

THE ACADEMY  
OF NATURAL SCIENCES  
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway  
Philadelphia, PA 19103



## ALL WINS

Friday, September 30th - **Members' Night** - from 5:00pm to 9:00pm at the Academy of Natural Sciences

Wednesday, December 21st - **WINS Holiday Get-Together** 4:00pm to 6:00pm

## Dates to Remember

### WINS I

Wednesday, September 7th: **First Day!**  
Academy of Natural Sciences  
4:00pm to 5:30pm

Saturday, October 15th: **Field Trip! Hawk Mountain Sanctuary** Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 4:00pm

Saturday, October 29th: **Field Trip! Bronx Zoo** Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 7:00pm

Saturday, December 3rd: **Field Trip! America Museum of Natural History, NY** Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 7:00pm

### WINS II

Thursday, September 15th: **Workshop - The Science of Cemeteries** 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Saturday, October 8th: **Field Trip! Woodlands Cemetery** Meet at 4000 Woodland Ave. at 9:00am (take the trolley to 40th street) to 1:30pm

Thursday, October 20th: **Workshop - College Financial Aid Demystified: A Session for Families** 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Wed-Sat, November 9th-12th: **College Tour! New York** Meet at the Academy on Wednesday at 5:00pm, back on Saturday by 4:00pm

Thursday November 17th: **Workshop - Climate Change in Philadelphia** 4:30pm to 6:00pm

### WINS Newsletter

#### Editors

Betsy Payne  
Kimberly Godfrey

#### Contributors

Erin Davis  
Bunga Octaviany  
Destiny Samuels  
Samiha Tahsin

#### 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  
(215) 299-1165 fax

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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# WINS Newsletter

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2016

## Mid-Atlantic Youth Alive! (MAYA)

You never know when an amazing opportunity will come your way. I have always believed that you should take chances in life and this was one time where I was glad that I did. It was a summer night when I was going through my phone like the usual routine of a teenager who has nothing to do, scrolling through Instagram, Snapchat and others. Then I got an email from Ms. Betsy about MAYA. I didn't know anything about it but Ms. Betsy had mentioned it to us before. I still didn't get the memo and all she included on the email was that she needed five girls, when and where it would be, and who would be in charge of it. Again, it was summer and I had nothing to do except going on my social media. I mean, can you tell how boring my summer was? I had been waiting to hear about new opportunities from WINS because WINS give the best opportunities to us and I know whatever I participate in would make for a great experience. So, I decided to answer the email and told her that I would gladly go. I knew this was going to be a trip to remember.

This year MAYA was held at the University at Maryland, Center for Environmental Sciences, Horn Point Labs in Cambridge, MD. We were the second group to arrive. We sat in the

back of the room then, one by one, the kids from the other group, CAUSE from Adventure Aquarium, came up to us and introduced themselves. It felt amazing because it seemed like they didn't have to think twice to do that. So we were the first groups that bonded. After dinner we began team building. First, we were divided into two groups: Oyster and Crab. WINS was in Oyster with the three other groups. We had to work as a team and compete with the other teams. The activities were so hard that we didn't win any, but we didn't give up and kept on trying. Ms. Kim, our leader who came with us, told us to not focus on the other group or on winning the games, but instead focus on our own team and the progress we made. We were the last team to finish but the others cheered and supported us. It felt so great that I was surrounded by people who motivate each other, rather than judge each other.

The next day we, the Oysters, went to the lab to go on the tour while Crab went canoeing. Then we switched. The tour was great because I saw some cool things, like one machine they use to give them predictions and information about hurricanes. Then we had a chance to touch a Sturgeon, a fish that can grow up to 14-16 ft., but don't worry the one that I touched was probably a baby because it was not that big! We later learned about oysters and how the staff and scientists at Horn Point help the oyster population. Afterwards, we went canoeing, which was one of my favorite activities. I went in a canoe with Destiny. She is a great partner to have, despite her tipping over in her kayak during our kayaking trip. We had fun and the breeze felt amazing.

For dinner, we had crabs - at least some of us - they were so good. We all bonded and felt like we knew each other for so long. We had some free time and I decided to get out of my comfort zone and play football with the guys and some other brave girls. No one was judged by their skills or gender; we all played and had fun and it was awesome. Then we ended the night with a night hike and we saw shooting stars.



WINS and friends at MAYA. From left: Jakiah McDonald, Muneeba Arshad, Isaac and Coco from CAUSE, Destiny Samuels, Bunga Octaviany and Jaelynn Robinson.

### My PEEC Experience

Surrounded by nature  
and my own thoughts

I sit in silence  
and let the chirps of the birds  
will away the madness in my mind

Miles and miles away  
but – this feels like home.

It smells like rain and moss

The only scent in the air  
I can't even smell the burning embers

It's different. Alone. Free.  
No one to impress but myself

WINS  
Has dragged me through doors I thought  
I'd never open.

Open. Opening my eyes to a more  
Beautiful kind of seeing.

A new kind of me was born this week.  
A me I like.  
A me that isn't afraid of anything  
Not even Hissing Madagascar Cockroaches.

These trees do not remind  
me of the city.  
But they do of home.

They remind me that even  
The most beautiful things  
can  
Make a home out of  
a little dirt, some rocks, and  
critters.

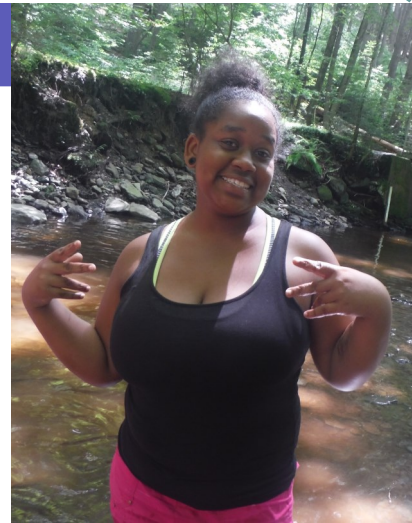
This is a - different kind of  
beauty.  
Beyoncé – is beautiful  
Flowers – are beautiful

But these girls have shown me  
beauty in a crooked smile, - braids,-  
and some foggy pond water.

Beauty in hiking boots and tank tops.  
Beauty in absolutely nothing – and everything.  
A beauty that cannot be bought.

I sit – on a dead tree  
and behold nothing –  
but...everything.

Erin Davis, WINS I



Erin Davis immersed in the beauty of  
Doodle Hollow Creek during the  
WINS I PEEC week..

### Surviving Lacawac

“Drexel’s Biodiversity Earth and Environmental Science  
faculty has planned a diverse series of investigations and activi-  
ties that will allow you to explore and discover the terrestrial  
and aquatic wonders of the Poconos,” said Ron Smith, the  
leader of Drexel Environmental Science Leadership Academy  
at the Lacawac Sanctuary. Fortunately enough three WINS  
students including myself were offered an opportunity to par-  
ticipate in it.

It was nerve-wrecking at first having to meet new students  
but on our arrival at the sanctuary we were warmly greeted.  
Following this our discussion on certain issues ensued and  
every individual actively participated with both eagerness and  
curiosity. However during our free time on the first night our  
conversations were short and nothing less of extreme awk-  
wardness. But that would change as we would soon all be-  
come close friends.

I honestly at first didn’t know what to expect. I did howev-  
er assume it would be brutal, exhausting, terrifying and it was  
at times; but it was more than that. Within the six days at  
camp I experienced great joy as we hiked, canoed, fished, ori-  
enteered and much more. For me every day was a new day  
with new experiences.

We were taught by highly respected professors and ex-  
pert scientists thus allowing us to gain greater knowledge and  
experience. On the first day Dr. Ted Daeschler gave us a les-  
son on paleontology and geology during our hiking trip. An-  
other day was with Mr. Paul F. Overbeck who has over 20  
years of experience and took us out into the water where we  
studied various marine specimens. Like I said every day was a  
new day. Additionally we worked both in the lab and in the



Samiha Tahsin, on left, working coring trees during forestry class  
with a student from Chicago at Lacawac in August 2016

field giving us opportunities to learn in various settings and  
study different living organisms. I saw various species of birds,  
frogs, salamanders and was even a few feet away from two  
water snakes!

Now as for my favorite personal experience during this  
trip, it would be when we went night canoeing. All of our cano-  
es joined together in the middle of the lake where we laid  
on our backs and looked upon the sky. The atmosphere was  
refreshing and the stars dazzled bright. It’s a completely differ-  
ent view of what I usually see in the city. It was breathtaking,  
leaving me in complete awe.

In the end I survived Lacawac, gained great experience and  
made wonderful friends. This trip was definitely the highlight of  
my summer.

Samiha Tahsin, WINS II

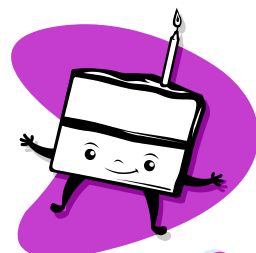
September

8th - Enejha Dozier

8th - Lanyah Wilder

24th - Xioaoya Kang

28th - Cecile Smith



# Happy Birthday!

October

5th - Grace James

November

6th - Fakeemah Russell

9th - Jakiak McDonald

10th - Arionna Johnson-Jones

10th - Habibata Sylla

27th - Saquyah Burden

30th Dannaë Harrison-Glasco

### MAYA (cont.)

The third day we went to Phillips  
Wharf Environmental Center in Tilghman,  
MD. The Oyster group went on a boat  
first. It was hot but the view was amazing.  
We learned some interesting things about  
the boat and more about oysters. The  
guy advised us, “If someday you build a  
boat, don’t name it after your girlfriend  
because if you break up you have to  
change the name and it is bad luck.” I just  
thought that was funny. Then we  
switched with the Crabs and went to  
classes to learn more about sturgeon,  
crabs, and turtles.

After dinner we wrote letters for the  
people that are special to us in MAYA.  
This allowed us to really express how  
much we appreciate them. I wrote mine  
to the CAUSE team because they were  
the group that we bonded with the most.  
One of their teammates wrote us a letter  
too. It is now in the WINS office. This  
exciting day ended with a campfire. We  
all gathered around the campfire to make  
s’mores and played song wars. That night  
was so amazing, we all had fun and sang at  
the top of our lungs; time flew by so fast.

The last day everyone was so sad to  
leave each other and we all took lots of  
pictures. We not only learned new things

in MAYA, we learned to be ourselves and  
to accept everyone. We didn’t just learn  
about team building, we also learned  
about becoming a leader. I had the great-  
est experience in MAYA and will be hap-  
py when I interact with the amazing peo-  
ple I met there again. So, take the chances  
in life; it might just be the greatest thing.  
Get out of your comfort zone and don't  
be scared to do something new because  
that's the whole point of life.

Bunga Octaviany with help from  
Destiny Samuels, both WINS II