THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
– PHILADELPHIA –

WINS Newsletter

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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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"I see myself in the future, returning as a WINS Alumna to help inspire the same ideas that have helped push me this far ...."

Yasmin Ahmed

Reflections on my WINS experience

The Women in Natural Sciences program (WINS) has always been a tremendous opportunity for me to experience all that the field of science has to offer and more. As a senior member, I can now reflect on how the program has provided me with not only the tools for success and the enrichment of learning outside of a classroom setting, but truly memorable friendships as well. Our WINS Annual College Tour is a prime example of one of our bonding rituals.

This year, we visited many prestigious Ivy League institutions in the New England region. However, the College Tour is not your typical run-of-the-mill fact farm, but an altogether new and exciting experience. On the Tour we get a taste of college life, rooming with our peers and carrying ourselves without adult supervision. In the few short days we spend together we learn to be independent and responsible, and also learn how to live with others contentedly. I look forward to every Tour and escaping the pressures of school work and home life in order to connect with the WINS sisterhood and the circle of friends I have come to recognize as my home away from home.

Yasmin Ahmed (left) with her good friend and fellow WINS Zakia Elliot.

WINS has not only helped us unite as women, but has opened our eyes to a world outside of Philadelphia. We visited the New England province, which was a refreshing scene from our traditional, bustling urban setting. Not only did we tour the campuses of world renowned Harvard, MIT, and Brown University but we were able to live and dine as the locals would.

And dine we did, eating at the notorious *Fire and Ice* Restaurant just outside of Harvard's campus. In my mind, this dining adventure was one that will surely not be forgotten. We were asked to fix the raw ingredients for our own meals, which was confusing at first when it was still unclear how the food would be cooked. But it was all freshly prepared in front of us, table-side on an enormous grill and confusion gave way to satisfaction at the end of everyone's meal. WINS is program unlike any other, and the College Tour is just the cherry on top.

This is my final year with WINS, and I have never expected our time together to end so soon, but being a part of this group for the past four years has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my entire life. WINS has not only given me connections to the world of natural science, but has offered up so much more in terms of friends and family. I see myself in the future, returning as a WINS Alumni to help inspire the same ideas that have helped push me this far and maybe even sneaking back onto that coach bus for yet another WINS Annual College Tour.

Yasmin Ahmned, WINS II

Great Experiences

"I can't wait for the years to come in WINS "
Nyree Harris

Nyree Harris (left) and Cheyenne Ostalaza with their eyes wide open looking for birds at Hawk Mountain.

A wise man once said, "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who cans no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed." This quote written by Albert Einstein stresses the fact that if you are not opened to new experiences, you will miss out on a lot in life.

My experience here in WINS has been incredible. I wonder what would happen if I rejected the acceptance letter, because as time went on I learned so much valuable information about my life and our plant, and made friends. The experience in WINS is invigorating and fun because of the trips and classes.

I went into this situation with a blindfold on. I never knew what was going to happen, how it would be or anything, but I decided to take a chance and now that my first year is almost over and I have taken off my blindfold and opened my eyes I can't wait for the years to come in WINS.

When I was accepted into WINS the only things I could think about were the people I would meet, friends I could make, things I would learn, and places we might go. So now I can say that throughout my time in WINS I have met new people and made good friends, I have learned about our earth and environment, and I have been to places I would have never thought existed. Because of this I'm becoming a well rounded young lady.

Thus, if you go into something with your eyes closed you might walk into a few walls as I did. But eventually you will walk threw the finish line with big goals, new friendships, knowledge and good memories all because of one experience.

Niyree Harris , WINS I

Come join us at the 2nd Annual "*Life After WINS*" Alumnae Panel!

Join us as three "decades" of WINS Alumnae return to the Academy to share their experiences about their "Life After WINS" with us on Tuesday, March 15th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

From the 80's, Tiffany Davison-Kegler, will be with us. She currently works with the City of Philadelphia as a program analyst for the Department of Behavioral Health/ Intellectual disAbility Services. Jamella Miller, a WINS from the 90's, is a clinical data manager within the pharmaceutical industry. And from the 00's, Felicia Cooper is a recent graduate from Lehigh University where she majored in behavioral neuroscience and minored in general psychology.

All WINS Alumnae are invited. Help us spread the word!!! Please RSVP by Friday, March 11th at (215) 299-1064 or payne@ansp.org.

Betsy Payne, WINS Manager

All WINS Safari Overnight

As a fellow WINS II girl who has not only been a part of one Safari Overnight (SON) but two, I find that it gets better every time. To me SON means bonding with the WINS II girls that I have known for some time, but it also means that I get to meet the new WINS and share with them what it is like for me to have been in this program for the second year.

I didn't think that this year's SON could even compare to how much fun I had last year but I honestly have to say that I had 10 times more fun this year. As the night of SON first started we were given our group colors and also the names of the other girls that were going to be in the same group as us, I was a little hesitant at first because there were so many different personalities in my group and I didn't know if our personalities would clash but as the night went on I have to say that we grew a lot closer. We listened to each other's ideas and thoughts without judgment and that's what made us respect and trust each other.

Team building is an integral part of the WINS SON. Above, the girls await their turn in one of the activities.

At this year's SON I hung out with girls that were different in many different ways, some were short, some were tall and some were different religions and race, but we all came together and played games that tested our communications skills, we ran around the commons playing the most silliest games that made no sense but the games just made us laugh hysterically. Not only did we have group trust activities we also had the opportunity to learn about birds and the effort that it takes to mount them in the different dioramas.

Italia Washington is in her second year of WINS.

I had the best time that SON and I can't wait to do it again. Even though some of the senior girls will move on from WINS, I know that there will be new girls for WINS I and I am looking forward to getting to know them and hopefully telling them about my third year in WINS.

Italia Washington, WINS II

March

3rd - Sarah Pellecchia
6th - Donneice Brownlee
6th - Tenin Sissoko
12th - Onyenma Enwereji
16th - Adjua Stinson-Murphy
20th - Nancy Koam
30th - Qwaya Robinson

April

2nd - Comfort Adeyemi
4th - Kerienne Huggins
6th - Martha Robles
12th - Jasmin White
13th - Jasmine Henderson
16th - Ebony Dyson
25th - Sierra Grayson
27th - Olicia Stephen

May

5th - Janiyah Jones
8th - Jhanelle Richards
12th - Dakota Foster
14th - Monique Edwards
16th - Priya Smythe
17th - Nyree Harris
26th - Dyamond Logan

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
– Philadelphia –

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103

WINS
Women In Natural Sciences

Dates to Remember…

ALL WINS

2nd Annual "Life After WINS" Alumnae Panel
Tuesday, March 15th 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Senior Farewell
Wednesday, June 1st 4:00pm to 6:00pm

WINS I

Field Trip! - Spring Recess trip to Delaware Aquatic Education Resource Center
Monday, April 18th to Thursday, April 21st. Meet at the Academy at 9:00am on Monday; back by 1:00pm on Thursday.

Field Trip! - Lady Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland
Saturday, May 7th
7:30am to 6:30pm

Field Trip! - "Cape to Cape" Overnight Camping
Saturday, May 21st to Sunday, May 22nd
Meet at the Academy at 9:00am on Saturday; back by 4:00pm on Sunday

WINS II

Field Trip - Lincoln University
Saturday, March 19th
8:00am to 3:00pm

Field Trip - NOAA & Rancocas Nature Center
Saturday, April 9th
9:00am to 3:00pm

Workshop: The Ewell Sale Stewart Library of the ANSP
Thursday, April 14th
4:30pm to 6:00pm

Field Trip - Bartram's Garden and the Art of Science
Saturday, May14th
9:30am to 2:30pm

Workshop: Fossil Field Work: Where, Why and How
Thursday, April 14th
4:30pm to 6:00pm

WINS Newsletter

Editors
Betsy Payne

Contributors
Yasmin Ahmed
Nyree Harris
Italia Washington

Send your comments or questions to:
Betsy Payne, WINS Manager
The Academy of Natural Sciences
1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19130
payne@ansp.org
(215) 299-1064