BY LISA KUCHARSKI
Staff Reporter

Truman alumni Tara Osseck got the chance of a lifetime Saturday night when she competed in the 2010 Miss America Pageant.

Out of 4,490 original participants, Osseck and 49 others made it to the final round of the pageant, the top 52 that will advance for a chance to be named Miss America.

"Preparing for the Miss America Pageant is one of the most stressful experiences I've had in life," Osseck said. "So much hard work and preparation in just five days, and every contestant has to work every muscle, every moment and every second of the day."

Although Osseck did not make it to the final round of the pageant, she was selected as a Top 10 Quality of Life Student for excellence in community service.

"Community service is one of the foundations of Miss America, and to be recognized for my many years of service as well as my academic efforts in obtaining a degree, was amazing," Osseck said.

Each participant in the pageant has a personal platform, a stance on a social issue that they want to educate the community about and work on with aggression.

Osseck's personal platform was "Education and Awareness of Eating Disorders." She said she has been very involved in this platform and has been working to advocate it as a Truman student and as a Truman alumna.

Osseck began her education at Truman in 2006, enrolling as a full-time student and determined to pursue a career in health science and to become a nurse. Osseck began her education at Truman in the pre-professional program in health sciences and again decided to pursue a career in health.

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"Preparing for the Miss America Pageant is an intense program in health sciences and in biology and psychology. It was hard work to go along with my passion for health and health care, " Osseck said.

"I am a very hands-on learner and was fascinated by being able to apply my textbook knowledge of the human body to what we learned in the cadaver lab," Osseck said.

Carolyn Cox, Osseck's academic adviser and advisor for the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority, said Osseck was an excellent student to have in the health science major. After graduating, Osseck received a scholarship/assistantship for Eta Sigma Gamma, said Osseck was an excellent student to have in the health science major.

"As a state titleholder, I am expected to be knowledgeable, well-rounded, articulate and involved in my community, and my experiences at Truman gave me the opportunity to hone those skills. The Miss America Organization will help you define your personal and professional goals and careers," Osseck said.

Osseck said her experiences at Truman influenced her abilities to carry out the duties of Miss Missouri. She encouraged young women at Truman to get involved with the Miss America Organization for an opportunity to excel at scholarship.

"We always get along," Jenna Osseck said. "It's just one and done. It's not permanent, and you get a beneficial interview skills."

"I wholeheartedly believe that my years at Truman helped me by learning a lot about the pageant and what work ethic to go along with my passion for health and health care, " Osseck said.

"My sister actually influenced me to compete," Jenna Osseck said. "It's just one and done. It's not permanent, and you get a beneficial interview skills."

"I always had a positive attitude and a strong work ethic to go along with the passion for health and health care," Osseck said.

"These awards have enabled me to obtain my undergraduate and graduate degrees with no student loans, which is something I am very proud to say," Tara Osseck said. "We're very supportive of each other."

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"I joined the pageant because of my older sister, Jenna, who competed in the 2008 Miss America Pageant. My sister actually influenced me to compete," Tara Osseck said. "It's just one and done. It's not permanent, and you get a beneficial interview skills.

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