

## NEW MISS WISCONSIN SELECTED

**Oshkosh, Wis., June 23, 2009** — On Saturday, June 20, 2009, Kristina Smaby, a 22-year-old from Holmen, Wis., was chosen as the new Miss Wisconsin. Held at the Alberta Kimball Auditorium in Oshkosh, Wis., the Miss Wisconsin Competition featured 26 contestants from around the State.

Moments after being selected, Smaby shared her excitement about winning the Miss Wisconsin title. "I am already looking forward to my duties this year - traveling, meeting new people and getting the word out about my platform, which is Connecting Generations," said Smaby. As Miss Wisconsin, Smaby receives a \$10,000 scholarship, and the opportunity to compete for the Miss America title in Las Vegas in January 2010. She also earned an additional \$2,600 in scholarships during the week. Currently a student at Viterbo University, Smaby is majoring in business management and hopes to open a national chain of intergenerational daycares.

During her year as Miss Wisconsin, Smaby will travel throughout the State advocating her platform issue. She will talk to various government representatives, business leaders, schools, community groups and citizens-at-large, urging them to get involved in developing intergenerational programs.

Jeanne Schmal, president of the Miss Wisconsin Organization, commented on the new Miss Wisconsin. "Kristina embodies the qualities a role model for young women and girls should have," said Schmal. "She's talented, ambitious and accomplished. We are excited about working with her this year."

A number of other contestants received awards during the final competition, including:

- First Runner Up – Miss Racine, Sha-Nita Rhea from Beloit
- Second Runner Up – Miss Kenosha, Vanessa Morrone from Kenosha
- Third Runner Up – Miss Milwaukee, Sara Thorne from Waukesha
- Fourth Runner Up – Miss Fox River Valley, Caitlin Smulski from Salem
- Top Ten Finalist – Miss Lakeshore, Tosha Hermann from Oshkosh
- Top Ten Finalist – Miss Onalaska, Sarah Beier from West Salem
- Top Ten Finalist – Miss St. Francis, Deborah Hammernik from Oak Creek
- Top Ten Finalist – Miss Southern Wisconsin, Taylor Klaustermeier from Hartland
- Top Ten Finalist – Miss South Shore, Sopen Shah from Appleton
- Non-Finalist Interview – Miss Door County, Katie Sawyer from Egg Harbor
- Non-Finalist Talent Award – Miss Wisconsin Rapids Area, Katie Williams from Wisconsin Rapids

The Miss America Organization is one of the nation's leading achievement programs and the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. Each year, the Miss America Organization makes available more than \$40 million in cash and tuition scholarship assistance. Based in Linwood, New Jersey, the Miss America Organization provides young women with a vehicle to further their personal and professional goals and instills a spirit of community service through a variety of unique nationwide community-based programs. On an annual basis, Miss America state and local titleholders, along with the Organization's network of volunteers, participate in more than 12,000 community-service projects, providing in excess of 500,000 service hours to worthy causes. For more information about the Miss America Organization please visit [www.missamerica.org](http://www.missamerica.org).

**Photo caption:** Kristina Smaby is selected as Miss Wisconsin 2009.

**Photo caption:** The 2009 Miss Wisconsin top five From l to r:

### About the Miss Wisconsin Pageant

Founded in 1924, the Miss Wisconsin Pageant program is a preliminary for The Miss America Organization, one of the nation's leading achievement programs and the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. Last year, the Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations made available more than \$45 million in cash and scholarship assistance. Almost all contestants have either received, or are in the process of earning either college or postgraduate degrees, and utilize Miss America scholarship grants to further their educations. Visit [www.misswisconsin.com](http://www.misswisconsin.com) for more information.