

Catching up with...

Airen Ferguson

Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen 2005



LOCAL TITLE: Miss Hannibal's Outstanding Teen

TALENT: Clogging - "Restless"

YEARS COMPETED: 1

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW? I graduated in 2010 from Culver-Stockton College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. I am currently working for Quincy Public Schools as the Elementary Academic Assistant for the school district...and I LOVE it! Last June, I married my best friend and biggest mentor, Toby. We have two dogs, Maycee and Oliver. We enjoy traveling, working out, and spending time with friends and family.

HOW HAS YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE MMOT ORGANIZATION HELPED YOU GET TO WHERE YOU ARE TODAY? The interview preparation has definitely helped me tremendously. It is such a great tool to prepare you for social interactions, job interviews, and professionalism in general.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AS MMOT? I really enjoyed the community service during my reign. I think it was my most meaningful work and where I felt I made the biggest difference. I was also the first MMOT, which made it a brand new adventure for everyone involved, and I love sharing that with others. And of course, the dress shopping was a fun experience too!

WHAT DID YOU CHANGE FROM STATE TO NATIONALS? Just a few changes to my wardrobe.

WHAT SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT COMPETING IN THE PAGEANT? I think the kindness and support of the contestants and pageant board and directors surprised me the most. So many people genuinely care about the program.

BEST TIP TO PREPARE FOR INTERVIEW?

Mock interviews. As funny as they feel sometimes, they are great practice!

BEST TIP FOR TALENT?

Perform often exactly as you would if you were on stage and in front of an audience.

BEST TIP FOR FITNESS?

Make it your lifestyle decision to be fit. Then there is no preparation...you are already there!

BEST BEAUTY TIP?

Practice your hair and make-up and be sure that it is "pageant ready". If you don't feel you are as skilled in this area, YouTube is a great free resource.



WHAT WAS THE BEST PART ABOUT YOUR MAOT EXPERIENCE? My roommate {Meghan Miller, Texas} won Miss America's Outstanding Teen! It was great getting to know such a smart and talented young lady. I also enjoyed the many experiences both on and off the stage. It was a really organized and well-prepared event!

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THIS YEAR'S CONTESTANTS?

Give it your all! Practice long and hard, make the best of each moment, and appreciate the opportunity before you.