

**Women In Natural Sciences (WINS)** is an innovative and successful science enrichment program conducted by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in collaboration with the School District of Philadelphia. Since its founding in 1982, WINS has been providing female public school students with hands-on science classes, scientific literacy and skill-building activities, and opportunities for personal growth in a uniquely nurturing setting.

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# WINS Newsletter

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MARCH 2012

## The Academy turns 200!

The Academy turns 200 years old in March! The nation's oldest natural history museum will mark the milestone with a yearlong celebration befitting its extraordinary history of research, exploration and discovery which continues today.

The bicentennial year promises to be a busy one; it officially begins with the opening of an exciting new exhibit starting on Saturday, March 24 called *The Academy at 200: The Nature of Discovery*. The exhibit features rare and beautiful treasures from the collections, hands-on scientific exploration activities, and the unique opportunity to discover the innovative research going on at the Academy. The weekend will also feature an amazing laser light show, special guest appearances, fun hands-on

activities, music, games, crafts, and, of course, birthday cake.

Other activities during the year include monthly themed activities, giveaways, a special series of Town Square programs, a science symposium, and a dinner prepared by top chefs inspired by the Academy's specimen collections. The Bicentennial also marks the 30th anniversary of the WINS program - keep a look out for the details of this activity.

Don't miss out on all the great activities! I hope to see you at the opening.

*Betsy Payne, WINS Manager*



TWO HUNDRED  
YEARS OF DISCOVERY



Sarah Pellicchia using the skills she has learned at the botany lab to mount collection specimens.

This year, I have had the opportunity to do an internship in the Academy's Botany Department with Alina Freire-Fierro, the botany collection manager. In Botany, I have learned to mount and curate plants.

## Interning in the Botany Lab

When scientists go out into the field to collect the specimens, they flatten the specimens and let them dry. A lot of what I do is taking those dried plants and mounting, or gluing them on acid-free paper. I also sew and "tape" them on to make sure they don't fall off. This is called curating.

I am also learning the process of filing the plants; first you have to go by family, then narrow it down to species, and finally to the region it was collected. Sometimes the process can be really quick, but other times you

have to rearrange the entire cabinet to fit in the new specimens.

Interning in the Botany Department has been very helpful for me. I am very interested in plants, and I like to be out in nature. I learned that if I were to go to college for botany, I would eventually end up working in a lab all the time. Although I like working in the lab, I learned I would rather stay outside, studying and using living plants. Interning in botany has given me a lot of insight and experience.

Sarah Pellicchia, WINS II

## Senior Trip

Our senior trip to the Poconos Environmental Education Center (PEEC) was amazing. It was like going back to the beginning. We did team building, which reminded me of our WINS I experience. It felt different because when we first went, I didn't really trust the people in my class because I was closed off. But when the seniors went I felt comfortable putting all my trust in them and knew I would be okay.



The WINS Seniors, clockwise from left back, Joshlyn, Qwaya, Sunnise, Nancy, Jasmin, Irene, Breanna, Jasmir, Marissa, Comfort, Onyenma, and Dominique, bundled up to do team building activities at PEEC.

We had a heart to heart moment where everyone told their favorite trip and it got emotional, which really emphasized the fact that we are a sisterhood. No matter what little arguments or disputes we had at that moment it was clear that they all are my sisters. The senior trip brought a stronger bond between the senior class.

I didn't start with the senior class - I started WINS I a year after as a sophomore, but at the senior trip in PEEC no one would have guessed it because we all came together as one. PEEC was full of adventure and memories from hiking to the PEEC food. Going to PEEC was the best way to end our WINS years. Even though our experience ended at PEEC we still have memories and bonds that will last a life time.



Joshlyn Johnson enjoying the camp food at PEEC.

Joshlyn Johnson WINS II

## Happy Birthday!



*March*

*2nd - Sarah Pellechia  
6th - Jenin Sissoko  
12th - Onyenma Enwereji*

*20th - Nancy Koam  
30th - Qwaya Robinson*



*April*

*2nd - Comfort Adeyemi  
21st - Michele Huynh*

*12th - Jasmin White  
25th - Sierra Grayson*



*May*

*5th - Janiyah Jones  
5th - Ty'Shaniah Bailey-Norton  
8th - Jhanelle Richards  
12th - Dakota Foster*

*15th - Monique Edwards  
16th - Priya Smythe  
17th - Niyree Harris*

## Meet the WINS Coordinator



In November 2011, Allison "Allie" Smith, joined the WINS family as the new WINS Coordinator. Allison has a dual B.S. in psychology and sociology, a minor in history and an undergraduate certificate in Medieval and Renaissance studies from the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt).

While she was a student at Pitt, Allison had a work-study position at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH). While at CMNH she was able to work as a museum teacher on numerous programs within the education department. Following graduation from Pitt in 2009, Allison stayed at CMNH for another year, continuing her

work as a museum educator and as the Pre-Camp Coordinator for the summer camp program.

Allison moved to Philadelphia in August 2010 in order to pursue a graduate degree in Museum Education at the University of the Arts. During her time in Philadelphia, she has had the opportunity to work as an educator at the National Constitution Center and as a staff member for the Camp-In program at The Franklin Institute. During the summer of 2011, Allison was awarded the Richard C. von Hess museum education internship at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, MA, a position which allowed her to gain experience working as an educator in an art museum.

Currently Allison is finishing her Master's Thesis and will graduate from the University of the Arts this coming May! She is excited by her new position at the Academy and working with the WINS program.

## WINS Safari Overnight

The WINS Safari Overnight was a very unique, pleasant and memorable experience. Right after setting our sleeping bags below the backside of a dinosaur, we went into Dino classroom and were greeted with desks covered with small boxes. I faced one of my biggest fears that night - bugs. We were going to learn how to pin insects. Once I pierced the beetle's wing with the pin, I wasn't so



scared anymore. The butterfly was much less intimidating to pin.

Sandy Tang, left, concentrating while pinning a butterfly during the WINS Safari Overnight.

I think my favorite activities that night were the team building ones. We went into the Commons, and a giant letter 'A' made of wooden planks was presented to us. We were to get the frame from one end of the Commons to the other while one of us stood inside the A structure. It's a lot harder than it seems, and the rest of the girls had to drag you along without your feet ever touching the floor. When I was standing on it, I fell, but it was a good team effort to make sure that I didn't get hurt!

After a few more team-building exercises, we ended the night with one final activity - a blindfolded tour throughout the museum. We



The WINS working together to move the "A" frame with one of the girls in a team building exercise .

had to use our senses to guess where we were - we marched from the Commons to the Dino Hall, but first had to go upstairs, downstairs and through the Auditorium. I didn't go to sleep for a long while after that, we were having too much fun!

Sandy Tang, WINS I

THE ACADEMY  
OF NATURAL SCIENCES

of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

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## Dates to Remember...

### ALL WINS

**“Life After WINS” Alumnae Panel** - Thursday, March 8th 4:00pm to 6:00pm

**Senior Farewell** - Wednesday, May 30th 4:00pm to 6:00pm

### WINS I

**Field Trip! Adventure Aquarium**

Saturday, March 3rd  
9:00am to 4:00pm

**Field Trip! - Spring Recess trip to  
Delaware Aquatic Education  
Resource Center**

Monday to Thursday April 2nd to 5th

**Field Trip! Lady Maryland**

Saturday, May 5th  
7:30am to 6:30pm

**Field Trip! - “Cape to Cape”  
overnight camping trip**

Saturday to Sunday May 19th to 20th

### WINS II

**Field Trip! Stream Study at Stoudt’s**

Saturday, April 14th  
9:00am to 4:00pm

**Workshop: Intern Presentations**

Thursday, April 19th  
4:30pm to 6:00pm

**INTERNS ONLY Field Trip! Electro-  
shocking with the Patrick Center**

Tuesday, April 24th 8:00am to 4:00pm

**Academy Women of Science  
Self-Guided Activity**

Saturday or Sunday, May 12th or 13th

#### WINS Newsletter

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##### Send your comments or questions to:

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All activities are  
**rain or shine!**

Please let  
Ms. Betsy know  
if you cannot  
make it to an  
activity  
beforehand.