**The Academy turns 200!**

The Academy turns 200 years old in March! The nation’s oldest natural history museum will mark the milestone with a yearlong celebration befitting its extraordinary history of research, exploration and discovery which continues today.

The bicentennial year promises to be a busy one; it officially begins with the opening of an exciting new exhibit starting on Saturday, March 24 called *The Academy at 200: The Nature of Discovery*. The exhibit features rare and beautiful treasures from the collections, hands-on scientific exploration activities, and the unique opportunity to discover the innovative research going on at the Academy. The weekend will also feature an amazing laser light show, special guest appearances, fun hands-on activities, music, games, crafts, and, of course, birthday cake.

Other activities during the year include monthly themed activities, giveaways, a special series of Town Square programs, a science symposium, and a dinner prepared by top chefs inspired by the Academy’s specimen collections. The Bicentennial also marks the 30th anniversary of the WINS program - keep a look out for the details of this activity.

Don’t miss out on all the great activities! I hope to see you at the opening.

_Betsy Payne, WINS Manager_

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**Interning in the Botany Lab**

When scientists go out into the field to collect the specimens, they flatten the specimens and let them dry. A lot of what I do is taking those dried plants and mounting, or gluing them on acid-free paper. I also sew and “tape” them on to make sure they don’t fall off. This is called curating.

I am also learning the process of filing the plants; first you have to go by family, then narrow it down to species, and finally to the region it was collected. Sometimes the process can be really quick, but other times you have to rearrange the entire cabinet to fit in the new specimens.

Interning in the Botany Department has been very helpful for me. I am very interested in plants, and I like to be out in nature. I learned that if I were to go to college for botany, I would eventually end up working in a lab all the time. Although I like working in the lab, I learned I would rather stay outside, studying and using living plants. Interning in botany has given me a lot of insight and experience.

_Sarah Pellecchia, WINS II_
Senior Trip

Our senior trip to the Poconos Environmental Education Center (PEEC) was amazing. It was like going back to the beginning. We did team building, which reminded me of our WINS I experience. It felt different because when we first went, I didn’t really trust the people in my class because I was closed off. But when the seniors went I felt comfortable putting all my trust in them and knew I would be okay.

We had a heart to heart moment where everyone told their favorite trip and it got emotional, which really emphasized the fact that we are a sisterhood. No matter what little arguments or disputes we had at that moment it was clear that they all are my sisters. The senior trip brought a stronger bond between the senior class.

I didn’t start with the senior class - I started WINS I a year after as a sophomore, but at the senior trip in PEEC no one would have guessed it because we all came together as one. PEEC was full of adventure and memories from hiking to the PEEC food. Going to PEEC was the best way to end our WINS years. Even though our experience ended at PEEC we still have memories and bonds that will last a lifetime.

Joshlyn Johnson WINS II

The WINS Seniors, clockwise from left back, Joshlyn, Qwaya, Sunnise, Nancy, Jasmin, Irene, Breanna, Jasmin, Marissa, Comfort, Onyenma, and Dominque, bundled up to do team building activities at PEEC.

Joshlyn Johnson enjoying the camp food at PEEC.

Happy Birthday!

March

2nd - Sarah Pellechia
6th - Tenin Sissoko
12th - Onyenma Enwereji

April

2nd - Comfort Adeyemi
21st - Michele Huynh

May

5th - Janiyah Jones
5th - Ty’Shanaiah Bailey-Norton
8th - Jhanelle Richards
12th - Dakota Foster

20th - Nancy Koam
30th - Qwaya Robinson

12th - Jasmin White
25th - Sierra Grayson

15th - Monique Edwards
16th - Priya Smythe
17th - Niyree Harris
The WINS Safari Overnight was a very unique, pleasant and memorable experience. Right after setting our sleeping bags below the backside of a dinosaur, we went into Dino classroom and were greeted with desks covered with small boxes. I faced one of my biggest fears that night - bugs. We were going to learn how to pin insects. Once I pierced the beetle’s wing with the pin, I wasn’t so scared anymore. The butterfly was much less intimidating to pin.

I think my favorite activities that night were the team building ones. We went into the Commons, and a giant letter ‘A’ made of wooden planks was presented to us. We were to get the frame from one end of the Commons to the other while one of us stood inside the A structure. It’s a lot harder than it seems, and the rest of the girls had to drag you along without your feet ever touching the floor. When I was standing on it, I fell, but it was a good team effort to make sure that I didn’t get hurt!

After a few more team-building exercises, we ended the night with one final activity - a blindfolded tour throughout the museum. We had to use our senses to guess where we were - we marched from the Commons to the Dino Hall, but first had to go upstairs, downstairs and through the Auditorium. I didn’t go to sleep for a long while after that, we were having too much fun!

Sandy Tang, WINS I
WINS Newsletter

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All activities are rain or shine!

Please let Ms. Betsy know if you cannot make it to an activity beforehand.

Dates to Remember...

ALL WINS

“Life After WINS” Alumnae Panel - Thursday, March 8th 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Senior Farewell - Wednesday, May 30th 4:00pm to 6:00pm

WINS I

Field Trip! Adventure Aquarium
Saturday, March 3rd
9:00am to 4:00pm

Field Trip! - Spring Recess trip to Delaware Aquatic Education Resource Center
Monday to Thursday April 2nd to 5th

Field Trip! Lady Maryland
Saturday, May 5th
7:30am to 6:30pm

Field Trip! - “Cape to Cape” overnight camping trip
Saturday to Sunday May 19th to 20th

WINS II

Field Trip! Stream Study at Stoudt’s
Saturday, April 14th
9:00am to 4:00pm

Workshop: Intern Presentations
Thursday, April 19th
4:30pm to 6:00pm

INTERNS ONLY Field Trip! Electro-shocking with the Patrick Center
Tuesday, April 24th
8:00am to 4:00pm

Academy Women of Science Self-Guided Activity
Saturday or Sunday, May 12th or 13th

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