

THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103



Dates to Remember...

ALL WINS

WINS Holiday Get-together - Wednesday, December 16th 4:00pm to 6:00pm

WINS Safari Overnight - Friday, January 22nd at 6:30 until Saturday at 7:00am

“Life After WINS” Alumnae Panel - Thursday, March 17th 4:00pm to 6:00pm

WINS I

First Class of Winter Session

Wednesday, January 6th
4:00pm to 5:30pm

Field Trip! Wagner Museum

Monday, January 18th
9:00am to 1:00pm

Field Trip! - Adventure Aquarium

Saturday, February 27th
9:30am to 3:30pm

Field Trip! - Spring Recess trip to

Delaware AERC Tuesday, March
22nd to Friday, March 25th

WINS II

Botany at the Academy Workshop

Thursday, January 14th 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Seniors PEEC Trip!

Friday to Monday, January 15th-18th

“Love Yourself: Mind Your Manners”

Workshop Saturday, February 13th
9:00am to 3:00pm

“Mmm...Chocolate” Workshop

Thursday, February 25th 4:30 to 6:00pm

Field Trip! - Philadelphia Flower Show

Saturday, March 12th 9:00am to 1:00pm

WINS Newsletter

Editors

Betsy Payne
Kimberly Godfrey

Contributors

Meymey Seng
Dominique Thomas

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.

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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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

On Being a College Tour Chaperone 2

Birthday Girls 2

Heigh Ho, It's Off to Hawk Mountain We Go! 3

A thanks to WINS Alumnae (cont.) 3

Dates to Remember 4

WINS Newsletter

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2015

A thanks to WINS Alumnae

On this 33rd year of WINS it is good to think back on all the different activities and people that have made the program possible. In WINS I a lot of activities stay the same: PEEC, walking in the city, visiting a farm, parks, camping, etc. WINS II activities vary from hiking to snorkeling, manners to yoga to college tours and lots more. But the myriad of people who make the program happen is what makes it what it is – a mentoring, educational, after-school science enrichment program which is available to the girls through their four years of high school and beyond. An important group of people that I would like to highlight today is the Alumnae.

WINS II actually started in 1992 due to alumnae – 10 years after the WINS programs' beginning – because the participants didn't want to leave the Academy and wanted to continue in some fashion. Having already worked as assistants to the WINS Manager, helping out in Visitors Services, volunteering at the museum, and working as Explainers, the program formalized the connection with WINS II. In the last few years, WINS has actively looked to have alumnae make a connection with current WINS and I would like to thank them all for their time and enthusiasm.

The most obvious of these is the annual “Life After WINS” Alumnae Panel (save the date – the next one is on Thursday, March 17th, 2016!). Alumnae are invited to share their stories with not only WINS, but also collaborators and funders of the program. The 2015 panel featured ladies from the 90's, Clair Sauer, RoMaine Jones and Jordan Brogan; all three were an inspiration to the audience.



From left: RoMaine Jones, Clair Sauer and Jordan Brogan were the panelist at the 2015 “Life After WINS” Alumnae Panel.



Rabiyatu Jalloh leading the Penn State main campus tour for the WINS 2015 college tour.

Another activity has been assisting in the annual college tour. From being chaperones in the actual tours to leading the groups in our college visit, their help is not only invaluable but also lets the WINS know the possibilities their futures might hold. This year Donneice Brownlee and Dominique Thomas, both official chaperones for the WINS program traveled with us to Western PA where we met Rabiyatu Jalloh in Penn State Main Campus and Sierra Grayson in Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Donneice Brownlee (left) and Dominique Thomas (right), chaperones on the 2015 WINS Western Pennsylvania college tour, flank Sierra Grayson. Sierra is a sophomore at IUP and WINS alumna.

Each year there are other activities alumnae can help. This year Yasmin Ahmed, a

Cont. on page 3

On Being a College Tour Chaperone

I was ecstatic to receive an invitation to chaperone the WINS 2015 College Tour. I am currently a senior at Temple University; it seems like just yesterday that I was in many of their shoes preparing for a rigorous college application process. WINS had such a tremendous impact in my successful college application process and college tour definitely lessened the stress of the big step. I was so excited to share this experience with my younger WINS sisters.



Dominique Thomas (right) and Donneice Brownlee chaperoning the 2015 WINS college tour.

As a result of the positive impact WINS left on me I always look forward to return to the program as chaperone and mentor for the young women; and because of WINS, I know firsthand the importance of mentorship. Moreover, I always look forward to catching up with the girls whether it is answering their questions about the college application process or college life.



Dominique Thomas (left) and Marissa Pinder learn classification in a WINS I lesson in 2008

As a chaperone I was able to look in from a leadership perspective and see the continuous growth in the program which is amazing. Learning of the all the opportunities that these girls are receiving and having them share their experiences with me, makes me proud to be a WINS alumna. When I look back and think about the influences that helped me get to where I am today, I definitely attribute many of my successes to my experiences in the WINS program.

My goal as I continue on through my undergraduate studies and beyond is to stay connected with the program. I look forward to seeing these young women graduate high school, choose amazing colleges or universities and become phenomenal young women that I know they can be.

Dominique Thomas, WINS Alumna

Diciembre

3rd - Arianna Bradley
3rd - Ariel Bradley
8th - Danielle Williams
16th - Leneisha McClary
18th - Tamira Bell
18th - Tierra Bell
20th - Jayda Cresswell
22th - Ngan Tran

Enero

6th - Tina To
7th - Allure Gray
11th - Elizabeth Escobar
12th - Sawitri Mawardy
17th - Jaelynn Robinson

Febrero

9th - Jada Parris
9th - Cashie Chapman
18th - Meymey Seng
22 - Salina Beattie
28th - Fionna Truong



Heigh Ho, It's Off to Hawk Mountain We Go!

Saturday, October 24th, was the day that the WINS I girls and I (and the teachers of course) ventured to Hawk Mountain! It was a **very** chilly day and we hiked a short and easy trail to different viewing points. That was where Ms. Kim excitedly taught us how to use binoculars, which was always something I wanted to do. After this, we were able to spot some raptors such as black vultures and turkey vultures and a few eagles. This was a fun experience because I saw different birds, hiked a mountain, and I faced my fear of heights... well not really. A bonus to this was being able to learn all these things with my WINS I friends.

This adventure was a great learning experience for the WINS I girls and I to have because in class we learned many things about a variety of birds. Some of the things that we have learned were about the adaptations of

the birds such as the purpose for them letting out waste so often. The reason for this is to maintain a lighter weight, releasing all of the unnecessary weight.

Not only were we able to use the information that we learned in class, but we were able to pick up some things that we learned at PEEC. Along the trail, we spotted a strange mitten like leaf and remembered that it was called the sassafras leaf. Another thing that we noticed was lichen growing on tree trunks. We identified that this was a mixture of algae, fungi, and moss, and deer actually use this as a source of food.

I have learned many things from this adventure on Hawk Mountain with my friends. I hope that we will have many more trips like this in the future!

Meymey Seng, WINS I



Meymey Seng, standing at left, with the WINS I getting ready to start hiking to go to North Lookout at Hawk Mountain.

A thanks to WINS Alumnae (cont.)



Jasmin Gilliam, (left) WINS senior during her mock interview with WINS alumna Yasmin Ahmed.

senior in Temple University, became our "college admission officer" for mock college interviews for our seniors who are in the midst of the application process. Sarah Pellecchia, a junior in Drexel University, also addressed the WINS II on the realities of college life. Both were great experiences for the girls and they all left feeling better prepared for the "real thing".



Sarah Pellecchia addressing the WINS II on the realities and expectations of college life.

There are many ways alumnae can help the WINS program: from discussing careers, offering presentations, writing about your experiences for the newsletter, to attending the Alumnae panel. If you are interested in any of the above or have other ideas, please contact me any time at payne@ansp.org.

Thank you ladies for your help!
Betsy Payne, WINS Manager