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Cobb County's Emily Cook Assumes title of Miss Georgia 2009

The Miss Georgia Scholarship Pageant announces that Kristina Higgins, Miss Capital City, has relinquished the 2009 Miss Georgia Crown to the first runner-up Emily Cook, Miss Cobb County.

Higgins states, "Due to my current job responsibilities as a middle school teacher and the responsibilities and time commitment as Miss Georgia, I have decided to not fulfill the duties of Miss Georgia 2009. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been chosen as Miss Georgia and fully support the system and wish Emily Cook the best of luck."

The Miss Georgia Board of Trustees wishes Kristina Higgins much success in her future endeavors and welcomes Emily Cook as the new Miss Georgia 2009. The crowning ceremony will be announced in the very near future.

Cook represented Cobb County in the 2009 pageant. She is a 22-year-old graduate of the University of Miami and has been accepted and plans to obtain her law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law.

She was the first recipient of the S. Davis Laney Legal Studies Scholarship and the Evening Wear Winner in Thursday night's preliminary competition. For her talent, she performed "Carmen Fantasy" on the Oboe. She is the daughter of Randy and Annie Cook and promotes Breast Cancer Awareness in Young Women. She was selected as a Regional Semi-Finalist for the 2009 Rhodes Scholarship.

Cook will represent the state of Georgia at the Miss America Competition in Las Vegas, NV in January 2010.

Besides the opportunity to represent Georgia in the Miss America Competition, the new Miss Georgia will win prizes including a \$15,000 cash scholarship, jewelry, wardrobe for the Miss America Competition and a vehicle provided by Kia for her use as she travels the state throughout her year of service.

The Miss Georgia Competition is the longest continuously running state competition within the Miss America Organization.

The Miss America Organization is one of the nation's leading achievement programs and the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. Last year, the Miss America Organization and its state and local pageants made available more than

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\$45 million in cash and scholarship assistance. For more information, go to www.MissGa.org and www.MissAmerica.org or visit us on FaceBook: Miss Georgia.

For contestant photos, bios and more information contact:

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