



Contacts:
Brendan Kearin
McFarland Communications
(612) 598-7667
brendan@mcfarlandcommunications.com

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2016 AQUATENNIAL AMBASSADORS ARE CROWNED

New Queen of the Lakes and Aquatennial Princesses Named Today

MINNEAPOLIS (July 25, 2015) — The Minneapolis Aquatennial is proud to announce the 2016 Queen of the Lakes and Aquatennial Princesses.

Your 2016 Aquatennial Queen of the Lakes is Maricia Pacheco. She is the former Miss Farmington and currently attends the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities where she is majoring in Chemical Engineering and Pharmacy. In high school, Maricia was a North Star Stem Alliance Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society and captain of her cross country team for two years. She enjoys spending time reading, running, crafting, and learning science. She volunteers at the Special Olympics, American Red Cross Blood Drives, Easter face painting, Trinity Nursing Home and Feed My Starving Children.

The Aquatennial Princesses are Madaline Simon, the former Miss Isanti, and Rachel Huset, the former Miss Lino Lakes.

Madaline will attend the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities this fall, where she will study Political Science and Journalism. Madaline's volunteer activities include delivering Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life, Step Up for Down Syndrome and Dollars for Scholars. In high school Madaline participated in theater and Ski Club. She was also a member of the Mock Trial and was chosen as an All-Conference Attorney.

Rachel attends the University of Wisconsin – Steven's Point where she studies Business Administration and Psychology. Rachel's volunteer activities include Big Brothers Big Sisters, Special Olympics and helping out at Community Industries Corporation (CIC)—a day center for people with disabilities. Rachel enjoys hunting deer, turkey, and ducks with her dad and sister.

The Queen of the Lakes Coronation, held at the University of Minnesota's Ted Mann Concert Hall, has been a part of the Aquatennial celebration since its first year. This year, 49 candidates went through a rigorous judging process to become the Aquatennial Queen of the Lakes or one of the two Aquatennial Princesses. These women represent the Minnesota communities they are from or a festival their community holds.

The candidates are judged on a variety of criterion including: Poise, professionalism, public speaking ability, current and future goals, education, and co-curricular/extra-curricular activities. Throughout their year, the 2016 Ambassadors will participate in community service projects and festival events around the region, as well as assisting in the leadership development of young women. The

Ambassadors travel the state and region making over 250 appearances throughout the year and travel to festivals around the U.S. and the world representing Minneapolis. At the end of their year of service, the Queen of the Lakes and Aquatennial Princesses receive educational scholarships to continue their education.

Photos of the Queen of the Lakes and Princess Ambassadors are available on Aquatennial.com's Media page.

Each year the Ambassador family consists of the Queen of the Lakes, Commodore, two Aquatennial Princesses, two Captains, the Senior Queen, Senior Commodore, Senior Princess and Senior Vice-Commodore.

Serving with these women, the 2016 Aquatennial Commodore Steve Robertson. Steve was born and raised on the East Side of St. Paul (Lake Phalen area), where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Concordia University. He attended Luther Seminary, earning his MDiv. Ordained in 1979, Steve has served parishes in East Bethel, Cambridge, Kansas City and St. Paul. Steve currently supervises the Spiritual care, Bereavement and Volunteer Services Departments of Allina Health-Hospice. He also serves as his denominations Coordinator of Chaplaincy.

The Aquatennial Co-Captains are Don Apitz and Sam Worms.

Don has been a lifelong Isanti, Minn., resident where he served 15 years on the Isanti Royalty Ambassador Committee. Since then, he's ventured south where he served as a guard for the 2012 Saint Paul Winter Carnival. Don has been involved in a number of festivals and held many positions including: Rice Street Parade Director, Winter Carnival Co-chair, a Leprechaun of St. Paul, Cinco de Mayo coordinator, and the recipient of the Spirit of 76 Award. Don has been a business owner for over 20 years.

Sam is a resident of St. Paul and has been involved in a number of community events. He started his festival endeavors as a Protector of the Realm of Boreas during the 2012 Saint Paul Winter Carnival. Since then, he has served on multiple planning committees, participated in marketing and recruitment coordination, and is an active board member of the Saint Paul Festival and Heritage Foundation. Sam is also involved with the Saint Paul Cinco de Mayo celebration and a member of the Saint Paul Leprechauns. He also serves as the Director of Audiovisual for AVEX out of the Saint Paul Hotel.

In addition to today's coronation, earlier this week at the Senior Coronation Luncheon, Senior Commodore Steve Peterson, Senior Queen Kay Bolduan, Senior Vice Commodore Douglas Dyrland, and Senior Princess Deborah Hess were all named Aquatennial Senior Ambassadors.

About the Minneapolis Aquatennial

The Official Civic Celebration of the City of Minneapolis offers outstanding entertainment and activities in the City of Lakes for all ages. It is managed and produced by the Minneapolis Downtown Council. The festival is sponsored by Target, CenterPoint Energy, U.S. Bank, Zeus Jones, Life Time Fitness, Xcel Energy, Hennepin County Medical Center, Minnesota Twins, Minneapolis Recycles, City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, K102, Go 96.3 and Which Wich. For more information, please visit www.Aquatennial.com or call (612) 376-7669.

About the Minneapolis Downtown Council

Founded in 1955, and one of the oldest central business districts in the nation, the Minneapolis Downtown Council (MDC) is a membership based entity that works to create an extraordinary downtown. The MDC's collaborative development of *Intersections: The Downtown 2025 Plan* was designed to help downtown businesses, community leaders, and citizens build on downtown's assets and implement future goals. For more information, please visit www.downtownmpls.com.

About the Aquatennial Ambassadors Organization

The Aquatennial Ambassadors Organization (AAO) has been a pioneering organization in building partnerships and relationships with the Minneapolis Aquatennial, City of Minneapolis, and local communities throughout Minnesota since 1940. For more than 75 years, the AAO has remained focused upon its mission of developing young leaders who demonstrate integrity and the power of volunteerism. Our Queen of the Lakes, Princesses, Commodore, and Captains serve as positive role models by making over 250 public appearances every year in Minnesota and across the country. For more information on the Aquatennial Ambassador Organization visit www.aquatennialambassadors.com.

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