

ATTENTION: EDITOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEAF FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2010 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

A 22-year old William Carey University student and a 18-year old Mississippi State University student were named winners recently in a Miss America Scholarship Pageant sponsored by the Leaf Foundation.

MSU student Paromita Mitra was crowned Miss Leaf River Valley and will represent Covington, Forrest, Greene, Lamar, and Perry counties at The Miss Mississippi Pageant in Vicksburg this summer. The daughter of Amal and Ratna Mitra of Hattiesburg, Mitra played classical piano for her talent.

WCU senior Jessica Cofield was named Miss Riverland and will represent the state at large in the televised state finals this summer. The daughter of Randy and Cindy Cofield of Wiggins, Cofield is a classical singer and received a \$2000 scholarship from William Carey University.

First alternate was Oak Grove's Caroline Conerly, a musical theatre major at Ole Miss. Second alternate was Chelsea Ricks, a Millsaps student and pop vocalist from Fulton, MS.

In the Teen Division, Oak Grove High School sophomore Christina Bostick was selected as Leaf River Valley's Outstanding Teen. She is the daughter of Jon and Angela Bostick and performed a dance routine for her talent. Riverland's Outstanding Teen is Ryan Henry, an Oak Grove High School junior and the daughter of Ralph Abraham and Carla Henry of Hattiesburg. She performed a musical comedy routine for her talent.

Runnelstown's Rebecca Bullock was named Leaf Foundation Volunteer of the Year at the annual scholarship program. Entertainment was provided by On Your Toes Studio Dancers, under the direction of Jennifer Odom-Townsend and The Hattiesburg High School Jazz Band, under the direction of Scott R. Johnson.

According to Leaf Foundation CEO Michael Marks, \$11,000 in scholarships is available to winners. Jones Junior College, Delta State University, and Jackson State University, University of Southern Mississippi, Pearl River Community College also partner with The Leaf Foundation to provide scholarships.

For more information, go to the scholarship program's website: <leaffrivervalley.com>.

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