

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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Springing forward...

Spring brings forth not only showers and May flowers, but also a slew of activities in the WINS program: camps, sailing, field trips, and interviews for potential new WINS to name a few. It also brings graduations to the WINS Seniors - lot of them. This year we had a bumper crop of graduates - 14!

All the Seniors will all be going to college, both near and far. Going out of state are: Zakia Elliot is going to Brown University in Rhode Island for Environmental Science, Ebony Dyson to South Carolina State University for Biology and in Maryland will be Kerienne Huggins in the College of Notre Dame for Nursing, and Yasmin Ahmed studying Psychology at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Closer to home will be Adjua Stinson-Murphy at Albright College for Journalism, Brittany Studevan at the Community College of Philadelphia, Donneice Brownlee-Robinson at Lincoln for Environmental Science, Araya Shepherd at Drexel University for Marketing, Dyamond Logan at LaSalle University for Elementary Education, Olicia Stephen at Temple University for

Criminal Justice, Katreena Thomas at University of Pittsburgh for Bioengineering, Chelsea Roque at the University of the Sciences in the pre-Health field and at Ursinus College will be Alisa Randolph for Biology and Kemeka Hernandez for Psychology and History.



The WINS II Senior at this school's year college tour in November in Trinity College in Connecticut.

Congratulations girls on your numerous achievements!

Betsy Payne, WINS Manager

On opportunities lost....and found.

As a homework for school, Kerienne Huggins, a WINS Senior and WINS I Assistant had to write a personal essay. It includes her experience with the WINS. She kindly agreed to share it with us.

An all-expense-paid, three-week-long trip to the American wilderness, free standardized test preparation, and a personal mentor all sound like incredible prospects for a high school student, especially when all one must do is check in with their mentor each week, break in a pair of hiking boots, and be able to run three miles in less than thirty minutes. Two years ago the opportunity of a lifetime landed in my lap, and I let it pass me by.

During my sophomore year, I was nominated by my African-American History teacher for a program called Summer Search. In addition to the aforementioned



Kerienne Huggins in the Summer of 2010 doing a WINS internship at the USDA.

components of the program, I would also have the chance to visit a foreign country during the summer before my senior year, and receive help with college applications, while simultaneously learning more about myself and learning to handle responsibility like a mature young adult. My mother and I were extremely excited about my participation in Summer Search; tears of joy were shed and life was great for those next few months. One may wonder, then, how I let it slip through my fingers. At this point in time I am mature enough to avoid making excuses for myself; I simply did not take it as seriously as I should have.

Running is my LEAST favorite exercise activity. It was ironic, then, that I was required to run to prove my physical preparedness for my upcoming wilderness trip. I thought I could get away with

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Cape to Cape

"Cape to Cape" was a great experience. When Ms. Betsy first told us on the Wednesday class the week before we were going to *Cape to Cape* that we had to prepare by building tents, I said "Wow, this would be so interesting"; and interesting it was. You then receive a huge, heavy plastic bundle that looks at first, like a sleeping bag. Then you receive no instructions on how to build it, but you got either a yes or no if it was built right. As soon as we open the bag, metal poles were flying everywhere, and out came two large plastic covers: one with hooks and one without. My tent mates and I were all so confused, putting poles through random hook and while laughing thought, "wow, that looks wrong". But with all our battle scares (a small cut from a retracting pole) we did it well.

After that we soon were off to camp. First we stopped at the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, NJ which was very small but it taught you a lot about what happens when you leave trash in the ocean; how animals mistake it as food and choke on it. After that it was off to the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, NJ and its Terrapin Conservation center, which was very fun. We learned how they keep track of the turtles and help the smaller ones get away because they are eaten so often that their population is declining quickly. They also had an awesome tour guide named Aly that was very excited about her job and that's what made her such a cool tour guide.



Then after leaving the awesome overview at the Wetlands Institute, we then went on the Cape May Ferry. Of course I was nervous getting on a boat so big it could hold the entire bus and many other cars. At first, I said I was not going to get off the bus onto the boat but as soon as I looked out over the deck the dolphins were swimming really close to us, but it was just so awesome!

My friends and I all got hungry, so we then ate the nachos at the ferry's cafe. The ferry dropped us off at Cape Lewes, and then we went about a mile to Camp Henlopen. As soon as we got to camp, we set up our tents. Surprisingly we got the tent pitched on our first try. Soon after we ate dinner (hot dogs and hamburgers) and then had a campfire.

At campfire we told the group how we felt about WINS, what we like the most, and our favorite trip. When we woke up we ate breakfast and broke down camp. We all packed the bus and were on our way to the beach. We then did this fishing net experiment where we caught all this cool stuff. The last time we let down our seine net we were trying to figure out why our net was so heavy and why the middle was so dark. It turned out that we had caught a load of horseshoe crabs, puffer fish, and mummichogs (funny fish name). When the tour guide was finished explaining all the cool things we had found, we released it all back into the ocean and got on the bus.

Although, the *Cape to Cape* trip seemed so long, it was too short. We were having so much fun. It is really sad now that it is over; it was - four mini trips in one super trip. But hopefully in WINS II we will be able to find more and more things. Not only just find more, but learn more and more about earth that's more than just the other human beings we interact with.

Debbie Lynn Mayo, WINS I

WINS I Niyree Harris, Debbie Lynn Mayo and Brittany Smith get a close-up view of a horseshoe crab held by Aly, an educator at the Wetlands Institute.



JUNE: 12th - Aneesh Ford-Smith 26th - Brianna Austin

JULY: 10th - Precious Sellers 12th - Alaya White 13th - Italia Washington
22nd - Deneisha Cook 30th - Breanna Smith

AUGUST: 17th - Danielle Smith 18th - Rayna Green 20th - Araya Shepherd

On opportunities lost (continued from page 1)

running on a treadmill a few times, and quitting when my legs and lungs started to burn. Confucius said, "To lead an untrained people to war is to throw them away," and that is just what I did. On the day of the 3-mile run, I could not complete it, nor could I complete it after two additional tries. I did not follow my mother's adage, "Sometimes you have to do things that you do not want to do before you can do the things you want to do." As a result of my slipshod attitude, I was dismissed from Summer Search. My trip home from the office on Walnut Street was a difficult one. I had to choke back tears and rack my brain for a way to give my mom the bad news. I was disappointed in myself and I felt as if I let her and my African-American History teacher down.

Despite these initial feelings of defeat, I realized that I could not sit at home and do nothing over the summer. The dazzle of Summer Search had temporarily blinded me to the other amazing opportunities that were available to me through WINS. With a bit of persistence and lots of smiling, I was allowed to accompany one of the program coordinators and three other WINS II girls to the MAYA! Youth Summit at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, as well as the annual WINS I trip to the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC). Both

of these experiences helped me realize my true potential as a leader and role model, not only to younger girls in the program but also to my peers. Although it was not my first time at PEEC, it was my first time going as a chaperone. Never before had I been responsible for moving a large group of students around a campground, defusing/mediating issues between individual students, enforcing a bedtime, or keeping the group calm during an animal sighting.

My choice to make the most out of my circumstances has paid off in more ways than one. As a result of my performance on various other WINS I trips, I was offered the position of WINS I Assistant, which is a complement to my paid position at the Academy of Natural Sciences as a WINS Explainer. This requires that I aid the program coordinators in running WINS I classes, be a positive role model and mentor for the

younger girls, and even make improvements to the program as a whole by suggesting new activities and topics of study. In addition, I decided to join the Executive Council (student government) during my junior and senior years. I honestly do not know where I would be if I hadn't fallen on my face and learned the error of my ways.

Kerienne Huggins, WINS II



Kerienne, standing second from left, with the WINS I taking a break during the hike to Tumbling Waters at PEEC.

My experience in WINS I



Rabiyatu decorating the pot of the basil she planted during a WINS class.

My experience in WINS I was amazing. I have learned so much! I made new friends and went to places I had never been to.

My favorite trip in WINS was the Delaware Aquatic Resources Education Center because of the classes we had. I especially liked how we talked and learned about the horseshoe crabs and how passionate they (the educators) were about them. I went into the class

thinking that it would be boring, but I ended up remembering everything they said. And my favorite WINS I class was the "plant classification" class because we got to plant basil in a small pot and take it home – I love plants and I think it was so cool!

Overall, my WINS I experience was unforgettable.

Rabiyatu Jalloh, WINS I

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

— PHILADELPHIA —

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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 6th: **First Day!**
Academy of Natural Sciences
10:00am to 3:00pm

August 15th to 19th: **Trip to Poconos
Environmental Education Center**



WINS II

Wednesday, June 23rd: **Field Trip!**
Kayaking in the Delaware. Meet at the
Academy at 8:00am, back by 4:30pm

Wednesday, June 29th: **Workshop:**
**Fossil Field Work: Where, Why &
How:** Bird Hall 9:00am to 12:00pm

Thursday, June 30th: **Customer Service
Training** for ALL Explainers and Interns,
ANSP 9:30am to 4:00pm

Thursday, July 14th: **Workshop:**
Teen Dating Violence.
ANSP 9:30am to 1:00pm

Saturday, July 23rd: **Field Trip!**
**Fossil Hunting at Colts Neck, NJ
with Ned Gilmore.** Meet at the
Academy at 8:00am, back by 5:00pm

Thursday, August 11th: **Field Trip!**
**Chemical Heritage Foundation and
American Philosophical Society.**
Meet at ANSP 9:30am, back by 3:00pm

Tuesday, August 23rd: **Field Trip! USDA
presentations & Awbury Arboretum.**
Meet at ANSP 8:30am, back by 3:30pm

WINS Newsletter

Editor

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Contributors

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Kerienne Huggins
Rabiyatu Jalloh

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All activities are
rain or shine!

Please let
Ms. Betsy know
if you cannot
make it to an
activity
beforehand.