

## *SUU's True Original At The Miss America Pageant Goes Out On Her Own Terms*

SUU's Alumni Association would like to congratulate **Jill Stevens (2007 Nursing)**, former Miss SUU and current Miss Utah, on being selected as "America's Choice" and one of the top 16 pageant finalists in the 2008 Miss America competition in Las Vegas on January 26, 2008.

As part of a twist in the Miss America organization's efforts to modernize the image of Miss America, fans were able to vote for their favorite pageant contestant from the 52 young women vying for the title of Miss America. Not only did Jill impress her former colleagues and friends at SUU in her candidacy for Miss America, but she also captured the hearts of thousands of people across the country who voiced their collective choice for a new Miss America: Jill Stevens.

As a combat medic in the Utah National Guard, a marathon runner, a summa cum laude nursing graduate

*"...a tomboy in tennis shoes who has blossomed into a kind and amazing young lady."*



*One of the remaining pageant finalists joined Jill in a push-up send-off after she was eliminated from the competition.*

and according to friend **Deniece Allred**, "a tomboy in tennis shoes who has blossomed into a kind and amazing young lady," Miss Utah Jill Stevens makes friends everywhere she goes. Jill's fans from across the nation have heralded her efforts to remain true to her ideals and interests as she progressed through both TLC's *Miss America: Reality Check* television show and the week-long Miss America competition.

Though she did not win the crown, Jill did garner more national attention and media exposure than any other Miss America candidate. In this and in her role as Miss Utah, Jill continues to serve as an able ambassador for SUU, the Armed Forces and the entire State.

Through her platform, emergency preparedness, Jill has helped to spread the word by visiting high schools through Utah to make sure they know how to respond during a disaster.

We wish Jill well as she continues her reign as Miss Utah.

*With more fans in attendance than any other Miss America contestant, Jill's memorable farewell was met with cheers of affection.*



Photos courtesy of Garrett Davis / The Spectrum & Daily News