

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE  
DONATION \$20



featuring  
*Dr. Stephanie Mills*  
MS. AMERICA 2014-15

# MS. AMERICA

08.29.15 | CURTIS THEATER BREA, CA  
[WWW.MSAMERICAPAGEANT.COM](http://WWW.MSAMERICAPAGEANT.COM)

Thank you so very much to the staff, volunteers, and reigning titleholders of the Ms. America/ Ms. America International/ Ms. International 2015 Pageant!

With Gratitude,  
**Ms. South Carolina America 2015**  
**Deborah Valis-Flynn**



The Boys and Girls Club of America



“All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them.” - Walt Disney



# SUSAN JESKE

## A Message from the CEO SUSAN JESKE

On behalf of the Ms. America® Pageant, we would like to welcome the Class of 2015 outstanding state and regional titleholders and thank you for joining us in this exciting and historical event.

The Ms. America® Pageant was founded in 1997 and was created to promote, honor and advance the status of women, celebrate their accomplishments, encourage involvement in community service and to use the "Crown for a Purpose" to make a difference.

It's an honor to have such exceptional state and regional titleholders from across the nation come together to participate in the 2015 pageant. We have found them to be intelligent, beautiful and vibrant individuals who are special with their own unique interests, accomplishments and aspirations that reflect the American Woman. It is my wish that each of you will leave with great memories, strong friendships and an enriching experience.

We would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to Stephanie Mills, MS. AMERICA® 2014-15, Laura Hunter, MS. AMERICA INTERNATIONAL® 2014-15 and to Riti Chikkerur –

MS. INTERNATIONAL 2014-15. Stephanie, Laura and Riti are excellent role models for their peers and those aspiring to be the next MS. AMERICA®, MS. AMERICA® INTERNATIONAL and MS. INTERNATIONAL. Their dedication and commitment to using the "Crown for a Purpose" where they volunteered hundreds of hours to various charities, has made these three national titleholders an inspiration to women everywhere. Congratulations to Stephanie, Laura and Riti for receiving the **PRESIDENTIAL AWARD** from the President of the United States for their volunteer service. We extend our warmest wishes to them as they begin the next chapter in their lives.

The Ms. America® Pageant would like to thank all the volunteers and sponsor's whose efforts before, during and after the pageant made this event a reality and will remain a vital part of its success. Applause – appreciation – and much love is extended to Michael Osborn, Mark Jeske, Daniel Pham, James Irvine, Mr. & Mrs. Basinight, Kristine Watson, Scott Stewart, Ron Garrett, and David Bieber.

Three woman will become National Titleholders and for the next year they will hold the most coveted titles for women 26 years of age and up in the United States! As MS. AMERICA®, MS. AMERICA INTERNATIONAL® and MS. INTERNATIONAL™, their year can be filled with travel where they will be able to advance humanitarian projects, meet notable accomplished people and celebrities and use the "Crown for a Purpose" in order to make a difference. This is truly an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I look forward to witnessing them reap all the benefits as I did when I was MS. AMERICA® 1997.

With continued support, I will do my best to improve and expand the Ms. America® Pageant Inc. in order to continue to celebrate and "Empower Women Across the Nation and Around The World!"

Warmest Regards,  
**Susan**  
**Susan Jeske**  
**CEO – Ms. America® Pageant**  
**SusanJeske.com**  
**Facebook.com/SusanRJeske**

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# MS. AMERICA PROGRAM AGENDA - PRODUCTION STAFF

## 2015

### MS. AMERICA PROGRAM AGENDA

Opening Production Number  
Parade of Contestants  
Introduction of Host  
Ms. America 2014-15 | Dr. Stephanie Mills  
Presidential Award Presentation  
Entertainment  
Sportswear Competition  
Introduction of Judges  
Ms. America International 2014-15 | Laura Hunter  
Presidential Award Presentation  
Evening Gown Competition

### INTERMISSION

Announcement of Finalists  
On-Stage Question  
Ms. International 2014-15 | Riti Chikkerur  
Presidential Award Presentation  
Entertainment  
Announcement of Special Awards  
Farewell Ms. International 2014-15 | Riti Chikkerur  
Announcement of Ms. International 2016  
Farewell Ms. America International 2014-15 | Laura Hunter  
Announcement of Ms. America International 2016  
Farewell Ms. America 2014-15 | Dr. Stephanie Mills  
Announcement of Top 5 Finalists  
Final Look At The Finalists  
Announcement of Runner-Ups  
Announcement of Ms. America 2016

- On Stage Photo Session
- No One Else Permitted On Stage During This Time

## 2015

### PRODUCTION STAFF

CEO | Susan Jeske

LAWYER | Orrick.com

DIRECTOR | Kristine Watson

LIVESTREAMING | Ron G. Garrett

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER | Daniel Pham

PROGRAM BOOK DESIGNER | Apollo Printing & Graphics

PUBLIC RELATIONS | Sterling Public Relations

TABULATOR | Michael Osborn

TABULATOR | Mike Basinight

TICKETS | Mr. and Mrs. Basinight

EMCEE | Scott Stewart

ADVISOR | James Irvine

STAFF | Mark Jeske

STAFF | David Biber

# From Planet Home Lending: **Congratulations to the most amazing women on Earth!**

Every year, accomplished women from across America vie for the title of "Ms. America". The winner must show poise, self-confidence, and the ability to articulate how they would use the "crown to promote, honor and advance the status of women". We extend our congratulations to those who competed for the title. While only one woman can be crowned Ms. America, all who participated will continue to champion the cause for women everywhere.



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# Pageant Host



## Scott Stewart

has been entertaining audiences since the age of 12 when he was cast on the television show Quincy with Jack Klugman. As a host, actor and singer Scott has appeared in numerous television shows, movies, commercials and music videos including Melrose Place, Executive Decision, Chicago

Hope, The Singing Bee, Flavor of Love 3 and was picked to perform on The Oprah Winfrey's Stars of Tomorrow Show. You may have also seen some of his commercials for Big Lots, Mitsubishi, Big 5, Cash 411 and public service announcements for Adopt a Pet. Over the years his many hosting and musical performances include The Academy of Country Music Association, Bob Hope's USO Show, Disneyland, Mrs. California and Mrs. Nevada pageants and just recently hosted the annual Karaoke Scene Magazine's Crème de la King and Crème de la Kids competitions. Scott is currently the host and producer of the TV show What's Up Orange County that airs on KDOC, Time Warner and Cox Communications.

# SUSAN JESKE

THE QUEEN BEHIND THE MS. AMERICA PAGEANT



## PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

Susan Jeske has been involved in the pageant and entertainment industry for over 36 years and is currently the CEO of the Ms. America Pageant. She has traveled to 26 countries as a goodwill ambassador and Presidential envoy for the United States and has been a spokesperson for Fortune 500 Companies. An advocate for volunteerism she has received many awards and in 2004, she received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the President of the United States for the thousands of hours she has donated through the years to all kinds of causes and charities in the United States and world-wide.



She has been involved in pageantry since she was 17 years of age as a competitor, judge, pageant producer, director and owner. She has held many local, state, national and international pageant titles and in 1997 at the Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas representing Colorado, Susan bested 50 other contestants and was crowned MS. AMERICA® winning \$75,000 in cash and prizes. During her reign, Susan used her "Crown for a Purpose" and created the "Student's Against Violence" one-hour assembly program where she traveled to high schools across the nation speaking to students about non-violence in schools. For her program she received more than 30 Awards, 15 Keys to the City and Proclamations for her presentation, including a personal letter from the President of the United States. During her reign she was invited by The Knights Templar in the UK and was flown to Scotland where she was "Knighted" by Prince Michael at Sterling Castle for her numerous charity services throughout the world.



## TRADEMARK PLAQUE

In 1999, Susan purchased the Ms. America Pageant from founder Richard Simon from Houston, Texas and received the register federal trademark from the USPTO in Washington DC in February 2000. The mission of the pageant is to "Empower Women across the Nation." The titleholder is to use her "Crown for a Purpose" that would make

an impact on the world in a positive way.

Her world-wide pageant connections has enabled Susan to send contestants to International pageant competitions all over the world since the 1980's. These have included Miss International held in Japan, Miss World – UK, Miss Asia Pacific International – China, Miss All Nations – Thailand, Miss Progress International – Italy, Miss Tourism – Sri Lanka, Miss Globe International – Albania, Miss Banana Queen – Ecuador, Miss Intercontinental-Panama and Model of the World – Panama. She supported the Miss Earth Pageant from its debut by sending contestants to the pageant for the first 5 years. Currently Susan receives an invitation from the Government of Mexico to travel with a queen to Mazatlán for a week of events and parades, culture, history and ending with the Queen of the Pacific Pageant.

These connections were made after Susan moved to California in 1984 to live with Debbie Maffett, Miss America 1983 and Faye Smith who was the State Director for the Miss California USA Pageant. By the 3rd week of living in California she was chosen to model and perform in the Miss United Nations Goodwill Tour in Thailand. Thru invitations from the Government of different countries, she was invited to compete in pageants all over the world as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United States and was often invited to return and perform for various Charities and events for the country.

In an age before Email, Internet and the fax machine Susan was able to pick up the hard wired phone and use her title and reputation to access the people and put together various projects and accomplish her goals.

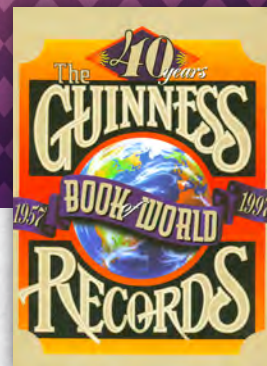
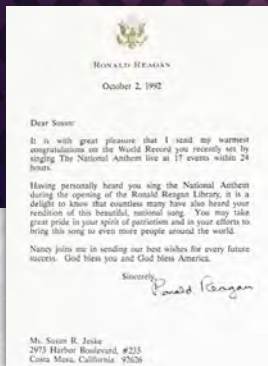


In 1992, Susan was invited by the Thai Arts and Cultural Committee in Thailand to organize a delegation of 12 National and International Beauty Queens to travel to Thailand for the Queens of Thailand's 60th Birthday Celebration. The delegation included Miss World, Miss USA, Miss International, Miss International USA, Miss Flower Queen, Miss All Nations, Star Search Model Winner, Miss California and Miss Teen USA. During their 2 week stay they made over 42 scheduled appearances, featured in 50 newspapers, 10 national TV shows and was on the cover of 3 magazines. The delegation raised \$92,000 for the Queens favorite charity – a poor children's hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. Susan served as a Presidential Envoy for Presidents Clinton and Reagan delivering personal birthday greetings from the two Presidents during a private meeting with Her Majesty Queen Sirikit.



Italy, Greece and Spain. The USO troop was flown on C-30 planes to all the military bases and on several aircraft carriers including the ships the Saratoga, SS San Diego and Coronado.

A professional singer, Susan has performed at more than 1500 events before audiences that include 7 United States Presidents, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the Queen of Thailand, Opening of the Ronald Reagan Library, the STS 102 Space Shuttle Discovery Launch of March 2001, President George W. Bush Inauguration, Denver Broncos Televised Super Bowl Victory Party, LA Angels playoffs, several Prime Ministers and Ambassadors all over the world. In 1985, as Miss California American Beauty, she was invited to entertain the troops on a USO Tour to Turkey,



## GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

In 1993 Susan, set the World Record, published in the Guinness Book of World Records for singing the National Anthem at the most events in a 24 hour period raising \$93,000 for children charities. Her world record was featured in 8 Guinness Book of World Records and to this day no one has been able to break her World Record although there have been 7 attempts.





A professional model and spokesperson she was invited twice on a 10 city-wide tour in Mexico with reigning Miss USA and Miss Universe 1984 Mai Shanley and Yvonne Ryding as a model and spokesperson for Le Petit Jean Shoes. They traveled in a private jet to events and promotions for the Beverly Hills shoe line. The following year she was chosen as the new Spokesperson with a four year contract for Hyundai Motor America where she traveled to 14 cities per years making appearances at car shows and promotional events. In addition, Susan was also a spokesperson for Norelco, Mazak, Panasonic, Proctor & Gamble, True Elements Skin Care and many other companies. In the 1980's and 90's she appeared regularly on daytime Soap Operas "Days of our Lives," "Young and

the Restless," "Bold and the Beautiful," and is seen in movies and television commercials.

In her career as an independent image, beauty and etiquette consultant, Susan has advised corporate executives, political and community leaders. She has written for newspapers and magazines as a columnist, and appeared on radio and television. Known as "The Queen Maker" Susan is acclaimed as one of the best and most sought after pageant coaches in the world and has worked with many girls who have gone on to win many state, national and international beauty titles. A licensed Esthetician and pioneer for Safe Cosmetics, she campaigned for 3 years and helped introduce the Personal Care Products Safety Act of 2015 which asks for full ingredient

disclosure for professional salon products and web-based sales of cosmetic products and directing the FDA to assess a safety of a minimum of 5 cosmetic chemicals a year. Currently the bill is being introduced to the House of Senate by Senator Feinstein and Susan Collins.

Other Awards Have Included: "Governor and First Lady Award" from California State Governor, "Woman of the Year Award" from the Leukemia Society, "Commanding Generals Award" from the U.S. Marine Corp, "Congressional Community Service Award" from the California Legislature Assembly Resolution, "Constellation Patriot Award" from the National Flag Foundation, "Priority One Award" from Kiwanis International and "Ambassador Award" from Guard A Heart Foundation.

# Ms. Southeast America 2015

DeAnna Emborski

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# Ms. South Carolina America 2015

## *Deborah Valis-Flynn*

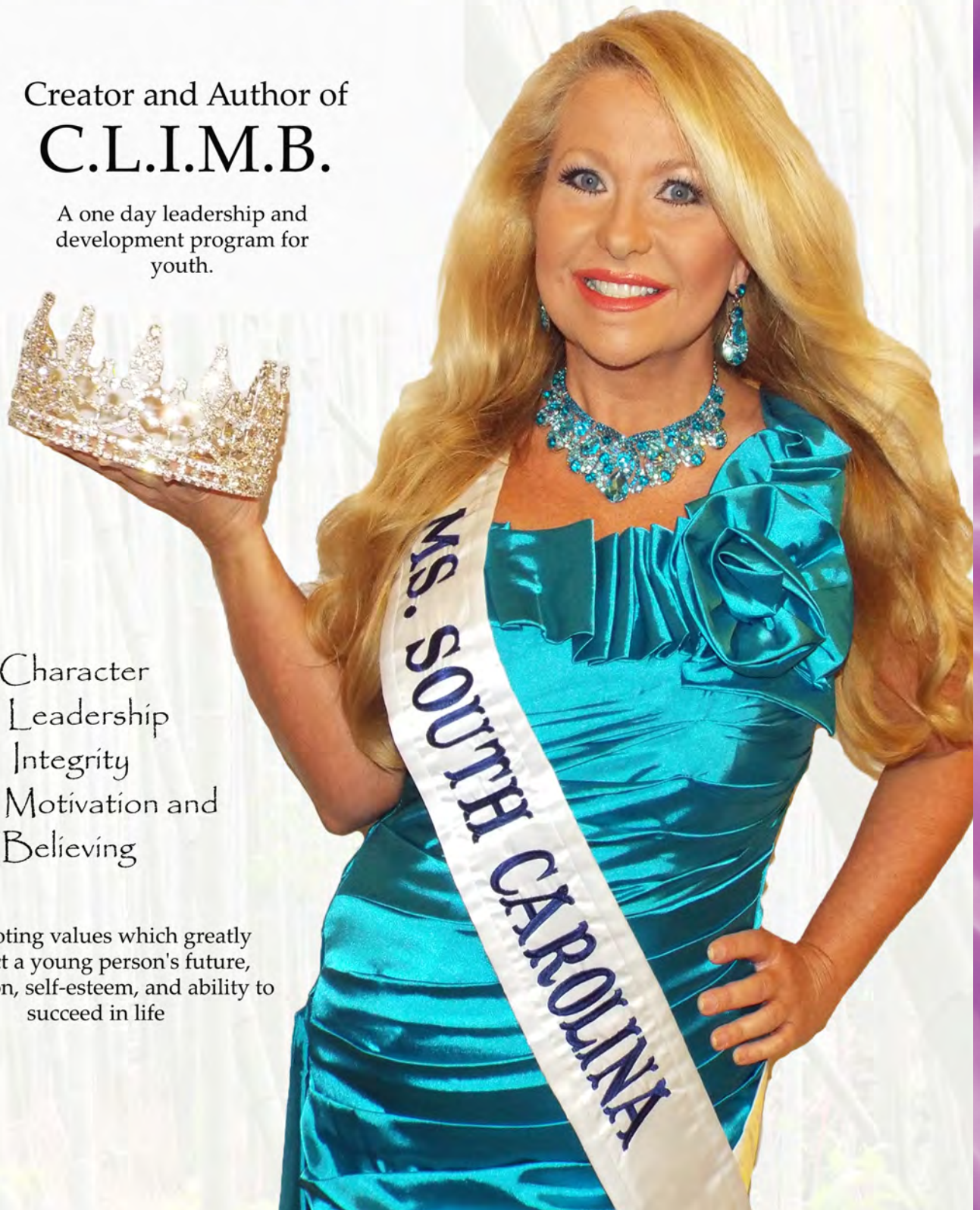
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**C.L.I.M.B.**

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Believing

Promoting values which greatly  
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MS. AMERICA 2014-15

**STEPHANIE MILLS**

PHOTO BY TONY LATTIMORE



THE love OF  
*family*  
IS ONE OF LIFE'S  
GREATEST blessings



Capturing the title of Ms. America® 2014-15 was a dream come true, decades in the making. Thank you to my mother and father for providing me with opportunities to learn, stretch myself and explore my passions. Thank you for supporting me in all that I have done, from the pageant wins and losses, to being a mother and becoming a doctor. I wouldn't have had the life successes I've enjoyed if it weren't for your guidance, sacrifices and love. Dad, I miss you more than words can express.

Brooke and Emilee, you are my world. I am so proud of the young women you are becoming. Set goals for yourselves and never give up. Be kind, work hard and leave the world a better place.



Photo:  
Gina Waggener

John, thank you for being the man of a house full of sometimes difficult women! We love and appreciate you. Thank you for your patience and support, and for always being there for us.

It's been 25 years since I won my first pageant title. I owe a huge thank you to Janice Berry for getting me started on one of my life's best adventures! I can't think of a better way to retire from the competition of pageantry than spending a year traveling the country as Ms. America® 2014-15. Thank you to all of my mentors, friends and family who have made this journey so special.

*Love, Stephanie*



MS. AMERICA® 2014-15



*Dr. Stephanie Mills*

# Thank You

My sincere thanks to Susan Jeske and the Ms. America® Pageant for the chance to represent this organization and make a difference nationally. I am humbled by the opportunities that I have had to increase the understanding of traumatic brain injury through my platform, Making an Impact: Concussion Awareness. The road to recovery for those who have suffered concussions isn't always easy, for some the effects last for months or even years. I am so proud of my daughter Brooke, for facing her injury with positivity and determination. Her journey served as my inspiration as I traveled throughout the country teaching concussion workshops and continuing education classes to parents, students and doctors. I have discussed my platform with the New Hampshire Governor and also testified to the Texas House of Representatives Education Committee in support of an updated concussion bill in Texas. I was interviewed as a guest on several radio shows and recorded a nationally televised public service announcement about sports injuries and concussion. The title of Ms. America® 2014-15 was an honor, a job and a once-in-a-life time experience! Thank you to the judges who had faith in me to do the job, thank you to my beautiful pageant sisters in the Ms. America® Class of 2014 for allowing me to represent you, and good luck to this year's contestants. To the winner, please hit the ground running and use your crown for a purpose!

With love and gratitude,

*Dr. Stephanie Foisy Mills*, Ms. America® 2014-15



Being introduced on the floors of the Texas House and Senate



With Ms. America® Director, Susan Jeske



With New Hampshire Governor, Maggie Hassan

With my daughter, Brooke



Concussion Awareness PSA

MS. AMERICA® 2014-15



*Dr. Stephanie Mills*

# 60 Appearances in 15 States

- August 9, 2014 – Crowned Ms. America® 2014-15 – Curtis Theater, Brea CA
- August 9, 2014 – Media Interview – Alert The Globe
- August 10, 2014 – TV Interview: "What's Up Orange County"
- August 10, 2014 – Media Interview: Orange County Register Newspaper
- August 10, 2014 – Ice Bucket Challenge for ALS
- August 10, 2014 – Photo Shoot - Photographer Tony Lattimore
- August 11, 2014 – Celebrity Appearance – Selecting a gown from Claire's Collection
- August 11, 2014 – Photo Shoot – Daniel Pham Photography
- August 12, 2014 – Meeting – Griffin Publishing Company
- August 19, 2014 – Photo Shoot – Todd Ward Studios
- August 22, 2014 – Interview on Radio Morning Show, WJYY 105.5FM
- August 23, 2014 – Celebrity Guest – Miss India America Pageant
- August 24, 2014 – Celebrity guest at Emmy gifting suite – Hilton Hollywood Hotel
- August 24, 2014 – Attended Emmy Awards Party – Starlight Room, Hollywood, CA
- August 24, 2014 – Photo Shoot in Laguna Beach, CA - Gina Waggener
- August 25, 2014 – TV Interview: "What's Up Orange County"
- August 25, 2014 – Celebrity Appearance in Huntington Beach, CA - Tee It Up For The Troops
- September 13, 2014 – Miss America Parade and Tradeshow, Atlantic City, NJ
- September 20, 2014 – Special guest: Pageant the Musical, off-Broadway, New York City
- September 23, 2014 – Full page article, The Concord Insider
- September 28, 2014 – Walk by the Sea to benefit The Brain Injury Association of NH
- October 4, 2014 – Ohio State Chiropractic Association State Convention Gala; Guest Speaker on Concussions
- October 24, 2014 – Morning Show with Nazy and Mya on WJYY 105.5FM
- October 25, 2014 – National Yankee Miss Pageant, Hartford, CT
- October 31, 2014 – Phone interview for the ICA Choice Publication
- October, 2014 – Appeared in the Palmer College of Chiropractic Alumni Publication
- November 1, 2014 – Guest presenter, Prestige Pageantry Awards, Miami, FL
- November 13, 2014 – Concussion speaker – ICPA Family Wellness Event, Washington, DC
- November 18, 2014 – Johns Hopkins Hospital Visit, Foundation4Heroes, Baltimore, MD
- November 19, 2014 – Mrs. World Pageant, Solomon Islands, MD
- November 22, 2014 – Concord, NH Holiday Parade
- December 6, 2014 – Miss Northeast Pageant, Hartford, CT
- December 12, 2014 – Recorded a radio PSA
- December 19, 2014 – Recorded a national television PSA for Concussion Awareness
- December 23, 2014 – Local fundraiser for sports equipment for Haiti orphanages
- December 27, 2014 – Week long mission trip to Haiti with Mission Life International
- January 9, 2015 – WJYY 105.5FM Morning Show in-studio interview, Concord, NH
- January 15, 2015 – Interview for publication - CRDC
- January 19, 2015 – Morning show radio interview, Concussion Awareness, Dover, NH
- January 30, 2015 – Parker Seminars Instructor, Concussion Awareness, Las Vegas, NV
- January 30, 2015 – Cocktail reception with Ret. Brig. General Becky Halstead
- February 20, 2015 – Interview on Ohio radio show, Concussion Awareness
- March 7, 2015 – Panel Speaker, ICA Fitness and Wellness Symposium Columbus, OH
- March 7, 2015 – Photo with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Arnold Sports Festival, Ohio
- March 15, 2015 – Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade
- March 26, 2015 – Speaker, Concussion Awareness, Berkshire Philosophy Event, Lenox, MA
- March 29, 2015 – Manchester, NH St. Patrick's Day Parade
- April 11, 2015 – Speaker, League of Chiropractic Women, Atlanta, GA
- April 28, 2015 – Testified concussion bill update - Texas Education Legislative Committee
- April 28, 2015 – Officially Introduced on both the House and Senate Floors, Austin, Texas
- April 30, 2015 – League of Chiropractic Women Tea, Spartanburg, SC
- May 1, 2015 – Guest at the Sherman College of Chiropractic Lyceum, South Carolina
- June 5, 2015 – Speaker, Concussion and Subluxation, Texas Chiropractic Association
- June 5, 2015 – Co-Emcee TCA Awards Gala, San Antonio, TX
- June 14, 2015 – Attended the Mrs. New Hampshire America Pageant
- June 27, 2015 – Relay For Life, speaker Luminaria Ceremony, Nashua, NH
- July 22, 2015 – Radio Morning Show Interview 98.3FM
- August 1, 2015 – Program book photo shoot with Jen Cady – Orlando, FL
- August 9, 2015 – Beauties Bowling for Brain Injury benefiting the Brain Injury Association
- August 16, 2015 – 250<sup>th</sup> Concord City Celebration Parade

MS. AMERICA® 2014-15



*Dr. Stephanie Mills*

# Ms. America® 2014-15 Highlights



Official photo shoot with  
Tony Lattimore  
August 10, 2014



Visiting Johns Hopkins Children's  
Hospital in Baltimore  
November 2014



Photo shoot with Todd Ward  
Manchester, NH August 2014



Prestige Pageantry Awards  
Miami, FL  
November 2014



Sherman College of Chiropractic Ly-  
ceum, Spartanburg, SC  
May 2015



Celebrity Gifting Suite  
Stardust Room,  
Hollywood Hilton, August 2014



Tee It Up For the Troops  
Huntington Beach, CA - August 2014

Speaker at the Arnold Symposium  
on Natural Fitness & Sports  
Columbus, OH  
March 2015



Thank you to Rita of Claire's Collection  
August 2014

MS. AMERICA® 2014-15



*Dr. Stephanie Mills*

Isabelle, Victoria & Bob

**I LOVE YOU**

Thank you for your never ending support!



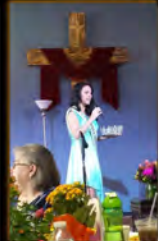
**LAURA HUNTER**

*Ms. America International*

★ ★ 2014 - 2015 ★ ★

I AM SO FORTUNATE TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE MS. AMERICA PAGEANT. THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE I HAVE LEARNED THAT PAGEANTS CELEBRATE INTELLIGENT, SUCCESSFUL, CARING WOMEN. THEY GIVE WOMEN A PLACE TO COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THEIR COMMUNITIES AND ONE ANOTHER. THESE WOMEN ARE BEAUTIFUL INSIDE AND OUT AND IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO BOTH REPRESENT THEM AND CALL THEM MY FRIENDS. SUSAN JESKE, YOU ARE AMONG THE MOST KIND, HONEST AND LOYAL PEOPLE I KNOW. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS YOU DO AND FOR BECOMING MY FRIEND. YOU ARE A TRULY AMAZING DIRECTOR! STEPHANIE, EVEN THOUGH WE WERE TECHNICALLY COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR FOUR YEARS I ALWAYS FELT LIKE WE WERE COMPETING TOGETHER. IT'S EVEN MORE SPECIAL THAT WE WON TOGETHER! RITI, WHAT A PLEASURE IT HAS BEEN TO GET TO KNOW YOU!

FINALLY, TO THE NEW QUEEN, REMEMBER EVERY MOMENT OF YOUR YEAR, TAKE A LOT OF PHOTOS AND MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TITLE. THIS WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE!



# Beyond Photography

*By Laura Hunter*

Headshots, Portfolio,  
Composites, Modeling,  
Acting and More

Pageant Winning  
Photography!

Contact Laura  
at 360-305-1498

[laura@beyondphotography.net](mailto:laura@beyondphotography.net)



# Beyond Photography

*By Laura Hunter*

# Riti Chikkerur

MS. INTERNATIONAL 2014-15



Riti Chikkerur - Ms. International 2014-15 is a versatile woman. She is the Founder & CEO of Four Sisters Petroleum, an Oil Company based in Austin, Texas. She is the only woman and minority founder and CEO of an oil company in the state of Texas among other states. Her background and story is very impressive as she represented her birth country; India in international pageants, her poetry was recognized by international poetry convention in Florida, to being only woman of Indian origin to have founded an Oil company.

Riti Chikkerur is a U.S. Citizen who immigrated to the United States in 2002. She started her career on an investment of less than \$1,200 in a finance company in New York, but was made partner in the boutique finance company in under 11 months earned over \$200,000. Through sheer determination, hard work and a belief in herself, she became a licensed commodities trader for a trading firm in Chicago and later established her own petroleum distribute company in 2006.

Her passions are best channeled through her non-profit I2R ( Idea to Reality). I2R is a non-profit that serves women of diverse backgrounds and cultures by enabling them to turn their ideas into reality, whether the idea is as simple as inspiring a group of young woman to be self-confident or a complex one of bringing together women from all over the world to invest in each other thereby contributing to high value projects, products and services in their communities. Through I2R, Riti Chikkerur aims to create a strong support system for women world over to bring their ideas to a positive fruition. Having succeeded with little financial, emotional, peer support; Riti realizes the need for a support system like I2R is an immediate need in society today. Many a great women scientists, authors, entrepreneurs, wildlife conservationists, artists etc are being under/undiscovered because of a lack of support. Riti hopes to change that and do her part to support her peers through her non-profit. During her reign as Ms. International and beyond, Riti and her I2R team will identify several idea projects in the United States and Internationally, to garner attention to worthy ideas that if brought to fruition may impact many lives in a positive manner.

Riti Chikkerur is a single mother of two boys. She is a talented poet, author, motivational/inspirational speaker and a wildlife enthusiast. Her favorite poem is IF by Rudyard Kipling, wise words that she aims to live by.



# NEW BEGINNINGS COSMETICS



Beauty Really is Skin Deep

## Papaya Peel & Papaya Peel Moisturizer

Hello Beautiful People

Here at New Beginnings Cosmetics and Papaya Peel, we really do believe that beauty really is skin-deep. Our New Beginnings papaya peel skincare products work together using the gentle nonabrasive exfoliation of the papaya plant enzyme papain and the skin's own natural hydrator hyaluronic acid to produce fabulous skin. The lovely women of the Pacific Island and South East Asia have enjoyed papaya for centuries to reduce the signs of aging and make their skin radiant. We hope you love it too!

We at New Beginnings Cosmetics truly believe that beauty really is skin deep!

*New  
Beginnings  
Papaya Peel  
moisturizer*



Re-Hydrates &  
Restores Skin Cells

Healthy Anti-Aging Formula

Glowing New Skin



*New  
Beginnings  
Papaya Peel*



Gently & Effectively

Exfoliates Skin

Reveals Soft & Smooth

New Skin



# Beauty Really is Skin Deep

[www.papayapeel.com](http://www.papayapeel.com)

(480) 277-6357

# "I hold my crown in memory of all victims and survivors of domestic violence"

*In Memoriam...*

*Jamie Kimble*

*Latwassa L. Argett*

*Laurie Wheeler*

*Christine Ayotte*

*Teresa Jefferson*

*Cassidy Grace*

*Irene Stone-Mickens*

*Veronica Chante' Godwin*

*Patty Lynn Kruse*

*Rebecca Kowal*

*Carol Rivest*

*Luke Batty*

*Heather Batchelor*

*Linda Locke*

*Cindy Rosier*

*Precious Jackson*

*Alicia West*

*Hollie Gazzard*

*Allison Vaughn*



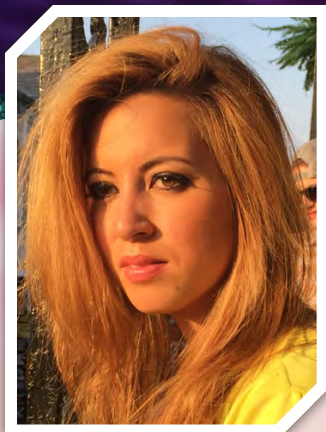
## I AM A SURVIVOR, I am...

## DeAnna Emborski ~ Ms. Southeast America 2015





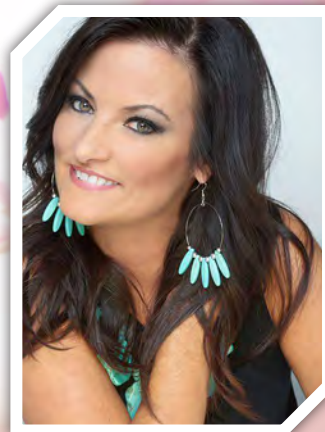
# MS. AMERICA 2015 CONTESTANTS



**MS. ALASKA**  
Phebe Horschel



**MS. ARIZONA**  
Hibe Alfadle



**MS. ATLANTIC COAST**  
Gwynne Hite



**MS. CALIFORNIA**  
LaHoma Caudill



**MS. CALIFORNIA STATE**  
D'London



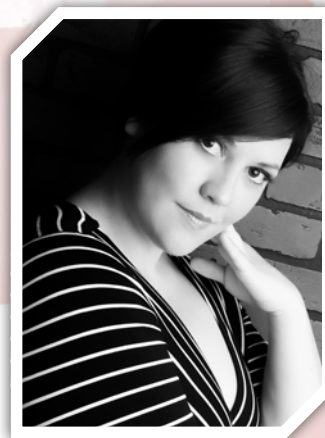
**MS. CALIFORNIA COAST**  
Meghan Noone



**MS. AMERICA®  
PAGEANT**



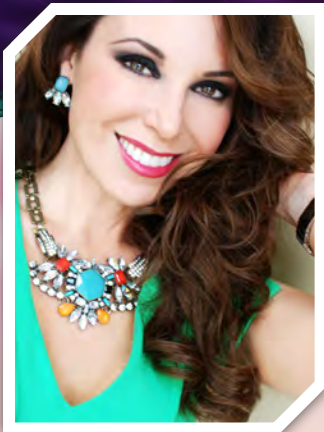
**MS. COLORADO**  
E-Dee Martin



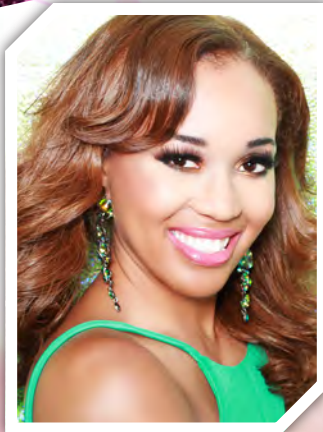
**MS. CONNECTICUT**  
Blair Hughes



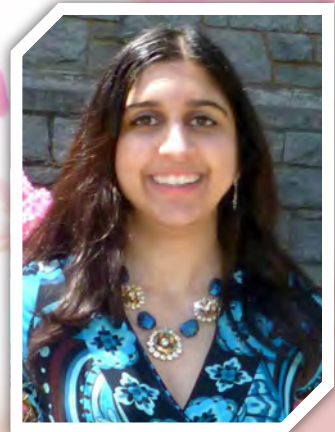
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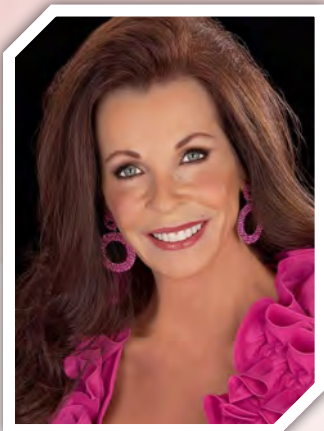
**MS. DELAWARE**  
Sheri Jenkins



**MS. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
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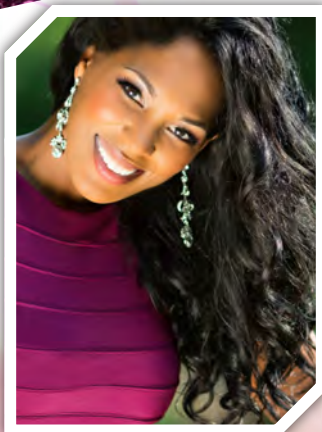
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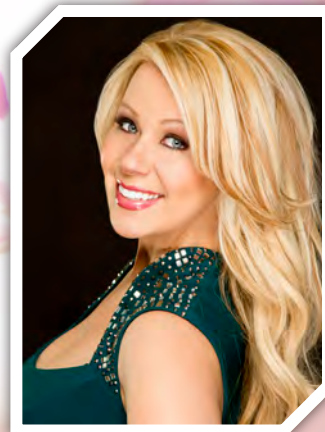
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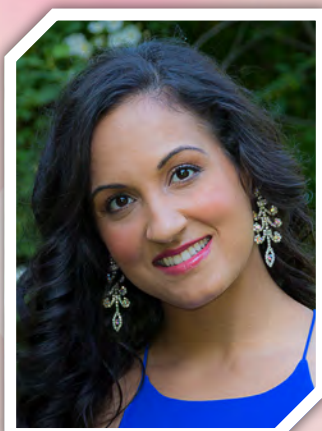
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Alicia Watkins



**MS. MICHIGAN**  
Rachael Adams



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Deneen Anderson



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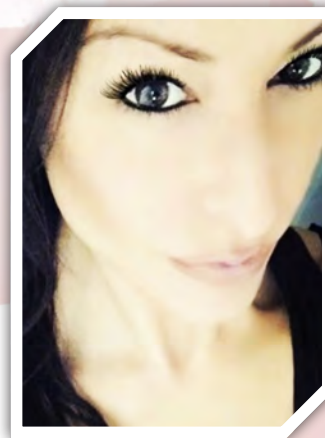
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**MS. NEW JERSEY**  
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Anna Treppiedi



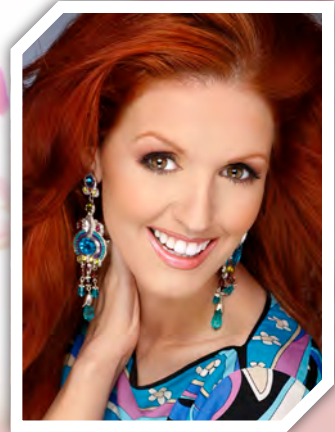
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Lisa Hedin



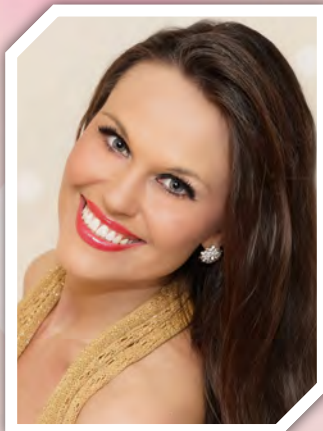
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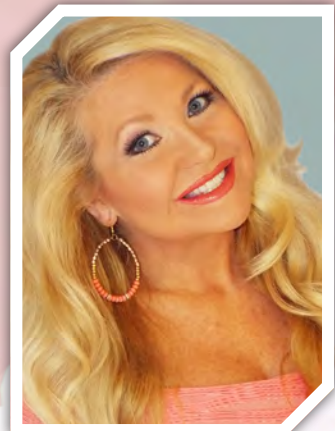
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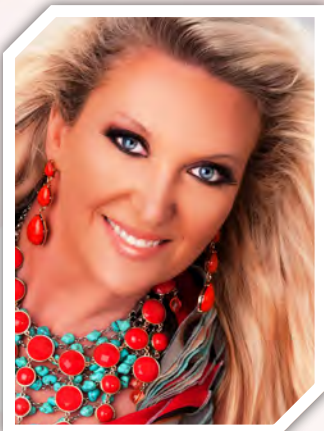
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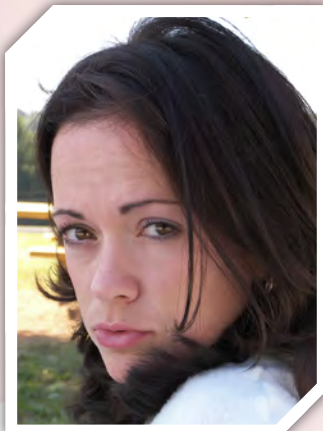
**MS. PENNSYLVANIA**  
Rena McQuaig



**MS. SOUTH CAROLINA**  
Deborah Valis-Flynn



**MS. SOUTHEAST**  
DeAnna Emborski



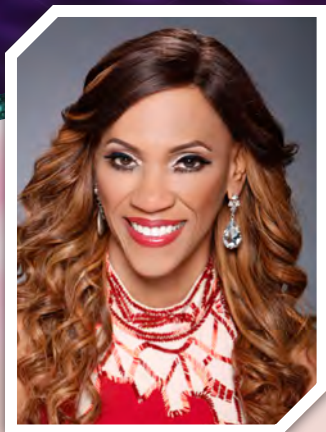
**MS. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
Regina Crafter



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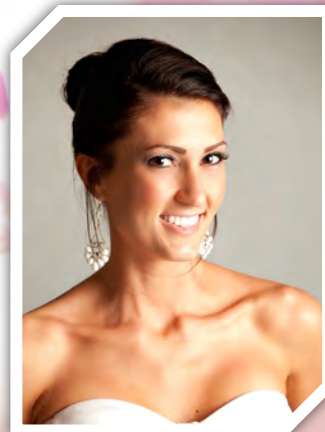
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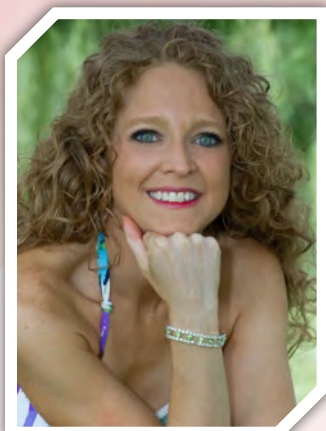
**MS. TEXAS**  
Regina Crafter



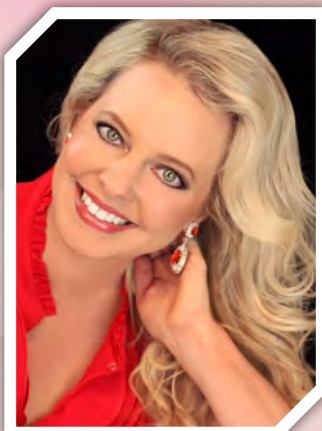
**MS. TEXAS STATE**  
Mariah Scott



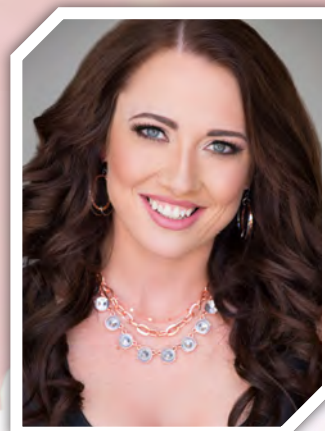
**MS. UTAH**  
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## THE MS. AMERICA®



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2014-15



Chiniqua Pettaway  
2013



Nicole Rash  
2012



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2011



Bridget Cleary  
2009-10



Jane Park Smith  
2007-08



Debbie Nelson  
2006-07



Vida Samadzai  
2005-06



Deana Aburto  
2004-05



Susan Jeske  
The First Ms. America

## THE MS. AMERICA® INTERNATIONAL



Laura Hunter  
2014-15



Robin Griffin  
2013



Carla Gonzalez  
2012



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2011



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2007



Stephanie Brownell  
2005-06



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A color portrait of E-Dee Martin, a woman with short, styled reddish-brown hair, smiling and wearing a teal long-sleeved dress with her arms crossed. The photo is set against a grey background and is tilted slightly to the right.

Ms. Colorado America

E-Dee Martin

"Making a Difference,  
One Starfish at a Time"

© graphique fine art photography

A black and white portrait of Blair Hughes, a woman with dark hair, looking towards the camera with her hand resting on her chin. She is wearing a black and white striped top.

"As the wife of a Wounded Warrior it's not just a platform, it's something I live every single day," Blair says, "As a titleholder I want to use my crown for a purpose: To bring awareness to veterans' issues and to empower the other 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers in the USA."

**BLAIR HUGHES**

**MS. CONNECTICUT AMERICA 2015**

Ms. Connecticut would like to thank the following organizations for their continued support of families of severely wounded service-members:

- Wounded Warrior Project
- Hiring Our Heroes
- Military and Veteran Caregiver Network
- T.A.P.S. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
- PsychArmor
- The Elizabeth Dole Foundation
- Coalition to Support Americas Heroes
- Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving
- Operation Family Caregiver
- VA Family Caregiver Program
- Adaptive Sports Foundation



**DeAnna Emborski Ms. Southeast America 2015**

**Domestic Violence ~ Survivor**



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E-DEE  
MARTIN



Ms. Colorado America

E-DEE MARTIN

*Ms. Colorado America*

# MS. TEXAS AMERICA 2015



**REGINA CRAFTER**

*philanthropist – author – entrepreneur – educator*



***Regina Crafter***  
**MS. TEXAS AMERICA**  
**2015**

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Angela Williams

**Regina Crafter**

**MS. TEXAS  
AMERICA  
2015**



**To our beloved**  
***Denise***



**With love,**  
**Husband Dwight Moss & Brother George Street**

***Thank you, Regina for being an advocate for  
breast cancer awareness.***

*No One  
Stands  
Alone*



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on entering the Ms. America Pageant



*We join the fight against  
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# MS. CALIFORNIA COAST AMERICA 2015



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*Ms. California State America 2015*

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*Sheri*

MS. DELAWARE AMERICA 2015

**JENKINS**

PLATFORM: Breast Cancer Deadline 2020

ONE MISSION: *To Know How to End Breast Cancer by January 1, 2020*

# Domestic Violence IS A CRIME...



and must

**STOP**

Deborah Tuttle

Ms. Illinois America 2015

Ms. Southeast America 2015 ~ DeAnna Emborski



Honored guest at JCFFC Annual Luncheon



iFly Virginia Beach with owner Rob Pizzini



Sonja Kaplan - Author and Holocaust Survivor - D.C.

WA Congressman Larsen & Capt. Moscolo



Proud Navy Wife of NDCM/MDV John Emborski (ret.)



Our amazing family



*Hiba  
Alfattle*

MS. ARIZONA AMERICA 2015

*The importance of education and women who are victim of war and international terrorism.*

Hiba is a war survivor. Lost two family members to terrorism in 2006 and 2007 and was lucky to escape three kidnapping attempts herself. **Hiba became passionate about women rights and the power of education.** Her background and past experience in rescuing women and children victimized by war and terrorism empowered her to raise awareness in the role of education to stop violence against women and children around the world. Hiba holds an MBA degree in International Business and a Civil Engineering degree; she speaks fluent Arabic and English.

**Hiba is currently working as a student mentor for Western Governors University. She also worked for University of Advancing Technology.** Hiba was rescued and settled in the United States by International Rescue Committee in Phoenix.

**Hiba competing this year for the Ms. America Pageant representing the State of Arizona.**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
ONE EVENT AT A TIME



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Society,  
Relay for Life



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visiting our  
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VOLUNTEERISM

Dee  
& Lane

# TAMMY RANDLES

MS. LOUISIANA AMERICA 2015



# Ms. New England America 2015

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Who Is...

# Ms. Georiga America 2015

TENACIOUS

OVERCOMER



STRONG

Melissa Fleming

"Brave to break the silence...Speak OUT about Domestic Violence!"

ASSAS



Roopa Modha (Ms. East Coast America 2015) is a multi-talented individual who has achieved success in a variety of disciplines: from *law*, *entertainment* (editor/writer/host for 2 sites; theater; webcomic artist; film marketing), and *science*, to *fashion* (model, pageant winner), *dance* (ballet, tap, jazz & 3 types of Indian classical), and *music*. She is also an author and illustrator.



Education has always been important to Roopa, who is a bar-qualified Attorney, with a doctorate in law (JD) and 2 certificates in Intellectual Property Law & Tax Law from UConn Law School. She has her own solo practice (<http://law.roopamodha.com/>) focused on entertainment, IP, & immigration law. Roopa also has an A.S. (Honors) in computer programming and a B.S. (Honors) from Brandeis in health science. As education is so important to Roopa, her platform is to get quality education for girls and women around the world. Roopa is an accomplished speaker, & has had the rare opportunity to be elected commencement speaker 3x – when she got her A.S., B.S., & J.D!

Roopa has many interests, but she continues to find time for charity. She has volunteered for numerous organizations. In 2010, to prevent bullying, she & her friends organized a successful anti-bullying gala/fundraiser in NYC with the founder of bullying.org & NY Giants that raised thousands of dollars. Due to her advocacy, a life-saving bone marrow match was made for a boy in CT. She has also worked towards creating awareness about domestic violence & women's rights in CT – organizing panels with CT Supreme Court Judges to encourage dialogue and educate attendees about laws here and abroad. In 2005, she single-handedly raised \$5000 to build a school in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami had hit.



Roopa has won many accolades for her accomplishments. The most prestigious of which is being selected by CWEALF as a woman leader who will make a difference in the world and build opportunities for others. Her leadership ability has been well recognized and appreciated. She has been President of many clubs & organizations. Roopa thanks her family (especially her parents and sister), and her friends for all their support.

ROOPA MODHA

MS. EAST COAST AMERICA

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# Jennifer McClane

 *Ms. Washington America*

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The Voice 2012

# Lisa Hedin

## Ms. North Carolina America 2015



**Proud mother to Luke**



"Her involvement helped us change the world of kidney disease and helped us save lives." - Stephani Tucker, Executive Director National Kidney Foundation Carolinas



**Eugene Robinson NFL 3x pro bowl**



**Joe Bruno**  
Journalist Fox 46



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Ms. Mississippi America 2015  
Deneen Anderson

Lymphedema Awareness

Deneen  
Anderson

Pet Therapy



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Prescription drug abuse is the Nation's  
fastest growing drug problem

Ms. District of Columbia America 2015

Allison Hill



# Ms. Pennsylvania America 2015



## Rena McQuaig



Relay for Life  
Cancer Survivor



With State  
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# Ms. Michigan America 2015 - Rachael Adams



FACE OF and AMBASSADOR for the Ride For Autism - [www.rideforautism.com](http://www.rideforautism.com)



Cub Scout Leader



Basketball Coach



Cheerleading Coach



Girl Scout Leader



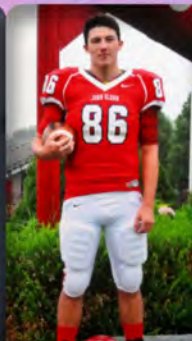
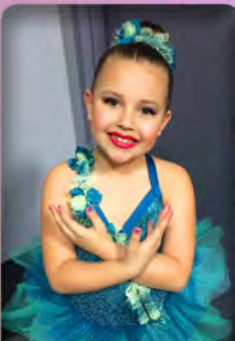
Giving Back



Rachael Formed "Create the Difference" Ambassadors - Spreading Smiles & Spending Time at Local Nursing Homes



UofM Alumni



Mother of 4

I want to say THANK YOU to my amazing and supportive family for all they do for me in helping me achieve my goals and dreams. I couldn't do it without you all! Special thanks to my friends, fans and sponsors for all the constant support and love! I am forever grateful. ❤️

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*Ms. Oregon State America 2015*

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**SAMANTHA**Elliott

**MS. NORTH CAROLINA STATE  
AMERICA 2015**



### The Facts About Scoliosis:

- Scoliosis is an abnormal curving of the spine
- Most of the time, the cause is unknown
- Common in young girls between the ages of 12 & 16
- Drastic changes can happen during a growth spurt
- There are normally no symptoms associated
- Early detection is critical

### My Goals as Ms America:

- Share our story and promote Scoliosis Awareness
- Encourage parents to take an active role in their child's screenings usually provided through schools or clinics
- Promote the Ms. America organization through appearances and events

My daughter Pearl was diagnosed with Scoliosis after a free consultation with a local chiropractor. We were shocked to learn that she was living with a 30 degree curvature in her spine. More shocking was that she had passed her school's screening for scoliosis only a few months prior.

Early detection is critical to prevent major deformity. If the spine's curvature increases beyond the 30 degrees, then steel rods may be needed to straighten the back. Since her diagnosis, Pearl began a regular routine of exercises and adjustments with her chiropractor, which continue to this day. With consistent monitoring, Pearl's back has not increased in severity and even shows signs of improvement.

Although it is a blessing that we discovered her condition when we did; we also wish we could have known about it sooner.

Early detection is critical.

**Rosanne Frazier**  
Ms. Oklahoma America 2015



*Flecha De Luz Tovar - Ms. Hawaii America*  
*2015*



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Jennifer SKAGGS

MS. WEST VIRGINIA AMERICA 2015

## Creating Awareness and Prevention for Childhood Sexual Violence

"It is an honor to represent my home state. I hope to inspire others that no matter your past, age, time restrictions or money there is no obstacle that can stop you from making a difference. Just do it! I truly owe everything to my Savior Jesus Christ for giving me the strength, power and determination to overcome many struggles and obstacles to be here today. I am exceptionally blessed and fortunate to have such amazing people in my life. Thank you to ALL my friends and family for supporting me through this wonderful journey! I want to specifically say thank you to my parents, Mark and Jean, for all the words of encouragement when I had trouble believing in myself and for never failing to be there for me; to my sister, Stef, for being my motivator, coach and friend; and to my love, Chuck, for everything you did in helping make this dream come true, but most importantly for being my number one fan and cheerleader. I love you all!"

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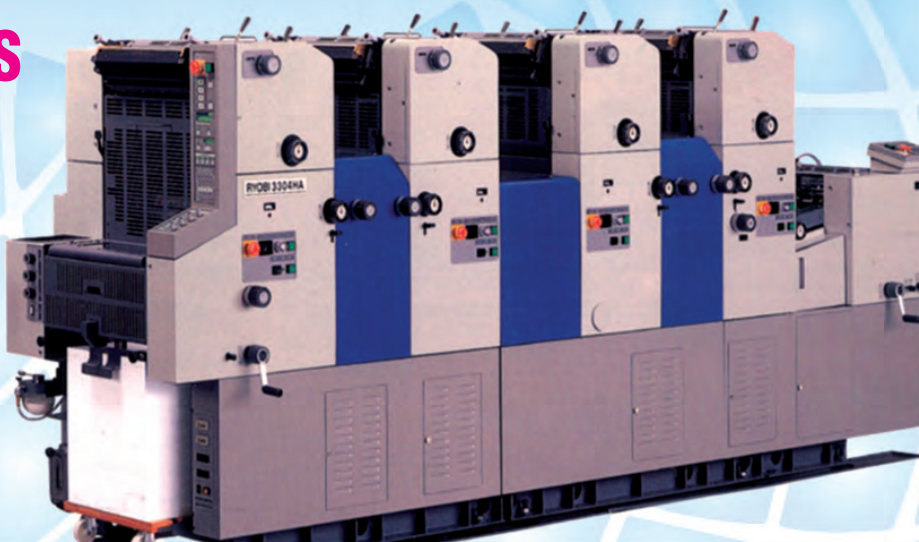
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*DeAnna Emborski*

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

~~Leo Buscaglia

May you always possess  
that power and share it  
with all you meet . In Love  
and Light,  
*Deborah*



*Introducing...*  
*Ms. South Carolina America 2015*  
*Deborah Valis-Flynn*

# MS. SOUTH CAROLINA AMERICA 2015 Deborah Valis-Flynn



Boys and Girls Clubs  
of America  
"The Positive Place for Kids"



**My Mission:** Integrating the values of success into the fabric of children in society so they can realize their own self-worth and strive for success while overcoming difficult circumstances to reach their full potential.

Representing the Boys & Girls Clubs of America throughout the southeast is the most truly fulfilling experience. Mentoring children in Beaufort, SC has been my newest challenge, along with fundraising to support the local Club. Interacting with the children compels me to motivate them further. I can truly empathize with the difficulties they face daily. So many children do not have a mentor or a positive role model in their lives. Many have no place to turn for emotional support, encouragement, or moral guidance. I want them to know they are not alone.

#### Factors that influence success:

- Good relationships with parents, family, peers, and mentors
- Opportunities to participate in activities that offer real challenges
- Experiencing success with schoolwork and extracurricular activities
- Having the skills needed to cope during times of disappointment

#### Associated Problems:

- Lack of self-worth
- Giving into peer pressure
- Withdrawal from society
- Participation in unhealthy activities
- Not reaching full potential
- Adulthood with limited opportunities

#### Solution:

- Devote time to reach as many young people as possible
- Teach children how to explore options
- Provide moral guidance, positive input, emotional support, and self-esteem mentoring
- Work with organizations to increase numbers of volunteers and mentors

Life's lessons are not easily learned, but with help, I know that these young people's lives will be different. As a mentor, I provide tools they can use to become their best self. They can become young people who will enter the world with positive self-identities, with emotional and moral compasses to guide them, with a realization of the educational, employment, and civic opportunities ahead. Their futures will hold hope, endless possibilities, and social competencies.

**Leaders are born, and leaders are formed. Let's form a few together by reaching out and supporting The Boys and Girls Clubs of America.**



SMART Girls- SKILLS MASTERY AND RESISTANCE TRAINING *an outreach program of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America*



*Good Luck  
Deborah  
it's  
Your Time  
To Shine!*

*Deborah Valis-Flynn,  
Ms. South Carolina  
America 2015*

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to have healthy attitudes and  
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which you can use to change the world."  
-Nelson Mandela*



A very special thank you  
to all who have provided  
support, input, love,  
guidance, sponsorship,  
travels, lodging, meals,  
participated in events,  
attended appearances, and  
acted as chaperone! I am so  
honored.

What a great year!  
With Love, *Deborah*

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Goose Creek, SC

Deb Isaacs  
Personal Assistant  
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# Deborah Valis- Flynn



Ms.  
South Carolina  
America 2015



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"The Positive Place for Kids"

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