

**THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES**
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103



*Dates to
Remember...*

WELCOME NEW WINS I

You will get a final schedule your first day of class, but mark down these dates!!

Tuesday, June 30th: **First Day!**

Academy of Natural Sciences
10:00am to 3:00pm

August 10th to 14th: **Trip to Poconos
Environmental Education Center**



WINS II

Tuesday, June 23rd: **Field Trip!
Bike & Canoe on the Lehigh River**
Meet at ANSP at 8:00am, return by
4:00pm

Thursday & Friday, June 25th & 26th:
Customer Service Training for
ALL Explainers and Interns, ANSP
9:30am to 4:00pm

Thursday, August 6th : **Field Trip! Big
Brook Fossil Hunt, Colts Neck, NJ**
Meet at ANSP at 8:30am, return by
3:00pm

Wednesday, August 19th **Big Sister/
Little Sister Activity**
12:00pm - 3:00pm

Tuesday, August 28th **Field Trip!
USDA Presentations & Morris
Arboretum**
Meet at ANSP 9:30am, return by 4:00pm

WINS Newsletter

Editor
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Contributors
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Tiffany Neely
Naignae Starnes

**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.

**THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES**
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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 Uni-
versity 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 opportuni-
ties for personal growth
in a uniquely nurturing
setting.

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WINS Newsletter

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WINS & ROOTS

The WINS program is collaborating with the National Museum of Mongolia's ROOTS program in a Museums Connect grant from the American Alliance of Museums in conjunction with the US Department of State. The 15 WINS girls chosen to participate in the project, *Cultural Repercussions of Climate Change in Two Communities: A Teenager's Viewpoint* are focusing on themes of water, agriculture, economy and culture in relation to youth. All participants have had the opportunity to engage in discussion with their ROOTS counterparts and learn from online-based lessons. For more information, visit the link: <http://www.anspblog.org/teen-exchange-on-climate-change>.

The following is Jaidah Murray's impressions of her experiences in the program.

My life has been changed for the better from my participation in the units about climate change, numerous lessons, Philadelphia oriented trips, and one-on-one conversations with the girls from Mongolia. As soon as I met the Mongolian girls, I felt an instant connection.



Jaidah Murray leading an ice-breaker activity when the ROOTS girls visited Philadelphia at the end of March 2015.

Many of the WINS girls may have come into this program with prior mindsets about how the girls would act, speak, and dress. However, these thoughts were quickly abolished once the girls got comfortable. We recognized that the girls from Mongolia made jokes, had the same model of cell phones, dressed in a modern fashion, and spoke English well. We further recognized that the Mongolian girls faced major global warming issues, as we did, but with much more prevalence on their side of the world.

I gained a better understanding of what the Mongolian culture is like, how similar our global issues are, and how to contribute to the solutions, rather than to the issues. During our one-on-one conversations with the girls we discussed their families, celebrations, schools, traditions, and extreme weather conditions.

Overall, my favorite trips were to the historical sites in Philadelphia, the Green Meadow Farm, and the King of Prussia Mall. Through these trips I was able to give the girls a taste of Philadelphia's history, gain a sense of what our agricultural system is like, and see how

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WINS & ROOTS participants visiting the Independence National Historic Park in Philadelphia. Clockwise from left back: Ulemj Baasanjav, Ti'anna Cooper, Ariel Bradley, Nomin Buyandelger, Alimaa Baasankhuu, Alexis Ryan, Jasmin Gillian, Allure Gray, Linda Gutierrez, Faatimat Sylla, Jada Parris, Lhagvadulam Dorjdavaa, Arianna Bradley, Gere Johnson, Harleen Gonzalez, Jaidah Murray, Daijzanaée Martinez and Aurora Ryan.

My Trip to Mallard Lodge

The WINS trip to the Mallard Lodge was amazing! It was actually better than I expected it to be – I would rate it a “10” on a scale of 1-10. I consider it the best trip, even better than PEEC.



Naignae Starnes (front) and Helen Jiang during a water testing lesson at Mallard Lodge.

During the trip there were hikes, many activities and interesting classes to learn and experience new things. There were also games to enjoy to bond and learn how to work together. The first hike was at night and it was about 30 minutes of walking in flat land. We heard multiple frogs. The hike was relaxing and peaceful; you were able to step out of your comfort zone and experience nature in a different way.

The second hike we took was in the morning and it took 3 hours to walk to the Delaware Bay. It was breezy and so comfortable until about 2:00pm when it got hot. It felt like the longest hike ever, but at least it was a straight walk. We made stops to find things like owl pellets, bones from animals, tracks and to examine plants, soil and flowers. Overall, it was a nice walk. I got to see many items and how beautiful the view was.

We also got to do frog hunting after we had a talk on reptiles and amphibians by Ned Gilmore. When frog hunting, you have to be silent to know what frog sounds you were hearing and where to look for them. While searching for them, we got to see some frog



Some of the WINS I looking for frogs during the 3-day spring break trip to the Delaware Aquatic Resources Education Center in Smyrna,

eggs in the ditches. Frog hunting was fun, and a new experience for most of us. I even ended up kissing a frog!

During our free time, everyone gathered in the living room to play games and talk to each other. We were able to talk to other girls other than our regular friends and feel comfortable around different people. The games were OK, but mostly funny. The activity that stood out to me the most was the t-shirt painting. I never knew there were such artistic girls in WINS. The poetry activity also stood out because some of the girls are very good and know how to put words together and make them flow smoothly.

In conclusion, the trip was exciting and interesting. The experience taught me many things education wise, and also how to work together and how to become a leader. It took me out of my comfort zone, and made me look at nature in a different way.

Naignae Starnes, WINS I

JUNE

2nd – Muneeba Arshad
6th – Trinity Niroda

3rd – Linda Gutierrez
14th – Maziya Adams

Happy Birthday!

JULY

14th – Jasmin Gilliam

20th – Kayla Savage

AUGUST

4th – Tenzin Chemi
6th – Aurora Ryan
12th – Jiciana Knight

6th – Alexis Ryan
8th – Danielle Williams



My experience in WINS

I think it’s becoming kind of a cliché around the WINS program to say that the program has “changed you”, but this program has for sure, with no doubts changed my life for the better, of course.



Tiffany steering the Lady Maryland in 2012 as part of a WINS I lesson studying Baltimore Bay.

I started out WINS not even wanting to be a part of it, thinking I totally bombed my interview, which I did, but Ms. Betsy still took a chance on me. I had to make sure she wasn’t going to regret it. My first summer of WINS was so inspiring. I met a lot of girls, and got along with a lot of them. We had all these amazing educational classes, where I was able to learn so much.

When I was accepted into WINS II that’s when I really started changing myself, I knew this was like another home, a place that I would always be able to come to after school and feel comfortable. The WINS program gave me so many wonderful opportunities. First, was my internship working behind the scenes in the Academy and then I started working in the exhibits. The next year I had another internship in the fossil prep lab and had the chance to travel to Montana with some people from the Academy and participate in a real fossil dig. I



Tiffany Neely (center) working with Kiambi Bruce as part of their Vertebrate Zoology internship with Collections Manager Ned Gilmore in summer 2013.

could never have asked for better summers.

My life would have been much more different if Ms. Betsy hadn’t taken a chance on me. WINS made me change my outlook on the world, changed the way I treat people, made me grow, and learn how to be more open minded. I spent so much time dedicated to WINS going to the classes, working, and just showing up sometimes, and I would never want that time back.

Tiffany Neely, WINS II Senior

WINS & ROOTS (cont.)

much the girls liked to shop. The collaboration with the practice lessons also gave me an idea of what the real climate change lessons would look like in the upcoming months. I never thought that I could be a mentor to Mongolian girls my own age, and that Mongolian girls could mentor me, but this program made it possible.

The WINS & ROOTS program has opened my eyes up to a new culture and the global problems we face in this world. My experience has

given me a strong connection to young women from the other side of the world. During, and long after the program has ended, I intend to keep in contact with the girls through Facebook Messenger on a daily basis, and with some of the girls that travel to the states on special occasions. I plan on continuing my communication with and mentoring of the girls from Mongolia in the future.

Jaidah Murray, WINS II



WINS & ROOTS participants enjoying a walk in Philadelphia (from left: Lhagvadulam Dorjdavaa, Nomin Buyandelger, Jaidah Murray, Geré Johnson and Ariel Bradley).