

Abbey Leatherman Brownlow



Her Majesty, Queen Abbey Leatherman Brownlow, was truly born into Carnival royalty. The legacy of her family's involvement in Carnival dates to 1937, the seventh year of the organization, when her great-grandfather S. Richard Leatherman, served as King. King Richard set a standard for service to the community and Carnival that has been carried out throughout the Leatherman family tree. King Richard Leatherman's cousin, Mary Abbey Joyner, served as Queen of Carnival in 1953. Queen Abbey's grandfather, Richard Leatherman, Jr. vividly remembers serving as a Royal Page to his father in 1937. The Queens; great aunt, Irene Leatherman Orgill, held the crown as the twenty-fourth Queen of Carnival in 1958. One of the branches of the Leatherman royal family tree includes Queen Abbey's aunt, 1973 Carnival Queen Mary Leatherman Carr who is married to 1994 King Oscar "Bo" Carr, III. Their daughter Camilla Fisher Carr continued the family tradition as Queen in 2000. 2002 President Bobby Leatherman is also Queen Abbey's second cousin. With a royal pedigree beyond compare, it is no accident that Queen Abbey was selected to represent Carnival Memphis as the 73rd Queen.

Queen Abbey, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs Girard P. Brownlow, III. She served as Crown Princess in the 2003 Royal Court of Carnival Memphis and her brother Tyne was a Scarab in 2000.

The Queen has just completed her sophomore year at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Abbey is a psychology major, an active member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority and is very involved in the sorority's community activities. She actively participated in and enjoyed building a house for Habitat for Humanity and tutoring for the Neighborhood Christian Center. Abbey has also been a volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House, and helped make the dreams come true for several children in Operation Christmas Child. She has worked on an annual Easter-Egg Hunt for underprivileged children in Chapel Hill, and yearly Tri-Delt Hole-in-one Golf Tournament to raise money for numerous charities. She is also an honorary member of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Sigma Alpha Lambda, a National Leadership and Honors Organization.

Abbey matriculated from Hutchison School after achieving honor roll status every year of High School. She was a member of Psi Chi and Sigma Science Honor Society, and was always known as a leader in her school. She was Senior Class Treasurer and Vice-President of DECEM Charity/Social Club.

During her days at Hutchison, Abbey was a member of the Government Club, Environmental Club, French Club, Young Life, Junior Coalition and Fellow Christian Athletes. With all her involvement at Hutchison, it is hard to imagine how she found time for her true passion, horse riding. Abbey started riding horses at the age of 5. She grew into a championship rider and was ranked first regionally and fifth nationally during her riding career. Some of her riding accomplishments include: West Tennessee Hunter Jumper Association Grand Champion of her division from 1995 through 2000. In 2000 she was the American Horse Show Association Zone 4 Grand Champion of the Small Junior Hunters, which included competitors from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee. During a five-year period from 1996 through 2000, Abbey qualified among the top 20 riders in the nation to compete at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show and Washington International Horse Show where she placed among the top each year. Abbey claims her riding career instilled in her a strong work ethic and taught her the value of teamwork. Her incredible riding prowess make Abbey an even more remarkable queen of Carnival.

Queen Abbey's preparation for her reign as Queen of Carnival Memphis was also enhanced as she debuted among Christmas 2002 with The Infirmary Debutante Cotillion. The 2002 Cotillion celebrated the start of a new NYU Downtown Hospital as well as the beginning of a renewed community after the tragedies of September 11, 2001. Funds raised by her Cotillion assisted NYU Downtown Hospital in carrying out a strategic plan to modernize the entire facility and create two new centers for health and wellness in lower Manhattan. Being a part of the Infirmary Debutante Cotillion also held family ties for Queen Abbey she has many longtime family friends that were presented with her.

The Queen said, "I am very proud of my family's long, devoted history with Carnival Memphis and look forward to being a part of the celebration in tradition of Carnival this year. I believe that the most rewarding aspect of being Queen is having the opportunity to reach out to people in my community through the day trips to the charity's, nursing homes, and hospitals. It's the people and children who make Carnival so special and into the young and building friendships with them will always be my greatest memory and having lasting impact on my life and my family."