

Elizabeth Alleen Wilson



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth Alleen Wilson, comes by her reign naturally. Not only was her father, Kemmons Wilson, Jr., King of Carnival in 1985, but she also follows in the footsteps of her two sisters, Carey, Queen of Carnival in 1994, and Katherine, Queen of Carnival in 1999. Her brothers, Kem and McLean, have participated as Royal Pages, escorts, and Scarabs as well. She has been a Royal Page twice, and was Carnival Princess in 2001.

Besides this Royal lineage, Queen Elizabeth's family heritage is one of the greatest entrepreneurial success stories of not only Memphis but of the world. The family business, The Kemmons Wilson Companies, was begun by her grandfather, Kemmons Wilson, Sr., founder of Holiday Inn. Her father, Kern serves as a principal of the company.

The Queen has just completed her junior year at The University of Virginia where she has consistently made the Dean's List, and is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. She enjoys her involvement with the Fraternity/Sorority Christian Fellowship and Reform University Fellowship.

During her sophomore year she spent several hours a week volunteering as a "Big Sibling" to a local fourth grader. Last fall Queen Elizabeth studied abroad in Avignon, France, and took the opportunity to travel all over France and to other parts of Europe on the weekends. She considered her time in Avignon "one of the most learning, growing, amazing experiences in my life."

Elizabeth is well prepared for her role in the spotlight as Queen as she has played the lead in several plays while at The Hutchison School, and traveled with two plays to Edinburgh, Scotland to the International Fringe Theater Festival. While in the third grade at Hutchison, Elizabeth made a decision that would affect her life in many positive ways for years to come: she joined her first Odyssey of the Mind team. Odyssey of the Mind is a creative thinking competition designed to encourage, exercise, and commend creativity. This program develops the minds of young people through creative, spontaneous thought and imagination. Elizabeth's team consisted of seven other girls, they competed at the national level for five years, and won the world-wide competition three of those years!

The Queen attributes her experience with Odyssey of the Mind and the challenges the competitions presented to be a life shaping journey of creative thinking that has been the basis of her academic, cultural, and social success. "I have learned one of life's most valuable lessons: teamwork. I have gained a true sense of camaraderie with my fellow teammates, I have learned how to compromise; I know now that perseverance and collaboration, even in a situation that may seem like an inescapable obstacle, are key. Without always keeping an open mind, we would never have found the best ways in which to solve our problems. The most valuable lesson that I learned is not to take things only as they appear to be, but to see as well the rich world of potentialities and possibilities."

"It is truly an honor to represent Carnival this year as its Queen. My two older sisters have been terrific role models for me. I am most excited to be a part of the wonderful support Carnival provides to these worthy Children's charities. I consider it a blessing to give back to my community in this small way. Join us this year as we celebrate Carnival 2003." says Queen Elizabeth.

Queen Elizabeth is truly a team player, a creative thinker, and problem solver. She is charming, poised, and kind. We are happy to be her subjects! Hip, hip, hooray for Elizabeth of the House of Wilson, Queen of Carnival 2003!