



Megan Beals Miss Maine

Miss Maine Scholarship Pageant, Inc.

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***January is National Mentoring Month!
Share what you know, become a mentor***

December 1, 2005

Dear Miss Maine Board Member:

I am getting anxious as Miss America approaches! I have been enjoying my preparation and still making a few appearances in between. I am currently working with my mother to help prepare my send-off up north for my hometown and Aroostook County. There will be local titleholders from across the county performing.

Currently, I am preparing to do commercials and public service announcements for the Maine Mentoring Partnership(MMP) in preparation for January's National Mentoring Month. As a member of MMP's Advocacy and Education Committee, I am working with Maine's congressional delegation to raise their mentoring awareness and ask them to c-sponsor a 2006 Congressional resolution supporting mentoring.

My flight arrangements for Los Angeles have been taken care of! Valerie coordinated with the Miss Connecticut Organization and Miss Connecticut and I will be traveling together from Hartford, CT.

John Hatcher and Daniel Kennedy have been gracious to open their beautiful home for my "Thank you" send off in Portland. I will be leaving immediately from the send off to head to Hartford, where I will fly to Los Angeles. I told Audrey this and her response was, "Wow! Just like a real wedding!" Others have said they should throw rice at me to see me off! I hope to see you all there.

I have included an article I recently wrote for my hometown paper that was published on behalf of my northern send off.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

***Warm regards,
Megan***

A Miss America State Organization

Article for Houlton Pioneer Times, my hometown newspaper

Upon winning the title of Miss Maine on June 4, 2005, Megan's life will never be the same. As a full time spokesperson for mentoring initiatives and the Miss America Organization, as well as a representative of the State of Maine, Megan has put her education on hold. She has made over 122 appearances, and traveled over 26,000 miles. While preparing for the Miss America competition, Megan is also doing a speaking tour visiting middle schools throughout the State of Maine for the RJ Reynolds, "Right Decisions, Right Now Program.

"I remember watching Miss America on television as a little girl, dreaming of walking on that stage and to one-day hold the title of Miss America. I never knew quite how to get there or if I was capable of attaining such a lofty goal. I have been fortunate to have a circle of mentors, which include my family and church family. They showed me at a very young age, that with hard work and dedication, I was capable of accomplishing anything. That is how my platform, 'Mentoring To Empower Tomorrow's Leaders,' was developed. It stemmed from what I was taught as a child, and now want to pass on to children and young people throughout the country. I view the crown as a microphone to voice my concern for mentoring on a larger scale and provide me with opportunities to create awareness state and nationwide. My love for children only enhances my endeavors in the inclusion of young people and assisting them in goal setting as well as self-esteem development. I began mentoring through Central Aroostook Mentoring Program in Presque Isle, while attending Northern Maine Community College and commuting from Houlton and became the program's spokesperson over a year ago. When I learned that the federal government cut funding to programs nationwide, I knew I needed to take a step to ensure that programs would receive the financial assistance needed. I began to meet with Rep. Fischer, and submitted legislation Bill LD979, 'An Act to Fund Youth Mentoring Programs,' that will ensure that mentoring programs statewide will receive financial assistance based on need. Megan lobbied at the capitol on March 31, 2005. I have partnered with the Maine Mentoring Partnership and serve on the Advocacy and Education Committee, which was created in part, to help create awareness due to my initiations with LD 979." One of Megan's first appearances as Miss Maine was at the capitol where she was awarded a Legislative Sentiment by the House and Senate of the Maine Legislature. As a result of Megan's involvement with legislation, she has an interest in politics. Two of her role models have always been Senator Olympia Snowe and Margaret Chase Smith.

For the last 84 years, the Miss America Pageant has been held in Atlantic City, New Jersey. This is the first year the pageant is moving outside the city to a new venue. On January 21, 2006, CMT, the pageant's new television home, will be airing the Miss America Pageant live from Las Vegas. This is the first year Miss Maine has had to travel to Nashville, TN. Megan spent 10 days in Philadelphia, Atlantic City, New York City and Nashville, to promote her platform while speaking to many audiences. She also performed, had a tour of the Miss America Headquarters, shopped for her Miss America wardrobe, and had a television interview, radio interview, and photo shoot at CMT.

I have gained so much personal and professional growth through all of my public speaking, performing, traveling, and interacting with versatile groups of people. It is an honor to have been brought up in our great state and I am proud to be from "the county" where I have been taught the value of hard work and dedication in all that I do.

It is an honor to represent the State of Maine at the Miss America Pageant in January.

There will be an official Miss America Send off and Fundraiser for Megan to be held on Sunday, December 4 at the Houlton Wesleyan Church from 2-4 P.M. The Miss America send off is a tradition for all Miss Maine's and helps with expenses in preparation for Miss America. "I wanted to ensure that everyone who has taken part in my preparation over the past several years, as well as other members of my community and individuals throughout the state, could attend and celebrate in this momentous experience."

Megan will be modeling her Miss America wardrobe and performing her Miss America talent. There will be a silent auction and entertainment by titleholders from Howland to Van Buren, Maine. Megan will be presenting a Hometown Hero Award to a very special individual who has had a big impact on her life.

"The Miss America Organization is the leading provider of scholarships for young women in the world. As an advocate for this organization as well as the National Mentoring Partnership, I cannot think of a better job than to hold the title of Miss America and represent two great organizations."

Just recently, Megan graduated from Dale Carnegie Training in Portland, Maine. At her graduation, she shared her vision for the next six months and told a story from *Your Best Life Now*, by Joel Osteen, a book her father recently shared with her. "As Tara Holland watched each young woman being crowned Miss America, she pictured herself receiving the crown. She pictured herself walking down the runway in victory. Tara Holland, Miss Kansas 1994, was determined to become Miss America. After winning the title of Miss America 1994, she was asked if she was nervous walking down the runway in front of millions of people. Tara's response was interesting," No, I wasn't nervous at all. You see, I had walked down that runway thousands of times before." Megan's finished her talk with this, "In January of 2006, I am walking down that same runway, not nervous at all, because you see, I have done this many times before." Megan's whole audience was moved, and some individuals, including her trainer, shed a few tears.

Megan will fly to Los Angeles on January 9, 2006, to begin her Miss America experience and meet up with 51 other contestants from around the country. From there, she will head to Las Vegas to begin her in-depth preparation and competition. Be sure to watch CMT on January 21, 2006, to watch Megan compete live for the title of Miss America.