

Lacey Russ Wins Miss America Outstanding Teen Title

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Russ won a \$30,000 scholarship by winning the title. In addition, she won a \$500 preliminary award in evening gown competition and a \$500 advertising award. Russ performed a piano solo that was a combination of Bach's *Prelude XXI* and Beethoven's *Sonata Pathetique* and spoke of her platform P.U.R.E. Excellence.

Russ, who represented the state of Oklahoma as Miss Southwestern Oklahoma State University Outstanding Teen in Weatherford, won the title at the Linda Chapin Theater in the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. Russ, a senior at Cordell High School and the daughter of Todd and Khristy Russ, won the Oklahoma title this past June at the Miss Oklahoma Outstanding Teen Pageant.

Other top finishers at the Miss America Outstanding Teen Pageant were: first runner-up, Miss Alabama Scarlett Walker; second runner-up, Miss Georgia Camille Sims; third runner-up, Miss Washington Victoria Renard; and fourth runner-up Miss Virginia Courtney Jamison.

Debbie Brown, director of the Miss SWOSU Pageants, attended the pageant on Saturday night. Russ won SWOSU's pageant in November 2009 and then won the Miss Oklahoma title. It was only the second time for SWOSU to host a teen pageant in conjunction with the Miss SWOSU Scholarship Pageant.

"This is such an honor for Lacey as well as western Oklahoma," Brown said. "The SWOSU pageant board is elated at what has happened in such a short period of time. We are excited about the opportunities that Lacey will have in representing SWOSU, Oklahoma and America."

Brown said the Miss SWOSU Scholarship Pageants provide opportunities for young women to further their education, and the board is gearing up for the 2010 pageants on November 13 on the SWOSU campus in Weatherford. Informational meetings are planned September 9 and 12. For additional information, call the SWOSU Public Relations & Marketing Office at 580.774.3063.