



**Blair Abene**  
Miss Louisiana 2009

**Blair Abene has  
competed in the 2009  
Miss America Pageant  
had the ability to sing in Italian  
since the age of 5  
an endless craving for sweet desserts  
and Tourette Syndrome.**

Blair Abene has been competing in pageants since the age of 14 and won the title of Miss Teen Louisiana in 2002. ((X)) Her personal platform has always been promoting Tourette Syndrome awareness, aiming to educate those who don't know much about Tourette Syndrome and instilling self-confidence in those who struggle with the disorder on a daily basis. ((X)) Blair, who has made the President's List during all of her semesters, is currently finishing her undergraduate degree in Music-Vocal Performance with a minor in Mass Communications/Broadcast Journalism. She plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance. ((X)) Blair also happens to have Tourette Syndrome – an often misdiagnosed and misunderstood neurological disorder that's a lot more common than you think. ((X)) She has embraced the disorder that she once looked at as an obstacle, and turned it into a unique strength. ((X)) You may know or have seen someone with TS symptoms – they sometimes make sudden, often strange, physical movements or vocal sounds that they just can't help. ((X)) People with TS are not psychologically impaired, less intelligent, obstinate or purposefully disruptive. And contrary to what you may have heard, fully 85 to 90 percent are not prone to using inappropriate language. ((X)) We're continuing to explore the causes of Tourette Syndrome and, hopefully, the day will come soon when we can find better treatments and the cure. ((X)) But until then, if you come across someone who has TS, please remember that, like Blair, that person also has so much more.

 **tourette syndrome**  
association, inc.