

Catching up with...

Melanie Collier

Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen 2006



LOCAL TITLE: Miss Kirksville's Outstanding Teen

TALENT: Lyrical Dance - "I am Changing"

PLATFORM: Smart Moves - Motivating Through Movement

YEARS COMPETED: 1

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW? I graduated from the University of Missouri in 2011 with a bachelor's in Business Administration and Marketing. I started working in pharmaceutical sales right after graduation with the world-leader in eye care, Alcon. Since then, I have held various sales roles with Alcon, most recently being promoted to a Glaucoma Consultant. Last spring, I bought a house in the St. Louis area and am learning to become a home owner one DIY at a time. I also added a furry friend to my house last fall - Olive, a standard goldendoodle puppy, who firmly lives by the rules of "the bigger the hair, the closer to God!"

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE APPEARANCE AS MMOT? Throwing out the first pitch at a Kansas City Royals game! As the least athletic sibling in my family, I think my dad still likes to boast about the time his daughter played in the big leagues, and the reaction of the players in the dugouts when I sunk one right down the middle, crown and all, was priceless.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THIS YEAR'S CONTESTANTS? Look around and see what resources you have. Not just with wardrobe, but with every area of competition. You might find someone to talk current events with in history class, or an expert performer at church to help you with your talent.

WHAT DID YOU CHANGE FROM STATE TO NATIONALS? EVERYTHING! It was the first year we had to submit our academic transcripts, casual wear was eliminated from the state competition, and active wear was changed from uniform outfits to those representing how you stayed in shape. My talent song had also been taken by another contestant, so I switched to "Big Noise" for nationals.

BEST TIP TO PREPARE FOR INTERVIEW?

Make the judges laugh! If every contestant comes in and rattles off their platform accomplishments and current events, and you are the one who left them smiling, you will make the lasting impression.

BEST TIP FOR TALENT?

Perform your talent every chance you get. You will gain valuable performance experience, and you never know when and where you will be asked to perform your talent while you are MMOT.

BEST BEAUTY TIP?

A good night's sleep will make your eyes brighter and skin smoother than anything else!

BEST TIP FOR FITNESS?

The buddy system! This keeps it fun and you have a motivator alongside you. A hike is also a great place to work in a mock interview.

Prep like a winner...

FAVORITE HEALTHY SNACK: Green olives! They are my favorite food and just a few satisfy my salty craving.

FAVORITE BEAUTY PRODUCT: Lipstick can pull your outfit together or completely change the look you are going for.

PAGEANT WEEK ESSENTIAL: Slippers, rest those feet every chance you get.

WISH I WOULD HAVE... Taken more pictures! You can never take enough.

