

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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Kyra Sacksith

WINS Newsletter

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Vertebrate Zoology Internship

This summer I received the opportunity to work alongside the Academy's collections manager of Vertebrate Zoology, Ned Gilmore. I was glad to give Ned a hand around the Academy. Every day of my internship held something new. I didn't have to stay in one place for the entire day. Sometimes I was working at the computer in Ned's office and other times I was doing work in the Herpetology lab. My favorite places to work were the Herpetology lab and the mammal collections by the WINS office.

From my internship, I gained new skills and completed unique tasks while learning interesting facts along the way. I did a lot of work with the specimens in the collections, from tying identification tags onto all kinds of (dead) snakes to doing an inventory of tiger skulls. I also learned how to transfer handwritten information about specimen from old logbooks into the Academy's databases. I even did a demonstration on how to curate lemmings for Science Live. One of the favorite jobs that Ned gave me was to help create a display of bats. I was proud of the end result.



Kyra Sacksith working on the inventory of tiger skulls in the Academy's mammals collection

I remember going into the internship without much knowledge of Vertebrate Zoology or how to keep up with a collection. Now every day that I intern, I learn more and more about it. As I continue with my internship, I plan to make the best of it and expand on what I already know.

Kyra Sacksith, WINS II

Alumnae and Current WINS 30th Anniversary Holiday Party

To celebrate the WINS 30th Anniversary, we would like to invite our alumnae to join current WINS in a get-together on Friday, December 28th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Academy's Dinosaur Hall. Don't miss this opportunity to share with current WINS and past managers and

see how the program and the Academy have evolved through the years. We will have light refreshments, games, a photo booth and more!

Please RSVP by Thursday, December 20th to payne@ansp.org or by calling (215) 299-1064.

My WINS experience

My experience with WINS has been something out of a crazy action-filled dream; from the first day when we touched the Madagascar cockroaches to our recent trip to Hawk Mountain. I think WINS really has changed me as a person.



Jiciana Knight (left) with Tenzin Chemi studying Madagascar cockroaches on their first week as WINS I.

First I was pretty scared to touch most anything, but Ms. Betsy walked me through it. Nowadays, if I see an insect I'm not scared of it; I actually would pick it up. I like to see all the animals and I like to explore all depths of science now because of my experience with WINS. I love coming every week after school to learn about something new. Without WINS I could never in my entire life imagine I would be going hiking on weekends, learning bird calls and counting salamanders for fun.

My favorite trip of all was PEEC (Poconos Environmental Education Center) because we were in the wilderness learning about the side of nature that you don't usually see. My favorite part was when we all looked in the night sky and saw the stars. From then on I began to have a closer bond with science and my WINS sisters.

My WINS experience is the best thing to ever happen to me and I hope to continue. Also through this program I have bonded with all the other WINS students. We have gone through this program together, and have the same understanding of what being a WINS really means. This is my WINS experience.

Jiciana Knight, WINS I



The WINS I class of 2012-13 at the summit of the Tumbling Waters trail at PEEC.

happy December

5th - Tenzin Ngawang
18th - Tamira Bell
18th - Tierra Bell
21st - Manna-Symone
Middlebrooks
27th - Keisha Medina
28th - Jayde Hammond

January

2nd - Gabrielle Davis
4th - Betty Louis
7th - Allure Gray
9th - Kyra Sacksith
13th - Taylor Ingham
14th - Michelle Holland
15th - Rabigatu Jalloh
21st - Danaya Johnson
21st - Daysha Johnson

biRthday

February

6th - Jada Parris
19th - Alyssa Fairfax
21st - Stephany Alcantara
26th - Jasmine Harvey

WINS, MAYA! and me

In August 2012, a group of 5 WINS II went with Leigh Lightner, the Academy's Mammal Keeper to the annual trip that MAYA! (Mid-Atlantic YouthALIVE! [Youth Achievement through Learning, Involvement, Volunteering, and Employment] an initiative of Association of Science-Technology Centers) offers.

The participating organizations are the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, the Franklin Institute, the Museum of Science in Boston, the National Aquarium in Baltimore, the New England Aquarium in Boston, the New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences in Camden, the Newark Museum of New Jersey, the Philadelphia Zoo, the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, and the Pittsburgh Children's Museum. This year's activity was held in the Marine Science Consortium at Wallops Island, Virginia. The MAYA! trips are not only educational, but also give the participants a chance to network with other museum youth programs. One offshoot of this networking was the recent visit to the Academy by the Baltimore Aquarium's youth group.

On Saturday December 1st, our friends from the Baltimore Aquarium (17 participants of their *Aquarium on Wheels* youth program) came by to the Academy to visit and check out the museum. I met the Baltimore group during a summer trip called MAYA in which we went to Virginia to study marine science. In this trip we shared a lot; we did a marine organism investigation, a research cruise, intertidal beach program, salt marsh program, dune ecology program, and lastly a campfire. While doing all these events we got to know each other and became friends, we had fun and made a lot of memories.



Water sampling with the Marine Science Consortium during the MAYA! trip.

When I first heard that they were coming to the museum I was so excited and could not wait. I thought I would never see them again because we

live in two different places. When the day came, I went to the Academy along with other WINS that participated in the trip so that we could share with them our museum.



Stephany Alcantara, front row left, with fellow WINS Angela Hensley, Kyra Sacksith and Kiambi Bruce behind her and the youth from the Baltimore Aquarium's youth program *Aquarium on Wheels* at the Academy's Dinosaur Hall.

First we divided the group into two and we showed them the behind-the-scenes parts of the museum so they would see that it has more to it than what you actually see. After that we had lunch together, talked about how wonderful the MAYA trip was and that we would like to go again. After lunch we showed them the rest of the museum.

The group said they loved it and their favorite part was when they visited the Live Animal Center and the fish collection in the Ichthyology department. Finally it was time for them to leave and we took pictures and said goodbye - see you soon. I really enjoyed their visit: we laughed, joked and showed them our museum. Overall it was nice to see the friends I made again.

Stephany Alcantara, WINS II

**THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES**

of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
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Dates to Remember...

ALL WINS

WINS (Current & Alumna) Holiday Get-together Celebrating our 30th Anniversary

Friday, December 28th 6:00pm to 8:00pm

WINS Safari Overnight - Friday, January 4th at 6:30 until Saturday at 7:00am

“Life After WINS” Alumnae Panel - Thursday, March 14th 4:00pm to 6:00pm

WINS I

First Class of Winter Session

Wednesday, January 9th
4:00pm to 5:30pm

Field Trip! Adventure Aquarium

Saturday, February 23rd
9:00am to 4:00pm

**Field Trip! - Spring Recess trip to
Delaware Aquatic Education
Resource Center**

Monday, March 25th at 9:00am to
Thursday March 28th at 12:00pm

WINS II

Seniors PEEC Trip!

Friday to Monday, January 18th-21st

Botany at the Academy Workshop

Thursday, January 17th 4:30pm to 6:00pm

**“Love Yourself: Mind, Body and Soul”
Workshop**

Saturday, February 9th 9:30am to 3:00pm

Mmmm...Chocolate Workshop

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

Field Trip! - Philadelphia Flower Show

Saturday, March 9th 9:00am to 3:00pm

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.