

Women In Natural Sciences (WINS) is an innovative and successful science enrichment program conducted by the Academy of Natural Sciences 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

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

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Notice something new?

The New Year is almost upon us, and it is always a good time to do something new. You might notice a few changes in this issue, but the most important is the contribution to the newsletter by the WINS I & II participants themselves.

The last issue of the WINS newsletter focused on reading. (*Have you read any good books lately?*) In this one, writing is the theme. The two are closely related, of course. As the writer Susan Sontag wrote, "*Reading usually precedes writing and the impulse to write is almost always*

fired by reading. Reading, the love of reading, is what makes you dream of becoming a writer."

Writing helps gather our thoughts and put them in perspective, in a way that others can hopefully understand. I don't expect that writing for the newsletter necessarily will make life-long writers out of the WINS. But I do think that it is a good opportunity since not all the girls have a chance to do so.

School requires that the girls write for many reasons, usually as part of a homework. I'd like to give the girls the opportunity to not only write freely about their experiences with the WINS program but also to share their thoughts with a larger audience.

Opportunities is, after all, what the WINS program is all about. So, who then better than the girls to tell you about the activities of the year? Look inside for their stories. Enjoy!



Betsy

Alumnae Alert! We are looking for YOU!

Yes, we are looking for you! We want you to share your time and talent with the current classes of WINS participants.

As we try to enhance the WINS II program, we are looking for successful examples of past participants to complement our curriculum. And yes, this means YOU!

WINS participants looking at raptors on Hawk Mountain sometime in the late 20th century!

"What can I do?", you ask. Take your pick! You could:

- Participate in a WINS activity to share your experiences with the girls,
- Be a tour guide at your college alma mater,
- Give a presentation to the WINS on your chosen field,
- Help navigate the girls through the college application procedures,
- Contact other alumnae to join the group and to update our alumnae list,

- Any other idea you might come up with!

One of the highlights of participating in the WINS program is the long lasting friendship bonds that are formed. I think this is something that can continue even after you "graduate" from the program.

If you are interested, please give me a call or drop me a line - I sure hope I hear from you!

Betsy Payne
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The Fossil Preparation Lab



Lataeya working on a fossil at the lab.

“Never in my life would I have thought that I would be working with fossils and so excited about doing what I do in the lab.”

-Lataeya Carr

My experience in the Fossil Prep lab has been once-in-a-lifetime. Never in my life would I have thought that I would be working with fossils and so excited about doing what I do in the lab. Working with fossils and learning about dinosaurs and pre-historic life is so much fun and amazing for me to learn.

Jason C. Poole, my boss and the man in charge of the lab and all of Dinosaur Hall has done an amazing job as my supervisor. Jason works with me and teaches me about the fossils, and everything else in general. In fact, because of him I'm thinking about going to school for Paleobiology instead of Criminal Justice Law. What a drastic change in majors!

The Fossil Prep Lab to me has got to be the best part of the museum. Some may say

that it is boring or that all we do is scrape rocks. But in all reality it's amazing to know that in your hands you have something that once lived millions of years ago. Also the lab is an exciting place to be; you have fun, it's entertaining and you meet great new people.

In the lab, I was given the opportunity to work on numerous fossils. Some include a rib of an *Apatosaurus* that is about 145 million years old and an *Ankylsaurus* vertebra, which are about 66 million years old. Right now in the lab I'm working on a jaw bone of a fish called *Mawsonia*. The fish would have been about 94 million years old and about 15 ft long.

I was also given the chance to go fossil hunting with Jason, Ms. Betsy and some other staff

members here at the Academy at Inversand in New Jersey. There we found some really neat fossils, which I got to clean and seal. I even get to take home some of the fossils that are not scientifically important, and start a collection of my own. Another really cool thing that I like to do in the lab is to make fossil casts; I was even given the opportunity to make my own to paint and to take home.

So as you can see, the lab experience is one that I wouldn't change for the world. I'm glad that I have the privilege to work in it, and also very thankful that Jason has given me the opportunity to work in the Lab.

*-Lataeya Carr – WINS II
Graduating 2010*

The Maize Maze

On September 22, 2008 the entire WINS program met at the Academy of Natural Sciences to go to Maize Maze. This is the first time that WINS I and II met in an activity together.

Maize Maze is a corn maze but there are also other activities at the Cherry Crest Farm in Ronks, PA. The weather was great and the day was filled with fun, laughter, and lots of corn. This was an excellent way to help use our team building skill with girls we didn't know and it also helped us out of the maze.

After the girls completed the maze they had a chance to see the other attractions farm had to offer. This included a gift shop, a petting zoo, a moon bounce, potato sack slides,

horseback riding, and much more.

This trip allowed the WINS girls to become better acquainted with each other and presented an excellent opportunity to make new friends.

This trip was a fun experience for me. There were so many girls in WINS I and II who I had not spoken to until this trip. Some of the girls and I went to the potato sack slides which was one of the most fun things that I have ever done. We did have an opportunity to get on the moon bounce, but it was really fun to watch other people get on and fall off.

The petting zoo was also another fun memory for me. The goats and chicks were

absolutely adorable. There was also plenty of good food. There was a fudge store that had any type fudge that you can think of and they were delicious.

I believe that this Maize Maze trip was an exciting and fun trip for everyone and I would love to go again.

*-Danielle Brown - WINS I
Graduating 2012*



Danielle, Breanna, Nancy and Jazmin work together to find their way out of a corn maze as part of a WINS I & II team building activity.

Alumni Story: I Remember When...

I remember when I was in WINS and at 8 a.m. on a yellow bus to New York, Baltimore, or wherever the trip was taking us, I had loads of energy. At age 14, I was equipped and ready for another fun bus ride: Coffee, check! Breakfast, check! Lunch, check! Cell Phone, check! Friends, check! Music, check! Needless to say, there is nothing like a WINS field trip bus ride.

But, my how things change as you become older! Well, I guess nothing changed, except my age. In November, I decided to chaperone the WINS I Bronx Zoo trip. At age 22, I thought I was equipped for the challenge: Coffee, check! Breakfast, check! Lunch, check! Cell Phone, check! Sunglasses to cover my sleepy eyes, check!

I got on the bus and couldn't understand how even with my tasty coffee and good night's rest, I still didn't even have an eighth of an ounce of the girls' energy. They were lively, vibrant, entertaining, and at times, out right loud, in a WINS girl kind of way. We pull up to the Bronx Zoo, and after two hours of good rest, I was prepared for the day of animals and WINS girls.



Dannyelle Combs is immersed within the 2008-09 WINS I class at the Bronx Zoo

Something happened to me once I got into the zoo. I don't know if it was the extra sleep, the extra coffee, the animals or if it was because I got the "rowdy" group... but I felt immersed back into the life of a WINS girl (the life of a WINS girl minus the 14 year old boy crazy festivities). I was side by side of the "rowdy" group, taking pictures at every possible angle in the Congo.

I remember when I was in WINS and we went to the Bronx Zoo... that day felt just like when I chaperoned... the only difference is: the energy, excitement, and walking affected me in ways that I would not even begin to understand at age 14. I was down right exhausted!



Dannyelle (first one on the left) as a WINS I on a field trip in 2001.

After this experience, I have decided that I need a week off of work prior to the college tour... I need to mentally and physically prepare myself. A whole weekend??? Alumni riddle: how many cups of coffee will an alumni need to get her through a weekend as a WINS chaperone?

College campus + college boys + WINS girls = a whole lot of coffee!

- Dannyelle Combs
WINS Graduate 2004

WINS II Explainers - we need you during the Holidays!

I know the holidays are a great time to sit back and relax, but... we need Explainers for the Holidays! This is also a good chance to earn some extra money. The Academy gets very busy during the winter break and we can use all the help we can get. Please stop by the WINS office and sign up **now** on the calendar.

Dates to Remember...

WINS I

- Saturday, Dec. 13th: **Field Trip!**
The American Museum of Natural History in NY. 8:00am to 7:00pm
- Wednesday, Jan. 14th:
First day of Winter session.
- Saturday, Jan. 24th: **Field Trip!**
Independence Seaport Museum
10:00am to 4:00pm
- Saturday, March 7th: **Field Trip!**
Adventure Aquarium, NJ
10:00am to 4:00pm

WINS II

- Dec. 4th to 7th: **College Tour!**
New York and New Jersey
Meet at Academy at 5:30pm
- Saturday, Jan. 31st: **Field Trip!**
Drexel University Tour (lunch provided)
10:00am to 3:00pm
Meet at Drexel's Admissions Office
- Saturday, Feb. 21st:
"Love Yourself: Mind, Body & Soul"
9:30am to 2:00pm at the Academy
(Breakfast provided from 9:30 - 10am only)

WINS Newsletter

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Philadelphia Cares...and so do the WINS!

On October 18th, 20 WINS II took part in the 15th Annual *Philadelphia Cares Day*, a marathon day of service. This activity was sponsored by Greater Philadelphia Cares in partnership with the Philadelphia School District. Thousands of volunteers work together to cleanup and beautify area schools and neighborhoods.

The WINS Team helped out the Hunting Park Neighborhood Advisory Committee site by cleaning the playground and the nearby areas. Though it was a windy and cold day, the girls kept a great sense of humor throughout the activity. *Good job girls!*

The WINS II team cleaning up the neighborhood in the Hunting Park area of North Philly.



Birthday Wishes to....

- Candance Walker - Jan. 11 (17)
- Eileen Toribio - Jan. 14 (15)
- Danielle Brown - Jan. 15 (15)
- Katreena Thomas - Jan. 22 (16)



- Jazmin Jenkins - Feb. 20 (15)
- Irene Patterson - Feb. 25 (15)
- Shana Bell - Mar. 3 (17)
- Onyenma Enwereji - Mar. 13 (15)
- Adjua Stinson-Murphy - Mar. 16 (16)
- Nancy Koam - Mar. 20 (15)
- Courtney Godbolt - Mar. 26 (16)
- Qwaya Robinson - Mar. 30 (15)



- Kerienne Huggins - Apr. 4 (16)
- Jasmine Henderson - Apr. 13 (15)
- Ebony Dyson - Apr. 16 (16)
- Olicia Stephen - Apr. 27 (16)



Oops! We forgot to mention on our last issue...

- Brittany Studevan - Nov. 6 (16)

Happy Birthday to all!

