

## Saskatchewan Teen Wins Pageant Titles (August 23, 2007)

By Michelle Martin of The Star Phoenix

A small-town Saskatchewan beauty and St. Peter's College student became a national star last week at the Miss Canada Globe Competition in Toronto.

Not only did 19-year old Nina Gueguen of Humboldt win the Miss People's Choice Award, she also won the title of Miss Canadian Scholarship Ambassador – if she chooses to accept the honour.

"The Miss People's Choice was very meaningful. It showed how much support I had coming from Saskatchewan," she said Wednesday, the day after she returned from a week of busy pageant preparation and competition in Toronto.

Gueguen's still deciding if she should accept the second award, which includes a \$5,000 scholarship, because it would require she attend events almost every weekend – a commitment she worries would interfere with her schooling.

In September, the multiple scholarship winner plans to attend the University of Saskatchewan to pursue the second year of a bachelor of arts degree, which she hopes will eventually lead her into human rights or advocacy law.

If she accepts the title, however, she may go to China to compete in Miss World University, a pageant more focused on brain power than beauty. She would also travel the province as an ambassador for education – but Gueguen thinks it would be hypocritical for her to postpone her education to fulfill the duties of the title.

Last week's competition was Gueguen's first pageant. In the week before she competed in the semifinals August 17, she was trained to pronounce words properly, conduct herself accordingly and walk on stage in heels. When competing, the judges assessed a technical element of each walk and, in the swimsuit competition, they looked for the girls to do something with a sarong.

"It was really challenging," said Gueguen. "Who thinks about spinning sarongs around on stage in high heels and a swimsuit?"

She said she excelled at delivering her dramatic monologue – her talent – and was satisfied with her platform speech about her volunteer work with Special Olympics.

She was disappointed she didn't make the cut for the Sunday finals – featuring the top 10 girls of the 21 in her "Miss" category – however, she later found out she was only left out because she had already won the ambassador award from an essay she wrote before the pageant, and no girl could receive more than one national award.

A total of 83 women competed in the pageant, which had Miss, Teen and Petite categories.

Six other Saskatchewan girls competed in the pageant. Another big winner was Kayla Ewan, 18, of Esterhazy who placed first runner-up in the Miss Petite category and won two other awards with modeling contracts as prizes.

