



1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103



ALL WINS

WINS Safari Overnight

Friday, September 22nd at 6:30 until
Saturday 23rd at 7:00am

Member's Night at the Academy

Friday, October 13th, 5:00pm to
9:00pm

WINS I

First Class of Fall Session

Wednesday, Sept. 13th
4:00pm to 5:30pm

Field Trip! - Hawk Mt. Sanctuary

Saturday, October 14th - Meet at the
Academy at 8:00am, back by 4:00pm

Field Trip! Bronx Zoo

Saturday, Oct. 28th - Meet at the
Academy at 8:00am, back by 7:00pm

Field Trip! - The American Museum of Natural History

Saturday, December 2nd - Meet at the
Academy at 8:00am, back by 7:00pm

Dates to Remember...

WINS II

Environmental Protection Agency Workshop Thursday, September 14th
4:30pm to 6:00pm

Going to College Workshop
Thursdays, October 12th
5:30pm to 7:30pm

Shell Show Self-guided Activity at the Academy

Saturday, October 19th OR Sunday,
October 20th 10:00am to 5:00pm

US Naval Academy Visit for Sophomores and Juniors November 3rd
Friday 7:00am to Saturday 6:00pm

College Tour - DC & Maryland
November 9th to 11th
Thursday 7:00am to Saturday 6:00pm

Biomimicry Workshop
Thursday, November 16th
4:30pm to 6:00pm

WINS Newsletter

Editors
Betsy Payne
Kimberly Godfrey

Contributors
Amy Voong
Elizabeth Escobar
Jacquelyn Ng

Send your comments or questions to:
Betsy Payne, WINS Manager
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.



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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Jacquelyne Ng

WINS Newsletter

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SEPTEMBER 2017

My Co-op Experience with WINS

As I'm finishing up this co-op, I will start my fourth out of five years at Drexel. With my program of study, I am able to have three job experiences during my career at this university. Being with WINS and working with Ms. Betsy and Ms. Kim has been a wonderful second job experience (hopefully my third too, hint hint)! I began in May with last year's WINS I trip to Delaware. Straight off the bat I was diving into the deep end of WINS. The girls and I were all knee-deep in the marshes and melting in the heat during our "hike" to the beach. Not exactly how I planned on beginning my co-op, but exciting nonetheless and I wouldn't have it any other way! After getting back, I helped interview candidates for the new WINS I batch. Many of these girls showed potential and we were eager to see how they would do in the program.

As soon as we had finalized the list of girls, I was pumped for the start of the summer, but especially for PEEC (Pocono Environmental Education Center, the big end-of-summer overnight)! I had almost forgotten what it was like to be a shy, quiet 13 year old, in a room with 24 other girls that I didn't know, who would grow to become my sisters. I look at some of the faces of some of the girls and see my younger self reflected in them, and I'm excited to watch them blossom and come into their own as they move through the program. I know that is what this program really did for me: it helped me become more confident in who I am as a person and find something I love to do.

I'm really glad we have a great group of girls. They absorb the material and ask meaningful questions. They're all pretty smart and we try to challenge them as much as we can, intellectually and physically (hah!). We've definitely pushed a lot of the girls out of their comfort zones this summer—they've touched cockroaches and newts, hiked steep trails, smelled foul rotting trash, and slurped up oysters! Not only that, we stole them from their families and took them up to the Poconos, where they weren't allowed to be on their phones (gasp!) and they had to be around the other girls all day for a week! At first, they were wary of going up there, but by the end, some wanted to stay a little longer and have some more fun at PEEC. Up there, we canoed, looked at stars, found some fossils, made s'mores, searched for macro-invertebrates, went to a waterfall, and used a ton of bug spray. I'm so glad that they enjoyed PEEC so much, since it's one of my favorite places in the world to be. I'm beyond proud of what they have accomplished this summer and thrilled that they are taking this opportunity to learn and grow into the wonderful women I know they will be.



Jackie in her first summer as a WINS I in August 2010.



Jacquelyne Ng, left with blue sweater, assisting a WINS I lesson on maps in August 2017.

This experience helped me to solidify my choice in going into environmental science and education. Just being a part of these girls' lives, even for a little bit, and changing their course for the future is so rewarding. Not only am I like a big sister to them, but I am also their secret-keeper, teacher, advice-giver, and everything in between. These girls make me want to step up my game so that I can be a better mentor to them. WINS is the reason I want to do what I want to do and do it well.

Jacquelyne Ng, WINS Alumna, Class of 2014

MAYA Summit 2017

Every year, the WINS program sends participants to the Mid-Atlantic YouthALIVE! (MAYA) summit of the Association of Science and Technology Centers. This year the theme was "Into the Wild" and was held in the Prindle Pond Conference Center, of Charlton, MA.

MAYA (Mid-Atlantic YouthALIVE!) was probably one of the most exhilarating and exhausting trips, I have gone to. The car ride to Massachusetts seemed never-ending for the other WINS girls, who had to endure my off-pitch singing as Tiffany Allen (our mentor) jammed along with me. The excitement and curiosity prevented me from back-aching road naps. When we arrived, there was a hill that escalated up to three buildings. There was a boy's dorm, girl's dorm,



Amy Voong showing off one of her finds, a slug, in the first day of MAYA.

and a learning room connected to the dining room. Our first activity was a nature hike, and we were unprepared! Mosquitos bit us left and right, however, I was distracted by the new people I just met. My eyes scanned each individual, making me more nervous. MAYA was educational, but it felt more like a meeting of delegates from other programs.

Fast forward to the third day, everyone had gotten comfortable due to countless team building activities. During free time, we played four square, card games, and occasional chatted. I was able to socialize and break out of my defensive shell through playing cards. I would play speed with almost everyone, including Tiffany and Sam, one of the mentors from the New England Aquarium. Sam was one of those of people anyone could add to their list of "cool people I have met." Everyone knew me as the girl who aggressively slapped and screamed when playing speed.

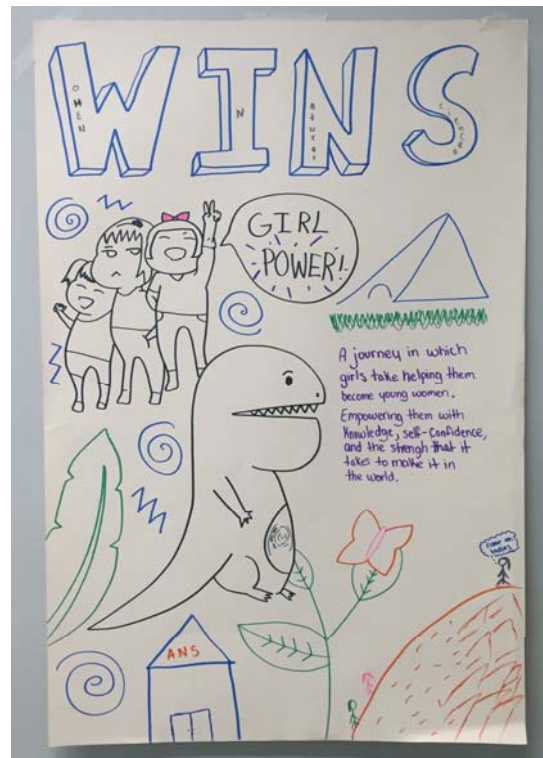
Our last day was heartbreaking—it was not because we were already friends, but that we were in the midst of becoming friends and our goodbyes made it harder to turn it into something more. That morning we had a hearty breakfast with all our tables combined like a huge family, each one of us conversing and laughing. Afterwards we took pictures and got gifts. We had to leave earlier than the others to return our van. When we were ten minutes into our drive, Cash'e forgot her bag so we had



From left: Aniyah Walker, Cash'e Chapman, N'aignae Starnes also attended MAYA; Meymey Seng is not pictured.

to drive back. Closer to Philadelphia, we stopped and ate at a Popeye's and saw some of our peers from the National Aquarium in Baltimore. We exchanged hugs once again and said our goodbyes and left. On our ride home I couldn't help but feel sad and somewhat hopeful to see the other MAYA members again.

Amy Voong, WINS II



Poster made by the WINS participants at MAYA. It reads WINS is "A journey in which girls take helping them become young women. Empowering them with knowledge, self confidence, and the strength that it takes to make it in the world."

Wading in the Cherry Creek

This summer I was given the opportunity to have an internship studying Fish Ecology under my mentor at the Patrick Center, David Keller. I was also given the opportunity to help him collect data out in the field. This meant collecting different pieces of data about fish in the wild, such as their length, their species, and their natural habitat. The main goal was to see if the dam removal that occurred in the Musconetcong River caused any changes with the living organisms since its removal last year. David and his team had previous data collected from last year in 2016 and they collected information again this year, which would show if there were any major changes in the river habitat.



WINS Intern Elizabeth Escobar, in pink shirt and net in hand, with staff of the Academy's Patrick Center for Environmental Research doing an inventory of Cherry Creek in Pennsylvania for the Delaware River Watershed Initiative

During the trip I learned many great things I never thought I would learn. I learned about electrofishing, and how to use a seine for collecting the living organisms so we could be able to measure them. Walking on rocks with constant flowing water isn't as easy as it sounds, especially if the riffles are racing through your legs. It was also my first time wearing waders, and I loved the experience! I learned how to identify some of the fish, like the Black Nose Dace Minnow, Long Nose Dace Minnow, and other organisms; we caught mostly eels.

We ended up tired at the end of the night due to the long working days. We had to load and unload the canoe every day of our stay. I had never done anything like this before. I learned many great things and I created unforgettable memories.

Elizabeth Escobar, WINS II

Happy Birthday!

September

- 8th - Enejha Dozier
- 8th - Lanyah Wilder
- 14th - Angie Albarouki
- 21st - Millie Cruz
- 24th - Xiaoya Kang
- 26th - Ruby Lee

October

- 5th - Grace James
- 5th - Bunga Octaviany
- 21st - Yassimine Nassam
- 21st - Cynthia To
- 23rd - Sophia Senh
- 30th - Hanaa Belgrave
- 30th - Wenwei Lu

November

- 9th - Jakiah McDonald
- 10th - Arionna Johnson-Jones
- 10th - Habibata Sylla
- 17th - Joanne Li
- 22nd - N'aignae Starnes
- 23rd - Hannah Sor
- 27th - Saquyah Burden