

THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103



ALL
WINS

Friday, September 18th - **Members' Night at the Academy of Natural Sciences** 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Wednesday, December 16th - **WINS Holiday Get-Together** 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Dates to Remember

WINS I

Wednesday, September 9th: **First Day!**
Academy of Natural Sciences
4:00pm to 5:30pm
Saturday, October 10th: **Field Trip! Bronx Zoo** Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 7:00pm
Saturday, October 24th: **Field Trip! Hawk Mountain Sanctuary** Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 4:00pm
Saturday, December 5th: **Field Trip! America Museum of Natural History, NY** Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 7:00pm

WINS II

Thursday, September 17th: **Workshop - Going to College** 4:30pm to 6:00pm
Thursday, October 18th: **Workshop - Community Gardens** 4:30pm to 6:00pm
Wed- Sat, October 28th-31st: **College Tour! Western PA** Meet at the ANS on Wednesday at 4:00pm, back on Saturday by 5:00pm
Thursday November 19th: **Workshop - Horticulture** 4:30pm to 6:00pm
Saturday, October 21st: **Field Trip! Day of Service** Meet at the Academy at 9:00am, back by 4:00pm

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.

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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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....I realized that our Mongolian counterparts are no different from us. We may live on two different sides of the world but we're still teenage girls.
Geré Johnson

WINS Newsletter

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WINS in Mongolia

The Academy worked with the National Museum of Mongolia in a Museums Connect grant from the American Alliance of Museums in conjunction with the US Department of State. The project, *Cultural Repercussions of Climate Change in Two Communities: A Teenager's Viewpoint* utilized the successful Women in Natural Sciences (WINS) model to empower girls from Philadelphia and Ulaanbaatar to be ambassadors for climate change awareness. The students took part in a 9 month program of online study including: the science of climate change, exploring each other's cultures and examining how climate change is affecting the different countries and cultures. As part of the project, a select group of students were chosen to visit their partner country to study climate change with scientist from that country and explore each other's cultures. The following is Geré Johnson's impressions of her experience.

I was chosen to go to Mongolia in July with four other WINS students to study climate change. Climate change is a change in global or regional patterns over an extended period of time. While in Mongolia, we were able to do many different things that we probably wouldn't be able to do in America. This trip was a great experience for all of us.

Four other WINS students (Ti'anna Cooper, Harleen Gonzalez, Faatimat Sylla and Linda Gutierrez), Ms. Betsy Payne, Ms. Jacquie Genovesi, her daughter Katie, and I were given the opportunity to study climate change in Mongolia for the first two weeks of July. Some of us had never been out of the country and none of us have ever been to Mongolia, so this was an opportunity of a lifetime.

One of our lessons to study climate change involved the Tuul River, the main source of Ulaanbaatar's (Mongolia's capital) drinking water. We were able to measure the width and depth of the river and found it to be drastically low. Mongolia has been going through a drought for over 20 years. We also tested the water for macroinvertebrates; these can be used to tell whether an ecosystem is healthy or polluted. Our



Geré Johnson guiding her peers across the Tuul river in Mongolia to begin water assessment studies under the direction of Dr. Soninkhisheg and Dr. Oynchuluum, both of whom had been trained by Academy scientists years before.

results showed that the water was slightly polluted. Also the amount of macroinvertebrates was small which shows us that the river wasn't as healthy as it should be. If their main source of water is unhealthy then their people, agriculture, and animals aren't healthy either.



Geré Johnson, left, with Munhzaya Dolgormaa and Nomuunaa Tsogt identifying the macroinvertebrates found in the Tuul river.

Our group went to Mongolia at a perfect time. The Mongolians were celebrating their Naadam Festival which lasts for 6 days. During a Naadam festival, the activities include horse racing, wrestling, and archery. We were able to see the ending of a children's horse race, wrestling,

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USDA Internship presentations

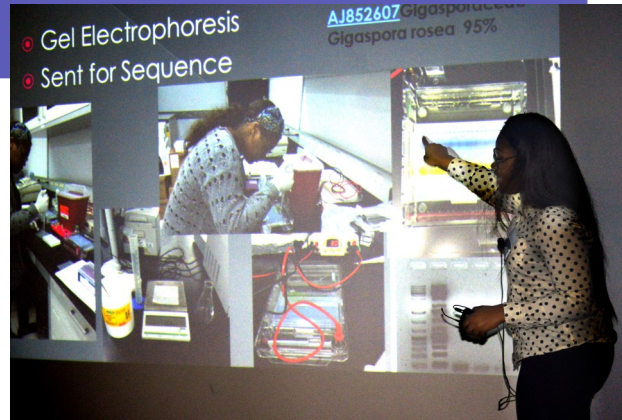
In 2008, the WINS program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Eastern Research Regional Center in Wyndmoor, PA started collaborating in a summer internship program. Since that time 35 WINS have worked alongside USDA scientists to get hands-on experiences in the laboratory. The opportunity to present their findings and experiences at summer's end to the USDA staff and scientists as part of the Federal Women's Program Women's Equality Day is a vital part of the program. The WINS get to draw conclusions and prepare their findings to share to a professional audience, as well as to their peers. It also inspires other WINS participants to want to be part of the USDA internship. The below is the impression of Cashé Chapman following her first experience hearing a presentation.

After attending the USDA presentations this summer, I learned more than just what my WINS peers



Caché Chapman, right, with her WINS "Little Sister" Andrea Lescouffair

learned there during their internship. I also learned and was able to fully grasp how great WINS and the opportunities offered really are. I learned this by observing the energy



Allure Gray, one of the WINS Interns presenting to scientists and peers at the USDA Federal Women's Program Women's Equality Day.

and the glow in my peers' faces as they presented and interacted with the scientists.

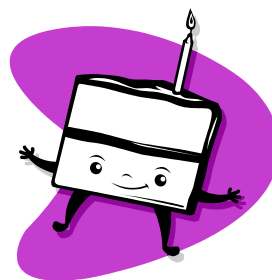
Almost all of the presentations touched a very dear interest of mine, DNA sequencing. As the girls talked about how DNA was involved with their work, it gave me excitement and an urge to sit on the edge of my seat because I didn't want to miss a word or a slide. I couldn't help but plan my speech to give to Mrs. Betsy so that I would have a sure spot as a USDA intern next summer! With that being said, my experience at the USDA was both informative and encouraging.

Cashé Chapman, WINS II

Happy Birthday!

September

- 1st - Gere Johnson
- 2nd - Barana Jean
- 6th - Ja'Maya Crawley
- 8th - Enejha Dozier
- 8th - Lanyah Wilder
- 10th - Jmani Jackson
- 28th - Cecile Smith



October

- 2nd - Alicia Vazquez
- 5th - Grace James
- 5th - Bunga Octaviano
- 21st - Yasmine Nassam
- 21st - Cynthia To
- 30th - Hanaa Belgrave

- 9th - Jakiyah McDonald
- 10th - Arionna Johnson-Jones
- 17th - Kyjae Pannell
- 18th - DaiJanae Martinez

November

- 18th - Ti'anna Cooper
- 21st - Paige Castle
- 22nd - Naignae Starnes

My experience at PEEC

As part of the WINS I experience, the girls are required to journal. Yasmine Nassam was kind enough to let us share her journal entry from our last night at the Poconos Environmental Education Center (PEEC).

Today is the full last day at PEEC. I had a lot of fun here. From the first day till the last, I've learned a lot. I learned about the different types of trees that there are and how to tell the difference between them. Some of the trees that I remember are oak trees and white pine trees. I also remembered some of the plants by their leaf shapes and sizes, such as a glove or heart shapes.

One of my favorite things we learned about plants was learning about the plant that can cure poison ivy. To me this was a new fact that I had never known. Another cool thing that I learned about PEEC was the dif-



Yasmine Nassam, standing at left, with the rest of the WINS I group at the top of Tumbling Waters trail this summer at PEEC.

ferent types of animals. Even though I have the worst fear of snakes, I still thought I was amazing to learn that there are a lot of different types of snakes that live in or around PEEC. And it's not only snakes that live here but also different types of birds.

Another thing we did was hike to a small waterfall on the Tumbling Waters trail. That hike was long and painful, but if I could I would do it all over again.

Yasmine Nassam, WINS II

WINS in Mongolia (cont.)

and also a very entertaining talent show full of singers, musicians and dancers. We also experienced something that none of the other Mongolian girls have been in - a sand storm. I've only heard of sand storms in movies and on the National Geographic Channel but they were all in the desert. This can give you a little idea of how dry Mongolia is and how much they also need forestry.

From the whole trip, my favorite part was being able to spend the day with a herding family. We got to milk sheep, help the women cook, and also play with their calves (no not their legs). That was like a bonding time between the American girls and the Mongolian girls. They showed us how to make some of their traditional meals and we had fun making them too.

Going to Mongolia I didn't know what to expect. While on the trip my eyes were opened and I realized that our Mongolian counterparts are no different from us. We may live on two different sides of the world but we're still teenage girls. I'm very glad I was given this opportunity. I would like to say that if you're ever given the opportuni-

ty to travel outside of the country, learn as much as you can there and make the best out of every situation because remember, you may never get the chance to do this ever again.

Geré Johnson, WINS II



The WINS travelers with the president of Mongolia at the President's Reception. From left: Jacqueline Genovesi, Faatimat Sylla, Linda Gutierrez, Harleen Gonzalez, President Ts. Eldebegdorj, Geré Johnson, Katie Genovesi, Ti'anna Cooper and Betsy Payne.