

**2008 District 11 Jane M. Klausman Scholarship Winner  
Lauren Kathleen Johnson**



Lauren Kathleen Johnson who is a junior at Mississippi State University has been selected as the District 11 Jane M. Klausman Scholarship winner. Lauren is majoring in International Business and French and has maintained a cumulative 4.0 GPA during college while enrolled in an accelerated program which will permit her to graduate ahead of her class. Her application was submitted by the Zonta Club of Birmingham.

One of her sponsors, who has known Lauren for eight years, commented that she had also attained a 4.0 GPA in high school, and that "...Lauren is an innately bright young woman, but amplifies her academic abilities with one of the finest work ethics I have witnessed in a young college student." The writer Dee Dee Barnes Bruns is the Associate Vice-President for Enrollment Management at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Ms. Barnes Bruns further stated "...one of Lauren's finest strengths is her dependability and strong sense of responsibility. She will not let any group down..."

Lauren is a member of both the French and Business Honor Societies and is a Presidential Scholar at MSU. She has also volunteered in school club activities, peer tutoring at the high school and mentoring at the elementary school. According to Lynne Richardson the Dean and Professor of Marketing at Mississippi State University, "Beta Gamma Sigma..." (the business honor society) recently "awarded Lauren its John Mitchell Memorial Scholarship for her academic achievement and leadership activities."

The District 11 JMK committee who made the selection includes Lynn Salvatore, Governor; Jane Adams, Lieutenant Governor; Alice Chick, Treasurer; Amber Shafer, Service Chairman and Honey Gardiner, JMK Committee Chairman. This year's applicants were all well qualified. Making the selection was difficult, but Lauren was chosen unanimously in the first round by all committee members.

Eleven Zonta Clubs submitted candidates, and these were: LaQuesha Sanders, Zonta Club of Atlanta; Lauren Johnson (the winner), Zonta Club of Birmingham; Shirly Fabiola Villalobos, Zonta Club of Doral; Kalia Johnson, Zonta Club of Franklin; Meenakshi Gurung, Zonta Club of Greenville; Inass Houry, Zonta Club of Jacksonville; Alyssa Anderson, Zonta Club of Melbourne; Diane Melville, Zonta Club of Miami Lakes; Krista Wright, Zonta Club of Pinellas County; Dalysh Rivera, Zonta Club of San Juan; and Shalanda O'Neal, Zonta Club of Tallahassee.

In her essay, Lauren wrote: "I have seen first hand how having the power to advance the status of one woman creates a ripple effect whose limits are not yet known. I am a dedicated, driven, hard worker with a passionate plan that is aligned with Zonta's mission. The Jane M. Klausman scholarship will enable me to seek an ever larger arena to start my ripple effects."

The committee is pleased to award the \$500 District 11 JMK scholarship to Lauren Johnson. She has been invited to the District Conference in Tampa. Her application has been submitted to Zonta International for their consideration.