



Women In Natural Sciences (WINS) is an innovative and successful science enrichment program conducted by the Academy of Natural Sciences 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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WINS Newsletter

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Is it an end or a beginning?

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end” So said Seneca, the 1st century Roman philosopher. The end of the school year is of course, the end of a time period. But it is also the beginning of new adventures.

First, I want to congratulate our nine Seniors who are on *“the other beginning’s end”*. Their hard work and perseverance has borne fruit. They are all graduating and going to college, and all in Pennsylvania! Kenya is going to Philadelphia University. Sharice and Demetra are going to Penn State at Abington. Aminah (with full scholarship), Chantel, Ishara and

Jonuka are going to Penn State Main. Jazmin is going to Clarion University and Jamie is going to Temple University.

We wish them the best in their new beginning of their chosen paths!

And with Seniors leaving, our WINS I “graduate” to become WINS II. We’d also like to welcome the new girls that will be starting in July as the WINS class of 2014!



Another beginning is the Summer season, my favorite time of the year! Most of you know that reading a good book

at the beach is my favorite pastime. And since I would like to encourage every WINS to read for the pure joy of it, we are starting a “lending library” at our office.

If you finished with a novel you really liked and would like to pass it on, just bring it to the office for another WINS to enjoy. One that I recently read and we have available is “The Soloist” by Steve Lopez - definitely a good “beach read”.

I hope every one has a good *new beginning* this Summer season!

Betsy Payne - WINS Manager
payne@ansp.org

Facebook & MySpace: Join our group and become our Friend!

Need to know what is going on in WINS? Look no further - you can find WINS on just about every social networking site... with the exception of Twitter (*you already know what we’re doing... you get the newsletters :-)*)



For all of the WINS Facebook users, join our group! Search for us by typing in ‘Women In Natural Sciences’ and then look for the group with this picture:



Once you are in the group, look under recent news and then click on the link to view and become a fan of the WINS Facebook page.



For all of the WINS MySpace users, become our friend! Just search for us by email:

winsjust4girls@yahoo.com

Now, we don’t just want you to friend us and join our group; get those WINS girls that you keep in contact with to do the same! We will use these net-

working sites to update you on events, activities and recent news. Plus, it’s a great way to stay connected with WINS alumni both past and present. Use the sites to share your experiences, upload old WINS pictures, suggest some new ideas or just say hi and keep informed about what’s going on with the program.

If you have any questions, just email me anytime. Hope to see you on Facebook or MySpace!

Dannyelle Combs
WINS Coordinator
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Our Trip to DAREC



Adjua Stinson-Murphy closely observing a specimen found during the 6 mile hike.

"...the best part of the trip was being able to REALLY experience nature.

-Adjua Stinson-Murphy

Our WINS trip to the Delaware Aquatic Resources Educational Center was one not to be forgotten. During our stay at the Mallard Lodge, we were able to see wetlands up and close and we were able to experience the beauty of nature. Even though the weather was erratic, that didn't stop us from making the best of our experience.

During our trip we trekked on a six mile hike, which led to a beautiful beach at the end. During this hike we studied different types of plants and we stumbled upon a few animal skeletons. We learned all about a plant called Phragmites and we were lucky enough to find the skeleton of a muskrat. Needless to say the six miles was worth it.

Even though all the things I described above were in-

teresting, the best part of the trip was being able to REALLY experience nature. Outside of the city limits, where animals roam free, you'd be surprised at the things we're missing. The air is fresher and everything is exactly how it was meant to be, not processed or made by man.

Experiencing the sounds of all the insects during the night, hearing them weave and create their own songs, is absolutely beautiful. To be able to stargaze and see the

moonlight at night, without being blocked by clouds of pollution is extraordinary.

We take nature for granted most of the time, but this trip made me realize how important and beautiful nature is. Remarkable, exciting, interesting, and all around fun, are some of the words that can be used to describe our trip to Delaware!

Adjua Stinson-Murphy
WINS '11



WINS I participants taking a break from the walk through the salt marsh in Delaware

Being a WINS....



Shanaya Shoats leads an activity for potential new WINS I at the WINS Orientation Preview in March 2009.

What does WINS mean to me? For some girls, WINS is just a place for them to go to in the time of need, in order for them to cool down or get away from home. Not for me. WINS is a fundamental way of learning and exploring new things. It also helps me meet new girls and create lifelong friendships.

One way that WINS has given me the opportunity

of exploration is by working at the academy. Working at the Academy has given me great experience with hopes of becoming a teacher. Not only that, but working at the Academy also helps me with time and money management as well as getting more familiar with the workforce.

For some people WINS is just another science program that is so boring and

it's just another place for them to learn. For me, when I first heard about the WINS program I did not want to do it at all. Now that I am in the program and really got to enjoy the different experiences, I absolutely love the WINS program and all that it has done for me and all that it will do for me in the future.

Shanaya Shoats
WINS '10

WINS - Looking back

The year of 1997 brought the end of my freshman year of high school and the beginning of my now twelve year stretch at The Academy of Natural Sciences. When I first walked in the doors I never thought I would still be doing it today.

The *Woman in Natural Sciences* program was one of the best choices I made in my life. It has opened so many doors for me. The first year of class did more than teach me about science; it taught me about

life, and it helped me grow and mature into the woman I am today.

The best experience from WINS was working in the different areas of the Museum. After your first year of classes, some girls get the opportunity to pick an area to work in throughout the museum. No one knows this but I started out in Outside In. I loved working with animals and teaching visitors new things. Once I was old enough I moved on to the birthday party program.

This position allowed me to teach more to a selected group of visitors while having fun.

After leaving for a short time I again returned as a part-time manager in the Dig and the changing ex-

hibit hall. Not only was I teaching the visitors, but volunteers and WINS girls too. So don't take working at the Academy for granted because it can be the doorway to your future!

Avon Johnson
WINS '00



Avon Johnson in a teachable moment at the Dig.



Looking for a name....

Hey Ladies! Have you noticed that our WINS Newsletter doesn't have a name? Well, here is your chance to come up with a catchy name and win a prize! We are looking for a name that reflects the essence of WINS. Send me your suggestions by the end of July, and we'll choose a winner among the entries. The new name will be in our next edition, and the "author" of the chosen name will win the prize! Betsy

Dates to Remember...

WELCOME NEW WINS I

You will get a final schedule your first day of class, but mark down these dates!!

Wednesday, July 8th: **First Day!**
Academy of Natural Sciences
10:00am to 3:00pm

August 17th to 21st: **Trip to Poconos Environmental Education Center**

WINS II (old & new!)

Summer schedule will be handed out in June 24th meeting.

Wednesday, June 3rd: **End-of-year activity and Seniors farewell**
4:30pm to 6:00pm

Thursday, June 18th: **Students Making a Difference Day**
Franklin Institute at 4:00pm to 6:30pm

Wednesday, June 24th: **ALL WINS II Meeting - MANDATORY!**
ANSP at 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Thursday & Friday, June 25th & 26th: **Customer Service Training** for ALL Explainers, ANSP 9:30am to 3:30pm

WINS Newsletter

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The Academy & WINS

The year-long WINS I program consists of a variety of lessons and field trips to enhance our girls' science experiences. It really does "take a village" to do this. Luckily, we have some of the best resources right here at the Academy.

Since the beginning of the school year, we have had the help of both education staff and scientist. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all:

- * Ned Gilmore, for letting the girls examine the mammal collection
- * Laura McRae for the exploration of the LAC
- * Michelle Bassler for her terrific lessons on birds and scat
- * Jeannette Grieb for taking over last minute and leading a biodiversity lesson
- * Jason Poole for making us dig "paleo"
- * Timshel Purdum for her very active evolution and adaptation activity
- * Dr. Ted Daeschler for his excellent talk about *Tiltaalik* and transitional fossils



Timshel Purdum, Manager of School Programs, declaring a winner in an adaptations activity she led with the WINS I class.

- * Doug Weschler for trekking us through the salt marsh and his classroom presentation.
- * Dr. Richard Horwitz for explaining what goes on in the Patrick Center
- * Kyle Luckenbill for "exposing" the ichthyology department
- * Dr. Tanya Livshultz and Alina Freire-Fierro for their wonderful lesson on botany.

The WINS not only learned a great deal, but also had a great time doing it. Thanks everyone for your time and assistance.

Betsy Payne - WINS Manager

Birthday Wishes to....



Jasmir Turner - June 5
Marquette Richardson
June 19



Alaya White - July 12
Aminah Ford-Ellison - July 27
Shanaya Shoats - July 29
Breanna Smith - July 30



Demetra Davis - Aug. 7
Donneice Brownlee-Robinson - Aug. 7
Araya Shepherd - Aug. 20
Ishara Pinkney-Lee - Aug. 26