

THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103



Dates to Remember...

ALL WINS

WINS Night at the Museum - Friday, January 27th at 6:30 until Saturday at 7:00am
"Life After WINS" Alumnae Panel - Thursday, March 16th 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, February 18th
9:00am to 3:00pm

Field Trip! - Delaware Aquatic Education Resource Center
Monday to Thursday, April 10th-13th

WINS II

Seniors PEEC Trip!
Friday to Monday, January 13th-16th

Spatial Analysis in the Sciences Workshop Thursday, January 19th
4:30pm to 6:00pm

"Love Yourself: Polish Your Professional Image" Workshop
Saturday, February 11th
9:30am to 3:00pm

Malacology at the Academy Workshop
Thursday, February 16th 4:30 to 6:00pm

Forensic Sciences Workshop
Saturday, March 11th 9:00am to 2:30pm

WINS Newsletter

Editors
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Contributors
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Harleen Gonzalez
Fionna Truong

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.

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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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Lisa Kiziuk, Director of Bird Conservation at Willistown Conservation Trust in Newtown Square showing the proper handling techniques to WINS Jaelynn Robinson and Jaidah Murray.

WINS Newsletter

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Owl Banding at Rushton Farm

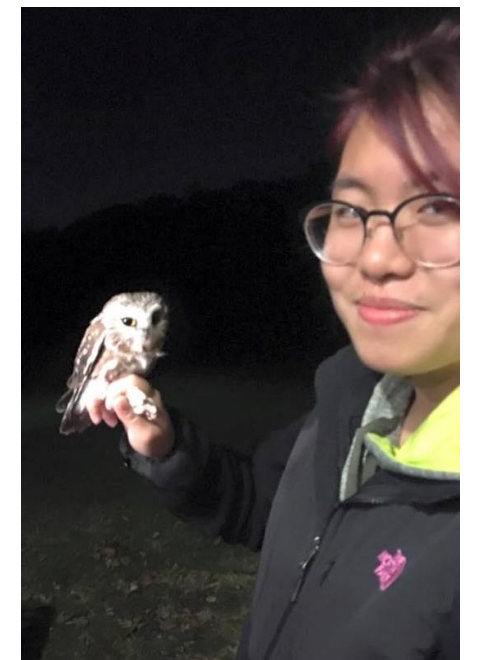
As part of our WINS II field trip to Rushton Farms in April we were invited to return to participate in their bird banding activities. A small group led by WINS Coordinator Kimberly Godfrey got to assist owl banding in the cool nights of October. Below is one of the WINS girls comments on her experience.

When I saw an opening for the owl banding activity at the end of October, I instantly jumped in and took the opportunity because let's get real - When would I ever get the chance to do something like this ever again? Most likely never.

So me and four other WINS girls along with Ms. Kim took a drive in the evening to Rushton Farms to begin our adventure. Us WINS were the first ones to set onto the trails to catch our first Northeastern Saw-whet Owl. We turned on our headlamps and headed out into the dark trails in absolute silence. Not too far down the trail, there were saw-whet calls to attract them to the nets. After a series of empty nets, we found our first owl! And oh my goodness it was the most precious thing ever! I never expected it to be so tiny. And the poor owl must have been terri-

fied. We decided to call her Speckles and brought her back for examination. Turns out, she had already been tagged and we ended up just added more data to her tag.

After databasing Speckles, we each got to take turns petting and handling her. I wasn't lying when I said



Fionna Truong demonstrating the proper way to hold a saw-whet owl during the banding activities.

that she was softer than warm mash potatoes. Nothing could compare to what these owls feel like. Imagine the softest throw blanket you can think and multiply that by a thousand.

When we finished holding little Speckles, it was time for us to release her back home. We all walked outside, and held her in complete darkness so that she could adjust her eyes again. After a five minute waiting period, we finally let her return back home.

After the whole trip, I was just left in complete awe. I couldn't believe what had happened moments earlier. It was truly a mesmerizing experience. I know that this memory will stay with me forever.

Fionna Truong
WINS II

WINS & ROOTS wins Drexel University President's Award

The WINS & ROOTS team was honored with the Drexel University President's Award for Intercultural Engagement and Diversity for the "Cultural Repercussions of Climate Change in Two Communities: A Teenage Viewpoint" in which high school girls in Philadelphia and Ulaanbaatar explored climate change and its effects on their cultures and daily lives. The project involved online curriculum on climate change and cultural appreciation, an explainer workforce for the partner National Museum of Mongolia, and a student exchange between the two countries.

In accepting the award at an October ceremony, WINS Manager Betsy Payne said the whole project kick-started with a grant through the Museums Connect program of the Department of State, through the American Alliance of Museums. "Through the project, we connected the National Museum of Mongolia with the Academy of Natural Sciences, which has a long history of research

with and within Mongolia," Payne explained. "Academy scientists have been studying the effects of climate change in Mongolia for over 20 years."

The Academy's WINS program was used as a model to start a similar group of young women at the National Museum of Mongolia, and together the groups learned about climate change, specifically on the subjects of water and food. The Mongolian program was dubbed ROOTS. "We connected them as 'pen pals' through Facebook, Skype and email, and then got them working on lessons together using Drexel's Partners platform. Lessons were developed in conjunction with interns in collaboration with educators and scientists," Payne said.

WINS Coordinator Kimberly Godfrey nominated the WINS & ROOTS team of Dr. Jacquie Genovesi, Academy Vice President for Education, Betsy Payne, WINS Manager, Muhtuya Goulden, Museums Connect Project Program Coordinator, National Museum of Mongolia, Katie Woolf, Drexel student and Desi Broadhurst, Academy Education Department Administrative Assistant.

Drexel's biennial President's Award honors significant contributions that promote awareness of and respect for diversity, create opportunities for intercultural engagement, and build upon the university's founding principle of inclusion. The Academy team was chosen from among a pool of well-deserving faculty and staff, who were nominated by their peers.

Carolyn Belardo
Academy Senior Communications Manager



The WINS & ROOTS team receiving the Drexel University President's Award for Intercultural Engagement and Diversity from Michele M. Rovinsky-Mayer, the Vice President of Equality and Diversity on the left and President John Fry on the right.

happy
December

3rd - Arianna Bradley
3rd - Ariel Bradley
16th - Le'Neisha McClary
22nd - Ngan Tran

January

1st - Raiga Pedro-Nichols
6th - Tina To
11th - Elizabeth Escobar
12th - Sawitri Mawardy
17th - Jaelynn Robinson

biRthday
February

1st - Nageli Perez
9th - Cash'z Chapman
18th - Mzymey Seng
27th - Azeemah Solomon
28th - Fionna Truong

My Experience with Mongolia and NSTA

The WINS presented "Engaging Teens in Climate Change" in the National Science Teachers Association's 5th Annual STEM Forum in Denver, Colorado. Two of the WINS who went to Mongolia, Harleen Gonzalez and Faatimat Sylla, who also went to Costa Rica, were co-presenters along with the WINS Manager Betsy Payne and Katie Woolf, one of the Drexel students who assisted in the project. Below is Harleen's experience.

Being given the opportunity to travel to Mongolia was an amazing experience in and of itself, but being given the opportunity to share what I was able to accomplish was even more rewarding. Going to Mongolia opened my eyes to a whole new world that I never knew existed.

In a busy and bustling city like Philadelphia, one would never expect to see much of nature and animals roaming around freely with the herders, but in Mongolia it was normal and typical to see things like that and be surrounded by a world full of nature. Alongside learning about the beautiful culture and seeing amazing views, I was able to learn about how climate change affected places like Mongolia specifically and their herding population.

Climate change is taking such a drastic toll on Mongolia and its ecosystem. Because summers are drier, the production of grass has diminished significantly which then affects the nomads and their herds. Learning about this made me realize that what we do on a daily basis not only affects us but others all around the world and that we are connected.



Harleen Gonzalez (left) and Faatimat Sylla presenting "Engaging Teens in Climate Change" in the NSTA STEM Forum in Denver in July 2016. They presented the teenagers point of view of their experience studying climate change in the "WINS & ROOTS" project in Mongolia. Faatimat also presented about the extension program the "Mariposa" Project in Costa Rica.

Going to the NSTA conference gave me the ability to present my experiences from Mongolia and pass forward all that I learned. I was able to present in front of group of teachers who hopefully pass the information forward so that we can fight against climate change. All in all, both experiences were amazing and I'm thankful to have had them thanks to WINS.

Harleen Gonzalez, WINS II

Showcase: WINS teaching others



Jaelynn Robinson (left) is shown holding a diamond-back terrapin to show young visitors in *Outside In*. She also gets to handle snakes, cockroaches and rabbits. She loves working there and describes it as a "room of awesomeness and adventure". Jaelynn is a sophomore at North East High School.



The WINS above are playing a "human board game" with young visitors at the Academy's Members Night. The board game's theme was climate change, and the questions were developed and the game ran by the girls who visited Costa Rica as part of the "Mariposa Project". From left are Arianna Bradley, Chelsea Middlebrooks and Kayla Savage.