



**NORTH CAROLINA**

# *Azalea* Festival

**76<sup>TH</sup> PRINCESS SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT**

March 9th, 2024 • 7:30 PM  
Sarah Graham Kenan Auditorium



**Avery Braithwaite**



GOOD LUCK

*Peyton*

IT HAS BEEN OUR HONOR TO  
WATCH YOU GROW FROM A  
JOYFUL AND LOVING GIRL INTO A  
SMART, BEAUTIFUL, CARING AND  
CAPABLE YOUNG WOMAN!

WE LOVE YOU ALWAYS,  
MOM, DAD & HEATH




*Lila Banks,*

*Wishing you the best of  
luck! Your ambition and  
drive inspire us all!*

*We love you,  
Jojo & Lou*



Good luck Alyssa!! We are so proud of you!  
Love, Grandma, Papa, Mom, Dad and Finn

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Saturday 10 - 5





## Scholarship Pageant Program

Singing of the National Anthem	Shannon Playl
Introduction of Contestants	Contestants
Introduction of 2023 NC Azalea Festival Princess	Avery Braithwaite
Introduction of Mistress of Ceremonies	Avery Braithwaite
Introduction of Judges	Michelle Braxton
Welcome from the 2024 NC Azalea Festival President	Andrew Nettleman
Evening Gown Competition – Group 1	Contestants
Entertainment	Thalian Association Youth Theatre
Evening Gown Competition – Group 2	Contestants

Intermission – 15 minutes

Recognition of Visiting Queens / Past Princesses

Announcement / Questioning of Semi-finalists	Avery Braithwaite
Entertainment	Michelle Braxton / Shannon Playl
Farewell from the 2023 NC Azalea Festival Princess	Avery Braithwaite
Announcement / Questioning of Finalists	Michelle Braxton
Entertainment	Michelle Braxton / Shannon Playl
Presentation of Kathy Koonce Grimes Congeniality Award	Michelle Braxton
Announcement of STEM Scholarship Winner	Michelle Braxton
Announcement of Runners-Up	Michelle Braxton

Coronation of the 2024 North Carolina Azalea Festival

Scholarship Winners

*Pageant is Presented by Truist*



Sommer Sky, We are so proud of you!  
You are our shining star



Love, Mommy, Pappap and  
all of your Family.

We Love You Sommer Sky!

Best wishes throughout your journey!

-The Fowlers





# Thank you to our Committee

## Scholarship Pageant Co-Directors:

Kande Collins & Amy Queen

## 2024 Scholarship Pageant Committee:

Kim Kristof – Front of House Coordinator

Terry Collins – Set Design

Christy Hicks – Production Coordinator

Mandy Anderson-Ille – Judges' Coordinator

Betsy Cromartie – Contestant Coordinator

Kim Kristof – Contestant Coordinator

Tammy Pruden – Contestant Coordinator

## Thank you to our Event Sponsor:

**TRUIST** 

## And our Encore & Major Sponsors:



the DFS agency



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1919

# Mistress of Ceremonies MICHELLE BRAXTON

Michelle Braxton is a native of North Carolina. She is a 1994 graduate of Meredith College, where she obtained a Bachelor's of Science degree in Marketing and Merchandising. She resides in Fuquay Varina, NC with the love of her life, her husband of 28 years. Michelle loves world travel, serving as a humorist, entertainer and mistress of ceremonies. She volunteers for many organizations such as the USO, Military Missions in Action and now Fuquay-Varina Local Heroes. Michelle serves on the Board of Adjustments for the town of Fuquay Varina. Michelle live streams for Jewelry Television (JTV.com/extra) every Tuesday at 2:30, "Glamorous Jewels with Michelle".

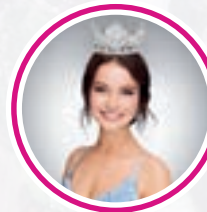
# 2024 Scholarship Awards

Princess	\$6,250
1st Runner-Up	\$2,000
2nd Runner-Up	\$1,500
3rd Runner-Up	\$1,300
4th Runner-Up	\$1,000
STEM Scholarship Presented By Renaissance Dental Studio	\$2,000

# A Letter

## FROM THE 2023 NORTH CAROLINA AZALEA FESTIVAL PRINCESS

◆ *Avery Braithwaite* ◆



My year as the 75th Azalea Festival Princess has been nothing short of life-changing. I have been lucky enough to have been granted the opportunity to not only develop my skills but also

develop my character. This program has allowed me to laugh, cry, fail, succeed, and, most importantly, have fun. My experience is all thanks to the community of people who have supported me throughout my journey.

Thank you, first and foremost, to my family, without whom I would not be on this stage tonight. It is due entirely to your unwavering support and unshakeable faith that I have been able to make the most out of the last year. Mom, you have sacrificed so much of your time to help me prepare and escort me to events. Dad, you have made me laugh and given me your guidance, without which I would be lost. Callie, Keira, and Liam, you inspire me every day to be a better version of myself. I love you guys!

To the court: Madison, Emory, Johana, and Gracie, thank you so much for making the festival so fun. I couldn't imagine a more fun, energy-filled, intelligent, motivated, and supportive group of people to do this with. I know that you are all going to do great things, and I can't wait to see where the future takes us.

Thank you to the festival community, such as Mrs. Jean and Mr. Eddie, who volunteered their time to drive me in parades. I cherished your pre-parade advice and will miss spending time together! Thank you to Alison Baringer,

Executive Director, Denise Szaloky, and the rest of the festival board for everything you've done for me throughout the year. Thank you to Mrs. Bierdstedt, Mrs. Allison, and all the AFYC advisors for being so encouraging and understanding. Without you all, this opportunity wouldn't be possible.

Mrs. Amy, Mrs. Kande, and Mrs. Mandy, I can't thank you enough for being such great role models. You have guided me through my year with unparalleled kindness and support. Thank you!

Thank you to Mrs. Tracy, Mrs. Joanne, Mrs. Angela, and everyone else at Camille's of Wilmington for giving me your time and always making me feel like a princess. Thank you to Zia Boutique, Lilly Pulitzer, River Landing, and Coastal Kia for supporting the pageant.

I have had the privilege to spend the last couple of months getting to know the 24 girls standing backstage, and I have full confidence that whoever gets crowned tonight will hold this position with confidence, grace, and personality that will light up North Carolina.

To the next Azalea Festival Princess, don't take your time for granted. Make the most of the experience because, trust me, you will miss it when it's gone. I know you will do great things.

Always and Forever,  
The 75th Azalea Festival Princess,  
*Avery Braithwaite*



# North Carolina Azalea Festival PAST PRINCESSES

1949 Marguerite Todd (Fornes)	1974 Wende Fox (Lawson)	1999 Danita Davis
1950 Barbara Hatcher (McDonald)	1975 Lynne Marie Williford	2000 Melanie Brooks
1951 Evelyn Bergem (Loftin)	1976 Dean Herring (Bowen)	2001 Jamie Deaver (Ferguson)
1952 Mary Catherine White (Gregory)	1977 Leigh Hobbs (Murray)	2002 Hannah Manson (Mynhier)
1953 Mary Francis Davis (Worrell)	1978 Dee Dee Ward (Wright)	2003 Ashley Patterson (Nunez)
1954 Nancy Bates (Martin)	1979 Jackie Everette	2004 Claire Williamson
1955 Libby Beck (Cameron)	1980 Lisa Pridgen (Tise)	2005 Jannell Upton (Dunaway)
1956 Mary Frances All (Forester)	1981 Julie Teachey (Teague)	2006 Michelle Poulos (Woo)
1957 Jukie Seaton (Patterson)	1982 Laura Welch (Butcher)	2007 Lauren Smith (Hill)
1958 Linda Kelly (King)	1983 Lori Weeks (Boldt)	2008 Joshlynn Starling (Justad)
1959 Nancy Stovall (Horton)	1984 Maria Paige Truitt	2009 Zelle Brown (Wiggins)
1960 Frances Wood (Loughlin)	1985 Holly Mayo (Borden)	2010 Abbey Starling (Nobles)
1961 Marty Allgood (Furr)	1986 Susan Skelton (Gough)	2011 Hannah Smith
1962 Helen Raney (Pinckney)	1987 Patricia Parker (Stone)	2012 Julia Lovett
1963 Fredi Crisp (Smith)	1988 Amy Wolfe (Lovelace)	2013 Paxton Webster (Salke)
1964 Wanda Caines (Johnston)	1989 Angela Fipps (Boone)	2014 Tori Mathew
1965 Kathy Seitter (Swango)	1990 Amy Lennon (Queen)	2015 Haleigh Somberg
1966 Donna Bordeaux (Little)	1991 Stacie Nicole Davis	2016 Lilly Kays
1967 Susanne Burns (Smith)	1992 Amy Linette Davis	2017 Emma Grace Wright
1968 Sarah Mason	1993 Stephanie Dawn Bilodeau	2018 Grace Tippet
1969 Janet Evans (Farrior)	1994 Bonnie Warren (Palsa)	2019 Claire-Emma Britt
1970 Cheryl Fleishman (Issacs)	1995 Sarah Ronan (Buchanan)	2020 Brooke McIntyre
1971 Paula Davis (Noell)	1996 Nicole Simcoe (Baller)	2021 Brooke McIntyre
1972 Connie Kearney (Coble)	1997 Elizabeth Harris (Carroll)	2022 McKinley Lanier
1973 Debbie Fountain (Fugazy)	1998 Lauren Yerby (Bolick)	2023 Avery Braithwaite



## ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE EVENING

### Thalian Association Youth Theatre

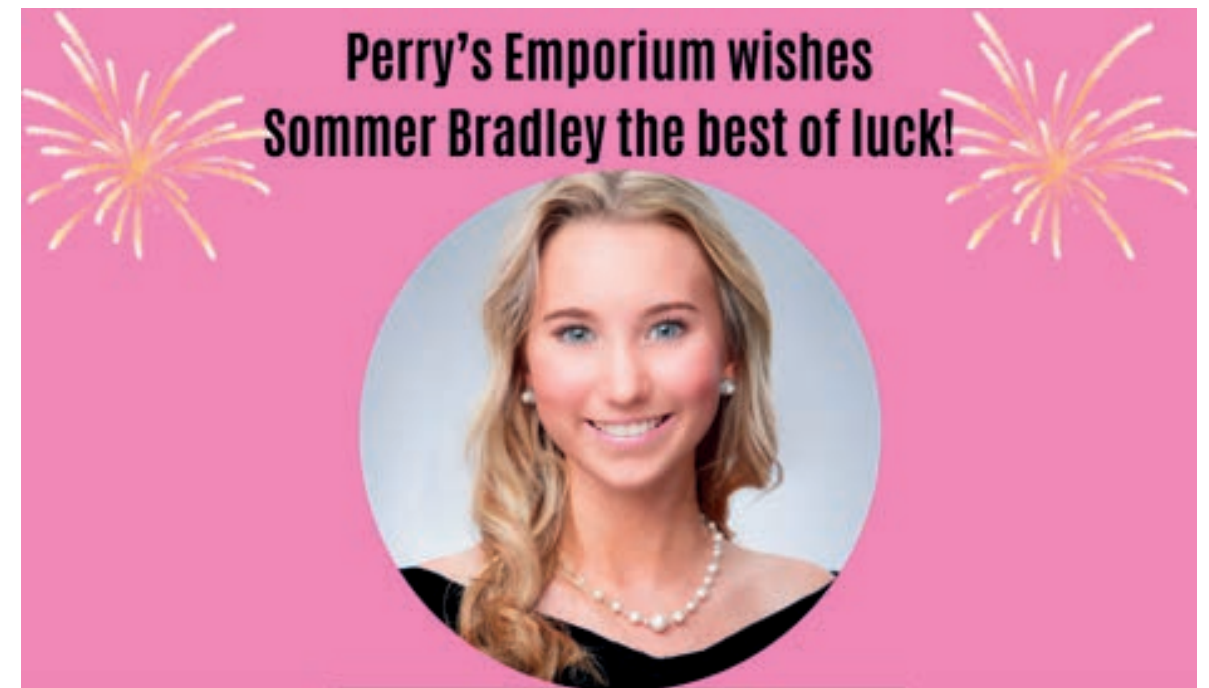
The next production in the Thalian Association Youth Theatre season is **Dreamworks' Madagascar the Musical Adventure Jr.** It's an all-rookie show featuring young performers who have never been in a Thalian Youth Theatre production. Thanks to generous funding from the Landfall Foundation, all tickets will be free on a first come basis.

Graham Nutt and Max Styons play Alex and Marty (Lion and Zebra). Marty is feeling trapped in the zoo and longs for greener pastures....or beaches? Alex is his very best friend who comes to tell him that he is his very best friend and will help him through it all. These two boys are best friends on stage and in real life!!

### Shannon Playl

Born and raised in music-rich Tennessee, Shannon Playl has been performing and singing her entire life. Her public debut was at the First Baptist Church in Sparta, TN at age 3, and she has not stopped performing since. In recent years, she has appeared regularly in Opera House Theatre Company productions and fundraisers including Brian Whitted's Very Merry Downtown Christmas and an unforgettable cameo in The Producers. She is also a choir member and regular soloist at St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church. Later this month, Shannon can be seen on the stage of the Wilson Center in her debut with the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra. After the end of her Noble Era (teaching middle school language arts), Shannon is 3 years into her Clinical Research Era as a Senior Feasibility Site Specialist at PPD (now part of ThermoFisher Scientific). Shannon is the proud mom of Katie Grace Marinos who is the joy and sunshine of her life.





*Best of luck tonight!*

You were born to  
\*Sparkle\*  
*Callie!*

*We love you!*

*Uncle Lane, Keke & Caleb*





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*Andrew Nettleman*  
President



*Beck Smith*  
President Elect



*Michael Franklin*  
Vice President



*Amy Dean*  
Treasurer



*Chris Gore*  
Secretary

## A LETTER FROM THE

# President

Welcome to the 2024 North Carolina Azalea Festival Scholarship Pageant. On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and over one thousand volunteers we thank you for joining us for an evening showcasing our community's wonderful young women and future leaders. Tonight we will crown the 2024 North Carolina Azalea Princess and give away more money in scholarships than any other pageant in the State except Miss North Carolina.

These ladies will inspire you! The poise, grace, personal accomplishments, and commitment to service of this remarkable group of high schoolers is amazing. These are our future leaders, influencers and change agents. We are honored to present them to you and to help them along their journey. Throughout this process the contestants have learned more about the Azalea Festival and the community we represent. They have learned interview skills and poise and grace under pressure. They have conquered stage fright and are thriving in the spotlight.

The young lady crowned Azalea Princess this evening will join a long line of talented and accomplished women. We will take a moment this evening to acknowledge our

past Princesses in attendance, including those volunteering here tonight! We know this year's Princess will continue in the spirit of the women before her, carrying herself gracefully as she represents us locally and throughout the region.

But before a new reign begins this evening, I want to thank Avery Braithwaite of Hoggard High School for her time as the 2023 North Carolina Azalea Princess. She has taken on the responsibilities of the Princess with grace and humility and we thank her for being a wonderful representative.

A huge thank you to our Major and Encore sponsors for their generous contributions: the City of Wilmington, Adams Beverages (Stella and Wicked Weed), Aperol, Coastal Kia, the DFS Agency, End of Days Distillery, the Hotel Ballast, New Hanover County, New Hanover Printing, and Novant Health. Your generous contributions make events like this possible.

A specific thank you to our Scholarship Pageant sponsors: Truist the Title Sponsor of this event, and Renaissance Dental Studio, Sarah Pless, DDS for their generous STEM Scholarship.

We also could not showcase the best young ladies the region has to offer without the tireless efforts of our many volunteers.

Thank you to the Azalea Festival Youth Committee for the hard work in support of the pageant. Thank you to Kande Collins and Amy Queen, our wonderful co-chairs of this event, for your leadership and passion.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you. Thank you for raising and supporting such wonderful young women. Thank you for being here tonight to support them. We will all watch with nervous anticipation and excitement together this evening – and be inspired.

We hope you will join us for the 77th North Carolina Azalea Festival, April 3-7, 2024 and enjoy the wonderful hospitality of our river-to-the-sea community that our volunteers work so hard to bring to you each year.



Sincerely,  
*Andrew Nettleman*,  
77th North Carolina Azalea Festival President



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# Empowering Dreams, Celebrating Success!

To the Inspiring Young Women of the Azalea Festival Scholarship Pageant



As you step onto the stage of the North Carolina Azalea Festival Scholarship Pageant, remember that you're not just walking towards a crown – you're moving towards a future full of possibilities. Your journey is an inspiration, a testament to hard work, determination, and grace. At **Cape Fear Family Law**, we believe in the power of dreams and the strength of the individuals who chase them. We're proud to stand with you as you showcase your talents, intelligence, and passion.

This pageant is more than a competition; it's a celebration of the unique qualities that each of you brings to the world. Whether on stage or in life, your journey matters. As you pursue success in all its forms – be it in your career, personal endeavors, or future families – we're cheering for you every step of the way.

*Good luck, and may your future be as bright and beautiful as the Azaleas in bloom!*

**GOOD LUCK SOMMER SKY!**  
 OUR WISHES GO OUT TO CONTESTANT #6!

**cb**  
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# OUR JUDGES

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◆ *for the Evening*

## BETH KNOX - CHIEF ◆

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Beth Knox has been involved in the Miss America Organization for over twenty years. Having served as a hostess, program book chairperson, Miss America Traveling Companion, Miss North Carolina Business Manager, and State Board Member, Beth most recently served as the Executive Director of the Miss North Carolina Organization for ten years. During her tenure, the Miss North Carolina Organization was a consecutive top five fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and a leader in providing over \$100,000 in scholarships per year at the state level to the young women competing to become Miss North Carolina. A native North Carolinian, Beth attended Meredith College where she studied to become an English teacher. She has been married to her husband, Jeffery, for over 35 years and helped him establish a successful automobile dealership in Dunn, NC which they continue to operate with their two sons. She travels frequently to Toronto, Canada to visit her daughter and is currently the proud grandmother to seven delightful children. She currently resides in Dunn with her husband and two perfect Boston Terriers.

## ALEXANDRA BADGETT ◆

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Alexandra Badgett is a Charlotte native and University of South Carolina Honors College Alumna. She holds a B.S.B.A. in Risk Management, Insurance and Finance, and was actively involved on campus as a University Ambassador, a member of the Iota Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Student Government Election Committee and the Carolina Girls Dance Team. Alexandra was first introduced to the Miss America Organization as an outstanding teen. She served as the first Miss Metrolina's Outstanding Teen in 2011 and later went on to earn the title of Miss North Carolina's Outstanding Teen 2012. In 2019 she held the title of Miss North Carolina, placing as a top 15 finalist at Miss America, receiving the Equity & Justice scholarship award and first runner up for the National Children's Miracle Network Miracle Maker Award. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Alexandra had an extended reign holding the state title for two years. Alexandra is now back in her hometown of Charlotte continuing her passion for service and mathematics on Global Endowment Management's Investment Sourcing Team. She still enjoys spending time most with family and friends, especially her three-year-old maltipoo, Lady. Alexandra is actively involved with her home studio BB Dance Productions and currently serves on the Miss Queen City Metrolina Committee.

## BRYCE CAREY ◆

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Bryce Carey is a freelance makeup artist/hairstylist, working mostly in TV/Film production. Bryce began his career over 20 years ago and continues to grow within the industry. He is a graduate of Western Carolina University and Paul Mitchell Schools. Bryce is a licensed cosmetologist and instructor. For the past 12 years, Bryce has been a Key Makeup Artist for ESPN and the SEC Network, at their Charlotte studio. On-air, Bryce was a regular beauty contributor for FOX Good Day Charlotte, sharing beauty insights, pro tips and tricks and new products. Bryce's charismatic energy makes him a favorite among students, peers and talent that he works with. He has worked with Sandi Patty, Tim Tebow, Ryan Lochte, Barbara Eden and many others. Bryce's work has been featured in Vanity Fair, Seventeen, Teen Vogue, Southern Living, The Hallmark Channel, NBC, ABC, Disney Channel, the SEC Network and ESPN. Most recently, Bryce helped launch a full time Esthetics program at Catawba Valley Community College and is currently an adjunct faculty member at the school. Personally, Bryce makes his home in Lincolnton, North Carolina. He enjoys pop culture, classic cars, pop art and working with local dog rescues. Bryce is grateful and excited to be a judge for this year's pageant and would like to wish all of the lovely contestants the best tonight.

## KAROLYN MARTIN ◆

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Karolyn Martin is a magna cum laude graduate of Appalachian State University's Honors College and a current student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. Karolyn attributes her debt free undergraduate education to almost the \$40,000 of college scholarships she earned through the Miss America Organization. In June of 2022 Karolyn earned the job of Miss North Carolina 2022! She spent her year touring NC schools, singing and performing, promoting her community service initiative, and competing at the 101st anniversary Miss America competition. Her community service initiative, #SelfKare: Eat to Success, promoted nourishing habits while taking the focus off of weight and appearance. Through this initiative, she spoke to over 5,000 NC students, published a cookbook for college students, and partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture. Since giving up the title of Miss North Carolina in June of 2023 she has continued to travel for speaking engagements and events across the state and began her studies at UNC School of Law focusing on Intellectual Property. In her spare time, she enjoys reading on her kindle, watching live theatre, and participating in service projects with her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

## KYLE RING ◆

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Kyle Ring is a native of NC who is originally from Walnut Cove, NC and currently resides in our state capitol of Raleigh, NC. Kyle attended the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and Charlotte. Kyle is a Regional Director of Business Development for CCH Healthcare and supports skilled nursing facilities in the Eastern & Western areas of NC. Kyle also serves as the Local Director of the Miss Garner Organization. When Kyle is not busy, he enjoys traveling, spending time with family/friends and giving back to the community with volunteering his time with other charities/organizations. Kyle is thrilled to be judging the Azalea Festival Princess Scholarship Pageant and wishes each candidate the best of luck.



Good Luck  
Charli!

By name you are a delicate flower.  
In spirit, you are a lion!



We are so proud of you!  
Lovies,  
Mommy and Daddy



GOOD LUCK

*Peyton*

We are SO proud of you,  
and we love you!!

Granddaddy &  
Grandmommy  
Sitterson



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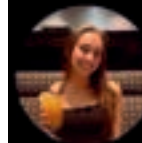


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JACK NELSON ESSENBERG  
STORE MANAGER

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THE TIME

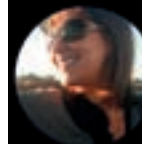


ANNIE SULLIVAN  
MEDIA MANAGER

ASPIRING PSYCHOLOGIST NP WANTING TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

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PHOTOGRAPHY, SHIPPING

LT. AND WAREHOUSE WORK DURING THE DAY,  
GAMER AT NIGHT



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# 2024 NORTH CAROLINA AZALEA FESTIVAL

## Contestants

Good Luck to all of tonight's contestants!



Charli Chenault



Bailey Borst



Lily Knox



Peyton Turner



Minh Vu



Sommer Bradley



Annie Sullivan



Melanie Guillermo-  
DeJesus



Mary Katherine  
O'Malley



Callie Grace  
Cromartie



Kiley Canter



Emmy Russ



Laura Ruiz  
Santiago



Emma Katherine  
Warren



Isabella Wood



Alyssa Norris



Halle Maltarich



Lila Pfirman



Emily Cox



Emily Teets



Lillian Gilb



Olivia Pelton



Emilee Bryan



Rachel Danford



BEVERLY ANNE JURGENSEN

# Scholarship Award

On July 31, 2004, Beverly Anne Jurgensen passed away. Miss Jurgensen's passing has left a void in the North Carolina Azalea Festival family that will never be filled. In memory of the tremendous person that Miss Jurgensen was to the community and the North Carolina Azalea Festival, the young lady crowned Princess tonight will receive the "Beverly Anne Jurgensen Scholarship Award."

The Azalea Festival Officers made the decision to name the Princess' scholarship award in memory of Miss Jurgensen because of her astounding 49 years of devotion and service to the North Carolina Azalea Festival. In 1992, Miss Jurgensen became the first female president of the Azalea Festival. Prior to 1992, Miss Jurgensen served as the secretary of the Azalea Festival for an incredible 25 years from 1965 to 1990. During this same period, Miss Jurgensen also served as house manager of the Azalea Festival. After watching the first Azalea Festival parade in 1948, she served as a celebrity

escort for the Festival the following year. In 1950, Miss Jurgensen became the first parade messenger. Even after completing her term as president of the 1992 Azalea Festival, Miss Jurgensen continued to serve as a member on the Festival's Board of Directors from 1993 to 1996. For the Azalea Festival's 50th anniversary in 1997, Miss Jurgensen was instrumental in compiling a historical compilation of the event's first fifty years.

In addition to her remarkable contributions to the Azalea Festival, Miss Jurgensen worked in her family's trucking business, ultimately becoming a partner and general manager for 22 years. After parting from the trucking industry, Miss Jurgensen worked for approximately 28 years as the Director of Human Resources for the Wilmington Star-News. Miss Jurgensen was the first female member of the Lower Cape Fear Personnel Association and eventually became its first female president.

Despite her long hours of work in her career and for the Azalea Festival, Miss Jurgensen still found the time to serve on the boards of many civic and community organizations including the City of Wilmington Safety Advisory Board; American Red Cross; Employment Security Advisory Board; Family Services Board; Beta Sigma Phi sorority; and, the Hospitality Board for New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Miss Jurgensen was also an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

It is the hope of the Azalea Festival's Officers and Board of Directors that the young ladies participating in tonight's pageant, and those in future years to come, will strive for success in all aspects of their lives. There is no better example and role model of a wonderful and successful life than that of Miss Jurgensen. The North Carolina Azalea Festival will always remember Beverly Anne Jurgensen for her love and dedication to the community's continued well-being, and to her success in life as a person and as a professional.

# The Queen's Dance Party

Featuring Queen Azalea, Miss North Carolina Taylor Loyd,  
and The Festival's Queen's and Princess Courts

Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

from 6 – 9 pm at the

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RESERVE  
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# Mini Golf Party!

With NFL Pittsburgh Steeler Alex Highsmith

Sunday, April 7th, 2024

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Jungle Rapids | 5320 Oleander Drive

A portion of the proceeds of this event will be donated  
to the Alex Highsmith Family Foundation.

SCAN HERE TO PICK  
YOUR TIME SLOT!








Good Luck Alyssa!!



We are rooting  
for you!

From,  
Your Fish Bites  
family





# Atlantic Coast Chiropractic

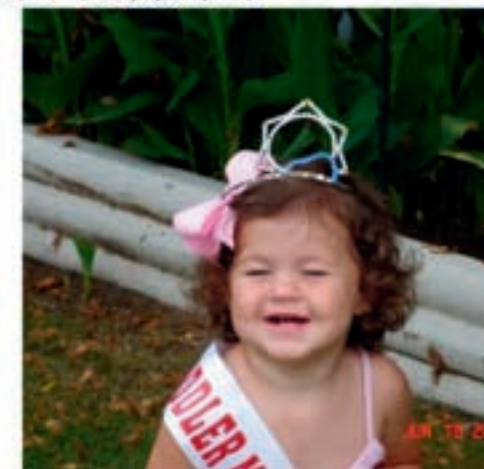
*Adjust To A Pain Free &  
Healthy Lifestyle*

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EMILEE DELORES BRYAN  
OUR DEAREST EMILEE, WORDS WILL NEVER  
EXPRESS HOW PROUD WE ARE OF YOU.  
YOU ARE STRONG, BRAVE, SWEET AND SO  
COURAGEOUS. KEEP REACHING FOR YOUR  
DREAMS AND ALWAYS KEEP GOD FIRST,  
PEANUT.

LOVE YOU SO DEEPLY,  
DAD, MOM, PAPA, MIMI, KAMERON AND SO  
MANY MORE  
GOOD LUCK TONIGHT.





To our baby girl, who has always marched to the beat of her own drum, *SPARKLE ON!!!*  
***CALLIE GRACE CROMARTIE,***  
**WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!!!**



*Love, Mom, Dad & Rhett*

**Charli**

“People can live  
100 years  
without really living  
for a minute!”

**Enjoy this minute!**

In omnia paratus 



# Special Thanks

- We would like to thank the following businesses or individuals for their support in the production of tonight's event, as well as those during this year's North Carolina Azalea Festival:*

First Baptist Church – for providing meeting space each week for the contestants.

John Davis - for taking pictures during the pageant and festival.

Hampton Inn Medical Park – for housing the judges this weekend and for hosting the private interviews.

Azalea Festival Board of Directors and staff – for their support of this pageant.

Kim Bierstedt, Avery Braithwaite, Angela Brown, Sherman Criner, Kim Galentine, Robin and Stan Hansley, Sam Highsmith and Dee McGlone Webb - for their assistance with Mock Interviews.

Christian Ferrante and the staff of WWAY TV3 - for producing the Princess Farewell and Evening Gown bio videos.

Jack Upton – for photographing the girls' head shots for the festival website and tonight's program and for doing the official portrait of the 2024 Princess.

Charles Roberts - for being our auditor.

Ryan Koresko - for producing the video of tonight's production.

Todd and Mandy Anderson-Ille for donating crown box.
- Diane Collins of Diesel Parts of Carolina, LLC – for sponsoring the parade float for Princess and Court during the Azalea Festival.

The Thalian Association Youth Theatre, Michelle Braxton and Shannon Playl for providing our entertainment this evening.

Michelle Braxton for emceeing tonight's event.

Mandy Anderson-Ille for providing lunch and transporting our judges.

The Oceanic Restaurant for hosting Judges' Dinner.

Coastal KIA for providing transportation for our judges.

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The staff of Kenan Auditorium – for printing our tickets and for providing their assistance in making this event run smoothly for the contestants, Directors and the audience!

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Our wonderful back-stage crew: Christy and Clara Hicks, Tammy Pruden, Betsy Cromartie and Kalyn and Kim Kristof – Kande and Amy are most grateful!!



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