

Purdue Presents

the
Next



Miss Windsor Pageant

Program of the Year

Residence Hall Association

Purdue University

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Letter to the reader:

Before you continue on your reading adventure, it is with much pleasure that I introduce the inaugural Miss Windsor Pageant to the Indiana Residence Hall Organization.

With the perfect match of mixed talents, shining smiles, dazzling dressings, and the hushed excitement of the audience, this pageant gave 13 young women the chance to let their campus know who they were. Even though it was cold outside, the Shealy Hall Rec Room was warm and toasty as it was packed full of eager residents with hardly standing room left.

Even though the event was sponsored by the Windsor Residence Hall Club, residents from all twelve halls attended, complete with signs to support their friends and fellow residents.

This program was planned and executed with much dedication from my committee as well as the contestants. This event shows the fun side to beauty pageants and pride for one's self. This is why the theme was chosen as American Girl, the books young girls read about their self discovery and learning to love who they are; the message which was conveyed throughout the event.

I want to thank each and everyone of you for reading this bid and taking the time to consider it for Program of the Year. This program is truly worthy of recognition from the Indiana Residence Hall Organization.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gardner
Pageant Co-Coordinator



Chapter 1: Meg has an Idea!



One day, not so very long ago, in the wonderful land of Shealy Hall, the girls of the second floor east wing were playing with their magical dancing shoes. Meg with her Pointe shoes, Lauren with her tap shoes, and Shannon with her Irish Dancing shoes, made quite the site for onlookers. Suddenly, Meg had an idea to have a type of social program where the ladies of Windsor could showcase their talents for the rest of their communities. Her original intent was to

have a talent show that would be open to the campus. However, her next-door neighbor, Jennifer, mentioned an idea taken from her former residence hall of a hall pageant. Immediately, the Miss Windsor Pageant was born.

Not only would this be a place where the ladies could display their talents, but also they could show off other skills involved within the competition. It would be a delightful experience for not only those wonderful Windsor women actually in the pageant, but an event never to be forgotten by those lucky members of the audience as well!

Chapter 2: A Showcase of Talent and Beauty

- ✦ **An opportunity for flair and pizzazz**
- ✦ **Tell us a little about you (“What says you?” outfit portion)**
- ✦ **Insight into your character (The Q & A portion)**
- ✦ **Show us what you’ve got! (The talent portion)**
- ✦ **A night of exquisite splendor (The evening gown portion)**
- ✦ **Intermission: GLACURH Roll Call and Win a Date With Miss Windsor Contest**



It was the night of the BLIZZARD, but the show must go on...

On that thrilling evening, the ladies were able to pull together some of the most amazing accomplishments ever seen before! They were tested in many different arenas, and all came out unscathed and victorious. The first portion of the evening involved the ladies explaining an outfit that gave the audience a little taste of the kind of person she was. Some dressed in the garb of their culture, while others showed their Windsor spirit.

Next was the Question and Answer session. Each lady pulled a question at random and had to show her quick reflexes and fast logic before the audience. Questions ranged from “if you could be any fruit or vegetable, what would it be and why?” to “what do you feel is the most important quality in a leader?” All of the ladies showed their true Windsor abilities and wowed the audience.

Another portion of the competition involved the ladies preparing a talent that made them stand out from the crowd. Some talents presented that evening included Henna tattooing from Muslim cultures, belly dancing, a violin solo, Irish dancing, dramatic monologues, Purdue trivia, and so much more!

During our judges score tabulation, the ladies presented their finest evening attire in the unscored evening gown competition. This was not scored because this pageant was not about beauty, but about the actual personalities of the ladies. Also, we had the GLACURH delegation perform their roll call routine from the regional conference to show the public what they’re all about, and an audience member from each of our three all-gentlemen halls compete in a trivia contest to win a date with Miss Windsor!

On the evening of the program, West Lafayette saw one of the worst snowstorms in recent history: over seven inches in less than five hours! However, even though one of the Faculty Fellows had to ski to Windsor to be there, there were still over 200 guests who turned out for the show. The girls were able to showcase their talents for a multitude of residents who were not only from Windsor, but from other halls as well. The evening went off without any massive problems, even though the food was not delivered for the judges and the microphones on the karaoke machine did not work. Each audience member greatly enjoyed the evening and was very complimentary of the coordinators. The evening was definitely worth the effort and costs it took to put on.

Chapter 3: More Than Just a Pageant

✧ **Displaying the multitude of diverse talents of Windsor Residents**

✧ **Inclusion of:**

✧ **Faculty Fellows**

✧ **Windsor Halls Freshman Board**

✧ **GLACURH Conference Delegation**

✧ **Indiana RCC and Purdue NCC/HCC**

✧ **Windsor plays host to the campus**

✧ **Exceeding expectations**

This program was a pageant that was designed to showcase the wonderful women in the land of Windsor Halls for not only their fellow residents, but throughout the rest of campus as well. All those wonderful students throughout the land braved the harsh weather in search of an evening they would never forget.

The Windsor Faculty Fellows were asked to volunteer as judges, and they jumped at the chance. Each Fac Fellow was extremely excited to participate, and only two were unable to commit due to prior academic obligations. Also, the Windsor Freshman Board was asked to help out with the program to give them a chance to have a group program for the semester. Next, the Great Lakes Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (GLACURH) 2005 Purdue delegation was invited to perform their roll call routine during the judges' tabulation. This gave the group a public face to those residents who were less aware of our conferences and those who are involved in them. Finally, Ryan Ostrye, Indiana Regional Communications Coordinator and Tarkington Hall resident, and Sarah Martin, Purdue National and Hoosier Communications Coordinator and Windsor resident, were invited to act as the Masters of Ceremonies for the event to have more campus and Residence Hall Association involvement.

Another very essential goal of this program was to give Windsor the opportunity to play host to other halls and show them what Windsor Women are all about. By inviting the other residents outside of our own community, it

The goals of this program were met even beyond what was anticipated. Three times the amount of audience members expected showed up, even with the snow. There were so many in the crowd that the Shealy Rec Room could barely hold another person. Most of the audience stayed and stood through the entire performance, because they were truly excited to witness such a spectacular event, and it was a great experience for all involved.



Chapter 4: Another Day, Another Dream...

- ✧ **Awareness within the campus community of activities in the residence hall system**
- ✧ **Showing the residents that we are willing to go the extra mile to give them outstanding opportunities**
- ✧ **Self-assurance and confidence instilled in participants**
- ✧ **Faculty Fellows given a public face**

Inspiration for implementation of a similar program in other Purdue Residence Halls

The positive and lasting effects of this program are great in number. Now, more than ever there is an awareness of what goes on within our residence hall system. We have shown our residents what we can accomplish for them with a little extra effort, time and preparation.

The ladies involved as participants now have shiny new tiaras and sashes for their efforts and time given, and they were also given a chance to shine before their peers. On top of a little extra love shown to all of them by our outstanding audience members, the ladies have a renewed internal sense of self-esteem because they were able to complete this feat during the busiest time of the semester; dead week. Each woman has reason to feel proud of what she has accomplished during the preparation for this program.

Our faculty fellows were also given a public face not only to the rest of Windsor, but to all of campus as well. Even though they are very well known and loved by the ladies with whom they eat each week, the faculty fellows were not quite as eminent with the residents in the other halls and floors. This program gave the faculty fellows the opportunity to have a community presence throughout Windsor Halls. Also, our Faculty Fellows were presented to the rest of the campus public during this time.

People all over campus are still raving about the success of the pageant and how wonderful of a time they had! Many different residence hall executive members have taken the inspiration from Miss Windsor to implement a similar pageant in their own halls. This program was definitely an amazing idea and very beneficial to the residence hall system here at Purdue.



Chapter 5: Diversity: The Spice of Life

☞ Diversity

☞ **Intermission: Breaking it up! (GLACURH dance team)**

☞ **Win a Date with Miss Windsor!**

☞ **Let it snow, Let it snow, LET IT SNOW!!!**



“You and I are different, and God intended it that way. If two of us were alike, one of us is unnecessary.” -J. Michael Dunn, Director of Recreational Sports at The Ohio State University

In our magical world of Purdue land, students come from all races, creeds, religions, tongues, countries, and socioeconomic levels. In the wonderful place, diversity reigns supreme as a top attribute, and our Miss Windsor Pageant is no different in any way. When we sat down to discuss the different talents that we might be faced with, we decided that, in the preliminaries, diversification of talent was a major aspect in judging. We definitely did not want 13 girls on stage singing “A Moment Like This” by Kelly Clarkson! We had no idea what we would be presented. We had everything from belly dancing to Indian dancing, dramatic monologues to cello and violin solos, Irish jigs to scrap booking, Purdue Trivia to Henna Tattoos and so much more!

Another matchless aspect of this program was our intermission during the judges’ score tabulation. During this time, we invited our delegation from GLACURH 2005 to perform their roll call routine for the audience. This not only acted as a time filler, but also gave the audience an idea of who our RHA members were and what exactly they do for the Purdue community.

Next was the Win a Date with Miss Windsor trivia contest. We chose three volunteers from our three different all-male halls, Tarkington, Wiley, and Cary, to compete in a trivia contest to see who would get a dinner date with Miss Windsor and the pageant coordinators. All of the contestants, of course, agreed to this before any arrangements were set in stone. This gave another opportunity for the audience to participate in the event, and gave recognition for the other halls that had representatives present. The audience went wild with some of the answers our fine gentlemen came up with, and were ultimately the deciding factor for the winner of the contest.

Finally, our biggest defining aspect of the evening was the absolute snowstorm that was the city of West Lafayette. At least seven inches of snow fell in less than five hours that evening, making travel nearly impossible. Still, neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor hail could keep our residents from this program. One of our faculty fellow judges even strapped on a pair of skis and cross-country skied himself to Windsor from the main campus. Hopefully, this will not be a yearly occurrence for the pageant, but if it is, we will be ready. Not even a massive whiteout deterred this program from going off without a hitch!

Chapter 6: There's a "me" in Team!

- ✧ **A turnout no one could have imagined**
- ✧ **Participants**
- ✧ **Freshman Governing Board**
- ✧ **GLACURH Roll Call Team**
- ✧ **Indiana RCC and Purdue NCC/HCC**

In initial planning of the pageant, we expected roughly fifty to seventy members of the Purdue campus to turn out for the Pageant. We were absolutely shocked and awed when we counted and found that over 200 people, faculty, staff, students, parents, etc. had showed up to support our contestants, even in the snow! We were not only shocked, but absolutely honored by the turnout. Most importantly, we were proud of the behavior of the group. They applauded each and every contestant and were sure to be respectful while the participants were performing. We could not have asked for a better crowd!



Our participants are also to be congratulated for their performances. They were courteous to their fellow competitors, and were able to pull off the feat of pulling together all of the requirements the week prior to finals week. They shocked and awed all of the audience and kept them entertained throughout the entire two-hour program. We were very pleased with their performance and their attitudes during this stressful time, and I feel that they also learned a few stress-management skills during the process.

Without the help of our lovely Windsor Freshman Board, our pageant could not have happened in the least. They were involved from start to finish, involved with the call-outs, the preliminary judging process, and marketing and publicity, and the actual pageant itself. They were always there with a kind word or an offer of help. Our Freshman Board President kept them well organized and ready for anything that may have come their way. This was their major program involvement for the semester, allowing them to “get their feet wet” in programming styles and procedure. We were extremely blessed with their efforts, and we could not have been more pleased with their efforts.

As stated previously, our GLACURH delegation presented their roll call routine for our audience. This was an outstanding opportunity for them to share with the students what they do, and to get a more public face.

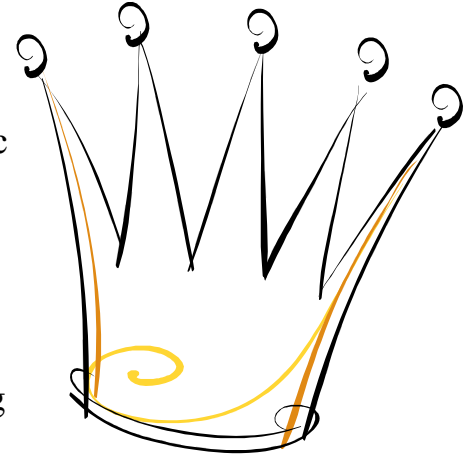
Finally, we asked our Indiana RCC and our Purdue NCC/HCC to act as our Masters of Ceremonies. We felt this would be an opportune time to allow them to participate in a Windsor Halls program, and to introduce themselves to the Purdue community. Their presence was a definite highlight to the evening.

Chapter 7: Conservation is Key

- **Using What We've Got**
- **You'd Better Shop Around**
- **Recycling: One Man's Junk is Another Man's Treasure**
- **Free Entertainment**

For a venue, we decided, instead of renting one of the larger facilities on campus, we would use one of the five Rec Rooms in the Windsor Halls complex. We decided to select the Shealy Rec Room because the karaoke machine was already in that area, and transporting it is always a scary task.

When it came time to purchase the tiaras, the coordinating team definitely shopped around at different stores for the best prices. We finally landed with a wholesale retailer who would give us the best quality for the cheapest prices.



Every club's storage room is full of mysterious wonders. Windsor's is no exception. After digging around, ribbons and puffy paints were discovered, making the task of supplying the sashes for the pageant simple. Not only did we save a trip to the store, we also saved a great deal of money in making them ourselves. We enlisted the help of one of our staff residents, an interior design major, to do the calligraphy, making them very professional and sleek. It was very beneficial for the club to use old materials, which might not have been used in other ways.

Finally, our entertainment, the GLACURH delegation dancers and the trivia game, were completely free! The team volunteered their services without charge, and the crowd absolutely loved them. The trivia game took up the perfect amount of time for the contestants to change into evening wear and it engaged the crowd to a level that we never even imagined. The winner of the trivia game won a date with Miss Windsor and the coordinators, a special room in the dining hall reserved for them, with their own meal plans, which was also no charge to us.

Chapter 8: Sharing is Caring

This program can easily be adapted at other campuses. Not only could it be another single-hall event, but it could be something such as "Mr. and Miss Rose-Hulman Residence Halls," but hopefully with a catchier title! Or, it could be left as it is and made into a Mr. and Miss Botsford at Ball State University. The possibilities are definitely endless.

While the amount of money required for Miss Windsor Halls seemed a little large, it is possible to cut back on some of the expenses, including ordering the tiaras from a different company, and not ordering individual food orders for the judges. All any campus needs is a dedicated coordinator who is willing to work with their Residential Life Manager, their contestants, and any other members of the coordination team. Also, for any further help, Meg has put together a detailed binder with step-by-step instructions for help with future pageants.

This binder includes a section for:

- ✧ **An Overview**
- ✧ **The applications and preliminaries**
- ✧ **The Callouts**
- ✧ **The Decorations**
- ✧ **The Freshman Board President and Board**
- ✧ **The Judges**
- ✧ **The Master(s) of Ceremonies**
- ✧ **The Sashes**
- ✧ **The Tiaras**
- ✧ **Pageant Questions**
- ✧ **Official Judging Explanation Tips**
- ✧ **Funding**
- ✧ **Electronics**
- ✧ **Dressing Areas**
- ✧ **Scoring Sheets**
- ✧ **Food**
- ✧ **“Win A Date” Trivia Questions**
- ✧ **Pageant Q & A**



Chapter 9: A Penny saved is a Penny Earned

Even though we were so graciously allowed an unlimited budget, we still tried to cut costs at every possible turn. We bargain shopped for tiaras, used supplies from the club storage room, and ordered food from our central production kitchen instead of having a caterer.

Shown below is the budget for the 2005 pageant:



Miss Windsor 2005 Budget				
Crowns				\$155.00
Sashes				\$25.00
Decorations				
	Bows			\$36.00
	Sheets			\$16.00
Emcee's Tux				\$100.00
Flowers				\$68.00
Bottled Waters for Fac Fellows				\$5.00
				\$405.00

Chapter 10: Closer Than Pen Pals

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing to recommend the Miss Windsor Pageant for program of the year. I personally had the chance to attend the program and can attest to its quality. The program provided so many opportunities for the girls involved. This program was like a social, educational, diversity, all in one. What more could one ask for?

The Miss Windsor Pageant was an all night event held at Windsor Hall, an all female residence hall here at Purdue. The evening included the girls showing off their best Purdue clothes, a question and answer session, and a time for them to show off their talents. The reason I state that this program was a social, educational, and diversity program in one is because over the course of the pageant each of these categories were evident. This was especially true during the talent session. Those who attended were able to learn about many different cultures including the Indian and Irish cultures. The audience also even received a free lesson in scrap booking! All throughout the pageant the girls were also always interacting with the crowd.

As you can see, the Miss Windsor Pageant isn't just your ordinary program. Meg and Jennifer did a superb job pulling together a superb event. I can only hope that the Purdue campus will be lucky enough to be graced by their programming talents again in the future. On one final note, did I mention the program was standing room only? That's right, you couldn't find a seat in the house for this event. It was that incredible.

Sincerely,

Jason Ford
President – Residence Hall Association

Chapter 10: Closer Than Pen Pals (Cont.)



January 30, 2006

Indiana Residence Hall Organization

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: The Miss Windsor Pageant

I would like to offer a few words in support of the Miss Windsor pageant for the "Program of the Year" award because of what it is not.

The Miss Windsor Pageant is not a "beauty contest." However, failure to see the beauty in the camaraderie and enthusiasm of each contestant would be regrettable indeed. The beauty of good friends getting together to entertain, enjoy one another's company, and to be entertained as well, to some extent, is a sight to behold.

The Miss Windsor Pageant is not about winning and losing. I saw no tears among the contestants when the "awards" were announced. The winning participants smiled. The non-winning participants smiled. They all hugged. Not one contestant frowned at the judges, literally or figuratively.

The Miss Windsor Pageant is not about months of preparation and spending. Indeed, most participants seemed to have spent hours or days on preparation, with the exception of the years of developing some of the musical talents that were on display. The relative spontaneity of the event added charm, and who among us objects to being charmed?

The Miss Windsor Pageant is not about preparing to become Miss America. No, it is not likely that any of the Miss Windsor "hopefuls" will ever become Miss America. But, for one brief snapshot in time, they were beautiful beyond compare. Their many friends in the crowd couldn't have been prouder.

The Miss Windsor Pageant deserves to be honored as Program of the Year for the above, and for its outstanding impact on the life of the Windsor Hall residents. In over fifteen years as a Faculty Fellow in Purdue's Residence Halls, I have never seen a program do such an outstanding job involving the residents. I hope you agree with my assessment in determining the recipient of your award.

Sincerely,

Robert E Montgomery, PhD, PE
Associate Professor of Engineering Education
Windsor Halls Faculty Fellow