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.

30 Years of WINS!

Wow! I can’t believe that we’re celebrating 30 years of WINS! Attending the 30th Anniversary Celebration last week was an awesome way to reflect on the many lives that have been touched by WINS. I must say, I had no idea what I was in for upon arriving at the Union League building. Before the event began I had a chance to catch up with many current WINS and my fellow alumnae, and it was wonderful to hear what everyone is up to these days.

The event began with a short welcome and the viewing of a beautiful video made by NBC 10. I was almost moved to tears while watching some of the interviews because each girl talked about the impact WINS has had on her life, and I completely understood where they were coming from. Being able to attend this event and hear not only WINS girls, but also many prominent speakers such as WINS Alumna Ms. Ninette Cooper, Congressman Chaka Fattah and the honoree Mrs. Judith von Seldeneck, among others, talk about the importance of women in science and giving back, I knew that I made the right choice to join the program when I was back in middle school.

Although I have chosen Nursing as my major (and ultimately my career!), I can honestly say that WINS changed me as a person. I have become a steward of the world around me, and as an alumna I now understand that the world needs programs like WINS to empower young women. I have met some of my closest friends through this program and formed an everlasting sisterhood. From the summer classes to PEEC to the college tours, this experience has been a unique and transforming one. I am thankful to have had the privilege of attending this marvelous event, and it is my sincerest hope that I will be around to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Women In Natural Science program.

Kerienne Huggins
WINS Alumna 2007-2011

A few of the current WINS speaking with guests prior to the luncheon.
From left to right: Gabrielle, DebbieLynn, and Betty.

Current WINS and alumnae at the 30th Anniversary Celebration.
June brings nice weather, but most importantly, it also brings with it graduations!!! The WINS 2012 graduating class are now officially on their way to college!

Some of the girls are staying in Philadelphia. Dominique Thomas will be going to Temple University to study biology, pre-med track. Sunrise Faust-Saunders will be starting in the University of the Arts as a Fine Arts major and Nancy Koam will be at LaSalle University, currently undecided. Just outside the city, Breanna Smith will be studying secondary education, concentrating in biology at Cabrini College.

A little farther away in Penn State Harrisburg will be Joselyn Johnson studying mechanical engineering. Jasmin White, who will be studying biology and Qwaya Robinson, who at the moment is undecided will be going to Shippensburg University. And Onyenma Enwereji will be going to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh to study biology.

This year we have four girls going out of state. Irene Patterson will be going to American University in Washington, DC to study audio technology; Jasmin Turner will be at Delaware University studying history; Comfort Adeyemi will be at the University of Rochester in New York studying biomedical engineering; and farthest of all will be Marissa Pinder in Salem College in North Carolina, currently undecided but leaning towards the sciences.

We wish all the girls best of luck, and we are looking forward to hearing their stories when they return from their first semester!

WINS Senior class of 2011-2012 at the Senior trip at PEEC in January 2012. From left: back row - Jasmin, Joslyn, Jasmin, Dominique, Breanna, Sunrise, Irene; front row - Comfort, Nancy, Marissa, Onyenma

Senior WINS move onward!

Danaya Johnson, on her way to another WINS adventure on the Cape May Ferry.

Conquering fears

Being a WINS participant, I’ve conquered my fears. I was scared of every little thing; I was scared to touch insects, going on night hikes and going canoeing. The more trips and overnight trips I went on, though, I saw that there was nothing to be scared of.

Out of all the activities we did, canoeing was my biggest fear. During the Delaware trip to the Mallard Lodge we went on April 2nd through 5th. I heard we were going canoeing. I was like “Oh, no I am never going canoeing again.” Once Ms. Betsy convinced me and told there was nothing to worry about, I trusted her and I did it!

Dominique Thomas, the WINS I assistant taught me how to paddle correctly while canoeing and how to be safe while on the canoe. I finally got the hang of it and I had fun. If I have to do it all over again, I will. I will not be scared because I conquered my fears. I feel good about myself knowing that I got the hang of it and that I have nothing to worry about.

Danaya Johnson, WINS I

My experience in WINS

Dominique Thomas, a senior WINS, was the WINS I Assistant for the 2011-12 WINS I class, helping out with all the lessons, activities and field trips. I asked her to write something about her experience, and below are her thoughts.

As I prepare to take the next step in my life, going to college, I can look back at my experiences in the Women in Natural Sciences (WINS) program and say that it has helped me grow into the mature young lady I am today. WINS is more than just a science program for high school aged girls. It is a safe haven, a sisterhood and a place to go if you want to be motivated, inspired and educated. If I had the opportunity, I would do it all over again!

With each trip, workshop and lesson I gained more insight on how broad science is. Through employment, tours, mocked interviews, internships, and professional development I gained a new confidence in and outside the classroom.

The WINS program has truly been a positive influence in my life and a great attribute to my success in high school. I will truly miss all of my WINS sisters but hope to reunite in the future. I would like to thank my 8th grade science teacher for seeing something special in me, Ms. Betsy Payne for her mentorship through the years, and The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University for their scientific guidance.

Dominique Thomas
WINS 2008-2012

Danaya Johnson, WINS I