

Megan

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my time really paid off not only to myself but to my city."

Her platform during the Miss Michigan pageant was: Unity in the Community.

"I explained why I feel it's important to invest time in the community," Smith said. "The more you support your community the stronger your community becomes, therefore, naturally creating a bond of business people, neighbors, teachers and parents. This bond provides positive role models, helps cut back on crime and volunteering helps the economic factor of your community."

Smith, a Michigan State University senior with a career goal as a music therapist, carried a full school load while serving as Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills.

"She came every weekend that she was needed to appear in the community," according to Ginny Morris, Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills scholarship pageant program executive director.

"No matter what the activity that was going on she made sure that she was there — this was her community and she was there for them," Morris said, adding that Smith represented the pageant at the Halloween Fest. arrival for Santa Claus, family day in the park, a charity fashion show at the Botsford Inn and Team Farmington programs among many other events.

"This is the first time in eight years that we had a representative

place in the top 10," Morris added.

While attending Michigan State, Smith won two service awards from Alpha Phi Omega. She founded a community connection, which is a dorm service group. Smith is also a founding member of the Creative Monster, an organization that encourages healthy alternatives to drugs and alcohol.

Students meet and take part in an activity involving the arts, like music, poetry and drama.

At home, Smith, 21, said she enjoyed taking part in a number of programs at the Grand River Retirement Center. She also organized an adopt a grandparent program between the retirement center and the 1995 Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills pageant contestants. Retirement center residents involved in the program will be invited to attend the pageant.

Smith said her community work application will be sent to the Miss America Scholarship Pageant where she will have a chance at winning \$5,000 from the national level.

The 22nd crowning of Miss Farmington will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, at Vladimir's, on Grand River. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door and are available at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Miss Redford wins Miss Michigan

By BILL CASPER
STAFF WRITER

A 23-year-old Jackson woman became the first Miss Redford Township pageant winner to be crowned Miss Michigan.

Coni Lyn Hull emerged from a field of 28 Miss Michigan contestants to be among the 10 finalists for Saturday's competition at Frauenthal Theater in Muskegon.

The newly crowned Miss Michigan Redford and the state in the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., in September.

"I was as stunned as I possibly could get" when she heard her name being called as the winner of the Miss Michigan pageant, Hull said Tuesday during a telephone interview from Muskegon, where she is busy preparing for the Sept. 16 Miss America pageant. "I couldn't breathe and I didn't move."

But now there's much to do to

prepare for the Miss America competition, she said. "I have to choose a new song to show my full vocal range, and most importantly, I have to fine tune my platform."

She chose a pageant platform that focuses attention on environmental awareness, an issue that caught Hull's interest while she was an undergraduate student at Michigan State University. Hull graduated summa cum laude from Michigan State University in 1993 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and pre-law.

"A counselor at MSU told me I was one science credit short for graduation, but the only science class still open was fisheries and wildlife so I enrolled."

"My family teased me about the class, saying, 'What is the final exam, whoever catches the biggest trout?' But the class focused on ecology and the envi-

ronment. I was surprised and shocked to learn about the problems of the environmental movement. I thought I could use the pageant to get out the message of environmental awareness."

Hull is a third-year law student at Wayne State University and hopes to one day become an attorney for the Environmental Protection Agency. She also lists a career in politics among her future ambitions.

Hull also has an eye on the stage. She already has had a taste of television in 1992, when she landed a role in a pilot soap opera intended for the Christian Broadcasting Network, but the show was not picked up.

"The pilot was a great experience. I previously worked in a professional dinner theater for three summers and I love every aspect of performing. I'll take advantage of any acting opportunity, but there are many talented people

who aren't fortunate enough to get a break. So I plan to focus on a law degree for career security."

But for now, Hull's education will be put on hold for at least a year so she can keep a summer full of paid appearances as Miss Michigan. The pay ranges from \$100 to \$300 per appearance.

"I'll take a year off and return to school next year."

And when she returns, Hull will have at least \$9,600 in pageant scholarship winnings to help pay the cost of her education.

Hull, who previously won the Miss Jackson County title in 1993 and was third runner-up in last year's Miss Michigan pageant, discovered she was eligible for the Miss Redford pageant because she is a full-time student at Wayne.

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Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric, Inc. Headquarters: 805 E. Main, Farmington, MI 48335 (313) 477-5450. Second class postage paid at Farmington, MI 48335 (313) 477-5450. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Inc., 805 E. Main, Farmington, MI 48335 (313) 477-5450.

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