



The 56th Annual Miss USA Pageant



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NC Teen USA Contestants Scholarship Offers



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Beyond the Crown

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56TH ANNUAL MISS USA PAGEANT

As we begin 2007, our new Miss titleholders are busy preparing for their opportunity to win the coveted Miss USA title. The 56th Annual Miss USA Pageant will air live this year on Friday, March 23rd from the beautiful Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles, California. The competition makes a return to Los Angeles after airing the last two years from Baltimore, Maryland. Fifty-one of the country's most beautiful young ladies will spend three weeks making appearances, attending rehearsals, and getting to know each other.

Recently, Erin O'Kelley, Miss North Carolina USA, Ashley Zais, Miss South Carolina USA and Liz McNulty, Miss Louisiana USA attended a four day conference at Eagle University in Dallas, Texas. Here the girls spent time attending seminars on everything from financial success to networking and building resumes. In one motivational seminar, the girls had the opportunity to learn the power of goals and determination by breaking a board with their bare hand.

We would like to wish all three girls the best of luck at the upcoming competition.





ERIN O'KELLEY

MISS NORTH CAROLINA USA 2007



Erin O'Kelley, a 20-year-old native of Asheville, is our Miss North Carolina USA for 2007. She is a junior at North Carolina State University in Raleigh and is a Communications Media major. Erin is also pursuing a double minor in both World Literature and French and studied at the Universite Catholique in Lille, France this past summer.

Public speaking is Erin's forte and she enjoys traveling and exercise. In 2004, she was able to incorporate all three when she "Switched" lives with a Chinese acrobat, who doubled as the troupe's public relations emcee, in the ABC Family reality show, "Switched."

Erin had the privilege to represent her state of North Carolina in 2001 at the Miss Teen USA pageant and will proceed to the Miss USA pageant in the spring of 2007.

ASHLEY ZAIS

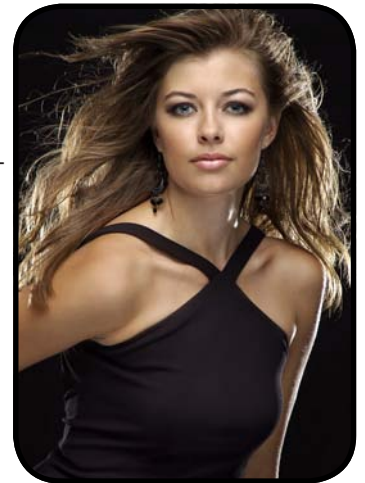
MISS SOUTH CAROLINA USA 2007

Ashley Zais was crowned Miss South Carolina USA 2007 on November 18, 2006, in Charleston, SC where she also took home the Miss Photogenic Award.

Ashley is a 19 year old senior at Wofford College. She is a professional model and has modeled with Elite in Atlanta, Avenue One in Tokyo, and Millie Lewis in Columbia. Ashley was born at Fort Lewis, Washington and is the daughter of Brigadier General (retired), Dr. and Mrs. Mitchell M. Zais of Newberry, SC. She has a 21 year old brother, Brad.

Ashley will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and a minor in religion. She would like to take a mission trip to Africa and then pursue a career as a major events planner.

One of Ashley's hobbies is traveling. Her love of travel stems from growing up as an Army brat. Ashley has lived in Washington, Georgia, Kansas, California, Washington, DC, and now South Carolina. She has also lived in several foreign countries including 3 years in Panama, a summer in Tokyo, and a semester abroad in Barcelona, Spain.





ELIZABETH McNULTY MISS LOUISIANA USA 2007



Liz is a graduate of Louisiana State University in Fashion Design. She is an entrepreneur and free-lance fashion designer as well as the Fashion Editor for Town Favorites Magazine in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She has two brothers – T-Jack who is a commanding officer and 2nd Lieutenant with the U.S. Marine Corps currently serving in Fallujah, Iraq, and Joe who is a senior at LSU.

Liz is very involved with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana as well as the Campaign to Save Coastal Louisiana and is especially active in the re-vegetation of the Louisiana coastline. Other philanthropies she is involved in are the Red Cross, the Louisiana Preservation Society, Artists Helping Children, Dress for Success, and the Jerry Lewis Telethon. Liz also enjoys working with and visiting the elderly and applies her talents in fashion design to charity work as well by assisting with fashion shows for various charitable beneficiaries.

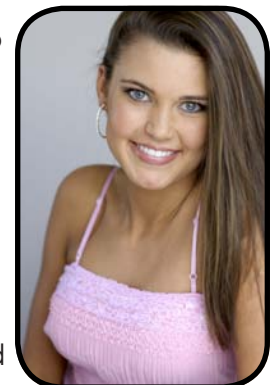
Liz's designs were chosen and shown at Dallas Fashion Week and she models for designers whose fashions she appreciates and promotes. She was featured in the New Orleans Magazine Bridal Edition. She applies her fashion design talents to pageantry as well. Her artwork has also been shown publicly and she was chosen as a Spotlight Artist for her creative designs. Liz was chosen and attended Parson's School of Design's Summer Intensive Study Program in New York in 2002.

In her free time, Liz uses her creative talents to paint, and she also enjoys baking, reading and ballroom dancing.

MISS LOUISIANA TEEN USA VISITS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN NEW ORLEANS

Logan Travis, Miss Louisiana Teen USA has always had a heart to make others feel special. Logan developed the "T4T program" where teens adopt a buddy for one year and they play in a buddy softball tournament. It is truly an amazing experience to watch.

Logan recently visited the Children's Hospital in New Orleans where she went door to door greeting patients and family members. Upon knocking on one door, Logan encountered a Mom sitting next to a young man sleeping peacefully. His mother asked Logan not to leave because she was sure he wanted to meet Logan. The mother gently woke the young man. Logan introduced herself and discovered the young man's name was Blake. He had just learned he was going to be paralyzed from the waist down due to a 4-wheeler accident. Logan noticed the many pictures of him in a football uniform and asked if he played. Turns out he played for a school Logan recognized. After a twenty minute discussion, they exchanged phone numbers. Logan said she has made another buddy for life. They continue to talk and text one another and Logan often calls to check on his progress.





MYSPACE AND FACEBOOK USERS PLEASE USE CAUTION



First there was the World Wide Web, then instant messaging. Now the newest way to communicate is to have your own myspace or facebook. As with all things, it is important to remember that the more information you put out on the web, the more you increase your chances to be exploited.



We offer this piece of advice; be selective in who you allow access to your personal information. Be selective in the information you post. There are people on the web that can access such information and may try to use it in inappropriate ways.

Also think before you take that picture. It is so easy to jump in and flash your smile regardless of what is going on around you. But beware, this action can easily come back to haunt you. Just think about the recent events profiled in the media.

We believe that sites such as myspace and facebook can be useful to keep in touch with friends and we have recently created a myspace for our production company, but safety and respect should be a top priority.

MISS NORTH CAROLINA TEEN USA CONTESTANTS ARE OFFERED SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2007 Miss North Carolina USA and Miss North Carolina Teen USA contestants were invited for a tour and luncheon at the beautiful campus of High Point University.

Our many thanks to Dr. Nido R. Qubein, President of High Point University for his warm hospitality and sharing his vision of the campus. During our meeting with Dr. Qubein, he shared his wisdom and knowledge of the Miss Universe Organization and the importance of education. He then made a surprising announcement. He offered each of our miss and teen contestants a one thousand dollar scholarship every year for four years as long as the admission requirements were met. What an exciting opportunity for these girls!

Our Miss North Carolina Teen USA is awarded a full academic scholarship valued at more than \$80,000. Currently attending High Point University are three former Miss NC Teen USA titleholders, Brittany Crews (2002), Elizabeth Carty (2004), and Nikkie Groat (2005). We are very grateful to High Point University and Dr. Qubein for their kindness and generosity.

**We update our newsletter quarterly, so check back with us in April to see more information on our titleholders and their activity, tips on how to prepare for the pageant, and answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.