

The Official Newsletter of Bradford-Sullivan Counties' Outstanding Young Woman, Inc



## Special Interest Articles

- 2010 OYW Finalists
- 2005 OYW Lauren Pifer
- 2005 OYW Updates
- Forget-me-Not Updates
- Meet the Co-Hosts

## “Accent on Achievement”

### 2010 OYW Finalists

The 2010 Bradford-Sullivan Counties' OYW Program will be held on September 26, 2009 at Towanda Area High School's auditorium at 7 pm.

Kendra Birdsall, 2009 OYW from Troy Area High School, will be co-hosting along with the 1990 Bradford-Sullivan Counties' Young Woman of the Year, Karen Edsell Bader.

The 2010 finalists

were chosen at preliminaries held on May 31st. Following is this year's list of contestants and their respective high schools: Kimberly Dulin, Hannah Harvey-Sampson, Amanda Horton & Breanna Parsons from Athens Area HS; Allison Jewett & Chelsea Miller from Northeast-Bradford HS; Carolyn Christini & Abena Griffin from

North Rome Christian School; Brittany Woodruff from Sullivan Co. HS; Ariel Beahm, Samantha Denny, Kelsey Maryott, Alexandria Olsen, Theresa Seibert, Chelsea Wiley, & Sydney Williams from Towanda Area Jr/Sr HS; Hannah Busch from Troy Area HS; and Kellie Dunfee & Mary Kusmierz from Wyalusing Valley HS.

## Individual Highlights

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**Show date...September 26, 2009, 7 PM...mark your calendars now!**

19 finalists, representing seven of the Bradford and Sullivan Counties Schools, are preparing to take the stage for Girls, Girls, Girls!

The summer activities are well under way. Becky and Kippy hosted the annual ice cream social in early June. Mini golf with the committee members and chaperones was a fun time followed by Debbie

& Ray White treating everyone to ice cream. The very next day the finalists got a good workout at The Edge - getting them in shape for the grueling aerobics & fitness routine! A few more activities are being set up as well!

We had another successful turnout for the parent-contestant meeting. Thank you to the committee members that came to speak - you sure made my job MUCH easier!!!

We will kick off rehearsals by learning the opening number at the overnight, which is scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup> and the first Sunday rehearsal will be August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Enjoy what's left of the summer months and we will see you in September!

*Bonnie*



## 2009 OYW, Kendra Birdsall

Being involved in the Outstanding Young Woman Program has been a great highlight during my high school career. I am proud to take with me the lessons that I have learned. In order

to complete the OYW program, you must develop confidence and eloquence. It is these qualities that have made tasks like applying for college and a job much easier.

This fall, I will be starting my freshman year at the University of Pennsylvania in the College of the Arts and Sciences.

## Kendra continued. . .

I will be entering with an undeclared major and am very excited to discover where life will take me. I know that the 2010 contestants are all outstanding candidates and I cannot wait to present them all to you in our

September 26th program. I am so grateful for all of the opportunities I have received as the 2009 Outstanding Young Woman. Thank you so much to the entire OYW family for being so

supportive of me.

*Kendra Birdsall*

*2009 Outstanding Young Woman*

## 1990 YWOY – Karen Edsell Bader

I live in Baltimore, Maryland with my husband, Rob Bader, and our son, Nicholas.

After graduating from Troy High School, I received my B.A. in Political Science from Susquehanna University and my J.D. from Valparaiso School of Law. I then was admitted to the Bar of Pennsylvania and

worked as a Staff Attorney with North Penn Legal Services for 4 years. Beginning in 2002, Rob and I served in the United States Peace Corps in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, both in West Africa.

I have just accepted a position as the Manager of the Baltimore County Volunteer Center which

mobilizes concerned citizens and provides them with an opportunity to donate their talents and skills to causes they care deeply about throughout the county. Immediately prior to this new position, I served as the Director of Volunteer Services with Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity for five years.

## Lauren Pifer – 2005 Outstanding Young Woman

Lauren recently graduated from Philadelphia University with a degree in Textile Design. She is currently living in Philadelphia and searching for a full-time position in the textile industry or an art-related field.

Lauren was a 2005 graduate of Northeast Bradford High School. In addition to becoming the OYW she also won the Interview and Presence & Presentation Awards.



**Abigail Barrett – 1st Runner-up and Aerobics & Fitness Award** – Abby graduated from the University of Scranton in May 2009 with a degree in secondary education and math. She is working this summer at St. Joseph's Prep in Philadelphia teaching math to students going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She's in pursuit of a teaching job for the fall. Abby was a graduate of Towanda Area Jr/Sr High School.

**Lori Martin** – Lori will graduate from Temple Univ. in May 2010 with a degree in Biology. She studied abroad for the spring 2007 semester at the Univ. of Wollongong in Australia. Lori was a graduate of Towanda Area Jr/Sr High School.

**Casey Miller** – Casey is a 2009 graduate of Northampton Comm. College and Mansfield University and was a graduate of Towanda Area Jr/Sr High School.

**Rachel Miller - Performing Arts & Keystone Awards** – Rachel is a 2009 graduate of Marywood University with a nursing degree and was a graduate of Wyalusing Valley High School.

**Shannon (McHenry) Lord** – Shannon is currently attending Wilkes University in her Senior year studying Environmental Engineering. She lives in West Auburn with her husband and children, Matisyn and Hayden. Shannon graduated from

Wyalusing Valley High School.

**Jill Rafferty – 2nd Runner up** – Jill will be a 2010 graduate of Misericordia University with a masters' degree in Physical Therapy. Some of her projects have been Wilkes-Barre Leadership Program, Habitat For Humanity in Slidell, LA, and a cultural immersion trip in Peru. She received a service award this year. Jill was a graduate of Northeast Bradford High School.

**Rachel Ross** – Rachel is a May 2009 graduate of Cedarville University with a political science degree and minors in Bible and Criminal Justice. She is now interning for a U.S. Congressman in

Washington, D.C. and looking for a job. Rachel was a graduate of Troy Area High School.

**Tiffany Williams-Cobleigh – Scholastic & Achievement Award** – Tiffany graduated from Elon University in May 2009 with degrees in International Studies and Religious Studies with minors in Music and Classical Studies. She has been nominated by the Peace Corps to go to Africa in the fall, but is still waiting on the exact country placement and departure date. Tiffany was a graduate of Towanda Area Jr/Sr High School.

## Engagements and Marriages:

**Jessica Lambert** and Jeffrey Pennella, of Shunk are engaged to be married on August 1, 2009. Jessica was a 1998 OYW Jr. Miss finalist from Sullivan County High School. She received a BS in public relations in 2002 from Susquehanna University and a master's degree in elementary education from Bloomsburg University in 2007. Jessica is employed by the East Lycoming School District as a second grade teacher at Ashkar Elementary in Hughesville, PA. Jeffrey is a 1995 graduate of Sullivan County High School and is a self-employed general contractor.

**Amberleigh Yurkanin** and Justin Packard of Harrisburg are engaged to be married on October 2, 2010. Amberleigh is a 2003 graduate of Troy High School and was a 2003 OYW finalist. She was a 2007 graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is now employed by Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association. Justin is also a Troy High School graduate and is employed by Labors International Union of North America.

**Libby Welch** and Eric Jones are engaged to be married. Libby is a 2002 Troy High School graduate and OYW finalist. She is also a Mansfield University graduate and teaches in the Troy Area School District. Eric is a Troy High School, Air Force veteran and is completing his degree at Mansfield University.

**Lacey (Maryott) Roerish** and Justin Roerish were married in June 2009. Lacey was a 2003 Northeast Bradford graduate and OYW finalist. She is a 2007 graduate of Bucknell University and is an associate in research at Duke University. Justin is an Iraq war veteran and is a veterinary technician at Banfield, The Pet Hospital.

**Katie (Clayton) Sakanai** was married 3 years ago to Jon Sakanai. They live in the Denver, CO area and just purchased their first home. Katie was the 1997 Jr. Miss and a graduate of Towanda Area Jr/Sr High School. Katie graduated from Wellesley College in 2001. She now teaches middle school choir and plays in a community band. She is learning to ski and ride motorcycles in her spare time.



**Stacy (Reed) & Jeff Burns** welcomed a baby girl, Caroline Elizabeth in February 2009. She has a 2-year old brother, Ryan, at home in Pleasant Hills, CA. Stacy is the 1992 Bradford-Sullivan Counties' Young Woman of the Year and Pennsylvania's

Young Woman of the Year.

**Meghan (Trowbridge) & Ben Kershner** became the parents of a baby boy, Myles Benjamin, born on June 21<sup>st</sup> at Memorial Hospital. Meghan was a 1999 OYW finalist.

### EMPLOYMENT:



**Kelley Eltringham** graduated in May 2009 from Temple University, Kornberg School of Dentistry, with a degree in dentistry. She was involved in the Temple Outreach Program, traveled to Haiti to provide dental services to under privileged citizens of Haiti. Kelley is presently a lieutenant in the Air Force and will be stationed at Scotts Air Force Base, IL. Kelley was a 2001 graduate of Athens High School and a 2001 OYW finalist. She was a 2005 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh.

**Gabrielle Gaustad** received her PhD in Material Science and Engineering from MIT in June 2009. Gabby and her husband, Jeff, will be moving to Rochester, NY, where she has accepted a faculty position in the Golisano Institute for Sustainability at RIT. Gabby is the 2000 OYW and won the POYW Scholastic & Achievement Award. She graduated from WVHS, Alfred University, and received an MS in Computation for Design and Optimization.

**POYW NEWS:** Congratulations to **Kristi Fulkerson and Kristin Vasey**, both Bradford-Sullivan Counties' alumni. Kristi and Kristin were elected to the POYW Board of Directors at the annual January meeting. They have taken active roles in the organization, working on college scholarships, at large contestants and the program book.

We said Good-Bye to OYW committee member **Melissa Hockenberry** and her family on May 27<sup>th</sup> at a going away dinner at Bonnie's home. They have re-located to Shippensburg where PA State Trooper Hockenberry is stationed nearby. Melissa is still active on the committee and working on college scholarships.

The OYW committee would like to thank each and every Jr. Miss - OYW Alumni who performed or participated in the **OYW Alumni Show** at the Keystone Theater on May 30<sup>th</sup>. We are so proud of all of you and thank you for making the show so successful. We also thank all alumni, families, friends and committee members who attended and the committee members who put the show together.

**Nicole (Glab) Glor** – Nicole, a 1995 Jr. Miss finalist, has released three workout videos and reported recently that her fourth, "Fit Travels", was in production. Nicole was a member of the Sayre HS cheerleading squad and track team and later a Syracuse University cheerleader. More information about Nicole can be found at [www.nikkifitness.com](http://www.nikkifitness.com).

**Bradford – Sullivan Counties' OYW Board of Directors:**

- President – Cynthia Young
- Sec'y – Carrie Watkins- Smith
- Treasurer – Mary Jane Scranton
- Director – Becky Basse
- Director – Bonnie Fulkerson
- Director – Jim Haight
- Director – Millie Hollenback
- Director – Joni Raupers
- Director – Dr. Barbara Yanak

**Help Support POYW - New Fundraiser**

**Blue Mountain Candle Sale**

Just in time for the holidays! POYW will be selling Blue Mountain candles to raise money toward the scholarship fund. If you like Yankee Candles you will love Blue Mountain's "Scentsational Scents". With over 200 scents available, these

are a perfect gift for anyone. All candles are double wicked and double scented. Diffuser scents are also available.

Orders may be placed with POYW Board members Kristi Fulkerson and Kristin Vasey. To guarantee a Christmas delivery, the deadline for

ordering is October 31, 2009. Candles will arrive in Reading during POYW week in November. Each candle or diffuser costs \$13.

Contact Joni for an order form or forms can be downloaded at: [http://www.poyw.com/candle\\_sale.pdf](http://www.poyw.com/candle_sale.pdf).

## College Attending or Plans

Lindsey Andrus	Mansfield University	Elementary Education
Amber Bassett	Nat'l Guard, Pitt. Univ.	Medical Lab Spec.
Kendra Birdsall	Univ. of Pennsylvania	Undeclared
Sara Blasi	Misericordia University	Special/Elem. Educ.
Lindsey Bridgham	Bucknell University	Management
Tately Casler	Baptist Bible College	English Comms.
Jessica Crosby	Messiah College	English Education
Kelsey Flynn	Penn State University	Business
Hanako Henty	Mansfield University	Piano Performance
Courtney Hope	West Chester Univ.	Sec. English Educ.
Raelyn Jackson	Lycoming College	Psychology
Andrea Kuntz	Mansfield University	Env. Sci. & Pre-Law
Danielle Lamphere	Wells College	Anthropology
Esther Lapitan	Susquehanna Univ.	Undecided
Morgan Madden	Penn State Univ, Hsbg	Political Science
Rachel McNeal	Mansfield University	Elem./Special Educ.
Jessica Morelli	Duquesne University	Forensic Science, Law
Melanie Roof	Penna. College Tech.	Radiology
Emily Smith	Lycoming College	Accounting
Abigail Wells	Lackawanna College	Early Childhood Educ.
Jamie Wilcox	Penn State University	Pre-Medical Studies
Brittany Wilson	DeSales University	Physician Assistant



## Summer Activities for '10 Contestants

Summer activities are scheduled events to give the finalists an opportunity to get better acquainted and have fun.

Ice cream at Kip Vail's house was held in June.

Miniature Golf at the Country Cottage, Wysox on June 29th with committee

members and chaperones.

Kickboxing was held at the Edge Fitness Center on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Kayaking on July 20<sup>th</sup> with David Buck from Wysox to French Azilum.

Swimming at Rickett's Glen with Kip Vail on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Geo Cache on August 13<sup>th</sup> in Towanda.

**Overnight get-together and rehearsal at Bonnie's on August 23rd, Towanda. This activity is the beginning of rehearsals and is mandatory.**



## TICKETS

Tickets will be available beginning in September. Cost of advance sale tickets is \$8 and \$10 at the door. The program starts at 7 pm at the

Towanda Area High School auditorium. Doors will open at 6:15 pm.

Tickets will be available at the door, but it's best to

call ahead. Look for a contact name and number on our website and in the papers in Sept. The website is [www.bradsulloyw.homestead.com](http://www.bradsulloyw.homestead.com).

## ALUMNAE UPDATES

If you are a past Outstanding Young Woman or Junior Miss or Young Woman of the Year or a former CONTESTANT (forget-me-not), we would like to hear from you. Please send your email address and an update on what you have been doing

since you were in the program to Joni Raupers at [raupers@epix.net](mailto:raupers@epix.net).

We will highlight alumnae every newsletter. Please pass the newsletter on to any other contestants you have email addresses for. Also email Joni their

email addresses so they can be added to the list.

**Please keep Joni updated with changes in email addresses.**

**Bradford-Sullivan Counties' Outstanding Young Woman, Inc.**

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“Accent on Achievement”

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**We're on the Web!**

**See us at:**  
[www.bradsulloyw.homestead.com](http://www.bradsulloyw.homestead.com)

## Bradford-Sullivan Counties' OYW Website

The website for Bradford-Sullivan Counties' Outstanding Young Woman Program ([www.bradsulloyw.homestead.com](http://www.bradsulloyw.homestead.com)) is being maintained & updated on a regular basis. If

you notice any incorrect information or have information you feel should be posted on the website, please notify Joni Raupers at 358-3059 or email [raupers@epix.net](mailto:raupers@epix.net). If you have any

suggestions for future newsletter articles please contact Joni.

## About Our Organization

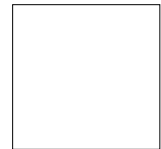
The Bradford-Sullivan Counties' OYW, Inc. is a non-profit organization manned by many volunteers. Scholarship money is raised by the local organization through sponsor and donor

scholarship contributions, college scholarships, program book advertising, and ticket sales. All donations are tax-patron, deductible under section 501(c)3 of the IRS Code. Volunteers are always

welcome to get involved. Through the OYW program, the contestants gain valuable interview and public speaking skills, self-confidence and self-awareness.

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