

**THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES**
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103



ALL WINS

Friday, September 21st - **Maize Maze Team Building at Hurricane Hill Farm** 5:30pm to 10:00pm
Friday, December 28th - **WINS Holiday Get-Together Celebrating our 30th Anniversary** 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Academy's Dino Hall.

Dates to Remember

WINS I

Wednesday, September 12th: **First Day!**
Academy of Natural Sciences
4:00pm to 5:30pm

Saturday, October 6th: **Field Trip! Bronx Zoo** Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 7:00pm

Saturday, October 27th: **Field Trip! Hawk Mountain Sanctuary** Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 4:00pm

Saturday, December 8th: **Field Trip! America Museum of Natural History, NY** Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 7:00pm

WINS II

Thursday, September 20th: **Workshop - Going to College** 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Thursday, October 18th: **Workshop - Tree Philly** 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Saturday, October 27th: **Day of Service Tree Philly** 8:30am to 4:00pm

Thurs-Sun November 8th-11th: **College Tour! New York** Meet at the Academy on Thursday at 5:00pm, back on Sunday by 4:00pm

Thursday November 29th: **Workshop - Horticulture** 4:30pm to 6:00pm

WINS Newsletter

Editors
Betsy Payne
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Maranda Parker

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.

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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....we felt, first hand, what a Paleontologist goes through while in the field.
Maranda Parker

The WINS teams in Montana - counter-clockwise from left:
Jason Poole,
Breanna Smith, Priya Smythe, Maranda Parker, Betsy Payne, and Jasmin White.



WINS Newsletter

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SEPTEMBER 2012

Montana Internship Trip

Thanks to a grant from Raj L. Gupta and the UJALA Foundation and under the auspices of Jason Poole, the Academy's Paleo Lab Manager, some of the WINS interns were able to travel far afield. Four Paleo Lab interns, Breanna Smith, Jasmin White, Priya Smythe, and Maranda Parker, went to Red Lodge, Montana for a week to participate in the NJ State Museum School of Paleontology for a week. What follows are Maranda's thoughts of her trip.

This summer I had the opportunity to go on a field dig to Red Lodge, Montana. On the flight from Philadelphia I wasn't as nervous as I thought I would be. I was actually a little over excited - I even got Ms. Betsy to take a picture of us boarding the plane. We arrived around dinner time and after we ate, we went to a classroom to learn about background information about Red Lodge, the Yellowstone-Bighorn Research Association (where we were staying) and the sites we were going to visit.

On our first day of digging, the group worked in various teams. Priya and I were able to help two college students, Emory and Kate, who had rediscovered the skull of an Ankylosaurus and were in the process of excavating it. While I sat there collecting fossil fragments under the hot sun, I realized something - this was not for me and I did not want to study paleontology.

On Wednesday we went to a place called Dumb-Bell Hill. We had to go down a pretty steep path to get to the site. Once we got

down to the site we followed Dr. David Paris to an area he needed some help with. To get to this particular spot he had us walking in and out of gullies which are like miniaturized valleys, and jumping onto rock that you would question their stability over snake infested waters which were more like a small river. I truly felt as if I were on an adventure



Maranda mid-jump in one of the gullies at Dumbbell Hill.

in the wilderness.

When we finally arrived at the site it looked as if someone took a bag of fossil fragments and just dumped them on the surface. I felt I was really making progress with this site. After working on that spot for a few hours and other various areas nearby it came time to go back. To get back to the trucks we had to go back the way we came which meant going back up the very steep hill. I think it might have been harder than any WINS hikes I've done combined! Because of all the hard work we did, I have gained more respect for the study of paleontology.

One day we were able to go into town for a couple of hours. The place I liked best was the candy shop. This shop had every candy you could imagine; it kind of reminded me of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. I believe I might have bought a pound of candy or more from that candy store - I still haven't been able to finish all of it!

(continues on page 3)

The first hand effect



Tamira Bell, enjoying the water at a recent WINS trip to the Wissahickon at Fairmount Park.

process, in the first step the water passes through tightly spaced gates, prohibiting trash and other

Since I have been living in the city of Philadelphia all of my life, I have experienced the sight of litter and how it can be a major eye sore in the community, but I had never taken it into consideration to make a change. Well, my whole perspective changed once I visited the South East Water Treatment Plant on a WINS field trip.

While I was watching the water go through the filtration

items to enter into the next step. Then it sends the waste onto a table-like structure for disposal to a landfill and that's where it hit me! Trash, such as bags, bottles, paper, female sanitary items, electronics, and even mice were washed up. That amount of trash was just a start. There's even more in our water and in our streets. Then and there I made my decision to do my part and stop littering.

Litter can destroy the environment because it can get into bodies of water causing pollution, which can harm organisms. For instance, take those plastic rings that hold 6-packs drinks together, if you throw one of them on the ground, they can get washed into the sewer system, and can get carried into the ocean, which can get stuck around a fish harming them. So in order to protect our environment from the damaging effects of litter or biomass, do your part, don't litter, and if by chance you happen to see trash on the ground, pick it up and throw it away. Take it from me, I've experienced it firsthand.

Tamira Bell, WINS I

Alumnae - Save the Date!

and Current Participants! Details to follow. If you would like to help in the planning of the activity, please contact me by Oct. 1st at payne@ansp.org or at (215) 299-1064. Betsy Payne, WINS Manager

September

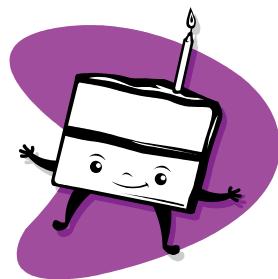
Happy Birthday!

October

- 1st - Gere Johnson
- 7th - Molly Olshin
- 10th - Jmani Jackson
- 16th - Shemiah Mack
- 30th - Janet Tia

- 7th - Sandy Tang
- 9th - Debbielynn Mayo
- 15th - Linda Croskey
- 17th - Gianni Oglesby-Chamberlain
- 17th - Kyjae Pannell

November



- 2nd - Alicia Vazquez
- 19th - Zania Jones
- 26th - Mjaan McJvor
- 26th - Maranda Parker

- 18th - DaiJzanaee Martinez
- 18th - Ti'anna Cooper
- 26th - Janai Keita
- 26th - Jacqueline Ng
- 28th - Krista Hill

My experience at PEEC

As part of the WINS I experience, the girls are required to journal. Kyjae Pannell was kind enough to let us share her journal entry from our last night at the Poconos Environmental Education Center (PEEC).

I liked my experience at PEEC. I learned a lot of interesting facts, I did things that I'll never do at home and I personally, I liked the food. It was kind of an adventure for me here at PEEC.



Kyjae Pannell journaling at dusk at the Scenic Gorge trail at PEEC.

What I learned at PEEC was:

- * How to identify poison ivy
- * How to cure poison ivy with jewel weed leaves
- * Different types of trees
- * How to identify how old a tree is based on the amount of rings
- * How old the forest is
- * Why you can see bed rock on top of the ground when it's supposed to be on the bottom.

The things we did at PEEC that I never did before were:

- * Hiking
- * Seeing an actual waterfall
- * Catch a frog or toad
- * Canoeing
- * Had a camp fire
- * Went to sleep early in the summer
- * Sleep in a bunk bed and see a lot of spiders, cicadas, nuts, poison ivy and lots and lots of trees.

The food at PEEC is something I would eat at home. The juice needs a

little fixing but it was good. Chilling, hanging and talking with my friends. I had a lot of adventures here. We went in the water and traveled far through rocks and broken down trees. Going hiking was fun except going up the hill. I think I gained a muscle in my leg. It was tiring. Going out on our own from one destination to another with just a map and compass was cool. Now I know how to use it.

My overall experience was awesome. Us WINS girls got closer. Were all friends and that makes it easier to go through certain things. The noises at night can be disturbing but fun. You can hear owls, cicadas, and crickets. The only thing I notice that I didn't see is lightning bugs. Maybe in this part you can't see them. The coolest thing ever is when you look into the sky you can see the constellations.

Kyjae Pannell, WINS I

Montana Internship Trip (cont.)

On our last day in the field, I was happy to find that just as there are highlights to working in the lab such as opening jackets and air scribing, there are highlights to working in the field. The highlight for me was jacketing the head of the Ankylosaurus that was located at the first site we had visited. Jacketing involves covering the fossil with wet burlap strips that are covered with plaster, after first laying down wet paper towels on the fossils to protect them from the plaster. I have to say that this was my favorite part about this trip - it seemed the messier we got, the better job we did.

While in Montana I have learned, tried, and experienced new things. One of the news things that I tried was fried pickles - which are delicious; and one



Maranda after doing a good day's work of jacketing an Ankylosaurus' skull.

thing I learned the hard way is not everything is good fried, prime example: fried mushrooms. I also learned how hard a Paleontologist job can really be. The weather conditions were different from the ones in Philadelphia - during the day in the field there was a dry kind of heat that would make your water boil. Something else that was different was the level of oxygen, due to the higher altitude; the oxygen was thinner than usual. So an easy task like taking our luggage up the hill to our cabin had us gasping for air. In the field we traveled up and down numerous hills and with no trees to shield us from the sun we felt, first hand, what a Paleontologist goes through while in the field.

Maranda Parker, WINS II