Word's résumé templates
- Résumé review and evaluation

► Meeting on Women's Issues

May 11, 2007

Location: MS 267

Participants: 10 students

Purpose: To allow young women to speak freely about issues they face.

Agenda:

- Breakfast
- Group meeting until noon

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Kimberly Lopez, Long Island University/Brooklyn Academic and Career Guidance Counselor

Additional Activities**► Brooklyn Cyclones Baseball Game**

On June 23, 2007, 10 students from MS 113 and 10 students from MS 267 enjoyed a baseball game at Coney Island's KeySpan Park.

► Summer Enrichment

From July 25 – August 15, 2007, summer school students received help in strengthening their academic skills.

New Rochelle City School District

► BOCES Middle School College Fair
May 7, 2007

Location: Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY

Participants: 78 8th grade students, all Isaac E. Young MS guidance counselors, 8th grade teachers, 1 project director

Purpose: To introduce students to college fairs to gather information on college admissions, financial aid, and types of college degrees; to help students understand the differences among community colleges, universities, vocational schools, and other institutions of higher learning.

Agenda:

- Orientation before the event
- Distribution of "scavenger hunt" sheets that contained questions students needed to ask and materials to search for

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Michael J. Kenny, Director of Guidance, New Rochelle HS

This event helped students learn how to acquire information about college, and also gave them an opportunity to speak directly to college representatives.

► Rite of Passage Celebration for Girls Completing TOMORROW Leaders, Inc. Skill Training

June 9, 2007

Location: Mount Vernon, NY

Participants: 15 rising 9th graders, parents

Purpose: To celebrate the completion of a 10-week leadership training program, offered by TOMORROW Leaders, Inc., that provides training in skills needed for success

Agenda:

- Welcome by Pamela Minyard
- Breakfast
- Guest speaker: Georgia Woodbine
- Graduation ceremony
- Oath to continue on the path to success

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Pamela Minyard, Executive Director, TOMORROW Leaders, Inc.; Anorvia James, peer spokesperson; Georgia Woodbine, author and motivational speaker

This event was successful because it was a ceremony of affirmation. The girls each received a crown and recited an oath of commitment to achieving their goals.



CUNY Brooklyn NYGEAR UP students participate in a "Musicians 4 Harmony" workshop and learn about world music and traditional instruments.

*New Rochelle
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*New Rochelle
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Additional Activities

► Tour of CUNY Campuses

In November, 2006, 40 8th grade students, accompanied by 1 8th grade math teacher, 2 guidance counselors, and 1 GEAR UP project director, visited CUNY Lehman College and CUNY Bronx Community College.

► Summer Scholars at Iona College

From July 9 – August 3, 2007, nearly 30 students attended intensive writing classes 4 days a week from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm taught by a high school English teacher with college student tutors from Iona College.

Rochester Institute of Technology

► Rochester Museum and Science Center Field Trip

March 30, 2007

Location: Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester, NY

Participants: 27 students, 1 guidance counselor, 3 coordinators

Purpose: To show students science in motion.

Agenda:

- Students participated in a NYGEAR UP essay contest and were rewarded with a field trip to the local science center. During the day-long field trip, students explored the prehistoric era, viewed exhibits on electricity and Frederick Douglass, learned about the history and economics of money, and had a lot of fun.

Students enjoyed this field trip. Comments included: "I learned how useful electricity is, and how we should not overuse it." "I learned about the struggle of the African slaves. I also learned about movement."

Additional Activities:

► Math and Science Tutoring (Iglesia Educational Center)

From January – February 2007, more than 30 percent of the NYGEAR UP cohort from the Franklin campus received math and science tutoring in preparation for exams.

► Student College Coaches (Nazareth College of Rochester)

From January – April 2007, 30 Nazareth College students became "coaches" to NYGEAR UP students from the Franklin campus, offering encouragement, guidance and help with lessons in classrooms with a special focus on developing students' organizational and team work skills.

► 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Training

From January – June, 2007, 95 students at the International Finance and Development Career HS at Franklin participated in "7 Habits" training.

► RIT 2007 Summer Youth Development Program

From July 9 – August 17, 2007, 25 NYGEAR UP students attended a workshop where they learned about math and computer technology by building their own computers.

"GEAR UP has helped me by not letting things get in my way. Also, I've learned to be proactive."

– A Rochester Institute of Technology NYGEAR UP student

Rome City School District

► Gateway To Technology (GTT)

Spring, 2007, every other day

Location: Strough MS GTT laboratory

Participants: 360 students, 1 teacher

Purpose: To provide engaging, state-of-the-art instruction in math, science, and engineering.

Agenda:

- Computer simulations, design, and modeling techniques
- Exploration of science of electricity, circuit design, and sensing devices

- Problem solving in automation and robotics
- Collaborative work on engineering problems

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Peter Gillander, certified GTT teacher

► Transition to High School

June 13, 2007

Location: Rome Free Academy

Participants: 413 students, 2 NYSHESC directors, 6 8th grade teachers, 1 GEAR UP coordinator, 10 9th grade teachers, 4 administrators, 1 retired U.S. Air Force officer

Purpose: To prepare students for high school.

Agenda:

- Students divided into two groups
- One group toured Rome Free Academy (high school)
- Second group listened to presentations by class advisor, teachers of all high school content areas, school administrators, the GEAR UP coordinator, and the U.S. Air Force officer
- Groups rotated, activities repeated
- Lunch
- Various activities held throughout the high school with high school students acting as guides

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Matt Holupka, NYGEAR UP Coordinator; Colonel Fred Wieners, U.S. Air Force (Ret.); Alice Roberson, Director, NYSHESC; Cynthia Farmer, NYGEAR UP Program Associate, NYSHESC; 10 Rome Free Academy 9th grade teachers, 4 administrators

Student and teacher response was very positive. "Knight Guides," high school upperclass students trained by the school district, formed personal connections with the students in their groups as they led tours, answered questions, and participated in activities.



St. John's University GEAR UP students help out with community service by building a playground.

Additional Activities:

► College Board MyRoad Training

From October 2006 – May 2007, 400 students received an overview of MyRoad and registered on the site, giving them the tools to explore colleges and universities.

St. John's University

► NYMentor Computer Workshop

March and April, 2007

Location: Albert Shanker School for Visual and Performing Arts (IS 126), Oliver Wendell Holmes School (IS 204)

Participants: 530 8th grade GEAR UP and NYGEAR UP students, 12 teachers, GEAR UP staff

Purpose: To introduce students to NYSHESC's NYMentor Web site (nymmentor.edu). Each GEAR UP scholar received a personal NYMentor ID and password. The workshop was held during a 45-minute computer class.

Agenda:

- Explore the NYMentor Web site
- Complete a research activity
- Write Web site "review" for a friend explaining the Web site's benefits

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: GEAR UP staff members

Students were exposed to a valuable resource that they can use to plan for college. School administrators worked closely with GEAR UP to ensure that as many students as possible could participate in this activity.

► College Day

June 1, 2007

Location: St. John's University

Participants: 70 students, 4 teachers, 1 paraprofessional, GEAR UP staff

"NYMENTOR helps people find out about college. It gives you ideas for careers and I really liked the planner. All of these are good tools to prepare for the future. This Web site could be very helpful for anyone who needs or is interested in college information."

– Janet P., a St. John's University NYGEAR UP student from IS 126

Purpose: To allow students to visit the St. John's University Queens Campus and to expose them to the NY State Department of Labor's Career Zone Web site (www.nycareerzone.org).

Agenda:

- 9:30 am: Welcome to St. John's University by Andre McKenzie
- 10:00 am – 12:30 pm: Career Zone computer workshop (Session 1); Campus tour (Session 2); Information session (Session 3)
- 12:45 pm – 1:15 pm: Lunch/Certificate distribution
- 1:30 pm: Return to school

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Andre McKenzie, Vice President, Division of Academic Support Services, St. John's University

Each student scholar participated in three 45 minute-long sessions that exposed students to an array of information about college life, careers, and post-secondary institutions.

"I learned that all freshmen receive a free laptop once they enroll at St. John's. St. John's is a Catholic university and offers many 'study abroad' programs that I am really interested in."

– Michael D., a St. John's University NYGEAR UP student from IS 204

► College Fairs

June 14 and 15, 2007

Location: Albert Shanker School for Visual and Performing Arts (IS 126), Oliver Wendell Holmes School (IS 204)

Participants: 200 8th grade students from IS 126, 250 8th grade students from IS 204, 24 teachers

Purpose: To expose students to a variety of colleges and universities – private, not-for-profit, public, and proprietary – in New York State.

Agenda:

- 9:30 am – 1:00 pm: Held a College Fair in each school's library

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Admissions and EOP/HEOP representatives from: Alfred University; Berkeley College; Briarcliffe College; CUNY; CUNY Queens College; SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology; Laboratory Institute of Merchandising; Metropolitan College; St. John's University; SUNY Brockport; SUNY Farmingdale College; SUNY Purchase College; Syracuse University; Utica College

Additional Activities

► Public Service Announcement Creation and Presentation

From February – March 2007, 18 GEAR UP student scholars created GEAR UP "infomercials" and a public service announcement informing students, parents, and community members about the impact of GEAR UP. Students showcased their short piece at the NYGEAR UP Regional Conference at the Long Island Marriott Hotel and Conference Center on March 28, 2007.

► Saturday Science Academy

From February – May 2007, 50 students and 2 parents explored science outside the classroom at the Center for Science Teaching and Learning at the Tanglewood Preserve Wildlife Center in Rockville Centre, NY. Students attended the program for 3 hours every Saturday for 7 weeks. Each workshop required students to produce a project using the scientific method. Topics included engineering, entomology, rocketry, the "plane challenge," and the "meal worm experiment."

► Pre-Summer Program

On June 4 – 7, 2007, 45 GEAR UP students and 45 NYGEAR UP students received tips about surviving high school and creating a college portfolio. Other activities included drug and alcohol awareness workshops, self-esteem workshops, a screening of a documentary produced by a former St. John's University McNair Scholar, and guest speakers on "Race and the Struggle for Education in American Schools," "The Power of the Media," "Subliminal Messages on the Internet," and "Breaking the Quadratic Equation."

SUNY Cobleskill

► Visit to Bryant & Stratton College

March, 2007

Location: Bryant & Stratton College, Albany, NY

Participants: 22 students from Middleburgh CS, 1 teacher, 1 tutor

Purpose: To expose students to a proprietary college and a classroom activity.

Agenda:

- Students divided into 2 groups
- Each group developed a marketing campaign for a suggested product to present to "Donald Trump"
- Groups judged on their creativity and marketing plans

*SUNY Cobleskill
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SUNY Cobleskill
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Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Kelly Mooney, Renée Bellardo, and Robert Ferrell from Bryant & Stratton College

The students loved it!

► **Visit to Cobleskill Regional Hospital**
March, 2007

Location: Cobleskill Regional Hospital, Cobleskill, NY

Participants: 10 students from Middleburgh CS, 1 teacher, 1 tutor

Purpose: To expose students to nursing careers.

Agenda:

- Visit the Emergency Room (ER) and talk with an ER nurse and a forensics nurse
- Presentation at a nursing station
- Presentation and discussion, led by a nursing director, about the many different types of nursing

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Susan Cimino-Cary, Social Work Liaison, Cobleskill Regional Hospital; Nancy Simmons, Director of Nursing, Cobleskill Regional Hospital; Barbara Salsberg, R.N. and Nurse Manager of ER, Cobleskill Regional Hospital; Helen Ruland, R.N., Cobleskill Regional Hospital; Martha Yourno, R.N., Cobleskill Regional Hospital; other Cobleskill Regional Hospital nursing staff

We started out with one student interested in a nursing career. On the bus ride home, almost all of the students expressed interest in some kind of a career in nursing.

► **College Campus Visits**
March and April, 2007

Location: clcu's NYGEAR UP April College Quest 2007 to: Canisius College, Daemen College, Hamilton College, Niagara University, Keuka College, St. John Fisher College, and Utica College; other visits to SUNY Binghamton University, SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College, SUNY Institute of Technology, and SUNY Hudson Valley Community College

Participants: A total of 175 students from Charlotte Valley CS, Fort Plain CS, Laurens CS, Morris CS, and Richfield Springs CS, NYGEAR UP tutors, NYGEAR UP director, teachers, and staff

Purpose: To allow students to compare these campuses to the college campuses they visited last year.

Agenda:

- Arrival on campus and campus tour
- Admission presentation
- Lunch in a campus dining hall

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: College and university staff and faculty

Because of these visits, students are beginning to see themselves attending college.

Additional Activities

► **Hospital In-School Presentation**

In March, 2007, 28 students from St. Johnsville CS, teachers, and 1 GEAR UP tutor received information on careers in health care.

► **Visit to the Baseball Hall of Fame**

During May, 2007, 122 students from Charlotte Valley CS, Fort Plain CS, Morris CS, and Richfield Springs CS, 6 teachers, and 5 tutors visited the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY where they participated in educational programs (all involving baseball) on women's history, economics, special abilities, science, and communications and learned how each contributed to what baseball is today.

SUNY Jamestown Community College

► **Family Math Nights**
May 2007

Location: Jefferson MS, Washington MS, and Persell MS

Participants: 20 families of 8th grade students and parents, math teachers

Purpose: To teach math skills and to include the families of students in learning the best way to apply math strategies. Parents were introduced to graphing calculators and the importance of such technology to high school math.

Agenda:

- Play educational and competitive math games and try mathematical experiments
- Work at math stations

“It’s important to have fun with math and to stress to your child that math is in every part of their life. Math needs to be interesting and relevant. The open houses and family math nights give families another way to talk about math.”

– Jessie Reilly, Math Coordinator, Jamestown Public Schools

► **Project ME Moving Up Ceremony**
June 16, 2007

Location: Crown Theatre, Jamestown, NY

Participants: 30 NYGEAR UP Project ME (Mentoring Experience) students, parents, mentors

Purpose: To celebrate the relationships and progress made through Project ME, and to create excitement for the transition to high school.

Agenda:

- Reception for students, mentors, and parents
- Addresses by NYGEAR UP staff
- Presentation of gifts to students by Lorraine Walker and reading of personalized messages mentors wrote to their mentees

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Lorraine Walker, Coordinator, Project ME

One mentor said about a student that “she reaffirms my faith in today’s youth.”

Additional Activities:

► **Dunkirk MS College Visits**

On April 27, 2007, 300 8th grade students and 12 teachers each selected from among 4 college campuses to visit for the day: Bryant & Stratton College, Canisius College, D’Youville College, or Hilbert College. Students enjoyed the visits, and many of them are now talking about going to college.

Syracuse University

► **College Board’s “College Ed” Program**
September 2006 through May 2007

Location: Beard School, Blodgett MS, Clary Magnet School, Danforth Magnet School, Frazer MS, Grant MS, Huntington MS, Levy MS, Lincoln MS, Roberts MS, Shea MS

Participants: 1,700 8th grade students

Purpose: To deliver the College Ed program and curriculum to 8th grade students at all the partnerships’ middle schools.

► **GEAR UP Saturday Academies**
November 2006 through May 2007,
8:00 am to noon

Location: Beard School, Blodgett MS, Clary Magnet School, Danforth Magnet School, Frazer MS, Grant MS, Huntington MS

Participants: Over 1,000 8th grade students, college student mentors from Le Moyne College and Syracuse University

Purpose: To prepare students for the mandated New York State January and March ELA and math assessments.

Agenda:

- Academic support, tutoring, enrichment, and mentoring for students preparing for the mandated math and ELA tests

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive for this event. The college student mentors provided innovative ways to master mathematical concepts, among them musical games, games using lyrics, and even an exercise using M&Ms, in which the candies also became rewards for correct answers. The middle-schoolers also appreciated the chance to hang out with college kids from Le Moyne College and Syracuse University.

► GEAR UP Teacher/Counselor 30-Hour In-Service Course January through May, 2007

Location: Syracuse City School District Teacher Center

Participants: 23 GEAR UP teachers and guidance counselors

Purpose: To support teachers' and school counselors' professional development as they learn to introduce to their students the idea of college, preparing for college, and making the connection between academics and the workplace.

Agenda:

- Curriculum and training on how to connect post-secondary education with careers and workplaces

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Nadine Austin, Consultant, the College Board; Patricia R. Schmidt, Professor of Education, Le Moyne College; Partners for Education & Business, Inc. ("Teacher in the Workplace")

We had excellent feedback about this course. Participants called it relevant, new, and revolutionary.

Additional Activities

► College Board's "College Ed" Program

From September 2006 – May 2007, the College Ed Program and curriculum was delivered to more than 1,700 8th grade students at the NYGEAR UP partnership's middle schools.

► GEAR UP Enriched Summer School

On July 8 – August 10, 2007, approximately 1,700 8th graders were offered a program to help prepare them for the transition to high school. Activities included field trips with experiences in paleontology and Shakespeare, among others. 50 local organizations participated in this program, including King & King Architects, which continued its creative efforts in imparting math skills to students during these summer sessions.

"At Georgetown, our tour guide told us about living in the dorms and how a student's schedule worked. We were able to see a magnificent view of Washington D.C. from the roof of the dorms. Some of us even got to play basketball in the gym at the same time one of the stars from Georgetown's basketball team was practicing! Overall, it was a memorable, educational, and fun experience."

– Raquel L., a Yonkers City School District NYGEAR UP student

Yonkers City School District

► NYGEAR UP Students in Washington, D.C.

May 14 – 15, 2007

Location: Washington, D.C.

Participants: 163 NYGEAR UP students from Yonkers Middle School, 26 parents, 1 administrator, and 16 8th grade teachers

Purpose: To take history out of the classroom and make it come alive for students, and to showcase a well-known college.

Agenda:

- Visits to: Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Capitol Building (with special tour of the House of Representatives), White House, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, National World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Tour of Georgetown University, organized by Sheila Henderson, with NYGEAR UP student guides, one a graduate of Yonkers Public Schools

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Sheila Henderson, Project Director, NYGEAR UP, Washington, D.C.; college tour guides; Georgetown University basketball coaches

Students had a first-hand opportunity to connect what they have learned for the past two years in American history to the real world — for example, using primary sources and videos to teach students about the more than 58,000 soldiers who lost their lives in Vietnam can be powerful, but it is nothing in comparison to the experience of standing in front of the wall of the Vietnam Memorial, seeing the endless list of names, and being able to touch the name of a soldier. In the words of a social studies teacher, "Seeing history come alive for my students — PRICELESS!"

"We had a great time exploring Georgetown University because the tour was led by a college student, someone who actually experiences college on a day-to-day basis, and can show you what it's really like."

– Danielle S., a Yonkers City School District NYGEAR UP student



Students on the April clcu NYGEAR UP College Quest pose for a picture at Niagara University before visiting the museum.

► The Rammy Awards

June 1, 2007

Location: Museum MS Auditorium

Participants: 160 8th grade students, 25 tech crew, 16 art directors, 15 band members, audience of 300 (parents, siblings, teachers, younger MS students)

Purpose: To honor students who participated in learning the skills and technology used in producing videos. The Rammy Awards presentation is the culminating event of a year-long interdisciplinary activity, the Rammywood Project, in which students worked in teams to research a topic, create a storyboard, write and edit a script, master digital video cameras, learn to act, and produce an edited video. The evening of June 1 was the "premiere" viewing of the student-created videos and the presentation of awards, the "Rammys," to NYGEAR UP students for writing, producing, and acting.

Agenda:

- 6:30 pm: Walk (entrance) on Red Carpet
- Band prelude
- Showcase of videos
- Presentation of 19 awards for Best Video, Students' Choice Award, Best Cinematography, plus 16 other awards
- Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award to Jerrold Goldman

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Chuck Lesnick, President, Yonkers City Council; Jerrold Goldman, 6th grade science teacher, Museum MS

Students became proficient in using Microsoft Publisher, Sony Film Studio, and Photoshop, in addition to learning how to collaborate. They were so enthusiastic that they worked weekends and after school on this project. School attendance was also better during the 4-month span of the project.

► NYGEAR UP Family Day

June 10, 2007

Location: Iona College

Participants: 68 parents, 44 students, 17 siblings, 1 NYGEAR UP project coordinator, 1 NYGEAR UP administrative assistant, 11 tutors, 3 partners, 2 teachers

Purpose: To bring parents and students from all project schools together to celebrate the NYGEAR UP students' upcoming graduation from middle school, the growth of parent involvement in the Yonkers NYGEAR UP program, and to share work done by project tutors with NYGEAR UP families.

Agenda:

- Welcome and speeches
- Tours of Iona College campus, led by NYGEAR UP tutors
- Lunch
- Poetry reading and entertainment by tutors
- Sports activities on the college's sports fields for students and siblings, led by college tutors
- Parent Forum – planning for 2007-08
- Graduation/Family Day cake cutting

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Nona Donovan, Project Coordinator, NYGEAR UP; Colleen McPhail, Director, Liberty Partnership Program, Iona College; Leslie Williams, LifeSupport USA Parent Coordinator; Aida Gonzalez, EPIC Parent Coordinator; Iona College tutors

Additional Activities

► College Ed Training

On January 29, 2007, 8th grade teachers were trained in the use of the College Board's College Ed program for 8th grade students.

“Any time a diverse group of families come together to share experiences and expectations, the event is a success. One of the primary goals of Yonkers’ NYGEAR UP program has been to increase parent involvement, provide school and college-related information, and create opportunities for parents to develop meaningful relationships with one another and with school personnel to ensure the academic success of their children. Yonkers’ first Family Day was one large step toward achieving this goal.”

– Nona Donovan, Yonkers City School District NYGEAR UP Project Coordinator

► Trip to SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT)

On February 9, 2007, NYGEAR UP students and teachers from Museum MS were given a tour of SUNY FIT and a chance to see a SUNY FIT production of "Dreamgirls."

► Adelphi University Tour

On February 13, 2007, NYGEAR UP students and teachers from Emerson MS toured Adelphi University and met with college admissions counselors.

► SUNY Purchase College Production of "A Midnight Cry"

In celebration of Black History Month, on February 27, 2007, Museum MS NYGEAR UP students and teachers attended a performance of "A Midnight Cry," a production about the Underground Railroad staged by SUNY Purchase College performing arts students.

► Greyston Foundation Trips

During March, April, and May 2007, Museum MS NYGEAR UP students from Emerson MS, and Yonkers MS were exposed to a cultural experience (American Museum of Natural History), an academic experience (The Culinary Institute of America), and business and marketing experiences. The Greyston Foundation is an integrated network of for-profit and non-profit groups that provides support to people striving to become self-sufficient.



Yonkers Public Schools NYGEAR UP students visit Georgetown University as part of a trip to Washington D.C.

► **Annual NYGEAR UP Conference**

On March 27, 2007, Emerson MS, Museum MS, and Yonkers MS NYGEAR UP students were recognized for their winning NYGEAR UP essays, met other NYGEAR UP students, and participated in a workshop sponsored by the St. John's University GEAR UP program.

► **Trip to West Point**

On April 19, 2007, NYGEAR UP students and teachers from Yonkers MS toured West Point and learned about its historical significance.

► **Career Day at Mercy College**

On May 4, 2007, Emerson MS, Museum MS, and Yonkers MS NYGEAR UP students met with college professors and department heads to discuss various majors at Mercy College and the different career paths to which they would lead. Students toured the campus and had lunch in the college cafeteria.

► **Westchester/Putnam College Fair**

On May 7, 2007, 8th grade students from all middle and pre K – 8 schools in Westchester and Putnam Counties met representatives from more than 75 colleges to discuss admissions requirements and to gather information about academic majors, campus life, cost, and location.



SUNY Binghamton University GEAR UP students have a little fun on a campus tour at Columbia University.

2007 Professional Development Workshops (PDWs)

This past spring, clcu and the College Board teamed up to co-sponsor two professional development workshops (PDWs) for GEAR UP programs in New York, inviting GEAR UP partnerships' staff, school personnel, and parents. The first session was held on May 10, 2007, at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), where Dianne Spang, RIT's Director of K-12 Partnerships, and her assistant, Ansi Fernandes, provided a warm welcome. The second PDW was hosted by St. John's University (SJU) in Queens, New York on May 17, 2007. Yvette Morgan, GEAR UP Co-Director at St. John's, and her assistant, Shannah Jewsbury, offered essential help in organizing this event.

clcu's workshop topics at the RIT and SJU PDWs included: Successful support networks to ensure academic achievement; What every high school student should know about college; How to reach out to families of students; and Career

awareness. Presenters included Doug Reamer, Principal Statistician at the New York State Department of Labor and Project Director of the New York State Career Resource Network Office, who spoke about careers, and keynote speaker Charles Brown, Director of the Rochester Area Colleges' Center for Excellence in Math and Science. Sean Callaway, Director of College Placement and Internships at Pace University, offered a College 101 "course" at both the RIT and SJU PDWs. Bill Short, HEOP Director at St. Lawrence University, presented information about that program at RIT with the assistance of Nadine Shardlow, the HEOP Director at Alfred University, and at SJU with the aid of Diana Voelker, HEOP Program Manager at Long Island University. A workshop called "Reach a Parent, Teach a Parent" was conducted by Sajdah Um'rani-Mansur, Senior Parent/Community

Coordinator at Discovery Institute/CUNY College of Staten Island with two of her associates, Peggy Travers and NYPD Police Officer Denise Taylor.

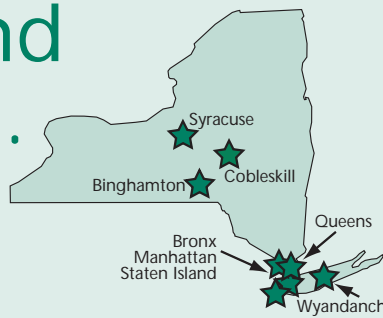
The College Board offered sessions on: Transition from 8th to 9th grade; College Ed; an Overview of College Board services; Creating a college-going culture; and Articulating college to parents. Nadine Austin, a consultant to the College Board, was a presenter at the RIT PDW, and Rose Fabiszak was a presenter at the SJU PDW.

Feedback from participants at both PDWs indicated that they found the sessions extremely informative and inspiring.

clcu will continue to offer annual PDWs. Please e-mail your suggestions for future workshop topics to Susan Nesbitt Perez at susan@cicu.org or Kiersten Hall at kiersten@cicu.org.

Enrichment and Empowerment.

Federal GEAR UP Sites in New York State



Bronx Institute (BI) GEAR UP Network at CUNY Lehman College

► Tu Voz, My Venture – Youth Venture Project

April, May, and June 2007

Location: CUNY Lehman College, Apex classroom 232

Participants: 15 GEAR UP students from MS 128, MS 127, and MS 80, a group of 1999 GEAR UP alumni attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Boston College, and CUNY Lehman College Honors Program, 2 GEAR UP program associates

Purpose: To provide young Latino students with the experience of launching a social venture that encourages Latino students to finish high school and prepare for college or work. Youth Venture awards up to \$1,000 in seed money to teams with sustainable ideas.

Agenda:

- Wednesday meetings with students to strategize, plot, and develop a business plan for their social ventures
- Submission of 4 team applications, 3 from 8th grade teams and 1 from the college team, to the Youth Venture national office in Washington, D.C.

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Judy Mejia, Program Associate, BI GEAR UP; Isabel Pradas, Program Associate, BI GEAR UP

Youth Venture allowed students to think about the social problems that plague their communities and to come up with innovative solutions to address them. All four BI teams were awarded \$1,000 grants. The "Tech 9" team will offer technology courses to Bronx high schoolers; "Step Up to College" will create an after-school step team and borough-wide step competition; the "Stay in School" drama team will offer educational plays; and BreechMark, created by the college team, will be an educational company providing mentors, workshops, and publications to schools.

► Bronx Institute GEAR UP Rising 9th Grade Reception and Ceremony

June 13, 2007

Location: CUNY Lehman College Faculty Dining Room, Lovinger Theatre

Participants: 65 students, 45 parents and family members, 15 Bronx Institute staff members, 10 GEAR UP 1999 alumni, 1 teacher from MS 128, 3 assistant principals from MS 45, MS 68, and MS 390, 1 school counselor from MS 229

Purpose: To honor the 21st Century Scholars who "met the challenge." Several students did so by improving their academic performance or by getting into a New York City specialized high school.

Agenda:

- 6:00 – 7:00 pm: Reception
- 7:15 – 7:20 pm: Welcome by Kevin Anthony, Master of Ceremonies
- 7:20 – 7:25 pm: Introductory remarks, Professor Herminio Martínez
- 7:25 – 7:40 pm: "College Reflections," 1999 GEAR UP student alumni panel
- 7:40 – 7:55 pm: GEAR UP DVD viewing
- 7:55 – 8:05 pm: Congratulatory remarks, via satellite, Dr. Ricardo Fernández
- 8:05 – 8:10 pm: Rachel Rymer of MS 128 honored by Naomi Barber and Bruce Irushalmi
- 8:10 – 8:30 pm: Student recognition ceremony

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Herminio Martínez, Executive Director, Bronx Institute; Ricardo Fernández, President, CUNY Lehman College; Kevin Anthony, Program Manager, BI GEAR UP; Rachel Rymer, BI GEAR UP Site Coordinator and teacher, MS 128; Naomi Barber, Co-Director, BI GEAR UP; Bruce Irushalmi, Co-Director, BI GEAR UP; Celia Cruz Bronx HS of Music Sax Quartet and Strings Trio; BI GEAR UP site coordinators; GEAR UP staff

Students were recognized for their hard work and achievements at this successful event. Students who attended represented all of our 18 schools in the Bronx Institute GEAR UP network, and students received a gift bag with a GEAR UP academic planner, a Bronx Institute pen, and a 128 MB flash drive (courtesy of Citibank).

CUNY College of Staten Island (CSI)/Discovery Institute

► GEAR UP Evelyn Morris King 90th Year Tribute

February 9, 2007

Location: NYPD P.O. Gerald Carter Auditorium at Dreyfus IS 49

Participants: 150 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from Dreyfus IS 49, 20 Dreyfus IS 49 staff, 50 parents, 50 family and community members, 1 NYC councilman, local cable TV station staff

Purpose: To offer a tribute to Evelyn Morris King for her years of community service and to celebrate her 90th birthday with a proclamation presented by New York City Councilman Michael E. McMahon, a mural created by Dreyfus IS 49 students, and a dedication of a new library and media center at IS 49.

Agenda:

- Presentation by Dreyfus IS 49 Color Guard
- Instrumental performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by music teacher
- Vocal performance of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" by student soloist
- Presentation of the IS 49 Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jones and Mrs. Evelyn Haley
- Proclamation honoring Mrs. Evelyn Morris King by Michael E. McMahon
- Dedication of the Library and Media Center to Evelyn Morris King
- Tribute to Evelyn Morris King, with the unveiling of the students' mural, selected readings, video presentation, and slide show
- Musical selections performed by Dreyfus IS 49 Faculty Jazz Ensemble
- Presentation of GEAR UP Distinguished Achievement Award
- A rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" sung by all to Evelyn Morris King in honor of her 90th birthday

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Linda Hill, Principal, Dreyfus IS 49; Michael E. McMahon, Councilman, New York City Council; Cheryl McMillian, math coach, Dreyfus IS 49; Dreyfus IS 49 Faculty Jazz Ensemble; Staten Island Community Television (CTV); student readers

This event was a tremendous success. Mrs. Evelyn Morris King, a community activist, Staten Island Advance Woman of Achievement, African-American historian, author, teacher, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother is a pillar of the community and a supporter of Dreyfus IS 49. Event participants commented: "It was a memorable occasion for a memorable lady!" and "It is a wonderful program and idea."

► GEAR UP College Visit and Science Lab

March 21, 2007

Location: CUNY College of Staten Island

Participants: 110 7th grade students from Dreyfus IS 49, 7 Dreyfus IS 49 staff (teachers, paraprofessionals and 1 guidance counselor), 4 Discovery Institute staff, 4 CUNY CSI student ambassadors

Purpose: To introduce students to the possibility of attending college and to engage them in science lab experiments.

Agenda:

- Each class of 7th graders was divided into 3 groups of 10 to 12 students each
- 1 college ambassador from the CUNY CSI Wellness Center and 1 adult from Dreyfus IS 49 or the Discovery Institute accompanied each group on a tour
- 4 science lab classes were held on the CUNY CSI campus

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Peter Lydell, Discovery Institute; Robert Shimony, Discovery Institute

The science lab presentations were highly effective. Feedback from students was enthusiastic. Comments included: "The school has a building for almost every subject." "Now I'm gonna go to college ... I know I can do it!"

► GEAR UP 6th Annual "Education Unites Us" Event

April 25, 2007

Location: CUNY CSI Williamson Theatre

Participants: 65 people, including students, parents, faculty, families, and community members

Purpose: To provide an educational and cultural exchange for teachers, students, families, and the community, and to present GEAR UP Discovery Institute Awards.

Agenda:

- Presentation by Dreyfus IS 49 Color Guard
- Vocal performances of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" by student soloist
- Dance performances by Curtis HS Dance Company, Nubia Braithwaite and Charles C. Thomas, and the SWAAT Step Team
- Musical performances by St. Philip's Men's Choir, Dreyfus IS 49 Faculty Jazz Ensemble, and student and teacher duet
- Poetry recitation by Maurice Hyde

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Irina Lyublinskaya, Co-Director, Discovery Institute; Cheryl McMillian, math coach, Dreyfus IS 49; Curtis HS Dance Company; Moirelle "Nubia" Braithwaite, NYC Department of Education and Police Athletic League; Charles C. Thomas,

Associate Professor, Performing and Creative Arts, CUNY CSI; SWAAT Step Team, Christian Faith Power Center Church; St. Philip's Men's Choir; Dreyfus IS 49 Faculty Jazz Ensemble; Maurice Hyde, teacher, Dreyfus IS 49

This is a wonderful opportunity for schools, families, and communities to encourage children to achieve success and prepare for college. People commented that the event was "very well planned and organized" and that they were "looking forward to the next one."

Additional Activities

► GEAR UP Texas Instruments TI 84 Plus Graphing Calculator Workshop

On March 13, 2007, 20 Dreyfus IS 49 6th and 7th grade students accompanied their parents and guardians to this workshop where they were introduced to technology that their children will be using in the classroom.

► GEAR UP Technology Workshops for Dreyfus IS 49 Teachers

On April 11 and 25, 2007, 9 Dreyfus IS 49 science and math teachers saw demonstrations on how to use the TI 84 Plus Graphing Calculator in the classroom, while a workshop on ways of using podcasts in the classroom was provided for English language arts and social studies teachers.

► Anti-Violence Circus

On April 17, 2007, 285 Dreyfus IS 49 students and staff viewed demonstrations on conflict resolution.

► Poetry Family Night

On April 19, 2007, 30 Dreyfus IS 49 students, parents, and staff participated in a celebration of National Poetry Month. Students brought in favorite poems and students, parents, and staff recited poetry.

► GEAR UP Parent Book Club

Held monthly, during PTA meetings, 12 parents from Dreyfus IS 49 took part in this event designed to improve communication with parents through a shared cultural activity. *The Color of Water* by James McBride, a memoir recommended by the principal, was the featured book.

► GEAR UP Project COEP (Community Outreach Educational Program) "Reach a Parent - Teach a Parent" Community Outreach Walk

During Spring 2007, 7 COEP Committee members and GEAR UP Parent and Community Educational Resource Center team members walked around the community offering information about GEAR UP services and activities at Dreyfus IS 49 to parents, families, and community members.

CUNY MGI GEAR UP

► Middle School College and Career Fair

May 7, 2007

Location: Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY

Participants: 375 students

Purpose: To prepare students for the college selection process and to meet with college representatives.

Agenda:

- Orientation
- Visit with college representatives and collect materials about the colleges

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: About 70 representatives from SUNY, CUNY, New York state's private colleges and universities, and out-of-state colleges

College representatives reported that the MCI/GEAR UP students were among the most prepared students they had seen that day. Students were polite, looked them in the eye when they spoke, and asked excellent questions about college majors, financial aid, and campus facilities.

► Middle Grades Initiative/GEAR UP Spring Parent Workshop

May 19, 2007

Location: CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College

Participants: 45 parents, 6 parent advisory committee members, 11 workshop and panel presenters

Purpose: To inform parents about high school graduation requirements, college admissions procedures, financial aid, and college savings plans.

Agenda:

- Workshops to help parents plan for their children's college education presented in English and Spanish and focused on: the disconnect between minimum high school graduation requirements and college preparation requirements; financial aid; parents' rights; and special education issues
- An English and a Spanish-speaking panel discussed: academic achievement, advanced placement, dual enrollment, and financial aid
- Concluding session on saving for college with New York State's 529 Plan and Upromise

CUNY MGI GEAR UP
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CUNY MGI GEAR UP continued from page 11

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: NYC Department of Education guidance counselors; CUNY admissions directors; CUNY College Now directors; MGI/GEAR UP coordinators; Upromise investments staff; Advocates for Children staff; Options Center for Educational and Career Choice staff

This event was organized by the MGI/GEAR UP parent advisory committee – 6 dedicated parent members who meet monthly to discuss strategies for engaging parents in actively planning for their children's college education.

Dowling College

► **Exploring Our Roots: Introducing Students to Genealogy and Family History**
Spring, 2007

Location: Milton Olive MS; Nassau County African-American Museum, Hempstead, NY; Calvary African Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery (also known as Young's Cemetery), Glen Cove, NY

Participants: Between 10 to 40 8th graders, 8 parents, and 3 teachers attended each event

Purpose: To introduce students to genealogy and to help them investigate aspects of their own family history.

Agenda:

- Introduction to genealogy, presented by Rhoda Miller, who teaches "Integrating Family History into the Curriculum" at Dowling College
- Students completed genealogical charts of families, using maps to identify countries or states of origin and migration routes
- Students brought heirlooms or special family items that offered insight into their ancestors' lives
- Over spring recess, students received digital recorders to use in interviewing their oldest relatives
- Guest speakers presented on Hispanic and African-American genealogy and on slavery artifacts
- Researched genealogy and family roots on the Internet, using a special user account for students at the Ancestry.com Web site
- Visited the Nassau County African-American Museum and saw a special program about Harriet Tubman and Granville T. Woods
- Visited Calvary AME Church historic cemetery
- Viewed the TV miniseries "Roots"

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Rhoda Miller, Director, Student Support Services, Dowling College; Joysetta Pearce, African-Atlantic Genealogical Society; Pat Calandra, Puerto Rican Hispanic Genealogical Society; Gene Peters, Curator, Sankofa Slavery and Black Holocaust Museums; David Byer-Tyre, Director, Nassau County African-American Museum; David Head, historic enactor, David L. Head Foundation; Mildred Clayton, historic enactor, David L. Head Foundation

As GEAR UP student Earl T. said after finding out that he was related to a famous African-American, Mary McLeod Bethune: "You never know what you will find out when you look into your roots." Students were able to see themselves in a new light, and learn more about their past. One student was so inspired that she decided to launch a career in journalism by writing an article about African-American inventor and businessman Granville T. Woods. Our cemetery visit gave students insights into the local operations of the Underground Railroad and Long Island Quakers who supported the abolition of slavery.

St. John's University

See page 5.

SUNY Binghamton University

► **Tour of SUNY Cobleskill**
March 22, 2007

Location: SUNY Cobleskill

Participants: 21 7th and 8th grade students from East MS, 24 7th and 8th grade students from West MS, 4 SUNY Binghamton University students, 4 SUNY Binghamton University GEAR UP staff (2 coordinators from East MS, 1 coordinator from West MS, and 1 parent and activities coordinator), 2 SUNY Cobleskill GEAR UP directors

Purpose: To allow students from the Binghamton City School District to learn about the programs SUNY Cobleskill offers as a college and to the community, and to have students tour the campus.

Agenda:

- Leave Binghamton at 7:45 am
- Visit SUNY Cobleskill admissions and other college offices
- Visit the taxidermy classrooms; fish hatchery; greenhouses; the barns and baby calves; the Equestrian Center and horses

- Walk through a culinary classroom and learn about the Culinary Arts program
- Lunch in a campus dining hall
- Return to Binghamton at 4:00 pm

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Linda Carpenter, Director, SUNY Cobleskill NYGEAR UP; Paul Turner, Director, SUNY Cobleskill GEAR UP (Federal)

Binghamton students were exposed to agricultural life, a real eye-opener for most of them. Typical comments included: "It was a great trip!" "I want to go to college here!" "I loved the horses!" "I want to come back again!"

► **Trip to New York City**
April 18, 2007

Location: American Museum of Natural History; Columbia University; Yankee Stadium

Participants: 40 7th and 8th grade students from East MS, 2 SUNY Binghamton GEAR UP coordinators, 2 East MS teachers, 1 parent

Purpose: To offer students an educational, cultural, and social experience in New York City

Agenda:

- Leave Binghamton at 7:30 am
- Visit American Museum of Natural History
- Lunch
- Tour Columbia University
- Dinner at Columbia University
- Attend baseball game at Yankee Stadium with 45 donated tickets
- Return to Binghamton at 12:30 am

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: SUNY Binghamton University GEAR UP staff; East MS teachers; a parent

The students enjoyed the American Museum of Natural History and gained a lot of valuable information from the tour of Columbia University. Students commented: "I want to go to Columbia University!" "This was the best field trip ever!" "Go Yankees!"

► **Expanding Your Horizons**
April 28, 2007

Location: Cornell University

Participants: 9 7th and 8th grade students from East MS, 1 SUNY Binghamton GEAR UP coordinator, 1 SUNY Binghamton University GEAR UP director

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for girls in grades 7 – 9 to learn about careers that involve math and science. The Expanding Your Horizons conference, presented annually at Cornell University, offered students a chance to attend three hands-on workshops filled with great scientific, mathematical, and engineering activities.

Agenda:

- Leave Binghamton at 7:30 am
- Registration on Cornell University campus
- Welcome
- Activity 1 and Activity 2
- Lunch
- Activity 3
- Keynote address by Dr. Stacy Kenyon
- Return to Binghamton at 5:30 pm

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Stacy Kenyon, D.V.M., Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Lowville, NY; Idalmis Batista-Blair, Director, SUNY Binghamton University GEAR UP; Cornell University students

Dr. Stacy Kenyon, who graduated from Cornell with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, was a great example for young females who might be interested in math and science. The activities were also well organized and showed students fun math and science applications. Students commented: "This was an awesome trip!" "I liked touching the stomach of the cow!" "Can I please go on the next GEAR UP field trip?"

Additional Activities

► Summer Service Learning

From July 9 – August 3, 2007, 7th and 8th grade students from East MS and West MS; students had an opportunity to develop service learning activities that meet both New York State learning standards and the needs of the community. This program, where students design service projects, was supported by GEAR UP and facilitated by Binghamton City School District teachers.

SUNY Cobleskill

► College Campus Tours

February 2, 2007, March 30, 2007
April 20, 23, and 24, 2007, May 18, 2007

Location: SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College, Hartwick College, SUNY College at Oneonta

Participants: 129 students from Charlotte Valley CS, Fort Plain CS, Owen D. Young CS, Richfield Springs CS, and South Kortright CS; 1 assistant principal, 2 guidance counselors, 5 parents, 4 teachers, 4 tutors, 1 GEAR UP activities coordinator

Purpose: To explore college choices and to show students various college campuses, both public and private.

Agenda:

- Walking tour of campus, led by a student tour guide or an admissions counselor
- Visits to buildings on campus
- Discussion of programs offered
- Lunch in a dining hall
- Admissions presentation

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Robert Renda, Assistant Professor of Technology and Faculty Learning Center Coordinator, SUNY Fulton-Montgomery CC; colleges' professors, students, and administrators

Students loved the food at the colleges. Of particular interest was a presentation on computer-generated animation by Bob Renda at SUNY Fulton-Montgomery CC. Students had a lot of laughs with Professor Renda as he crafted a spaceship on the computer, then added music, color, and movement. He also showed them how he could manipulate his voice to create different sounds. Students had a great time taking turns at the microphone and altering their own voices to sound like a chipmunk, Donald Duck, or Darth Vader.

► A Tour of Tyco Healthcare

March 20, 23, and 28, 2007

Location: Tyco Healthcare (Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals Outsourcing), Hobart, NY

Participants: 63 7th and 8th grade students from Laurens CS and South Kortright CS, 5 teachers, 3 tutors, 1 GEAR UP activities coordinator

Purpose: To learn about careers in an international pharmaceutical manufacturing and research facility that employs more than 400 people locally. This plant is a major producer of acetaminophen, used in Tylenol and other medications.

Agenda:

- Students traveled by bus to Tyco
- Presentation of video about Tyco Healthcare and the part it plays in producing many of the world's most popular and effective pharmaceuticals
- Tour of plant, including a production line
- Pizza lunch
- Return to school and afternoon classes

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Renée Woodridge, Human Resources, Tyco Healthcare; several chemists and employees of the facility

Students got to put on lab coats and safety goggles, which they found weird at first, until they learned how important it is to be protected

in this kind of workplace. Students were surprised by the high level of security at the plant. This activity opened up possible areas of study, especially in chemistry, criminal justice, and human resources. Several students mentioned that they had relatives working at Tyco and were happy to see where they worked.

► Bassett Healthcare's "Up Close" Program

May 1, 2007

Location: Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown, NY

Participants: 45 Charlotte Valley CS and Morris CS 7th grade students, 4 teachers, 2 GEAR UP tutors, GEAR UP activities coordinator

Purpose: To show students how to take care of their hearts and their health.

Agenda:

- Students viewed, on closed-circuit TV, a heart bypass operation, and asked questions of the doctors and nurses performing the surgery
- Presentation by a nutritional physiologist and a dietician on diet, exercise, and how to make healthy food choices

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Robert Alan Lancey, M.D., Chief of Cardiac Surgery and Co-Director, Bassett Heart Care Institute; Maryellen Wrubleski, N.P., Director of Clinical Programs, Bassett Heart Care Institute; Patricia Davis, R.N., Project Coordinator for Acute Care Nursing, Bassett Healthcare

Students were amazed to learn how many calories, fats, and sugars are in many of their favorite snack items, and how many calories they could burn doing chores such as raking leaves – or even playing the drums. One of the Charlotte Valley students was asked to put on a 15-pound vest to see what it was like to carry around extra weight. The boy had trouble jumping up and down and couldn't wait to "shed" his extra pounds.

*SUNY Cobleskill
continued on page 14*



SUNY Binghamton University GEAR UP students visit the stables during a tour of SUNY Cobleskill.

Additional Activities

► **Bassett Hospital In-School Presentations/Career Choices in Healthcare**

In February and March, 2007, Bassett Healthcare personnel visited 7th and 8th graders from Fort Plain CS, Middleburgh CS, Owen D. Young CS, Richfield Springs CS, and St. Johnsville CS. The students learned about careers in health care, including social work and rehabilitation services, and also experienced a hands-on lab presentation.

► **Robotics Training**

On March 2 and 30, 2007, and June 1, 2007, 24 teachers and 1 GEAR UP tutor received training in LEGO robotics.

► **7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens**

On April 4, 2007, 40 Charlotte Valley CS 7th graders experienced "7 Habits" training, with a presentation by Gary McGuey of Franklin Covey, Inc.

► **Residential Summer Robotics Camp at SUNY Cobleskill with SUNY Binghamton and CUNY Lehman College GEAR UP**

From July 8 – 12, 2007, 7th graders from two SUNY Cobleskill GEAR UP schools, CUNY Lehman College and SUNY Binghamton GEAR UP programs attended a Robotics Camp at SUNY Cobleskill that included a half-day of LEGO robotics classes, afternoon field trips to Clark Sports Center, the Iroquois Indian Museum, Howe Caverns, and the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station. Additional activities included daily ropes course team-building, work on problem-solving skills, and "7 Habits" training.

Syracuse University

See page 6.

College Quest 2007

NYGEAR UP students, along with parents and guardians, explored colleges and universities during the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities' (clcu) 2007 College Quest tours. The first tour, a three-day/two-night excursion on April 11 – 13, brought a group of 8th grade students from the City School District of Albany and the Richfield Springs Central School district (served by the SUNY Cobleskill NYGEAR UP site) to Hamilton College, Keuka College, Canisius College, Niagara University, Daemen College, St. John Fisher College, and Utica College.

The second tour, also a three-day/two night trip on June 25 – 27, took 8th grade students from the Albany City School District to the campuses of Le Moyne College, Niagara University, Syracuse University, and the University of Rochester. Students qualified for each tour by participating in NYGEAR UP activities and being recommended by a school staff member. The trip included transportation, meals, and overnight accommodations for students, parents/guardians and chaperones.

Each tour began with an orientation meeting several days before the trip to outline the tour's purpose and the expectations for all participants (including parents and chaperones). All students were asked to record facts and their impressions of each campus in the following categories: Academics, Extracurricular activities, Facilities, Admission requirements, Points of interest (anything they found especially appealing or noteworthy about the college)

Students and parents/chaperones were also asked to keep a daily journal and to make at least one entry about each college visited.

Frank Brightwell, an experienced and knowledgeable college counselor and educational consultant, was of great assistance in arranging both tours. Accompanying him as a tour leader on the April College Quest was Kiersten Hall, Assistant Director of Outreach Programs at clcu. Susan Nesbitt Perez, Vice President of Outreach Programs and Financial Aid at clcu, helped lead the June tour, along with Ms. Hall and Silvia Ferlazzo, Director of Pupil Personnel Services for the City School District of Albany. Because both tours included a stop at Niagara University, participants were able to visit Niagara Falls, and those on the June trip also had the

unforgettable experience of riding the Maid of the Mist boat to the foot of the Horseshoe Falls.

The first day of the April tour included visits to Hamilton College and Keuka College. On the second day, after an overnight stay at The Inn on the Lake in Canandaigua, New York, students toured Canisius and Daemen Colleges in Buffalo and Niagara University at Niagara Falls, NY; on the third day, during the trip home, there were stops at St. John Fisher College (in Rochester) and Utica College in Utica.

During the June trip, the College Quest group visited Le Moyne College and Syracuse University in Syracuse on the first day and stopped at the University of Rochester in Rochester on the last leg of the trip. The group stayed two nights on the Niagara University (NU) campus in a residence hall. The tour's second day was spent entirely on the NU campus and included several activities: a campus tour, three mock college classes taught by NU professors, and a session on admissions and financial aid for parents/guardians and chaperones.

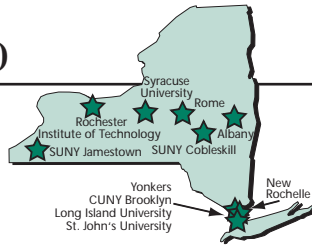
Over the summer, teams of students met with clcu staff and a local college student to create presentations that document their experiences and what they discovered on the College Quests. Their PowerPoint presentation will be premiered at Albany's NYGEAR UP Kick-Off meeting in October 2007. Students on both College Quests had mini-digital cameras and a digital voice recorder, to record their experiences and conduct their own interviews.



Students on the April clcu NYGEAR UP College Quest visit a brand new residence hall at Keuka College.

GEAR UP II 2005-2011/12 Sites and Contacts.

NYGEAR UP (9th grade in 2007-2008)



► City School District of Albany

Contact: Lynette B. Smith
(518) 432-4190
fax: (518) 465-6530
lsmith1@albany.k12.ny.us

Cohort size: 814

NYGEAR UP schools:
Abrookin Vocational Technical Center, Albany HS, Harriet Gibbons HS

► CUNY Brooklyn College Community Partnership

Contact: Denise Paige
(718) 488-3313
fax (718) 780-4045
dpaige81@earthlink.com

Cohort size: 440

NYGEAR UP schools:
HS for Democracy & Leadership,
HS for Human Rights, IS 291

► Long Island University/Brooklyn

Contact: Pia Stevens Haynes
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fax (718) 780-4045
pia.haynes@liu.edu

Cohort size: 420

NYGEAR UP schools:
Benjamin Banneker Academy,
Science Skills Center HS

► New Rochelle City School District

Contact: Gregoria Feliciano
(914) 576-4378
fax: (914) 632-2738

Cohort size: 383

NYGEAR UP schools:
New Rochelle HS

► Rochester Institute of Technology

Contact: Dianne L. Spang
(585) 475-2984
fax (585)-475-2888
dlspop@rit.edu

Cohort size: 746

NYGEAR UP schools:
Bioscience and Health Career School at Franklin, East HS, Global Media Arts HS at Franklin, International Finance & Economic Development Career School at Franklin

► Rome City School District

Contact: Matt Holopka
(518) 469-5230
fax (315) 334-7236
mholopka@romecsd.org

Cohort size: 413

NYGEAR UP schools:
Rome Free Academy

► St. John's University

Contact: Yvette Morgan
(718) 990-2532
fax (718) 990-2383
morgany@stjohns.edu

Contact: Andre McKenzie
(718) 990-1893
fax (718) 990-2383
mckenzia@stjohns.edu

Cohort size: 308

NYGEAR UP schools:
Albert Shanker School of Visual and Performing Arts, Long Island City HS, Oliver Wendell Holmes MS

► SUNY Cobleskill

Contact: Linda Carpenter
(518) 255-5362
fax (518) 255-5365
lcarpenter3@yahoo.com

Cohort size: 480

NYGEAR UP schools:
Charlotte Valley CS, Fort Plain CS, Jefferson CS, Laurens CS, Middleburgh CS, Morris CS, Owen D. Young CS, Richfield Springs CS, St. Johnsville CS, South Kortright CS, Stamford CS

► SUNY Jamestown Community College

Contact: Faith Graham
(716) 338-1101
fax (716) 338-1466
faithgraham@mail.sunyjcc.edu

Cohort size: 524

NYGEAR UP schools:
Dunkirk HS, Jamestown HS

► Syracuse University

Contact: Lena Kochian
(315) 443-1166
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lkochian@syr.edu

Cohort size: 1,747

NYGEAR UP schools:
Central Technical Vocational Center, Corcoran HS, Fowler HS, Henninger HS, Nottingham HS

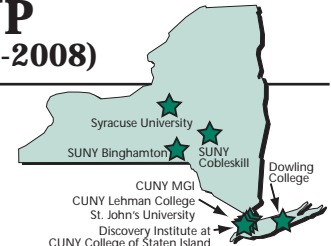
► Yonkers City School District

Contact: Fern Eisgrub
(914) 376-8213
fax (914) 423-0518
feisgrub@yonkerspublicschools.org

Cohort size: 920

NYGEAR UP schools:
Gorton HS, Lincoln HS, Riverside HS, Roosevelt HS, Saunders HS, Yonkers HS

Federal GEAR UP (7th-9th grades in 2007-2008)



► Bronx Institute at CUNY Lehman College

Contact: Elsie Padilla-Ayala
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elsie.padilla-ayala@lehman.cuny.edu

Contact: Kevin Anthony
(718) 960-8404
fax (718) 960-7219
kevin.anthony@lehman.cuny.edu

Cohort size: 3,410

GEAR UP schools:
Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice, Celia Cruz Bronx HS of Music, DeWitt Clinton HS, Frederick Douglass Academy III, Information and Network Technology Academy, Mott Hall Bronx HS, Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy, Urban Assembly School for Applied Math and Science, West Bronx Academy for the Future

► CUNY MGI GEAR UP

Contact: Sarah McConnell
(646) 344-7353
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sarah.mcconnell@mail.cuny.edu

Cohort size: 1,000

GEAR UP schools:
East Bronx Academy for the Future, East Side Community HS, Frederick Douglass Academy II, Henry Street School for International Studies, Hostos Lincoln Academy of Science, IS/HS 10 Frederick Douglass Academy, MS/HS 368 Information Network and Technology Academy, Queens Gateway to Health Sciences School, Renaissance Charter School, South Bronx Preparatory, Thurgood Marshall Academy

► Discovery Institute at CUNY College of Staten Island

Contact: Sajdah Um'rani-Mansur
(718) 982-2325
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umrani-mansur@mail.csi.cuny.edu

Cohort size: 772

GEAR UP schools:
Dreyfus IS 49

► Dowling College

Contact: Rhoda Miller
(631) 244-3335
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millerr@dowling.edu

Cohort size: 123

GEAR UP schools:
Wyandanch Memorial HS

► St. John's University

Contact: Yvette Morgan
(718) 990-2532
fax (718) 990-2383
morgany@stjohns.edu

Contact: Andre McKenzie
(718) 990-1893
fax (718) 990-2383
mckenzia@stjohns.edu

Cohort size: 327

GEAR UP schools:
Albert Shanker School of Visual and Performing Arts, Long Island City HS, Oliver Wendell Holmes MS

► SUNY Binghamton University

Contact: Idalmis Batista-Blair
(607) 777-6232
fax (607) 777-4187
ibatista@binghamton.edu

Cohort size: 905

GEAR UP schools:
Binghamton HS, East MS, West MS

► SUNY Cobleskill

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(518) 255-5360
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liberty@cobleskill.edu

Cohort size: 480

GEAR UP schools:
Charlotte Valley CS, Fort Plain CS, Jefferson CS, Laurens CS, Middleburgh CS, Morris CS, Owen D. Young CS, Richfield Springs CS, St. Johnsville CS, South Kortright CS, Stamford CS

► Syracuse University

Contact: Lena Kochian
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fax (315) 443-3976
lkochian@syr.edu

Cohort size: 3,400

GEAR UP schools:
Beard School, Bellevue Academy, Blodgett MS, Clary Magnet School, Danforth Magnet School, Frazer MS, Grant MS, Huntington MS, Levy MS, Lincoln MS, Roberts MS

Resources.

FOCUS ON LIFE SKILLS

Show Me the Future

Showmethefuture.org/game/index.cfm

An interactive educational game for middle and high school students. Each player gets a new identity, an occupation, an income, and a checking account with money that identity has earned. Players decide how much to spend and what to buy, while trying to have money left over at the end of the game.

Managing Your Time

www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/time.html

A useful set of downloadable resources and documents on time management. Includes a list of time management tips, guidance on how to create a personal schedule, and an online quiz, "How Well Do You Plan?"

The Study Skills Guide for Students

www.educationatlas.com/study-skills.html

Produced by Education Atlas, a portal to educational resources on the Internet, this site for students of all ages offers guidance on such topics as "Preparing to Study," "A Strategy for Reading Novels," "Dealing with Test Anxiety," "Study Groups," "Building Vocabulary," and "Making an Oral Presentation."

Estudiantes, Familias y Consejeros

http://www.hesc.com/content.nsf/Espanol/Estudiantes_Familias_y_Consejeros

A Spanish Web environment created by NYSHESC for Latino families and students, with links to resources on college and career planning, applying for financial aid, and links to additional information to help families plan for college.

NYGEAR UP 2007 Events.

(as of August 2007)

Fall 2007

NYGEAR UP Technical Workshop

Century House, Latham, NY

September 27 - 28, 2007

National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)

Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX

September 27 - 29, 2007

New York Student Financial Aid Administrators Association (NYSFAAA) Conference

Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, New York, NY

October 14 - 17, 2007

New York State School Counselor Association (NYSSCA)

Doubletree Hotel, Syracuse, NY

November 9 - 10, 2007

NYGEAR UP II Sectors and Partners.

► Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities

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► Association of Proprietary Colleges

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NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC).

► NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC)

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cfarmer@hesc.com



The New York State Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC) is the state agency that has been designated to administer NYGEAR UP. HESC helps people pay for college by providing a comprehensive range of financial aid services, including the Tuition Assistance Program, guaranteeing student loans, offering guidance to students, lenders and colleges, and administering the nationally-recognized New York's College Savings Program. New York State is a leader in the national financial aid community, providing more grant money to college students than any other state in the nation.

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