



## Dates to Remember...

### ALL WINS

**WINS Holiday Get-together** - Wednesday, December 14th 4:00pm to 6:00pm  
**WINS Safari Overnight** - Friday, January 6th at 6:30 until Saturday at 7:00am  
**"Life After WINS" Alumnae Panel** - Thursday, March 8th 4:00pm to 6:00pm

### WINS I

**First Class of Winter Session**  
Wednesday, January 11th  
4:00pm to 5:30pm  
**Field Trip! Wagner Museum**  
Monday, January 16th  
9:00am to 2:00pm  
**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

### WINS II

**Seniors PEEC Trip!**  
Friday to Monday, January 13th-16th  
**The Nature of Science Workshop**  
Thursday, January 19th  
4:30pm to 6:00pm  
**"Love Yourself: Mind, Body and Soul" Workshop**  
Saturday, February 11th  
9:30am to 3:00pm  
**Field Trip! - Ursinus College**  
Monday, February 20th  
9:00am to 3:00pm

#### WINS Newsletter

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All activities are  
**rain or shine!**

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

**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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Jasmin White, right in the white shirt, with Janai Keita working hard looking for fossils at the Red Hill section of Renovo, PA.

# WINS Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2011

## My First Fossil Hunt

*As part of an NSF grant, Dr. Ted Daeschler, the Academy's VP of Systematics & Library and Associate Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, gave a three-part series on "fossil hunting" to the WINS II. The first part was "Fossil Field Work: Where, Why and How"; the second was the "hunt" itself, and the third was "Curation and Research of Fossils". The below article is about the fossil hunt in the Red Hill area of Renovo, PA.*

On my first real fossil hunt, I went with a selected group of WINS and we were lucky enough to be under the leadership of Dr. Ted Daeschler, or as they call him in the Paleo Lab - "The King of Vertebrate Paleontology". When I first stepped onto the bus, my stomach turned with anxiety and excitement. I was going to be out in the field, like a real researcher - no one knows how intimidating that can be. In the Academy's Paleo Lab, I always talk about what goes on during a real life dig, but this time I was actually going to experience it myself.



When we first got to Red Hill, my heart jumped out of my chest, we were on the side of a highway and were soon going to climb up a steep hill - I'm afraid of heights! I wanted to get back on the bus so fast, but something inside of me told me that I deserved to have this experience, I deserved to experience this first hand. I got up all of my courage and took my first step onto that ledge. That first step was the hardest, it took all my strength not to go back down. At the end of the day I was one of the few WINS girls who found fossilized plants, trees, and the back of some animal. It was an accomplishment I will never forget.

That night at dinner was also something I will never forget. I was sitting across from Ted Daeschler, and felt very intimidated - he is after all an expert. When I'm nervous I always sing. It just so happens that the restaurant was playing country music (my favorite type of music!). As I was singing to every song that came on, Dr. Daeschler laughed and said "Country huh, I never would have guessed...I'm more of a sports radio guy..." This joke broke the ice and led to a great night of conversation. I must say that this was one of the best trips I've ever taken.

Jasmin White, WINS II

## In Your Own Words

In honor of WINS 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we would like to include some recollections from WINS alumnae as part of the Academy's "200 Years. 200 Stories." project. (<http://www.ansp.org/200/stories>)

We're looking for 200-250 word stories that answer any or all of the

following questions: What was WINS like when you participated? How did your WINS experience influence your career choices? What is your favorite WINS memory?



Please send me your stories (and photos!) to [payne@ansp.org](mailto:payne@ansp.org) by Wednesday, February 1, and be sure to include your year(s) of participation and contact information. We'd love to hear from you!

Betsy Payne  
WINS Manager



## College Tour 2011

Being as curious as I am about the environment I would one day fit into, I find it very important to go on as many college visits as possible. The college visits offer a chance to really see a school functioning and the students in action on a normal day. For most visits, the students were always busy and on the move—and I loved it. For the WINS Annual College Tour of 2011, the universities we visited were no exception. There were students everywhere—traveling to classes, working independently or in a group, or off to an activity they had for the day. Everyone was being productive in his or her own way and showing how active the campus really was.

Even in the chilling weather of Western Pennsylvania, our WINS group experienced nothing but warm welcoming from every school we visited, including Pennsylvania

State University, University of Pittsburgh, Shippensburg University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Carlow University. As a group, we learned a new thing about each one of these schools that sparked our personal interest and would persuade us to apply. Big thanks to those schools that made our college tour possible and pleasant!

Big thanks to our additional chaperones who come on the tour and to the WINS alumnae who made it even more memorable. And a special big thanks to Ms. Betsy for making the experience possible and a bunch of fun (as she does every year)! The ride to Western Pennsylvania was really swift and smooth on the coach bus we took. The hotel we stayed in was beautifully crafted (in my opinion) and the service was great! Of course Ms. Betsy makes

it interesting with making seniors of WINS den mothers. I believe that was a great experience too! With many surprises along the way, the WINS 2011 College Tour was another tour gone excellent—in my opinion the best yet!

Marissa Pinder, WINS II



Marissa Pinder, on left with panda hat, with Jasmir Turner during the visit to IUP.

## Visiting the Bronx Zoo

As a WINS I, I have had the opportunity to visit many different places and learn a lot of different things. Amongst the places that I visited was the Bronx Zoo.

The Bronx Zoo was an amazing experience because it is far different from the zoo that I'm used to going to - the Philadelphia Zoo. It is so much bigger! There is a larger selection of animals and they do not have all of the same types as we do in the Philadelphia Zoo. And since the animals are a bit wilder, they need and have more space.

I was able to see a bunch of animals that I had never seen before. I also got to visit some really neat attractions, such as the Sea Lion Pool, where I watched a group of sea lions being fed. During feeding times the

sea lions also perform, and their movement help the zookeepers get a better inspection of their bodies, to make sure they are okay.

I was also able to see the Mouse House, which is kept really dark because most of the mice there are nocturnal. Since the zoo is so big, I didn't get to see everything in it. And it was a lot of necessary walking to get to the places that I wanted to check out. But it was like nothing I had ever seen be-

fore, and all of the walking was worth it in the end. It is definitely one of my favorite WINS trips so far!

Alyssa Fairfax, WINS I



Alyssa Fairfax, standing second from left, on her first visit to the Bronx Zoo. With her is the WINS I class of 2011-12.

## Dual role - WINS Alumna / College Tour Guide

I had almost forgotten what it felt like to be a WINS girl. It has been years since I've rowed a canoe, pitched a tent, or went hiking through the woods. Our trips to PEEC were ages ago, and can I barely remember the days spent poking around in Stinkpot Pond. But it wasn't just mucking around in the wilderness that made WINS an irreplaceable part of my life. The opportunities it afforded to an otherwise underprivileged teen-aged female like myself were limitless. I would not be where I am today (A junior at the Pennsylvania State University) had it not been for the WINS program. It was an honor to be able to share my experiences with the girls this year on their annual college tour, not to mention exciting to see so many familiar and eager faces. I tried hard not to disappoint as I led them on my first collegiate tour.

Showing off the twenty four miles of pavement at Penn State was fun but tiring, to say the least. By the time the girls had come full circle, they were clamoring for lunch, and rightfully so. I had just crammed their brains (I hope!) with all of the ins and outs of campus life. But of all the things we saw- of all the information I rattled off - my biggest point was this: Academics are only a part of what college has to offer. It's what you do outside of the classroom that determines the path your life will take. If the girls remember nothing else, they will remember to get involved. That, and to stay away from the pizza in East dining commons!

I couldn't help but feel nostalgic towards those I affectionately call my babies - our current senior class. I remember their days as WINS I, fresh out of middle school and getting used to their new-found high school independence. Making friends was easy, but most importantly they taught me how to be a leader, and for that, I am grateful. But now my babies are anything but. They are women - ready to take on the world and em-



Aminah Ford-Ellison, at left, guiding the girls during the 2011 WINS College Tour.

bark on their college careers. I can only imagine the excitement when the acceptance letters start rolling in. Any university would be lucky to have them.

It was fun to be one of the girls again. To see my sister. To catch up with Miss Betsy. I hope I provided some insight into what college life is like; answered any questions about matriculation. Gave you the "low-down" on the "nitty-gritty". But most of all, I wanted to excite you. College will truly be the best years of your life. But it's not about partying and getting wasted. It's a time of self discovery. It's about realizing your potential and becoming the people you've always wanted to be. Accomplishing things you never thought possible. I see all of this in your future, and I wish you the best of luck!

Aminah Ford-Ellison, WINS Alumna

### Diciembre

5th - Tenzin Ngawang  
8th - Joshlyn Johnson  
14th - Nichole Bryant  
21st - Manna-Symone Middlebrooks  
23rd - Marissa Pinder  
27th - Keisha Medina

### Enero

2nd - Gabrielle Davis  
4th - Betty Lois  
9th - Kyra Sackstih  
14th - Michelle Holland  
15th - Rabiya Jalloh  
16th - Brittany Smith  
21st - Danaya Johnson  
21st - Daysha Johnson

### Febrero

19th - Alyssa Fairfax  
21st - Stephany Alcantara  
25th - Irene Patterson  
26th - Jasmine Harvey

