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Gant plans to make a difference as Miss ASU

After months of preparation and a week of campaigning, Essence Gant was crowned Miss Albany State University 2009-2010 on March 21. The 22-year-old said she still cannot believe she won the pageant.

“After they called the first attendant it did not occur to me that that meant I won,” she said. “After the master of ceremony said my name, I went through every feeling possible. I was happy while still in shock.”

Gant, an Augusta native, said the main things she plans to bring to the table for the ASU family and community are her integrity and character.

“I will remain humble so that the student body and community can feel like I’m approachable, but at the same time, I want to maintain a sense of professionalism so that I will represent the institution well,” she said.

Gant said she really just wants to make a difference.

“I want to gain the self-satisfaction of knowing that I, Essence Gant, gave back,” she said. “I made a contribution to the university that has contributed so much to me.”

The junior social work major said that she has many hobbies, and she really enjoys laughing.

“I love to laugh,” she said. “I’m probably one of the goofiest people ever, and I find humor in almost every situation.”

Some of Gant’s hobbies include traveling, spending time with nieces and nephews, volunteering, writing, singing, and eating – although she hates cooking.

When it comes to representing Albany State University, Gant emphasizes the need to unite and support each other.

“We are indeed a family, and there needs to be more unity amongst us,” she said. “There is too much division, tension and animosity over petty circumstances. Let’s embrace the year with a heart of serenity and harmony while learning from and loving each other.”

