



# WINS Newsletter

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2010

**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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## “...parting is such sweet sorrow...”

...so says Juliet; but we can also use it today for our WINS Alumnae and Coordinator Dannyelle Combs. Dannyelle will be leaving the Academy to accept a position as an Educator at *Community Learning Center* in the Frankford section of Philadelphia. There she'll be teaching young adults to get their GEDs.



Among the things we will miss of Dannyelle is her easy smile she always shares.

We are sorry to see her go. She was instrumental in various WINS activities including our first “Life After

WINS” Panel, the hosting of the “Students Making a Difference” Day and the plan-

ning of the annual College Tour.

I like to think that the WINS program gave this Alumnae another boost in her career. I'd also like to think that we will again see her here in the future.

We will miss her dedication to the Academy and the WINS girls, and wish her the best in her new adventure.

Betsy Payne, WINS Manager

## How I grew in PEEC

As part of every trip, we ask the WINS to journal about their experiences. The day before leaving the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), the journal's theme was “How have you grown since being in PEEC?” What follows is Aneesah Ford-Smith's entry, who willingly shared it with us:

I have grown a lot since I have been at PEEC. Emotionally, educationally, socially and physically! It seems that the thoughts and emotions that I felt towards WINS has changed completely.

At first, I found a friend Rayna who I was getting really close to. Then we had to sit at different tables. I was sad back then, but reflecting now, I understand WINS is about working together, learning and making friends. I expanded my friendships here at PEEC, and I'm glad. What I thought others were going to be, they weren't. I'm glad I made new friends and everyone seems to get along. It's too bad that I lost a few friends and gained foes.

I learned trillions of stuff here at PEEC. The stars, the moon, the



Aneesah Ford-Smith (left) with her good friend Rayna Green enjoy cooling their feet during a WINS hike.

trees and the leaves all look different to me now. I'm glad that I'm more educated now and I can pass on my knowledge to someone else. I have dramatically grown in the past four days that we were here.

I also believe I put on pounds since I've arrived here. Even though some say that we got fit from the hikes, but all I did was make up for those 3 hours and 3.5 miles with food, which was delicious. The hikes weren't as bad as everyone said, they were real easy for me. I'm glad I had such a good experience. Next time, I want to be the killer!\*

Aneesah Ford-Smith, WINS I

\*Killer is a guessing game that is played over a few days at camp. One girl is chosen the 1st day for the duration.

*"I love being able to share the knowledge and experience in the lab with those who come to see us work."*

Jasmin White

## My Internship at the Paleo Lab.

Every teen thinks that summer isn't summer without the beach and all night hang out with friends but for the last month I've learned how simply untrue that is. While other boys and girls my age are at the shore or sleeping the day away, I've been spending my summer in the best place in the Academy... The Paleo Lab.

Being here I've met some pretty awesome people, people who are older and teach me what they've learned in life so far. They inform me on books, movies, music and college. While we all enjoy each other's company, we also get a lot of work done. Being as though I'm the newest person to start I'm not as experienced as everyone else but that doesn't stop me from trying my very best to keep up.

When I first came to the Paleo Lab, I thought I would mess up so badly and embarrass myself but Jason Poole, the Paleo Lab Coordinator, had nothing but faith that I would hold my own. Faith that in these past few weeks I have gained.

At first I thought this would be like school; too much work and a boring annoying teacher, but the lab is the furthest thing from that. I come in as much

as I can to inform visitors of new findings and what a paleontologist is all about. I love being able to share the knowledge and experience in the lab with those who come to see us work. At the lab, I feel like I just click and belong which is what any sixteen year old girl wants.

Jasmin White  
WINS II



Jasmin White working as a summer intern in the Academy's Paleo Lab.

**Editor's Note:**  
**Due to her hard work and enthusiasm, Jasmin was subsequently offered an Explainer job in the Paleo Lab.**

## Birthdays!

### September

9th - Tisha Paul  
11th - Kemeka Hernandez  
17th - Evelyn Ogden  
25th - Aliah McLeod  
30th - Sunnise Faust-Saunders

### October

6th - Chelsea Roque  
6th - Dominique Thomas  
15th - Jasmir Turner  
19th - Zania Jones  
22nd - Alyssa Brown  
26th - Mjaan McIvor  
26th - Maranda Parker

### November

6th - Brittany Studevan  
9th - Debbie Lynn Mayo  
15th - Linda Croskey  
15th - Cheyenne Ostalaza  
18th - Sydney Dombrowski  
20th - Alisa Randolph  
26th - Janai Keita  
26th - Jacqueline Ng  
28th - Yasmin Ahmend

## Perspective and the USDA

The first afternoon I walked out of the USDA, I knew I had found a new love. The start of my first day wasn't as smooth; my body was racked with anxiety and I was more than a little skeptical of my lab skills. Coming from a vigorous arts high school with little emphasis on academics, my lab work sadly extended only to disintegrating zinc from the center of a penny. Needless to say, I felt a little intimidated.

However, I found my natural cautiousness when working paid off in the lab; I am proud to say that my pipetting skills were the most accurate out of the preceding WINS interns. By the middle of my day, my nerves were finally under control and I was soothed by steady working. I was reminded of the work I was accustomed to, studio art, and realized the link between art and science wasn't as far apart as I originally thought.

Every time I walked into the lab I learned something new; how to extract microcystins from catfish, the mechanics of a spectrophotometer. I hadn't realized how much I had learned until I would explain what I'd done to my friends and family.

Zakia Elliot was one of the four WINS that participated in this summer's internship with the USDA ERRC. From left are Kerienne Huggins, Adjua Stinson-Murphy, Chelsea Roque, and Zakia Elliot.

When I looked at my mentors, I saw how they genuinely loved what they were doing, working patiently, efficiently. Their projects were their babies, as every art piece I've done has been mine. My worries about not fitting in melted away and everyday I walked out of the lab, I had the largest smile on my face.

I've been experiencing personal satisfaction from projects for almost four years but the feeling I got from completing a project in the lab with my mentors was nothing I've experienced before. There was a higher purpose in everything done, the gain wasn't just personal, it was worldly. I feel a great sense of pride to say that I've been mentored by people

who are working to make a difference in everyone's lives. My perspective of my future in science has changed for the better; painting is still fun, but now I'm focused on the bigger picture.

Zakia Elliot  
WINS II



Zakia Elliot preparing samples to measure antioxidants in juice and tea as part of her WINS internship in the USDA Eastern Region Research Center.





**Women In Natural Sciences**

The Academy of Natural Sciences  
1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway  
Philadelphia, PA 19103



**ALL WINS**

**Maize Maze, Hurricane Hill Farm**

Friday, September 17th  
4:30pm to 10:00pm

**Holiday Party at the Academy**

Wednesday, December 15th  
4:00pm to 6:00pm

*Dates to Remember...*

**WINS I**

**First Class of Fall Session**

Wednesday, Sept. 15th  
4:00pm to 5:30pm

**Field Trip! Bronx Zoo**

Saturday, Oct. 2nd Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 7:00pm

**Field Trip! - Hawk Mt. Sanctuary**

Saturday, October 30th - Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 6:00pm

**Field Trip! - The American Museum of Natural History**

Saturday, December 11th- Meet at the Academy at 8:00am, back by 7:00pm

**WINS II**

**Geosciences Workshop**

Thursday, September 16th  
4:30pm to 6:00pm

**Gettysburg College Tour**

Saturday, September 25th  
8:00am to 6:00pm

**Day of Service at Mill Creek Farm**

Saturday, October 16th  
8:00am to 1:00pm

**Pre-College Tour Workshop**

Thursday, October 21st  
4:30pm to 6:00pm

**College Tour - New England**

November 10th to 13th  
Wednesday 4:30pm to Saturday 6:00pm

**The College Expression Workshop**

Thursday, November 18th  
4:30pm to 6:00pm

**WINS Newsletter**

**Editors**

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**Send your comments or questions to:**

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