I love that WINS gives every girl in the program the opportunity to travel to places and do things we wouldn’t have done on our own. Last summer I got to intern with Ned Gilmore who works in the vertebrate zoology department. During my time working with Ned I tagged and cataloged specific amphibians and reptiles. Because of the internship, I was given the opportunity to travel to Chattanooga, Tennessee to attend the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists along with another WINS Intern, Mary-Janet Kamagate, who worked in the Ichthyology department.

When I first thought about going to this big conference full of graduate students, professors and people with more than a general knowledge of fish and reptiles I was a little frightened. Each talk was about 15 minutes and I didn’t think that was enough time to explain an entire research project. I knew we had to attend a lot of talks and I did not know if I was going to understand what people were presenting to us.

For me, the most interesting talks were about how different reptiles or amphibians adapted to different environmental or predatorial changes. There was one talk presented by a couple who conducted research on the responses of anoles to different species of fire ants and it was one of my favorite talks. I also enjoyed hearing the pros and cons of pit vipers is not a reliable source to keep an endangered rattlesnake translocation is the best way to keep that animal safe. On the other hand, another speaker concluded that for an endangered rattlesnake translocation is the best way to keep that animal safe. While moving through different sessions I found the more complex talks were about fish. Sometimes researchers had to start with embryos and the projects were long term. Some speakers had special programs to analyze their data with and if you were not familiar with it you wouldn’t understand it.

But overall I am glad I got to experience a conference like this. It gave me insight to what people in the ichthyology and herpetology field actually study and insight to what people at a conference like this. It gave me insight to what people in the ichthyology and herpetology field actually study and how it can sometimes relate to our everyday lives.

Kiambi Bruce, WINS II Senior

Kiambi Bruce (left) and Mary-Janet Kamagate traveled to the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Chattanooga, TN as part of their WINS Internships.
**Meet the WINS Coordinator**

Kimberly Godfrey joined the WINS family in July of 2014 as the new WINS coordinator. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Marine Biology at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL. For the past ten years, she coordinated and instructed various education programs for the Philadelphia Zoo, including teen programs and summer camps. Kimberly was born and raised in Philadelphia, but was sent to Milton Hershey School in 7th grade to complete her education in an environment away from family and neighborhood struggles. During her high school years, she interned with the Hershey Park Aquatheater and the former Camden Aquarium. Upon graduation, she went to Florida to pursue her dream of becoming a Marine Biologist, where she participated in local manatee and dolphin research programs. While her love for marine creatures is still evident, it turns out she also enjoys teaching youth just as much.

She is proud to be a Philly girl (come by and check out our Phillies-themed desk sometime!) and wants to inspire young Philadelphia women to strive for success in whatever path they choose. “There may not be a more perfect place for me to be right now than the WINS program. As a Philadelphia native, I was completely unaware of these local opportunities until someone opened my eyes to the possibilities. I want to do the same for these young ladies, using nature as my tool. I am excited by the possibilities my new position has to offer, and I look forward to the opportunity to truly make a difference in the lives of so many promising young adults!”

Betsy Payne, WINS Manager

---

**Kimberly Godfrey, the WINS Coordinator, enjoys exploring and learning from the Academy’s vast collections of specimens.**

---

**Alumnae - Let’s WORK IT!!!**

Career Wardrobe has joined WINS to present a day of activities for networking for alumnae that are about to graduate, are out looking for a job, or are in transitions between jobs. Join us for Work it! in December 2014 and learn about networking and how to present yourself in a professional manner. There are only 25 spaces available - so stay tuned for details in our next newsletter!

---

**Beyond WINS**

Before starting my freshman year of college, I was already thinking about applying for summer internships. Since I am a Biology/Pre-Med major, I wanted something that was science-related instead of just a regular 9 to 5 job. I wanted an opportunity to gain new experiences during the summer as well as give me a head start before going back to school.

I applied to the Biology internships on the announcement boards, but most of the internships were in D.C., Maryland, Atlanta, and Texas. It was already a big adjustment being in the South where the pace is slower and the culture is different, so I wanted to be close to home for the summer. As weeks went by, I started receiving emails back asking about my interest in the internships, but honestly, due to location, I wasn’t interested at all. I spoke to my advisor and told her about this great internship I had at the USDA through the WINS program in 2012. She advised me to look into internship opportunities there, so I did.

That day I received an email from Ms. Betsy, the WINS manager with a link to the USDA for summer internships. I thought, “This is perfect timing.” I applied to them and then I contacted Dr. Moreau, my mentor from 2012, as well as Dr. Paul, who is in charge of the WINS-FWP (Federal Women’s Program) outreach program. I got a response from both of them within that same day. I was beyond thrilled because I haven’t stopped thinking of getting back to the USDA since my internship ended.

That summer I worked with Dr. Paul in the Dairy and Functional Foods Research Unit (DFFRU) where we were working to overexpress and isolate the protein BlpU (which is a potential bacteriocin, a kind of antibiotic). I have learned to work with bacteria like Streptococcus thermophilus and Escherichia coli, and learned techniques like sub-cloning genes, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), making and running DNA and protein gels, and making media for growing bacterial cultures.

Overall this was a truly educational and exciting experience. I feel like I’ve accomplished so much being here and by being given certain assignments by Dr. Paul. I’ve gained more confidence in the lab because she trusted me with tasks like running gels and columns to purify proteins, etc. I feel like I will be a help to my peers as well when I have labs during my next semester at school because of all the experiences I had.

I am excited to go back to school to continue my journey to a rewarding career. But I am sad that my internship had to end; I always enjoy my time at the USDA. I am so grateful to the WINS program for providing me with the opportunity to work at the USDA in high school and for continuing to send me opportunities now that I am an alumna. I look forward to returning in the future for more research opportunities.

Monique Edwards, WINS Alumna