

# Elizabeth Graham Parrish

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth Graham Parrish, comes by her reign naturally. Queen Elizabeth's family has a long history of participation in Carnival Memphis that dates back three decades. Thirty years ago her aunt, Meredith Owen Holbrook, served as Queen of Carnival in 1982. Her mother, Gwen Parrish Owen, was a Duchess in the 2000 Royal Court of the Mystic Society of the Memphis. Elizabeth's step-father, Penn Owen, was a Royal Court Escort in 1978 and her uncle, Davis Owen, participated in Carnival as a Royal Page in 1976. Our Queen has a cousin, Mary Holbrook, who also wore a Queen's crown for the Grand Krewe of Osiris in 2010.

Queen Elizabeth is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Penn Owen III. Even as a youngster she was destined to become a part of Carnival Royalty. Our 2012 Queen started her Carnival participation at an early age. In 2003, Queen Elizabeth received her first taste of Carnival as a Memphis Page. She knew then that she wanted to be more involved in the organization. In 2011, our Queen was a Regency Princess in the Royal Court where she represented The Junior League of Memphis President's Society.

Queen Elizabeth graduated from the Hutchison School and is a rising junior at Birmingham Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama. Elizabeth was involved in numerous organizations at Hutchison including International Thespian Society, the Ascensus Society, the Emblem literary magazine, where she was President during her senior year and the Live Poet's Society to name just a few. Our Queen also participated in athletics including swimming and volleyball. She was a member of Vocal Point, an all-girls a cappella choral ensemble group for four years and also a Bridge Builder.

At Birmingham Southern Queen Elizabeth is majoring in Elementary Education. During her time in college she has become a big fan of the BSC Panthers basketball team and she will be singing with the choir next year. Elizabeth has a great passion for helping children and is looking forward to student teaching at the Exceptional Foundation in Birmingham. She has previously taught at various inner-city schools in Birmingham, including Jones Valley Elementary School. Queen Elizabeth would like to pursue a career teaching young children where she can make the most impact during the start of their education.

Our Queen has been very involved at her family church, Calvary Episcopal Church, where she has been an active Youth Group member throughout high school. She also served as an Acolyte for four years and as a Team Leader during her last two years. Our Queen is an avid world traveler and has visited Italy, Spain, France, Portugal, Puerto Rico and Australia. She has learned much from



Queen Elizabeth, Penn and Gwen Owen

different cultures during her travels and appreciates those learning experiences greatly.

Queen Elizabeth had this to say regarding her reign: "I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as the 2012 Queen of Carnival Memphis. I am humbled by all of the wonderful hard work of the Carnival organization both in our community and with the children's charities. When I was younger, I served as a page and was mesmerized by the Boll Weevils and called them the "boo diddies". Most recently, when we did our school run, I was greatly impressed by the Boll Weevils commitment and caring spirits exhibited with the various children's groups we visited. You really experience the true spirit of Carnival and its positive impact in our Memphis community. I look forward to doing my part to make this year special."