

THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103



Dates to Remember...

ALL WINS

“Life After WINS” Alumnae Panel - Thursday, March 16th 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Senior Farewell - Wednesday, May 24th* 4:30pm to 6:30pm (*Please note change of date from original calendar)

WINS I

Field Trip! - Spring Recess trip to Delaware Aquatic Education Resource Center
Monday to Thursday April 10th to 13th
Field Trip! Lady Maryland
Saturday, May 6th
7:30am to 6:30pm
Field Trip! - “Cape to Cape” overnight camping trip
Saturday to Sunday May 20th to 21st

WINS II

Workshop: Forensic Sciences
Saturday, March 11th
9:30am to 3:00pm
Workshop: Intern Presentations
Thursday, April 20th
4:30pm to 6:00pm
Field Trip! Rancocas Nature Center
Saturday, April 29th 9:00am to 2:30pm
Field Trip! Bartram’s Garden and the Art of Nature
Saturday, May 13th 9:00am to 1:30pm

WINS Newsletter

Editors
Betsy Payne
Kimberly Godfrey

Contributors
Kayla Savage

Send your comments or questions to:
Betsy Payne, WINS Manager
The Academy of Natural Sciences
of Drexel University
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.

THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WINS Internship - Ichthyology	2
Birthday Girls	2
Afterschool Youth Champion Award for WINS Senior	3
Dates to Remember	4

WINS Newsletter

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1

MARCH 2017

WINS Alumna named to Academy Board

We are so pleased to welcome Latasha Harling, WINS participant from 1996-2000, to the Board of Directors of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University! If the name sounds familiar, it is because Latasha was a panelist in the 2016 “Life After WINS” Alumnae Panel.

A native of Philadelphia, Latasha grew up in the Mount Airy section of the city. She then moved to Hartly, Delaware in her teens where she finished high school. While in WINS, Latasha was selected to go to Belize for a summer to study marine and rain forest ecosystems. She also dedicated many hours working at the Academy in several different departments including Outside In and Museum Overnights. Latasha’s experiences in WINS with girls, children and people of all backgrounds helped shape her future in people analytics and leadership coaching.

Latasha is a human resource and payroll professional with more than 10 years’ experience and a career spanning multiple industries including hospitality, education and healthcare. Her varied positions within Human Resources and Finance have provided a myriad of experience in labor relations, successfully managing multiple labor negotiations in Philadelphia. Latasha is currently the Director of HR Operations & Employee Relations at Inglis Inc.; the largest provider of affordable accessible housing for people with disabilities. She currently leads human resources operations for Inglis Corporation, Inglis Housing and Inglis Community Services in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Latasha holds senior level certifications in Human Resource Management and Payroll Administration. Additionally, she has completed the Executive Leadership program in People Analytics and Corporate Finance at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



Latasha dedicates her time away from work to diversity, education and equality in the city of Philadelphia. She regularly holds job readiness classes for those re-entering the workforce as a volunteer at The Free Library of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Prison System and many shelters and transitional housing programs in Philadelphia. She has a focused attention on women and minorities, specifically those with disabilities in the workforce and lends her talents to further equity initiatives throughout the city for those cohort groups. She furthers that work as a board trustee at The Philadelphia School, where she co-chairs the Diversity and Community Engagement committees.

Latasha lives with her husband of ten years and three children in suburban Philadelphia.

Don’t miss our next “Life After WINS” Alumnae Panel on Thursday, March 16th from 4:00-6:00pm at the Academy’s auditorium. Our speakers are Marcia Bullock-Stewart (1994-1998), Terrina Price (200-2004) and Kerienne Huggins (2007-2011). Please RSVP at (215) 299-1064.



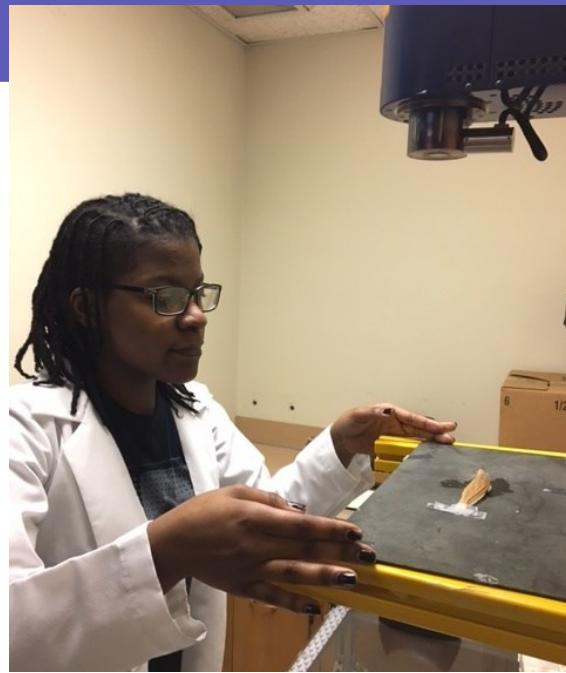
WINS Internship - Ichthyology

My experience as an Ichthyology Intern has been extremely worthwhile. From the moment Ariel and I walked in to meet our mentors, Mark Sabaj, Maria Arce and Kyle Luckenbill we have always felt welcomed. I remember my primary reason for applying for the Ichthyology internship was to learn how to photograph, photoshop and x-ray. I was then able to use these skills towards my own schoolwork and hobbies.

I loved the idea that Ariel and I get to have our names on the images and x-rays that we produced. I repeatedly brag about how my name is on a scientist's desktop somewhere while they researched the specimen. It was amazing how scientists from Brazil, Italy and so many other places were interested in the collection that I frequently forgot the Academy has. We had the privilege to take these images and send them to scientists who are researching the fish in the collection and I'm joyful to be apart of that.

Every week we go from labeling, x-raying, photographing, organizing to much more. However, no matter what we do each week I always felt ecstatic to be there with people who love what they do. I appreciate scientists who feel the need to express why they love what they do. There is always an energy you get from being around people like that.

Days where I would have lots of work to come home to, when the elevator's doors would open on the 1st floor, it reminded me of why I was working so hard in the first place. It prompts me to work hard for



Kayla Savage centering a fish before taking an x-ray. She will then edit it with Photoshop and add it to the Academy's collection.

my goals so that in my profession, I will want to tell as many people about what I do as possible.

It's important to me that when I graduate high school, I love the major and profession I will pursue. Since I'm majoring in Environmental Sciences it's vital for me to soak up every moment I have at the Academy and I'm grateful I was given a chance to meet inspiring scientists.

Kayla Savage, WINS II



*2nd - Tara Houser 5th - Harleen Gonzalez 20th Faatimat Sylla
29th - Destiny Samuels 30th - Lyrata Branche*



*3rd - Yasmeen Taylor 7th - Helen Jiang 15th - Zeta Phillips
17th - Takya Corbett-Lewis 27th - Chelsea Middlebrooks
29th - Kadira Allen 30th - Chaniyah Johnson 30th Samiha Tahsin
30th - Amy Voong*

Happy Birthday!



*4th - Trinity Williams 6th - Kennedi Sullivan 12th - Jaidah Murray
12th - Jahdiyyah Matthews 14th - Makayla Drew
16th - Dalisha Torres 20th - Lynn Larabi 21st - Jah'ya Gale-Cottrics
30th - Jayanna Callender*

Afterschool Champion Award for WINS Senior

On March 7, 2017, I had the privilege to accompany Harleen Gonzalez on a road trip to Harrisburg. We were on our way to the Harrisburg Hilton to receive her recognition for being one of three Afterschool Youth Champions for the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool Youth Development Network. The award went to those who exemplify traits such as leadership, mentorship, consistent participation, and a champion for youth. She was quite nervous because she was also asked to speak about her experience in Mongolia. Good thing we had a 2 hour train ride so she could relax and calm her nerves.

Harleen Gonzalez is in her 4th year in WINS and is a senior at Central High School. Known for having a rigorous workload, Harleen had plenty to keep her mind occupied on the train. We brought laptops for the trip. Harleen commented that she did not recall ever traveling on an Amtrak train before, but she did remember that the day of her WINS Interview, she went to 30th street by mistake, thinking it was a part of Drexel University.

The ride was pleasant. Harleen sat and worked on her school projects and practiced her presentation. However, the further we traveled outside of Philadelphia we saw more open plains and farmland, and passed by the Susquehanna River. We paused from work to enjoy the view.

Once we arrived at the Hilton, we checked in and were seated in the front of the Banquet Hall's reserved tables. Harleen felt very special, but still nervous about speaking in front of the large group. We at least had a chance to enjoy some hor d'oeuvres and two student musical ensembles, a Jazz Band and a Strings Ensemble. This gave her some time to relax, but still couldn't get over the size of the audience - about 300 people.

When it was time for Harleen to speak, the audience was intrigued about her experience in Mongolia and the concerns on climate change, especially when she spoke about walking through a sand storm. They found it amusing when she mentioned that the Mongolia girls could be of no assistance on how to handle the storm because it was their first time as well. The

people of Mongolia are dealing with significant changes as we speak, and they are still learning how to work through them.



Harleen Gonzales speaks at the PSAYDN annual meeting and reception about her Mongolia experience while accepting the Afterschool Youth Champion Award.

Harleen was a hit with the crowd to say the least, and even more so when they saw a picture of her holding a ball python. They were disappointed we didn't have a live specimen. In the end, Harleen was presented with a plaque and was honored with the other Afterschool Champions.

Immediately following, we had to run back to the train station to return to Philadelphia, and Harleen spent the 2 hour ride home preparing and studying for an anatomy exam. The overall trip was short and sweet, and well worth it for a young lady so deserving of such recognition. Congratulations Harleen!

Kimberly Godfrey
WINS Coordinator