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## Teacher wins state beauty pageant

She will compete in national competition in July

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK • OBSERVER STAFF WRITER • MAY 31, 2009

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A kindergarten teacher at Kennedy Elementary School in Livonia is now Mrs. Michigan United States.

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Jeanette Greco-Pawlowski will compete in a national competition in Las Vegas July 19-24 for Mrs. United States after she won the Mrs. Michigan United States pageant May 16 in Trenton.

"I used to compete in pageants when I was 18 and in my early 20s, but I quit when I went to college and got married," she said.

Ten years later, she decided to pursue the Mrs. Michigan United States pageant to promote her platform — her charity work.

While creating a platform is a requirement to enter the pageant, Greco-Pawlowski promotes charities she is actively involved in like Make-A-Wish, Ronald McDonald House and Camp Casey, a therapeutic horseback riding camp for children with cancer.

Greco-Pawlowski is most proud of her work with her own charity, Healthy Minds. "That is teaching children the importance of not only being physically fit, but also being mentally fit," she said. Many children suffer from depression and stress, she said.

At the pageant, the contestants were asked political and personal questions by the five judges; then they participated in swimsuit and evening gown competitions.

Now that she's advancing to the national competition, she is preparing through exercise. "I run three miles every morning, and I've changed my diet," Greco-Pawlowski said.

Her husband, Michael, assists her as she lifts weights and as a workout partner. "He's totally supportive, along with my daughter Charlotte. It's a family affair."

Her students have enjoyed her pageant win, too. When they saw the "Mrs. Michigan" sash, they said that was something the president's wife wore. "The girls are all excited about it," she said. "They all want to try on the crown. And the boys are cute, excited and proud."



Jeanette Greco-Pawlowski, Mrs. Michigan United States, and her assistant Deborah "Mrs. H" Hwozdik, wrangle a group of kindergartners at Kennedy Elementary School for a photo. (Bill Bresler | staff photographer)



Jeanette Greco-Pawlowski, who recently was chosen Mrs. Michigan United States, teaches kindergarten at Kennedy Elementary in Livonia. (Bill Bresler | staff photographer)

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