



Dates to Remember...

ALL WINS

“Life After WINS” Alumnae Panel - Thursday, March 14th 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Senior Farewell - Wednesday, May 29th 4:30pm to 6:30pm

WINS I

Field Trip! - Spring Recess trip to Delaware Aquatic Education Resource Center
Monday, March 25th at 9:00am to Thursday March 28th to 12:00pm

Field Trip! - Lady Maryland
Saturday, May 4th 7:30am to 6:00pm

Field Trip! - “Cape to Cape” overnight camping trip
Saturday, May 18th from 8:00am to Sunday, May 19th at 4:00pm

WINS II

Field Trip! - Philadelphia Flower Show
Saturday, March 9th 9:00am to 3:00pm

Workshop: Intern Presentations
Thursday, April 18th 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Field Trip! - Philadelphia Science Festival
Saturday, April 20th 9:30am to 12:30pm

Field Trip! - Longwood Gardens
Saturday, May 11th 9:am to 4:00p,

Workshop: Neurological Sciences
Thursday, May 16th 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Intern ONLY Field Trip - Mud Cores
Tuesday, May 21st 8:00am to 4:00pm

WINS Newsletter

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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.

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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Linda Croskey

WINS Newsletter

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MARCH 2013

Senior Trip 2013

My experience with WINS has come full circle. Four years ago my WINS class went to PEEC (Poconos Environmental Education Center) and participated in several activities ranging from hiking to canoeing to more hiking to arts & crafts and learning. This trip was no different! It's amazing how two days can feel like four ... or more!



Linda Croskey (bottom left) on her first visit to PEEC as a WINS I in the summer of 2009, at the top of the Tumbling Waters trail.

Saturday morning commenced our learning experience with an interactive tour of PEEC's latest exhibit “the Ecozone”. One of my favorite activities within the zone was building a bear. Many kids love to go to Build-a Bear Workshop to create their own bears, but we had the opportunity to literally build a bear (or its skeleton at least) by connecting magnetized bones of an old bear that died of natural causes. Needless to say this did not take long at all. Most people will never get to experience a bat cave and even less people will experience a beaver lodge. Yet, the Ecozone allowed us to experience both. We had to duck our heads as we walked into the dark, cold, beaver lodge and crab

walk while wearing headlights through the winding entrance of the bat cave.

Our next classes consisted of hiking along trails to observe winter ecology in deciduous and coniferous forests: the narrowness of the evergreens vs. the roundness of deciduous trees as they endure winter, learning how to track animals via their footprints and patterns (e.g. galloping) learning how to stalk animals via a game similar to “steal the bacon”, and learning how to build a shelter if we were ever trapped in a forest surrounded by snow with no tent. Keep in mind that during the latter activity we actually carried logs and limbs to build the structures of the shelters and decorated with evergreen leaves and small branches.



The WINS know that when an area is visited, a hike will sure be had. Linda and the other Seniors are hiking during a wildlife tracking lesson.

The night hike wrapped up our day. Four years ago it was very difficult to see where we were going and had to communicate if there were any rocks or roots to trip over. This hike, however, was illuminated by the reflection of the moon's light on the snow. But, to make things a little weird we were told to stare at a partner's face until it disappeared and then look over her shoulder. With success the person's head would appear over her

My Take on Paleontology

Many times over the years, I have always tried to imagine how life was before humans existed. I've wondered how the dinosaurs and other creatures have once walked this earth with not a care in the world. I've also wondered how those creature have been transformed into creatures that continue to exist today. These have always been a series of questions that I've pushed to the back of my mind because I had never thought they were that important to pursue.

By being in WINS, I have been exposed to new opportunities in life that I had never thought I could have. I have had many questions answered and many more generated through the lessons and trips that we went on. I first became fascinated with paleontology when I spent the night at the Academy on Safari Overnight. I remember having Mr. Jason Poole teach us about vertebrae and using the physical appearance of an animal to place the bones in the correct order. By using that knowledge, we were able to put together the bones of a bison. A bison is a massively tall but narrow-bodied bovid with a pronounced shoulder hump; so since we knew that much we started to construct the bison from the shoulders down after we had put together the neck.

The following Wednesday, Dr. Ted Daeschler presented a slide show explaining how aquatic animals in Cenozoic times evolved. He also told us about his adventures as he traveled on research trips digging up fossils. After that lesson, I knew for sure that paleontology was right for me. For more assurance another lesson, called "Are Birds Dinosaurs?", was taught by Mr. Jason Poole the following week. This class described the comparisons between birds and dinosaurs that lived in the Mesozoic and Paleo-

zoic times. During class he took the WINS I student on a walk in Dinosaur Hall where we examined the Tyrannosaurus rex and other dinosaurs. We classified the dinosaurs by playing a game where we were given a certain trait and by looking at the dinosaur we had to describe if that trait was present, absent or unknown.

Paleontology is truly something that has caught my attention. I have learned so many things about the very first eras of this earth and how prehistoric events continue to transform in the present day. Paleontology, in my opinion, plays a key role in human, animal, and plant life ,especially for those dinosaur lovers out there. It proves that there was, indeed, life before humans. It explains the continental drift and probably many other theories floating out there in the world. To set the record straight, paleontology just isn't the study of dinosaurs — it's the scientific study of **all** prehistoric life. So if you like old things, paleontology is for you.

Tiarra Bell WINS I



Tiarra Bell with *Hadrosaurus faulkii* in the Academy's Art of Science Gallery.



MARCH: 2nd - Sarah Pellecchia 6th - Tenin Sissoko

30th - Martine Augustin

APRIL: 21st - Michelle Huynh 25th - Sierra Grayson

MAY: 5th - Janiyah Jones 12th - Dakota Foster

15th - Monique Edwards 16th - Priya Smythe

17th - Nyree Harris

Senior Trip 2013 (cont.)

shoulder. My experience was not as successful. Instead my partner's facial features blended into something unrecognizable - it creeped me out! Several blinks later and her face was back to normal! Back at the lodge, a group of us concluded the night by telling stories of fashion faux pas from the past and the cheesiest pickup lines we have ever heard.

There are two words that sum up Sunday: teambuilding and reflection. There were around eight activities that we completed including "All on Board" and the confidence course. From my perspective, we achieved what team building is all about: communicating, working together, and fostering trust. It was not always easy, especially when we were tired and getting cranky, but nevertheless we accomplished each goal whether it was flipping the tarp with everyone on it or helping each other over the wall.



The graduating WINS II "spotting" Linda during the confidence course activity.



The graduating WINS II class of 2013. From left clockwise, Monique Edwards, Brianna Austin, Janai Keita, Aneesah Ford-Smith, Manna-Symone Middlebrooks, DebbieLynn Mayo, Sarah Pellecchia, Priya Smythe, Maranda Parker, Linda Croskey and Tenzin Ngawang.

Later that night, we sat around in a circle and shared what each of us were thankful for about the program and our most embarrassing moments in WINS. Personally, I am thankful for the experiences that I have had through this program: the trips, the college tours, the love yourself workshops, my first job in the LAC...

There are not enough words to express how thankful I am and the many good memories I have had throughout my WINS experience. I will surely miss the program.

Linda Croskey, WINS II

My WINS Experience

Ever since I started the WINS program, I felt that times were changing. Not only was I about to start high school and be thrust into a new world of people, I was also going to take my first steps of a career in science.

I had always been an inquisitive child, but being a part of WINS has heightened my desire to pursue science on a whole new level. The program has shown me many branches of science that I had no knowledge of before.

Not only is WINS a learning experience, it is a social one as well. I did not think I could get along well with a group of 20+ girls after a falling out with 2 of my best

girlfriends, but WINS changed my opinion. Here I met my sisters, girls who are as dear to me as my blood related family. I never thought I would be as close to them as I am today, 3 years after meeting them. Now, I think to myself, "How did I ever live without these girls?"

Overall, the WINS experience is definitely one a girl should be grateful for, no matter what her interests are. Not only does one learn and gain friendships, a girl will learn so much more about herself, whether or not she is aware of it!

Jacquelyne Ng, WINS II