

**19. ALEXIS BLAND | MISS PARKERSBURG USA****School:** West Virginia University at Parkersburg Graduate**Year:** Graduate**Major:** Business Administration**Job Title:** Real Estate Agent**Interest #1:** Traveling.**Interest #2:** Writing.**Interest #3:** Singing.**Why did you enter the pageant and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

The Miss West Virginia USA title would allow me to educate young people about the importance of financial literacy and developing important life skills. I entered the pageant to promote positive change and leadership throughout my state. I hope to gain new responsibilities and self growth from this experience.

When have you felt your biggest adrenaline rush?

I felt my biggest adrenaline rush a few months ago when I passed my West Virginia Real Estate exam. This is an exam I spent months preparing for and took me over 3 hours to complete. When I finally got news that I had passed the exam, I felt like I could run a marathon, and 100 pounds had been lifted off of my shoulders!

Other than your cell phone, what three items do you always keep in your purse?

A blue ink pen, as I never know when I am going to need to write up an offer on a home! My business cards, as they are a great way to start a conversation. They allow me to introduce myself, and begin networking with others. My phone charger, because most of my work is done on my phone. I always need to have my phone charged to assist my clients.

If you could be great at one thing, what would it be and why?

If I could be great at one thing it would be playing the piano. I love to sing, and have tried to teach myself to play the piano, but I have not yet mastered it. Music has been a way for me to escape the real world, and feel free for a few moments while I sing and play. I would love to be able to share my passion of music with others.

What is at the top of your bucket list?

Something that has been on my bucket list ever since I studied the Eiffel Tower for the social studies fair as a child is to travel to Paris and go to the top of the Eiffel Tower. The beauty and culture of Paris amazes me and I hope to one day see it at 1,063 feet in the air!

Who is your favorite fictional character, and why?

My favorite fictional character is Barbie. I collected Barbies as a child, and one thing always resonated with me and that is: through Barbie, you can be what ever makes you feel the most confident and beautiful. You can be an astronaut, a fashion designer, or even a pageant queen! Barbie teaches young kids that you can be ANYTHING you want to be!

What are some small things that make your day better?

A good cup of coffee, a long morning talk with my grandmother, and a walk with my dog Miley.

What word best describes you?

Focused.

Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Reese Witherspoon.

What is your favorite movie?

The Last Song.

What is your favorite sport?

Basketball.

What is your favorite song?

Ok not to be ok.

What is your favorite book?

Seeing Beautiful Again.

**20. DOMINIQUE COLLINS | MISS NORMANTOWN USA****School:** Fred W. Eberle Technical Center**Year:** Graduate**Major:** Cosmetology**Job Title:** Owner of Simply Unique**Interest #1:** Hunting**Interest #2:** Collecting antiques**Interest #3:** KLEAN**Why did you enter the pageant and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

Miss West Virginia USA is an important leader. She is someone who is given a voice for advocacy. I am a strong advocate for health and nutrition in children as well as Colon Cancer Awareness. I want the opportunity, to be given that voice and make my message known.

When have you felt your biggest adrenaline rush?

Skydiving! I have such a huge sense of adventure and love doing things outside my comfort zone.

Other than your cell phone, what three items do you always keep in your purse?

Stain glass angel. SIG 380. A wrench.

If you could be great at one thing, what would it be and why?

Being able to have a better sense of direction.

What is at the top of your bucket list?

To visit all 50 states and start my journey to adventure abroad.

Who is your favorite fictional character, and why?

I am a kid at heart and love anything Disney.

What are some small things that make your day better?

Warm weather and sunshine. Seeing the world through the eyes of a child. Beautiful sunsets.

What word best describes you?

Versatile

Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Reese Witherspoon

What is your favorite movie?

Sweet Home Alabama

What is your favorite sport?

Dirt Bike Racing

What is your favorite song?

Take Me Home, Country Roads

What is your favorite book?

Walnut Creek Wishes

**21. KALEY FEDKO | MISS BRIDGEPORT USA****School:** University of Miami**Year:** Graduate**Major:** Journalism, History**Job Title:** News Anchor, Producer**Interest #1:** Federal, State, and Local Law**Interest #2:** Animal care**Interest #3:** Documentaries**Why did you enter the pageant and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

I want the world to take note of West Virginia at Miss USA and at Miss Universe. As Miss Bridgeport USA and Miss West Virginia USA, I want to grow into a leadership role and show women how they can embody the essence "confident beautify" while promoting significant policy change in our state.

When have you felt your biggest adrenaline rush?

I call it "the calm before the storm." It's the moment before I show myself to an eager audience who are ready to watch me. Right now, it's seconds before my face comes on screen.

Other than your cell phone, what three items do you always keep in your purse?

1) My pink comb 2) My pink planner 3) My rosary

If you could be great at one thing, what would it be and why?

Public speaking. I speak publicly for a living, but there is always room to grow in how I can reach and resonate with my audience.

What is at the top of your bucket list?

For starters, I would like to get a law passed at the state level that outlines the rights of assault victims in leasing agreements. I'm proud to say I am currently drafting this with Sen. Patrick Martin.

Who is your favorite fictional character, and why?

Alicia Florrick from 'The Good Wife.' Despite every challenge, she's ever-confident, tough, and an unwavering leader in a highly competitive and political realm of criminal law.

What are some small things that make your day better?

It's the things that show me there is widespread good in this world that's worth preserving. It's specific, universal things from strangers like someone holding the door for me, my neighbor who's outside waving at me as I drive home, or someone paying for my Starbucks in the drive-thru!

What word best describes you?

Selfless

Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Adam Sandler

What is your favorite movie?

"Lord of the Rings: Return of the King"

What is your favorite sport?

Cheerleading

What is your favorite song?

"Blessings" by Chance the Rapper

What is your favorite book?

The "Lord of the Rings" trilogy and "Les Misérables"

**22. HALEY GEIGER | MISS SWEETHEART FESTIVAL USA****School:** West Virginia University**Year:** Graduate**Major:** Management Information Systems**Job Title:** Financial Analyst**Interest #1:** Programming**Interest #2:** Musical Theatre**Interest #3:** Video Games**Why did you enter the pageant and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

As part of both the 25% of women in the tech industry and the 48% of women victimized by emotional abuse, I feel it's my duty to use both my proudest and darkest moments to inspire and serve the people around me. I hope to walk away knowing I've used my experiences in a positive way that may inspire or help even just one person in the audience.

When have you felt your biggest adrenaline rush?

Singing in front of 2000+ people, one of whom was a Broadway actress who debuted in the show I was performing from.

Other than your cell phone, what three items do you always keep in your purse?

Hand sanitizer, phone chargers, and USB drives.

If you could be great at one thing, what would it be and why?

Programming! In Computer Science and Information Security, staying on top of the ever-evolving tech industry is imperative to the health and stability of one's career. Being able to master programming logic and languages both new and old would not only save me a ton of headaches and time, but it would make my career potential practically limitless.

What is at the top of your bucket list?

Besides standing on the Miss USA stage, my must-do is to play Christine Daae in Phantom of the Opera. In the way the Phantom inspires Christine's voice, the role of Christine was my "Angel of Music" that inspired me to work tirelessly on my voice. There is nothing I'd want more than to be able to play the role that made me the soprano I am now.

Who is your favorite fictional character, and why?

Arthur Morgan from Red Dead Redemption 2, a character with one of the most beautiful character arcs I've seen. From his on-screen beginning as a callous outlaw to his final acceptance of his fatal illness, Arthur's attitude towards death and demonstration that even a self-professed villain can be a good and honorable man is remarkably beautiful.

What are some small things that make your day better?

My cat Tinkerbelle, a tiny 14-year-old calico that is fully deaf and has an impossible amount of character. Not only does she remind me of some of the best memories I have of her prior owner, my late Grandma, her limitless joy and character will always bring a smile to my face. If nothing else, my inherited love of ice cream never fails me!

What word best describes you?

Determined

Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Sierra Boggess

What is your favorite movie?

The Greatest Showman

What is your favorite sport?

Stationary Cycling, Dance

What is your favorite song?

Emperor's New Clothes - Panic! At The Disco

What is your favorite book?

Their Eyes Were Watching God - Zora Neale Hurston



23. TAMIA HARDY | MISS BERKELEY COUNTY USA



School: University of Charleston

Year: Graduate School

Major: Doctorate of Executive Leadership

Job Title: Student

Interest #1: The heart of our nation is our youth

Interest #2: I dance to the best of my own drum!

Interest #3: Craftiness is Happiness-Hardy Handmade

Why did you enter the pageant and what do you hope to gain from the experience?

I entered because I am passionate about uplifting&inspiring others. I know that I can do that best within this pageant. I hope to gain memorable interactions along the way. Like Maya Angelou said, "People will forget what you said or did, but will always remember how you made them feel". I want to help people feel empowered&increase opportunities.

When have you felt your biggest adrenaline rush?

I'd have to say my first time at Disney World! I am a big kid at heart. On my first trip, I was 21 but I blended right in with the young kids. I was overwhelmed with magic. So much so, that soon after I joined a premier children's entertainment company working as the Frog Princess inspired by Disney's Princess Tiana bringing magic to the East Coast

Other than your cell phone, what three items do you always keep in your purse?

My list, Germ-X, and library card are a must! I need to have a to-do list to stay productive. Physically scratching off my tasks is so satisfying. Germ-X because well Covid. Lastly, my library card because I spend a lot of time at my local library. Pursuing school online can be hard. I like to get out of the house & get work done at a public place.

If you could be great at one thing, what would it be and why?

Conquering my fears. I am not afraid of many things, mainly just bugs and sometimes I fear rejection because that never feels good. But there is always a reason for it. Every time I put myself out there and step outside of my comfort zone, I overcome and grow tremendously. They say the best way to conquer your fear is to face it.

What is at the top of your bucket list?

Skydiving is at the top of my bucket list! I plan to go with a friend in the future. I am so excited! I have wanted to go skydiving for a while now. I enjoy an adrenaline rush. I love thrilling adventures that make you go, "WOW, I can't believe I actually just did that"! I cannot wait to see God's creation from that point of view.

Who is your favorite fictional character, and why?

I would say Spongebob. My childhood room remained Spongebob-themed until last year. When I was younger I liked the show because it made me laugh. As I got older, I became fond of the character's heart. That sponge shows kindness to everyone, even those who aren't so kind back. I think that is a quality I am proud to say I have&want to spread more.

What are some small things that make your day better?

Inspirational videos, a car concert, and a good old-fashioned hug. Last year, sometimes I struggled with motivation. Listening to an encouraging sermon, always made me feel good. Everyone loves a car concert! When I am in the car, playing my favorite Jamz, singing my little heart out, I feel unstoppable! But a hug from a loved one takes the cake!

What word best describes you?

Engaging

What is your favorite movie?

No favorite but I do love trying to recall where I witnessed seeing actors from their previous roles

What is your favorite song?

Anything that makes me want to get up and dance. I love music. 80s era would be my top choice!

Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Viola Davis, she reminds me there's no prerequisite to worthiness. We all need that reminder sometimes

What is your favorite sport?

Dance fuses the strength of football, speed of basketball, coordination of soccer while still graceful

What is your favorite book?

I just finished Rose Buds but I'm excited to start Women Evolve! Empowering stories are my favorite.

**24. KRYSTIAN LEONARD | MISS MORGANTOWN USA****School:** West Virginia University**Year:** Graduate**Major:** Broadcast Journalism**Job Title:** Program Coordinator and Family Engagement Specialist**Interest #1:** Painting**Interest #2:** Acting**Interest #3:** Traveling**Why did you enter the pageant and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

By competing in this pageant I will be fulfilling a long journey of self-acceptance, by empowering myself in all areas of the competition. It is my aspiration to encourage all young ladies across the state and those attending this pageant to let their inner light shine and to gain an ally into their own personal journey of pageantry.

When have you felt your biggest adrenaline rush?

On a trip to Anna Marie Island, I made the decision to challenge myself spontaneously to swim out to the buoy from the shoreline. At first you feel the water temperature change, then it gets darker still. It was exhilarating and terrifying all at once. I know I scared my family, they thought I was going to get eaten by a shark!

Other than your cell phone, what three items do you always keep in your purse?

Hand sanitizer, dog treats for pups I meet and small inspirational cards for strangers.

If you could be great at one thing, what would it be and why?

I would love to be a great painter; I have generations of wonderful artists in my family and they have inspired me to express myself creatively through art.

What is at the top of your bucket list?

Recently, I received the Diana Award- 'The most prestigious award honoring outstanding young people selflessly creating and sustaining positive social change in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales.' I would love to travel to the United Kingdom this year to meet the partners, judges, team members, and the Royal Family at the award ceremony.

Who is your favorite fictional character, and why?

My favorite character would be Katniss Everdeen from the Hunger Games Series as she is Compassionate, Selfless, Brave, and Empowers other to gain their freedom and does so with Resourcefulness and Strength.

What are some small things that make your day better?

I love to start my day off with hazelnut coffee and reading: Simple Abundance 365 Days to a Balanced and Joyful Life. I love taking breaks to train and play with my dog, Ludo while listening to my customized 'Feeling Happy' music playlist.

What word best describes you?

Grit

Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Steve Carell

What is your favorite movie?

Labyrinth

What is your favorite sport?

Indoor Skydiving

What is your favorite song?

I Love You Always Forever by Donna Lewis

What is your favorite book?

Your Hidden Superpower by Adrienne Bankert

**25. JESSIE PENNELL | MISS RITCHIE COUNTY USA****School:** West Virginia University**Year:** Graduate**Major:** Master's Degree in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design**Job Title:** Graduate Research Assistant**Interest #1:** Agriculture**Interest #2:** Dog Grooming**Interest #3:** Crafting**Why did you enter the pageant and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

It has always been my dream to represent WV on the USA stage. Through competing I hope to promote my platform of Farm to Family, gain sisters, and find a greater understanding of who I am as a person and as a competitor.

When have you felt your biggest adrenaline rush?

I went ziplining underground through a cave.

Other than your cell phone, what three items do you always keep in your purse?

Chapstick, Hair Ties, and Pens

If you could be great at one thing, what would it be and why?

Cooking because you cannot live a full life on an empty stomach. Food is not only a source of happiness but a source of health. As someone that supports local agriculture, I love experimenting with new recipes utilizing fresh ingredients.

What is at the top of your bucket list?

I really want to see a wild alligator in Florida.

Who is your favorite fictional character, and why?

Elle Woods because: -She was always true to herself. -She never settled for less than she deserved. -She was kind to everyone, regardless of how they treated her previously. -She was a feminist icon that proved beauty and brains can go hand in hand.

What are some small things that make your day better?

Spending Time with my Labrador Retriever Named Jolene. Having Cookouts with Family. Spending Time in Nature

What word best describes you?

Tenacious

Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Tom Hanks/Reese Witherspoon

What is your favorite movie?

Forest Gump

What is your favorite sport?

Cheerleading

What is your favorite song?

I Will Always Love You by Dolly Parton

What is your favorite book?

The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

**26. MARLEIGH ROSS | MISS HUNTINGTON USA****School:** Marshall University School of Pharmacy**Year:** Other**Major:** Doctor of Pharmacy**Job Title:** Pharmacy Intern**Interest #1:** Fashion**Interest #2:** Health/Nutrition**Interest #3:** Skin care**Why did you enter the pageant and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

Other than to follow my dreams of one day being Miss USA, I entered because by being Miss WV USA, I then have more ground to stand for things that I want to bring attention to. From this experience I hope to strengthen my network and open doors for others to have a second chance at life.

When have you felt your biggest adrenaline rush?

I felt my biggest adrenaline rush when working as a lifeguard.

Other than your cell phone, what three items do you always keep in your purse?

Narcan/Narcan certification, Grindstone Coffee punch card, an ornament

If you could be great at one thing, what would it be and why?

If I could be great at one thing it would be figure skating, because of the amount of athleticism and elegance that figure skaters hold is intriguing to me.

What is at the top of your bucket list?

Holding the top spot of my bucket list would be to travel around the world just to try different foods.

Who is your favorite fictional character, and why?

My favorite fictional character is Meredith Grey from Grey's Anatomy. Her character had been through multiple tragedies, yet she still showed resilience, strength, and persistence.

What are some small things that make your day better?

When I am having a bad day I take long walks in the park, organize/clean, or go for a drive.

What word best describes you?

Positive

Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Jennifer Garner

What is your favorite movie?

We Are Marshall

What is your favorite sport?

Football

What is your favorite song?

The Climb by Miley Cyrus

What is your favorite book?

The Mountain is You by Brianna Wiest

**27. LACY RUSSELL | MISS THREE RIVERS FESTIVAL USA****School:** Walsh University**Year:** Graduate**Major:** Nursing**Job Title:** Medical ICU Registered Nurse**Interest #1:** Singing**Interest #2:** Organ donation**Interest #3:** Mentoring young women**Why did you enter the pageant and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

I want to be a symbol of hope and represent COVID-19 healthcare providers at Miss USA and Miss Universe. I want to inspire frontline healthcare providers to follow their passions and dreams, because life is too short not to. I hope to gain friendships with inspiring, like-minded women during competition weekend.

When have you felt your biggest adrenaline rush?

The ride along I did with a helicopter flight nursing crew

Other than your cell phone, what three items do you always keep in your purse?

CPR shield. Pocket knife. Damsel in Defense pen.

If you could be great at one thing, what would it be and why?

My grandmother always had beautiful house plants. I unfortunately have not inherited the "green thumb" gene from her. Every plant I bring home meets an unfortunate demise. All I want is to be able to keep plants alive because I want to carry on her legacy of being the plant whisperer.

What is at the top of your bucket list?

I would love to go backpacking through Central America to see hummingbirds during the Winter.

Who is your favorite fictional character, and why?

Wonder Woman. As a symbol of beauty, strength, and justice, she is the protector of mankind. As a nurse, I can relate to her because I save lives and protect people every day in the ICU.

What are some small things that make your day better?

My cat. Chocolate. Making patients feel human and whole again when they are in the hospital.

What word best describes you?

Caregiver

Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Selena Gomez

What is your favorite movie?

Where The Heart Is

What is your favorite sport?

Crossfit

What is your favorite song?

"Greenlights" by Krewella

What is your favorite book?

Gifted by Robert Horsey

**28. CAYLIE SIMMONS | MISS STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL USA****School:** West Virginia University**Year:** Senior**Major:** Dental Hygiene**Job Title:** Student**Interest #1:** Volunteering**Interest #2:** Importance of oral health care**Interest #3:** Adventurous outdoor activities**Why did you enter the pageant and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

I entered this pageant to make an influence in my home state of West Virginia and for my own personal growth as well. I hope to gain opportunities that would allow me to make a significant impact by creating long-term awareness and changes for improved oral health.

When have you felt your biggest adrenaline rush?

When I made a last-minute decision to go white water rafting at the New River Gorge.

Other than your cell phone, what three items do you always keep in your purse?

Picture of my brother. Chapstick. Gum

If you could be great at one thing, what would it be and why?

Encouraging others to live life to the fullest, as tomorrow is never promised, and it's important to make the most out of each day.

What is at the top of your bucket list?

To catch a rooster fish in Panama.

Who is your favorite fictional character, and why?

Jo March from the movie "Little Women", as she is an inspiring and outspoken woman who is motivated to accomplish her goals independently.

What are some small things that make your day better?

My fur baby Myla, Starbucks Coffee, and a daily inspirational quote.

What word best describes you?

Compassionate

Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Jennifer Aniston

What is your favorite movie?

"The Pursuit of Happyness"

What is your favorite sport?

Basketball

What is your favorite song?

"Be as You Are" by Mike Posner

What is your favorite book?

"Get Out of Your Head" by Jennie Allen

**29. RICKI STEWART | MISS RIVERFEST USA****School:** Concord University**Year:** Senior**Major:** Regents Bachelor of Arts**Job Title:** Student, State Farm Insurance**Interest #1:** Education**Interest #2:** Collecting Antiques**Interest #3:** Volunteering**Why did you enter the pageant and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

This has always been a life long dream since I was young. Growing up in small a town, it can be stereotypical about pageantry. However, I want to show younger generations to never give up on their dreams.

When have you felt your biggest adrenaline rush?

My biggest adrenaline rush would be modeling in New York City.

Other than your cell phone, what three items do you always keep in your purse?

My good luck charm, band aids, and picture of my grandmother and me.

If you could be great at one thing, what would it be and why?

Teaching. Since I was young I have always known that I wanted to make a difference in a child's' life. I have always been taught that education is a key to success.

What is at the top of your bucket list?

To travel all 50 states in the US and travel to at least 2 international countries.

Who is your favorite fictional character, and why?

Elle Woods because she is a strong and independent woman. She proved to everyone that you can have beauty and brains.

What are some small things that make your day better?

Listening to 9 to 5 by Dolly Parton every morning, talking to my little sister before she goes to bed, and try to make at least one person smile every day.

What word best describes you?

Extrovert

Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Julia Roberts

What is your favorite movie?

Sweet Home Alabama

What is your favorite sport?

Volleyball

What is your favorite song?

The House That Built Me by Miranda Lambert

What is your favorite book?

Goldilocks and the Three Bears