

# **Southern California Rose of Tralee 2009**

## **Brittany Kelly**

*Brittany Alaina Kelly is the twenty-sixth young woman to be crowned the Southern California Rose of Tralee and given the distinct honor of representing Southern California in Tralee, Ireland. Brittany joins a unique sisterhood of women, beginning with the first Southern California Rose in 1984, who have continued the tradition of the Rose of Tralee in Southern California for more than two decades.*

*Brittany was born twenty-six years ago in Chicago, Illinois and grew up in Laguna Beach, CA. She is a graduate of the University of California at Irvine, holding a degree in psychology and social behavior. Her special area of study at UC Irvine was psychology specializing in the study of human behavior. She also completed a minor in anthropology. Brittany is an alumni of Aliso Niguel High School in Aliso Viejo, CA.*

*Brittany currently works as a commercial insurance broker; however her future plans include returning to school to earn her MBA.*

*Brittany is the daughter of Colin Kelly and Debbie Mattingly. She has two sisters and one brother, who include Misty (age 29), Dan (age 21), and Maile (age 20). Brittany describes her family like any other family – they have their ups and downs, but the strength, love and loyalty remain unwavering. Brittany travels frequently to Ireland to visit her large extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins.*

*Her family's Irish roots are found in Dublin with distant roots in Cavan and Kilkenny. Her father was born in Dublin and emigrated to the US as a small child. On her mother's side, she claims a Swedish heritage and thru her step-father, she has been introduced to the Scottish culture.*

*The green-eyed blonde haired Brittany spends much of her free time as a member of Kids Konnected and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, two charities she is very devoted to. She claims George Orwell's 1984 as one of her favorite pieces of literature. Her favorite movie is *Meet Me in St. Louis* and *Judy Garland* and *Idina Menzel* are just two of her favorite performers. Her tastes in music run from Broadway musicals to the rock sounds of *Journey* and other "hair-bands", as well as a little country and little oldies. Brittany also volunteers as a chorographer at the local high school and local theater and from time to time teaches musical theater dance and voice workshops. Brittany is a die-hard Chicago Bears fan. Besides Ireland, her travels have taken her through most of Western Europe, the Caribbean and Mexico.*

*Brittany Alaina Kelly was chosen on March 14, 2009 from six young women of Irish heritage to represent Southern California this summer in Tralee, Ireland.*