

2010 ANNUAL CONVENTION FEATURED SPEAKERS

Friday, October 29

8:00 a.m. – Dakota Ballroom

General Session – *Behind The Blind Side: Overcoming Obstacles in the Face of Adversity*

Collins Tuohy shares a famously close bond with her adopted brother Michael Oher. As chronicled in the movie *The Blind Side*, it began when she first met Michael in the hallways of Briarcrest Christian School in Memphis, Tennessee. At 16 years old as a sophomore, he was about 6'4" and 340 pounds—the biggest student anyone at Briarcrest had ever laid eyes on.



Collins grew close to Michael as she helped him adjust to both Briarcrest and his new life with the Tuohy family. When Collins became Briarcrest's Homecoming Queen, Michael was her escort, and they also shared a common bond through their unique athletic pursuits.

The Tuohy family's story became a *New York Times* number one best-seller for author Michael Lewis and *The Blind Side* went on to become a record-breaking Hollywood blockbuster.

Collins earned her bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Mississippi. An exceptional student and influential role model on campus, she was the President of the Student Alumni Council, President of Student Spirit Committee, an officer for the Kappa Delta Sorority, and an Ole Miss Varsity Cheerleader supporting Michael Oher from the sidelines. A gifted musician, Collins has also played the piano since the age of six.

At the podium, Collins takes audiences through her journey with Michael from fellow student to close friend, confidant, and ultimately, adoptive sister.

Saturday, October 30

8:00 a.m. – Lamborn Room

General Session – *Principles of the Lighthouse: How leaders across the country make a lasting difference in their schools*



Bob Upgren has dedicated his life to helping individuals and organizations become everything they were created to be. As an author and independent consultant, he has become an invaluable resource in challenging, mentoring, and teaching people of all ages how to leverage their strengths and become truly great leaders who focus on serving others.

In just four months, Bob became one of only three new school chalk artists in the world and watched as invitations to motivate, inspire, and perform his amazing chalk art came flooding in from across the country. It would be this chalk art that would grow and develop into one of the most powerful metaphors used to help individuals discover a renewed purpose for the work they do and the life they lead.