

## Lauren Slagell

**Harvest crew:** Slagell Harvesting of Hydro, Okla.



LAUREN SLAGELL

**Parents:** Dwayne and Kerry Slagell

**School:** Weatherford High School in Weatherford, Okla.

**College intentions:** Attend Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, Okla., major-

ing in biology

### Essay excerpt:

Most kids spend their summers swimming or hanging out with friends. I spend my summers traveling on the wheat harvest with my family. Harvest has influenced every aspect of who I am. My dad actually missed my birth because he was harvesting in a neighboring state. I first rode in a combine at ten days old and began my first harvest trek at three weeks old.

When I was a little girl, I loved to ride in the combine with my dad. I loved to



FAMILY PHOTO

watch how the wheat rolled in, see the sun go down through the window, and watch my dad work. He looked like he knew everything there was to know about his job, and he loved it. Even when he got frustrated or tired, he still put effort into what he did. He set a precedent for me to follow: When I feel like there is no point in trying, I think of my dad, who strives for perfection in his job no matter the circumstances. Anything less is unacceptable.

When my family travels on harvest, we meet people from many different back-



Carlene Schemper presents Lauren's scholarship.

3-DEERPHOTOS

grounds. They are all sincere, genuine, good-hearted people. We have customers who treat us like family when we see them. By the end of harvest, our employees have become part of our family. It was one of our hired hands who taught me how to ride a bike. These relationships make me realize that there are many wonderful people in the world and our country, and I am privileged to meet a few of them. ...

Harvest has built a work ethic in me that will shape my future as a competitor in the workforce, and I am grateful to have been a part of it.