



1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103



Dates to Remember...

WINS I & II

WINS Holiday Get-together - Wednesday, December 20th 4:00pm to 6:00pm

"Life After WINS" Alumnae Panel - Thursday, March 15th 4:00pm to 6:00pm

WINS I

First Class of Winter Session

Wednesday, January 10th
4:00pm to 5:30pm

Field Trip! Wagner Museum

Monday, January 15th
9:00am to 12:30pm

Field Trip! Adventure Aquarium

Saturday, February 17th
9:30am to 3:30pm

Field Trip! - Delaware Aquatic Education Resource Center

Tuesday, March 27th 6:00pm to
Friday, March 30th 11:30am

WINS II

"Non-Destructive Testing" Workshop

Thursday, January 18th 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Seniors PEEC Trip!

Friday to Monday, January 12th-15th

"Love Yourself: Polish Your Professional Image" Workshop

Saturday, February 10th 9:30am to 3:00pm

"Budgeting 101" Workshop

Thursday, February 15th 4:30 to 6:00pm

"Is It Hot, or Is It Just Me?" Climate Change Workshop

Saturday, March 10th 9:30am to 3:00pm

WINS Newsletter

Editors

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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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WINS Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2017

First time for everything

Thanks to the generosity of the Hamilton Family Foundation, Jaelynn Robinson and Khadijah McGriff, were able to attend the Science Centre World Summit in Tokyo, Japan. We are grateful for the Foundation's understanding that these international trips and experiences provide invaluable help in shaping a successful future for our WINS students. This was the first time that both Jaelynn and Khadijah had been on a plane, and the first time out of the country

My experience in Tokyo was one to remember! The reason for our trip was to go to the Science Centre World Summit (SCWS). This was my first experience at a conference. The first day of the conference, we sat in this big room filled with people. They even had these translators that you would use whenever the speech was in Japanese fully. There were a couple of speeches that spoke on a variety of topics but all pertaining to science. HIH Crown Prince of Japan Nahurito even attended the conference which was an honor. There was a speech from the HRH Princess of Jordan, Sumaya bint El Hassan; she was so pretty and elegant. The other speeches were about architecture and then there was a panel with astronauts Jane Davis and Mamoru Mohri who have gone to space together; I found that very cool.

Then we went to the youth panel. We played the well-known WINS M&M icebreaker game. We got to know and learn something about each other. We then split into groups and we had three questions we had to answer that basically talked about why it is important to expand your horizons and what can we do to improve museums. Then we went to lunch which consisted of foods that were some to my liking some not – overall it wasn't that bad.

After lunch, we went to the "Connecting and Empowering Youth" panel. That is where all 3 program leaders, including Ms. Betsy, talked about their programs and the audience got to ask questions



WINS II Jaelynn Robinson and Khadijah McGriff, flanking WINS Manager Betsy Payne, ready to present at the SCWS.

they had pertaining to us the youth. Along with the conference came a gala dinner where we ate and mingled. There was also another dinner to basically celebrate at Happon-En where they had a kabuki theater which is a traditional theater in Japan, and authentic Japanese music outside of this beautiful setting. They also showed the world's first cheerleader robots - they moved on their own and I found them pretty cool. Going to a conference made me feel like I was extra special.

When we weren't at the conference we were at the mall, Ueno Zoo, DisneySea, or touring at Asakusa. The mall was very different. Some stores were tax free, it had a lot of high name stores like Coach, and it had 7 floors - it was a pretty big mall. It was close to our apartment too. The zoo was also different. It didn't have the excitement that the Philadelphia Zoo gives; it was very dull but the animals were cute. Asakusa is a town where the oldest temples in Japan are. It has temples made of gold, huge statues and beautiful gardens with ponds with koi fish in them. There was also a center of shops with some very nice souvenirs.

DisneySea was beautiful - my 1st time at Disney and it was one to remember! We saw 3 shows and rode a good number of rides; my favorite being Indiana Jones! Omg so fun! The food was great there too. My favorite part was Fantasmic - it was this light show that followed Mickey's imagination and had a lot of characters and great music and I will never forget it! Tokyo was just perfect... I have explored another part of the world and I feel as if that is important.

Jaelynn Robinson, WINS II



Jaelynn Robinson (facing front with glasses) discussing working at the Academy as part of the Youth Workshop at the Science Centre World Summit in Tokyo, Japan.

My WINS Experience - Women on the Water

The first day we arrived at PEEC, we were greeted with warm welcomes and smiles. The bus, filled with us 15 girls, spilled out onto the main building benches. I breathed in a breath full of fresh air and became fulfilled with glee and excitement for the adventures to come. Little did I know, I was totally unaware about the challenge I was soon to face. We went to our yurts and relaxed until we had to go to the courts for team bonding.

The second day at PEEC was like our preparation day. Early after breakfast, we walked the Two Ponds trail to the small pond with paddles in our hand. We unloaded the canoes and kayaks, then set out on the water. Once I got in the water with the canoe, my partner and I did alright. It wasn't the best, but this was nothing compared to the Delaware River.

After a night full of sleep, packing, and a long enough shower to last 3 days, we set out on the river. It was the day we officially became "Women on the Water" (WOW). Canoeing for the first day and a half had to be the hardest. My partner and I kept spinning around in circles. I just wanted to go back to the yurts. This felt too hard for me. We were going so slow, I could hear Ms. Sheri. Only WOW girls know what that means. We kept going until we reached the island. We decide it was best if we switch positions. It was best.

We were in the back until we switched to the kayaks. The kayaks, in my opinion, are way better than the canoe. That's probably why Ms. Amanda did almost 25 miles in it! Once I was in the kayak,



Jah'ya Gale Cottries, in the middle with pink shirt, with the rest of the WINS WOW team: from left back - Sheri Bone (PEEC), Jakiah McDonald, Sawitri Mawardy, Arianna Alfaro, Lynn Larabi, Xiaoya Kang, Habibata Sylla, Destiny Samuel, Lanyah Wilder, Jada Catanch, Yassimine Nassam, Makayla Drew; kneeling - Leilani Cintrón and Amanda Dahms (PEEC), not pictured - Leigh Lightner (ANSP)

I stayed in the middle of the group, steering straight in one direction. It felt good to be doing it right.

Overall, WOW wasn't just a physical experience, but it was also an emotional one. The level of perseverance and resiliency took more out of me than I thought was possible. Not only did I feel like a new person, I was a new person. I felt, as though, I became a better version of myself. I accomplished something I thought I couldn't. I was unstoppable.

Jah'ya Gale-Cottries, WINS II

DECEMBER

16th - Le'Neisha McClary
25th - Lily Lam
25th - Laysha Torres-Fernandez

HAPPY

JANUARY

1st - Kaiya Pedro-Nichols
6th - Tina To
9th - Kalisha Bint-Hadi
11th - Elizabeth Escobar
12th - Sawitri Mawardy
13th - Jenavie Whyte
17th - Jaelynn Robinson

FEBRUARY

1st - Nayeli Perez
7th - Saniya Davis
9th - Cash'e Chapman
18th - Meymey Seng
27th - Azeemah Solomon

BIRTHDAY

College tour

This year was my 1st year being an alumnae chaperone for college tour 2017. This time around it was a different experience. Over the course of being in WINS, I went to every college tour and became so informed and interested in college. But at the time, I was still curious and unsure to what college life was and where I wanted to go. During this tour, I went as a college student, as a graduate from WINS and as a chaperone. I definitely had a new outlook on how things were going to be like on the tour but I still was interested in seeing the different colleges in Washington, D.C. Even though I was a chaperone on the trip, I took a lot of notes about college things I never knew about and certain things to take advantage of while in college. It was definitely still a learning experience going on college tour.

During our visit to American University in Washington, D.C, I was fortunate to see one of my classmates, Mahogany Davison, from the class I graduated in 2015. It's been about two years since I've seen any of my classmates from my WINS class. It was thrilling to see her and exciting to see how much she has changed. We connected like we were back in WINS all over again. I was so happy to see how she was doing so well and graduating soon.



American University was one of 5 school visited in the 2017 WINS College Tour; the others were Howard University, Loyola University, Morgan State University and Trinity Washington University. In front of the group are WINS alumnae Donneice Browlee-Robinson and Michelle Huynh who chaperoned the trip, and alumnae Mahogany Davison and Jaydah Murray who gave the tour at American University.

Another exciting thing that happened on college tour was that I got to be with my class that I was a mentor to when I was the WINS I assistant. This was the year that my WINS "babies" are seniors! It felt like old times when I would always be with them on every trip they had in WINS I. I had brief discussions with each of them about their next steps after high school. It was definitely NOT planned that I would be with them for their last college tour! But I am extremely proud and happy that all my girls are going to start their new lives soon and continue to reach high for their goals.

Despite all the college tour fun-ness, it was also a really good getaway for me. I was going through a few things at the time around college tour and thank goodness that WINS is still my safe haven. Even though I have graduated over two years ago, I am happy to say that I had so much fun, have a strong supportive system, and amazing sisters.

Michelle Huyhn, WINS Alumna



Michelle Huynh (above, on right) as a WINS I Assistant in summer 2014 helping WINS I Kayla Savage in a lesson. At right, as a chaperone in the 2017 college tour with alumnae Reina Green and Donneice Brownlee.