
Macaulay Student Competes for Miss America



By [atlanta accutane injuries](#)
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In September of this year, senior Shelley Jain's life could go in one of two directions: she'll either begin studying medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, or she'll be competing for Miss America. Jain recently won the title Miss New York Upstate (a newly added at-large competition in New York), making her among the 30 women who will compete on May 29 to represent the state in the 2016 Miss America title. The Grymes Hill resident says that winning the beauty pageant ultimately will help her pay for medical school.

"I not only entered the pageant for the scholarship, I also entered for the recognition it gives to your platform and what you're passionate about. For me, it's my work with students in middle school where self-esteem issues can be exacerbated."

Jain, who is majoring in biology and broadcast journalism at Brooklyn College, co-founded an organization called Students Partnering and Reaching Kids (SPARK), which does workshops with high school students who in turn mentor elementary schoolers on self-esteem, anti-bullying and leadership issues. Currently, SPARK works with students in 8 schools on Staten Island and Brooklyn, and has reached 1,000 young people since its founding in 2010.

In addition to having a platform, each contestant competes in the talent competition, and Jain's talent is Bollywood dancing. She founded Macaulay Deewane, Macaulay Honors College's first Bollywood fusion dance team. In 2015, the group won first place at its first dance competition, Adelphi's Best Dance Crew Competition. Should she become Miss America, or even win Miss New York, the organization expects Jain to take one year off from her studies to advocate on behalf of her platform and to spread goodwill. The \$50,000 dollars she could win as Miss America will make a difference once she pursues her medical studies. Eventually, Shelly hopes to work on television.

"My goal is to become the next Dr. Sanjay Gupta on CNN," said Jain.

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