

Young Woman of Excellence (Age 16-23) **Catherine Elizabeth Rouchon** Clinton, Louisiana

atherine Rouchon is nineteen years old and has lived in East Feliciana Parish since birth. She lives with her father and mother near Clinton, Louisiana. Her older sister, Mechelle, attends Southeastern University. Her family is very active in church, 4-H, historic re-enactments, scouting, community events, and local politics.

Catherine has been an active part of Feliciana Baptist Church since she became old enough to follow directions. She assists in holiday events, parties, memorials, and receptions for celebrations.

4-H has been an enormous part of Catherine's life. She has participated in cooking, sewing, arts and crafts, photography, pet shows, COPE course, archery, and horticulture. She has taken and taught classes, participated in camps, given demonstrations, and competed in contests. She has represented her parish in numerous district and state events.

Catherine is a Feliciana Bell and has been since the age of six. The Bells are a local group of girls who wear 1860s clothing, while giving tours and demonstration at local historic re-enactments.

For the past seven years Catherine was a member of the Boy Scout Venturing Crew 60. The Crew's most significant annual activity has been to serve as the head stretcher crew at LSU home football games. The Red Cross and Acadian Ambulance request Crew 60's scouts each year to work in the cardiac and trauma unit.

Catherine has tried her hand at a number of things. At a very early age, she worked in her family's convenience store and learned a lot about business ownership and human nature. By helping with her father's campaign for school board office, she has learned about politics and how to get people to work together. She has painted and drawn for many years.

Catherine is a local entrepreneur. Making and selling jewelry at Clinton's Community Market and at festivals across southern Louisiana, she has developed a reputation for quality and customer service.

After being home schooled since the second grade, she graduated high school in May of 2007. Shortly following her graduation, Catherine enrolled with the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). Through distance education she is taking courses to become a Graduate Gemologist.