



Invention Convention Alumni Spotlight Starring: Ashley Baker

Ashley Baker participated in the Central Ohio Invention Convention in 1997, while in the 3rd grade. She was featured on "The Tonight Show starring Jay Leno" for her Grand Prize winning invention "Voice Visit" along with two other Invention Convention inventors. She was a Wendy's High School Heisman State Finalist,

received the Memorial Tournament Junior Golf Scholarship, went on to play D1 Collegiate Golf at Furman University and was a Southern Conference Academic All-American.

Ashely earned her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Furman University and her Master's in Business Administration at Charleston Southern University.



She is currently a Development Officer for her alma mater, Furman University, and feels that working in higher education encompasses all fields, STEAM and others. Her career allows her to work with all types of professionals while continuing to provide Furman students with opportunities to grow their passions and enter their desired careers. Ashley plans to continue her career in higher education, something that is vital to young people, and thinks Invention Convention is further evidence of programs which support these passions and interests for students in a variety of industries.

In addition to working, Ashley serves on several community boards in Greenville, South Carolina and is getting married in December. Congratulations Ashley and thank you for sharing your story with Invention Convention!



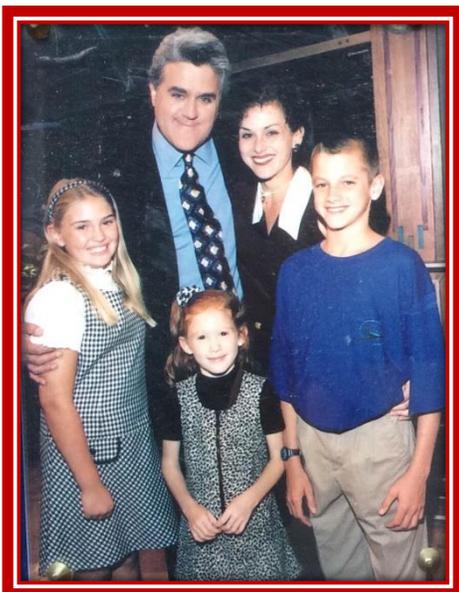
Check out Dr. Claire's Full Interview with Ashley

Dr. Claire: What did you invent and what problem did it solve?

Ashley: I invented a doorbell answering machine called Voice Visit. It allowed people to leave a message at the home of someone if they visited when no one answered the door.

Dr. Claire: How did being part of the program impact your life?

Ashley: The Invention Convention taught me how hard work can lead to big accomplishments—whether it is a college scholarship, or as a guest on The Tonight Show—with determination, you can reach any of your goals.



Dr. Claire: Could you please share some highlights in your life since being part of Invention Convention? Accomplishments, awards, recognition, opportunities you were encouraged to try as a result of being part of Invention Convention.

Ashley: I played D1 Collegiate Golf at Furman University, was a Southern Conference Academic All-American, received a Memorial Tournament Junior Golf Scholarship and was a Wendy's High School Heisman State Finalist.

Dr. Claire: Are you still problem solving or inventing?

Ashley: Problem-solving is significant throughout life and in any career. The ability to adapt and be flexible shows itself in creativity and passion for one's field of interest.



Dr. Claire: Do you have any specific plans for the future you would like to share?

Ashley: I plan to continue my career in higher education, something that is vital to young people. Invention Convention is further evidence of that.

Dr. Claire: Can you share how you felt on convention day and after being part of the convention?

Ashley: Eighteen years later, it's hard to remember! I can say that the convention and awards it granted has opened numerous doors for me and I'm grateful for the experience!

Dr. Claire: What words of advice/encouragement do you have for the young inventors today?

Ashley: Never be afraid to fail and always give it your all!

