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Miss USA livens LU summer

Shandi Finnessey, Miss USA, visited Lindenwood University Friday, July 30 for a book signing and to have the lounge in her old residence hall named in her honor.

The former Miss Missouri USA has written a children's book entitled "The Furrtails," which has been published by Infinity Publications.

Finnessey took time to talk to everyone who had waited patiently in line for a copy of her book. She hugged little girls and encouraged them to be the best they can be as they grow up.

Finnessey even took time for an interview on LUHE-TV, Lindenwood University's cable TV channel, before moving on to another appearance in downtown St. Louis.

Lindenwood officials held a special reception for Ms. Finnessey in McCluer Hall, where she lived as a student four years ago.

"It is wonderful to have Shandi back to visit," said President Dennis Spellmann. "She is a wonderful example and role model for so many young people. We're proud to have her come back and visit."

She was first runner-up last month in the Miss Universe 2004 Pageant in Quito, Ecaudor.

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