



**NORTH CAROLINA**

# *Azalea* Festival

## **77<sup>TH</sup> PRINCESS SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT**

March 8th, 2025 • 7:30 PM  
Sarah Graham Kenan Auditorium



**Minh Vu**





## Scholarship Pageant Program

Singing of the National Anthem	Andi Creech
Introduction of Contestants	Contestants
Introduction of 2024 NC Azalea Festival Princess	Minh Vu
Introduction of Mistress of Ceremonies	Minh Vu
Introduction of Judges	Kenzie Hansley
Welcome from the 2025 NC Azalea Festival President	Beck Smith
Evening Gown Competition – Group 1	Contestants
Entertainment	Thalian Association Youth Theatre
Evening Gown Competition – Group 2	Contestants

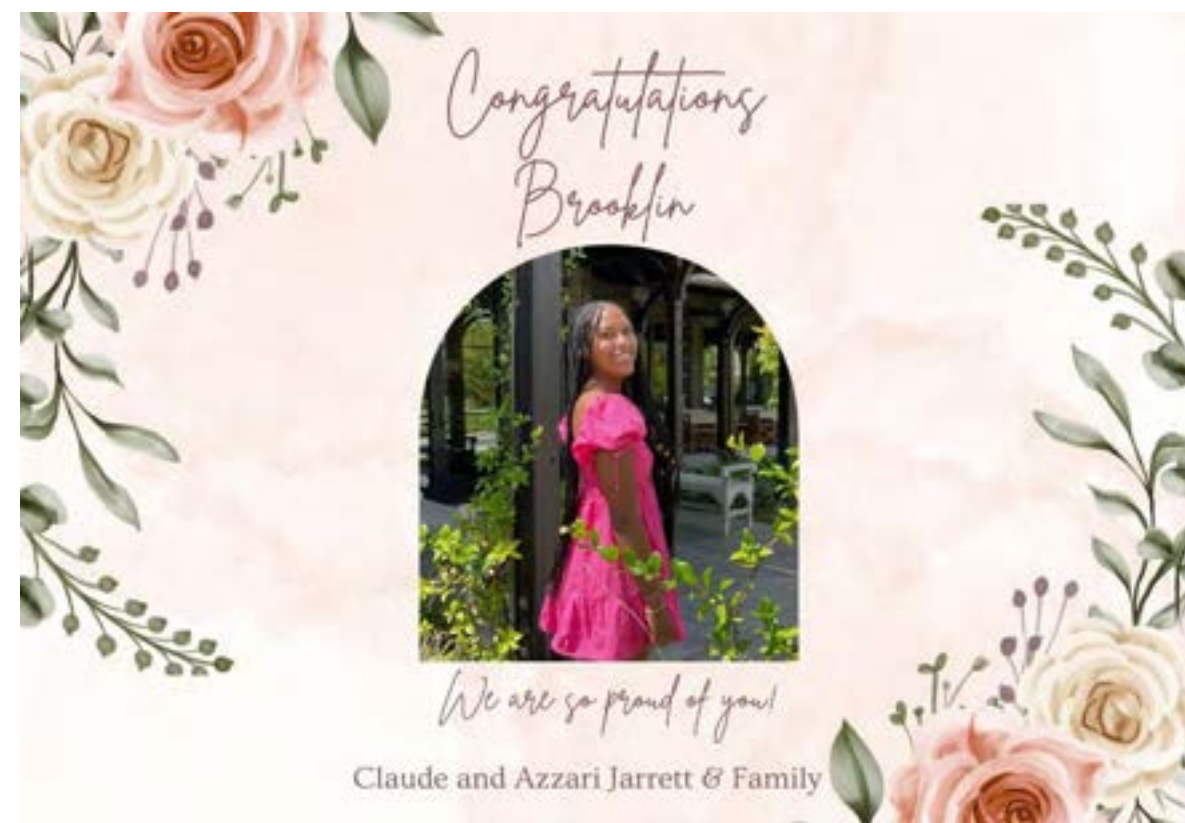
Intermission – 15 minutes

Recognition of Visiting Queens / Past Princesses

Announcement / Questioning of Semi-finalists	Minh Vu
Entertainment	Miss NC Teen, Kamryn Hollowell
Entertainment	NC Rhododendron Queen, Andi Creech
Announcement / Questioning of Finalists	Kenzie Hansley
Entertainment	Miss NC, Carrie Everett
Farewell from the 2024 NC Azalea Festival Princess	Minh Vu
Presentation of Kathy Koonce Grimes Congeniality Award	Kenzie Hansley
Presentation of People's Choice Winner	Kenzie Hansley
Presentation of Top Sales Award Winner	Kenzie Hansley
Presentation of McKinley Lanier Community Service Award	Kenzie Hansley
Announcement of Renaissance Dental Studio STEM Scholarship Winner	Kenzie Hansley
Announcement of Runners-Up	Kenzie Hansley

Coronation of the 2025 North Carolina Azalea Festival Princess

TRUIST 





# Celebrating You, Alexis!



We are so proud of the beautiful, strong, and thoughtful young woman you have become. Life as a military kid was full of obstacles, but you overcame each one and developed resilience, grace, and positivity that inspire everyone around you.

Watching you grow has been an absolute joy, and we can't wait to see all the amazing things you will accomplish in the future.

Continue to be strong, sweet, and smart, and don't forget to share these wonderful parts of your personality with the world. You have so much to offer, and we want everyone to see the incredible person we see every day.

The future is bright, and it's all yours to shine in. ❤️

## *Love, Nana and Papa*

# *Good Luck Lauren!*

*Shine Bright and continue to  
share your Kind Soul!*

*Love~  
Papa, Nana, Dad, Mama,  
Gray, Savannah,  
Cocoa, & Nilla*



# BEST OF LUCK BROOKLIN!!!



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**Moms of the Wilmington Chapter of  
Jack and Jill of America, Inc.**

**Nakia, Cershila, Tiffany, Bernice, Lekeshia,  
Savonne, Tawanda, Khadija, Shakema,  
Jhaniqua, Penny, Lisa, Kitza, Shemeka, Tyisha,  
Robbin, Josalin, Sharon, and Shemeka**



## Thank you to our Committee

### Scholarship Pageant Co-Directors:

Kande Collins & Amy Queen

### 2025 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:

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### And our Encore & Major Sponsors:



## Mistress of Ceremonies KENZIE HANSLEY



Kenzie Hansley, Miss North Carolina USA 2024, was born and raised in Wilmington, North Carolina, and currently resides in Charlotte, North Carolina. She graduated Cum Laude from High Point University with an undergraduate degree in Broadcast Journalism and Business. She earned her Master's Degree in Integrated Marketing Communications from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, completing both degrees within four and a half years.

Kenzie placed in the top 20 at the Miss USA Competition in August of last year. This experience allowed her to expand her platform, Women on Fire, a self-defense and resource class she created after becoming a survivor of sexual assault. She finds confidence in knowing she is creating a safer future for women by providing both preventative and survivor classes for middle school-aged students and older, teaching the importance of protecting their personal space.

Kenzie enjoys spending time with her friends in the city, exploring farmers' markets, and walking trails with her dog. She also mentors young women in the pageant industry through her coaching business, Kenzie Lee Pageant Coaching, where she currently mentors over 45 young women across the Southeast.

## 2025 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
People's Choice	\$250
Top Salesperson	\$250
McKinley Lanier Community Service	\$250
Miss Congeniality	\$250

## A LETTER FROM THE 2024 NORTH CAROLINA AZALEA FESTIVAL PRINCESS

Minh Vu



The best way to describe the past year is like running up to an old friend and giving them the strongest hug imaginable. The moment I was crowned was one of the most exciting, overwhelming, and happiest

moments of my life. It felt like a big hug to welcome me into a community that would change everything. Before the pageant, I was rarely involved in the Azalea Festival and had no clue on how much planning goes into it.

The countless months of hard work from board members, volunteers, businesses, and everyone in between, please know, it has not gone unnoticed. Some of my favorite moments have been dancing at the garden party with my court and the Queen's Court, the Azalea Festival Parade where I got to rewear my gorgeous pink gown, and attending the Miss North Carolina pageant and inviting her to this upcoming festival. To tell the truth, I enjoyed every event and looked forward to where I would travel next.

This year, I got to see and meet such accomplished, sensational women who are working their hardest to show how impactful and powerful women can be. Carli Batson, Karolyn Martin, Taylor Loyd, Ansleigh, the 2024 Queen's Court, Ms. Dee, Andi, and Ms. Jean, to name a few of the amazing women I have met. I have loved getting to know you all throughout the year and thank you. I also got to showcase my love and passion for my culture. Visiting Vietnam last summer was a beautiful experience and I am overjoyed to have been able to bring my crown and share it with everyone.

I want to thank first, my crown mom Ms. Mandy. The amazing woman that was there every step of the way and made my reign that much more fun. Ms. Kande and Ms. Amy for guiding me during pageant practices and Azalea Festival week. Big thank you to the 2023 Princess, Avery Braithwaite, for giving me great advice and encouraging me. All the 2024 Azalea Festival Board members, Drew Nettleman, Beck Smith, Michael Franklin, Amy Dean, and Chris Gore for doing such fantastic jobs for a lovely year.

Thank you to the Executive Director, Alison Baringer for guiding me at events and being so wonderful. Thank you to the splendid photographer Mr. John for the beautiful photos. Thank you Camille's for being my amazing wardrobe sponsor and letting me wear the most spectacular dresses. Thank you Lilly Pulitzer for gifting me a gorgeous dress.

Thank you to all other sponsors of the festival, and especially Truist Bank for sponsoring the pageant. Thank you to the pageant judges for honoring me with the role to represent the extraordinary festival. 2024 Azalea Queen Sharon Laurence, meeting you and being your mini was remarkable. You carry yourself so gracefully and every time you spoke, I was in awe at how well you connected with others.

To my court members, Emmy Russ, Kiley Canter, Mary Katherine O' Malley, and Callie Grace Cromartie. You guys made this year phenomenal and I can't recall a time when we weren't dancing or laughing together. Sharing these long-lasting memories with you four is something I will treasure. To my amazing friends and boyfriend, your support has meant so much to me and I appreciate you all for being there.

Lastly, because I saved the best for last, I want to thank my family. To my family in Vietnam, con yêu Bà Nội, Ba, và các em Phương Thảo, Nhật Minh, và Nhật Nam nhiều lắm. To Mr. Han, you have been such a pillar through my journey, for always supporting me and being at my events, thank you. To my mom, this literally would not have been possible without you. You were always there for me. You cheered me on, motivated me, but most importantly, you showed up and I cannot express how important it is that you were there, front row, pushing me forwards every time. You inspire me and I am genuinely so grateful for you. I love you mom.

To sum it all up, it has been wonderful. This year has been unbelievable, stressful, exhilarating, and has inspired me to just go for it. I never imagined participating in a pageant, much less winning! This title has also comforted me because it healed my inner child. All I had wanted was to wear a big pink dress and be a princess and somehow, I got to do both. I have learned so much about self-empowerment, confidence, leadership, and pushing myself out of my comfort zone. 2024 Azalea Festival, you will always have my heart. Forever and always, I am your 2024 Azalea Festival Princess, Minh Vu.



# North Carolina Azalea Festival

## PAST PRINCESSES

1949 Marguerite Todd (Fornes)  
 1950 Barbara Hatcher (McDonald)  
 1951 Evelyn Bergem (Loftin)  
 1952 Mary Catherine White (Gregory)  
 1953 Mary Francis Davis (Worrell)  
 1954 Nancy Bates (Martin)  
 1955 Libby Beck (Cameron)  
 1956 Mary Frances All (Forester)  
 1957 Jukie Seaton (Patterson)  
 1958 Linda Kelly (King)  
 1960 Frances Wood (Loughlin)  
 1961 Marty Allgood (Furr)  
 1962 Helen Raney (Pinckney)  
 1963 Fredi Crisp (Smith)  
 1964 Wanda Caines (Johnston)  
 1965 Kathy Seitter (Swango)  
 1966 Donna Bordeaux (Little)  
 1967 Susanne Burns (Smith)  
 1968 Sarah Mason  
 1969 Janet Evans (Farrior)  
 1970 Cheryl Fleishman (Isaacs)  
 1971 Paula Davis (Noell)  
 1972 Connie Kearney (Coble)  
 1973 Debbie Fountain (Fugazy)  
 1974 Wende Fox (Lawson)

1975 Lynne Marie Williford  
 1976 Dean Herring (Bowen)  
 1977 Leigh Hobbs (Murray)  
 1978 Dee Dee Ward (Wright)  
 1979 Jackie Everette  
 1980 Lisa Pridgen (Tise)  
 1981 Julie Teachey (Teague)  
 1982 Laura Welch (Butcher)  
 1983 Lori Weeks (Boldt)  
 1984 Maria Paige Truitt  
 1985 Holly Mayo (Borden)  
 1986 Susan Skelton (Gough)  
 1987 Patricia Parker (Stone)  
 1988 Amy Wolfe (Lovelace)  
 1989 Angela Fipps (Boone)  
 1990 Amy Lennon (Queen)  
 1991 Stacie Nicole Davis  
 1992 Amy Linette Davis  
 1993 Stephanie Dawn Bilodeau  
 1994 Bonnie Warren (Palsa)  
 1995 Sarah Ronan (Buchanan)  
 1996 Nicole Simcoe (Baller)  
 1997 Elizabeth Harris (Carroll)  
 1998 Lauren Yerby (Bolick)  
 1999 Danita Davis

2000 Melanie Brooks  
 2001 Jamie Deaver (Ferguson)  
 2002 Hannah Manson (Mynhier)  
 2003 Ashley Patterson (Nunez)  
 2004 Claire Williamson  
 2005 Jannell Upton (Dunaway)  
 2006 Michelle Poulos (Woo)  
 2007 Lauren Smith (Hill)  
 2008 Joshlynn Starling (Justad)  
 2009 Zelle Brown (Wiggins)  
 2010 Abbey Starling (Nobles)  
 2011 Hannah Smith  
 2012 Julia Lovett  
 2013 Paxton Webster (Salke)  
 2014 Tori Mathew  
 2015 Haleigh Somberg  
 2016 Lilly Kays  
 2017 Emma Grace Wright  
 2018 Grace Tippet  
 2019 Claire-Emma Britt  
 2020 Brooke McIntyre  
 2021 Brooke McIntyre  
 2022 McKinley Lanier  
 2023 Avery Braithwaite  
 2024 Minh Vu

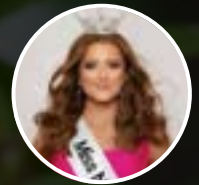


ENTERTAINMENT  
FOR THE EVENING

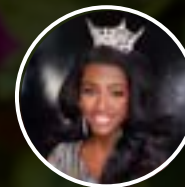


## Kamryn Hollowell

### Miss North Carolina's Teen



Kamryn Hollowell is a 17-year-old junior at Corinth Holders High School who is dually enrolled at Johnston Community College. Kamryn has been involved with the Miss America Opportunity since the age of 8, and this past June she was crowned the 20th Miss North Carolina's Teen. Kamryn recently represented the state of North Carolina at the prestigious Miss America's Teen competition which was held in Orlando, Florida, where she was able to share her passions for her Community Service Initiative (CSI), Project Purple. Project Purple discusses the stigmas surrounding Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease. Throughout her reign, she has been able to expand her CSI nationwide and has been able to travel over 12,000 miles across the state. Kamryn is extremely honored and excited to be a part of this special event as the North Carolina Azalea Festival has played a special role in her journey throughout the Miss North Carolina Organization.



## Carrie Everett

### Miss North Carolina



Carrie is a 2nd year vocal performance major at North Carolina Central University. She enjoys studying African and African American History. She spends much of her time listening to and reading authors, artists, poets and musicians. She is a huge pageant fan and loves watching old competitions, studying, learning and taking in the knowledge of queens of the past. She considers it both entertainment and inspiration, as she respects past queens in the way that they served the world through advocacy and brought joy to others around them. Her future plans include having a career as a vocal performer and moving to Liberia. She wishes to dedicate her life to serving others and advocating for education, better living conditions, policies, rights of women and fighting violence against women all over West Africa. She would like to make gospel music and teach the word of God to people with an example of love.



## Andi Creech

### NC Rhododendron Queen



Andi Creech is the NC Rhododendron Queen and is a Junior at East Carolina University studying Political Science and Broadcast Journalism. She was crowned the NC Rhododendron Queen last June where she received a \$5000 scholarship and the opportunity to represent one of Western North Carolina's greatest communities, Bakersville.





**Alexis**

You are our shining star! You have passion, determination, and an intelligence that sets you apart from the rest. Your personality shows others that you are loyal, kind, and care deeply, which makes you one of a kind. We are grateful to have witnessed your journey - watching you grow into the incredible young woman you are today has been a privilege and a joy. The future is yours! Shine bright today and let everyone see your sparkle as clearly as we do! Love you big! Uncle Jimmy, Aunt Krystle, and Brooklyn



**Greg Ochipa**

**910-395-5252**

**Good Luck Addison!**



*Good Luck #11!*

Alexis, as you navigate the seas of opportunity, embrace each challenge with courage, chart your course with determination, and sail toward your dreams with unwavering resolve. Your potential is as boundless as the ocean: seize it with confidence and strength.

**Congratulations and Good Luck Brooklin!!!**



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## A LETTER FROM THE

*President*

Welcome to the 2025 North Carolina Azalea Festival Scholarship Pageant Presented by Truist. 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 2025 North Carolina Azalea Princess and give away more money in scholarships than any other pageant in the State except Miss North Carolina.

Tonight, you will be inspired by the personal accomplishments, commitment to service and graceful poise of this incredible group of young women. These young ladies represent the future leaders of their generation. The North Carolina Azalea Festival is proud to present these amazing contestants to you as we join them along in their journey. They have learned valuable interview skills in delivering their message with clarity, poise, and grace under pressure. This remarkable experience will help them perform to the highest standards as they pursue life goals in the future.

The young lady crowned the Azalea Festival Princess this evening will join a long line of talented and accomplished women. Before we crown our winner tonight we will introduce the audience to our past scholarship pageant winners here tonight, including some of our current festival volunteers! Before the new reign begins, we would like to profoundly thank our current

North Carolina Azalea Festival Princess Minh Vu for so eloquently representing our beloved community this past year. Minh has taken on her responsibilities as Princess with grace and humility. It is always amazing to watch the Princess and her court grow and become more confident in their rolls throughout the year. We hope these young women both past, present, and future will carry on their passion for festival spirit felt on pageant night for the rest of their lives.

A huge thank you to our Major and Encore sponsors for their generous contributions: Blade & Bow, the City of Wilmington, Coastal Kia, the DFS Agency, the Hotel Ballast, Liberty & Plenty Distillery, Michael Best, New Hanover County, New Hanover Printing, the North Carolina Education Lottery, Novant Health, Rent-A-John, Stella Artois and Wicked Weed of Adams Beverages, and the U.S. Army. Your generous contributions make events like this possible.

A specific thank you to Truist, our Scholarship Pageant Sponsor of many years. Also thank you to Glynis and Rodney Lanier, donor of our new McKinley Lanier Community Service Award, named for one of our beloved Past Princesses. Special thanks to Dr. Pless of Renaissance Dental Studio for continuing to give a \$2,000 STEM Scholarship each year.

Without the tireless work of our many volunteers we would not be able to showcase the outstanding talents and potential of the contestants here tonight.

Thank you to the Azalea Festival Youth Committee for your hard work and commitment to support this event. Thank you to Amy Queen and Kande Collins, our amazing co-chairs for this event for your continued leadership and overall vision that makes this event new and exciting every year.

Most of all I would like to thank you, the audience, for this evening. As the parents, family, and many friends to our 2025 contestants, thank you for raising, supporting, and encouraging such wonderful young women. Thank you for being here for them tonight. We will all watch with nervous and sometimes boisterous anticipation as the program endures to the crowning moment!

We hope you all will join us for the 78th North Carolina Azalea Festival, April 2-6, 2025, and enjoy the warm southern hospitality of our river-to-the-sea community that our loving volunteers work so hard to bring to you each year.



Sincerely, *Beck Smith*, 78th North Carolina Azalea Festival President



# Brooklin Kensington Foust



*"It's not where your dreams take you, it's where you take your dreams."*  
—Maya Angelou

Keep Reaching For The Stars!!!

Moms of the Wilmington Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.  
Nakia, Cershila, Tiffany, Bernice, Lekeshia, Savonne,  
Tawanda, Khadija, Shakema, Jhaniqua, Penny, Lisa,  
Kitza, Shemeka, Tyisha, Robbin, Josalin, Sharon, and Shemeka

*Good luck, Lauren!*

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on, today and  
always!*



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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Gary Sherrill



Gary Sherrill was a distinguished individual in the field of pageantry for over 50 years. He founded the Carolina Dogwood Festival in Statesville, NC, and served for over 19 years as a Field Director for the Miss North Carolina Pageant. His contributions included judging numerous pageants and festivals nationwide. He was known for his dedication, often traveling overnight after coaching a basketball game to fulfill a pageant commitment the next morning. Gary held the position of Chief Judge at the Azalea Festival Princess Pageant for many years, cherishing his time with his Azalea friends. He passed away on June 11, 2024, after battling Alzheimer's Disease.





# OUR JUDGES

◆ *for the Evening*

## TONY HOWARD - CHIEF ◆

Tony Howard's work as an artist, designer and stylist has been featured in blogs, national magazines, commercials, and on runways throughout the country. Howard was selected as one of the top five designers and fashion stylists in the Carolinas. He advocates for artists and has served for 28 years as Director of Arts Education. Howard has judged pageants, in various systems, including Miss South Carolina, Miss North Carolina, and Miss Tennessee preliminaries. He also served as a Local Director and volunteer in the Miss America system. Currently he creates a line of custom pageant dolls for clients across the United States. He enjoys volunteering his time with arts organizations including The NC Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, The Harvey Gantt Center for Cultural Arts, and currently as a singer with Carolina Voices.

## NATHAN MOORE ◆

Nathan J. Moore is a seasoned executive with over 20 years of experience in driving business growth, leading teams, and forging strategic partnerships in the payments and technology sectors. Currently, he serves as the Vice President of Direct Sales for Simpay, where he oversees U.S. operations. Previously, Nathan was the Senior Director of Business Development at Global Payments, where he expanded partnerships and accelerated business growth. As Vice President of Sales at Heartland, he led the direct sales team, crafting strategies that significantly boosted revenue and market share. Nathan's career spans a range of industries, including entertainment and financial technology, with notable experience at top organizations such as Paramount Parks, The Walt Disney Company, and Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. In addition, he has successfully built and sold two entrepreneurial businesses, honing his ability to navigate complex challenges and deliver results in dynamic environments. A passionate community leader, Nathan currently serves as President of the Southeastern Community College Foundation Board and is an active member of the Boards of Directors for Columbus Christian Academy and the North Carolina Strawberry Festival. He is also the Master of Ceremonies for several prominent scholarship pageants across the Southeast. Guided by integrity, a strong leadership philosophy, and his faith in God, Nathan is deeply committed to uplifting others, helping them realize their full potential. He strives to create environments that foster growth, collaboration, and success. Outside of his professional life, Nathan is a devoted husband to his wife, Allison, and a proud father to their son, McArthur. He is also the proud owner of two pugs, Coco and Winter. Nathan believes in the power of positivity, authenticity, and support to make a lasting impact on everyone he encounters.

## VICTORIA HUGGINS ◆

Victoria Huggins has turned her passion into her career as the Walk to End Alzheimer's Manager for the Alzheimer's Association - North Carolina Chapter. Last year, her Walk events in Burlington, Fayetteville, & Pinehurst raised nearly half a million dollars for the mission to end Alzheimer's and all forms of dementia. She has just completed a three-year term on the inaugural Community Leaders Advisory Board for the collaborative Duke UNC Chapel Hill Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, a great honor as she was the youngest person appointed to the position. Victoria pursued her higher education at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, earning her Master's in Business Administration in 2022 and Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication with a double minor in Music and Religion in 2015. Victoria was crowned the 80th Miss North Carolina in 2017, fulfilling her dream and the opportunity to serve as a state ambassador. Since then, Victoria was the first former Miss North Carolina to be chosen as Queen Azalea in 2021 for the prestigious North Carolina Azalea Festival in Wilmington. Her historic year in a post-pandemic landscape made her the longest reigning Queen Azalea ever thanks to her Festival President, Dee Webb, and the best festival staff and volunteers in the state! Victoria's musical talents have given her opportunities throughout her lifetime; some of which include traveling independently with her ministry across the country from age 7 to 17, performing in the lead roles of musical theater productions at Alabama Theater & McGregor Hall Performing Arts Center, and earning her spot in the Top 100 on Season 10 of "American Idol" at the age of 16. Victoria currently serves on the Board of Directors of Fayetteville Urban Ministries and is a State Volunteer for the Miss North Carolina Organization.

## ALLISON MOORE ◆

Allison M. Moore is the dynamic CEO of Foundational Vending, a majority woman-owned business based in Southeastern North Carolina. After the successful sale of their janitorial business in Western North Carolina, Allison and her husband ventured into the micro markets and vending industry, bringing with them a vision rooted in integrity, excellence, and service to their community. Raised in her family's business, McArthur Supply, Allison developed a strong work ethic and a deep commitment to giving back—values that continue to guide her leadership today. Her impact extends beyond business: as a passionate worship leader and pageant judge, she helps support scholarships for women through pageants like Miss Rhododendron and Miss Denton, enabling young women to pursue their educational dreams. Allison's outstanding leadership was recognized by her inclusion in Automatic Merchandiser's 2025 "Most Influential Women in the Convenience Services Industry." This prestigious honor underscores her dedication to empowering others and inspiring everyone she encounters. Above all, Allison's unwavering dedication to her family, faith, and community has earned her widespread admiration. Through her exemplary leadership, she continues to make a meaningful and lasting impact in both her industry and her local community.

## ANGELA MARTIN ◆

Angela Martin is a theatre educator of 20 years. She was named Sampson County Schools Teacher of the Year in 2014 and has received her Master's in Education and Theatre from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Angela has been the local director of the Miss Sampson County pageant and Miss Clinton pageant which are preliminaries to the Miss North Carolina pageant. She is also on the chief judges list for the Miss North Carolina Organization. Angela is the owner of Angela's Musical Troupe - specializing in private voice lessons and musical theatre classes. She is the choir director of Roseboro First Baptist Church and is an adjunct professor with Sampson Community College. Angela resides in Sampson County and is thrilled to join us tonight.



*So Proud Of You, Lexibadexi*

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stepping outside of  
your comfort zone  
and trying  
something new.

Enjoy every  
moment!



*Love Mom, Dad, Jordan, John, & Anna*



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Good Luck Maia Gomez!

*Dream Big*



**Congratulations and Best  
Wishes Brooklin!!!**

**Love,  
Drs. Christopher and Lekeshia Jarrett**



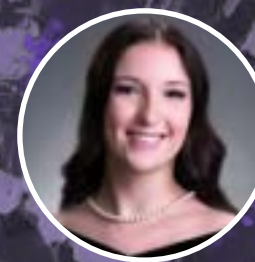
# 2025 NORTH CAROLINA AZALEA FESTIVAL

## Contestants

Good Luck to all of tonight's contestants!



Maya Shannon



Audrey Dick



Mia Volety



Maia Gomez



Hayden Wilson



Ava Johnson



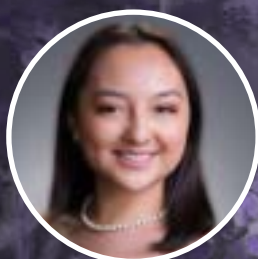
Brooklin Foust



Claire Mearns



Gracianna Parsons



Perry Kim



Callie Braithwaite



Hazel Johnson



Isabella Del  
Orfano



Mia Neuwirth



Cylie Echols



Kaitlyn Albertson



Maggie Windham



Ella Gardner



Addison Wilson



Lane Tompkins



Savannah Brookman



Marley Mitchell



Lauren Womble



Amara McLean



Sara Millage



Avery Phillips



Alexis Walton



Katie Coble



Sejal  
Escaravage



Jaliyah Pompey



Isabela Pecori



Avery Fitzgerald



## 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."

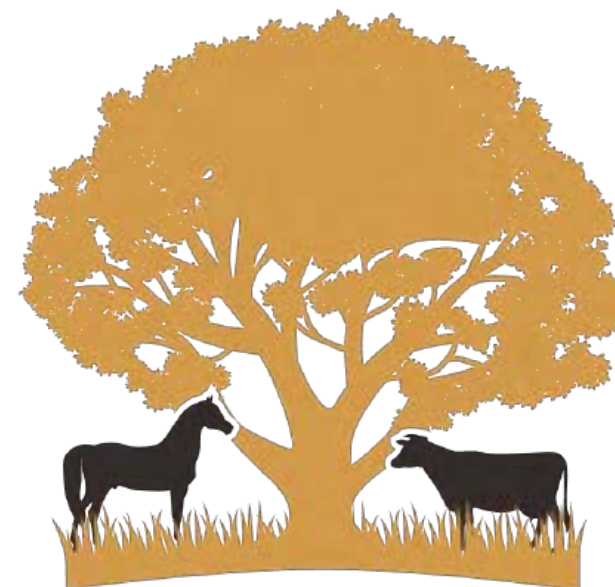
The Azalea Festival Officers made the decision to name the Princess' scholarship award in memory of Miss Jurgensen because of her astounding 49 years of devotion and service to the North Carolina Azalea Festival. In 1992, Miss Jurgensen became the first female president of the Azalea Festival. Prior 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.



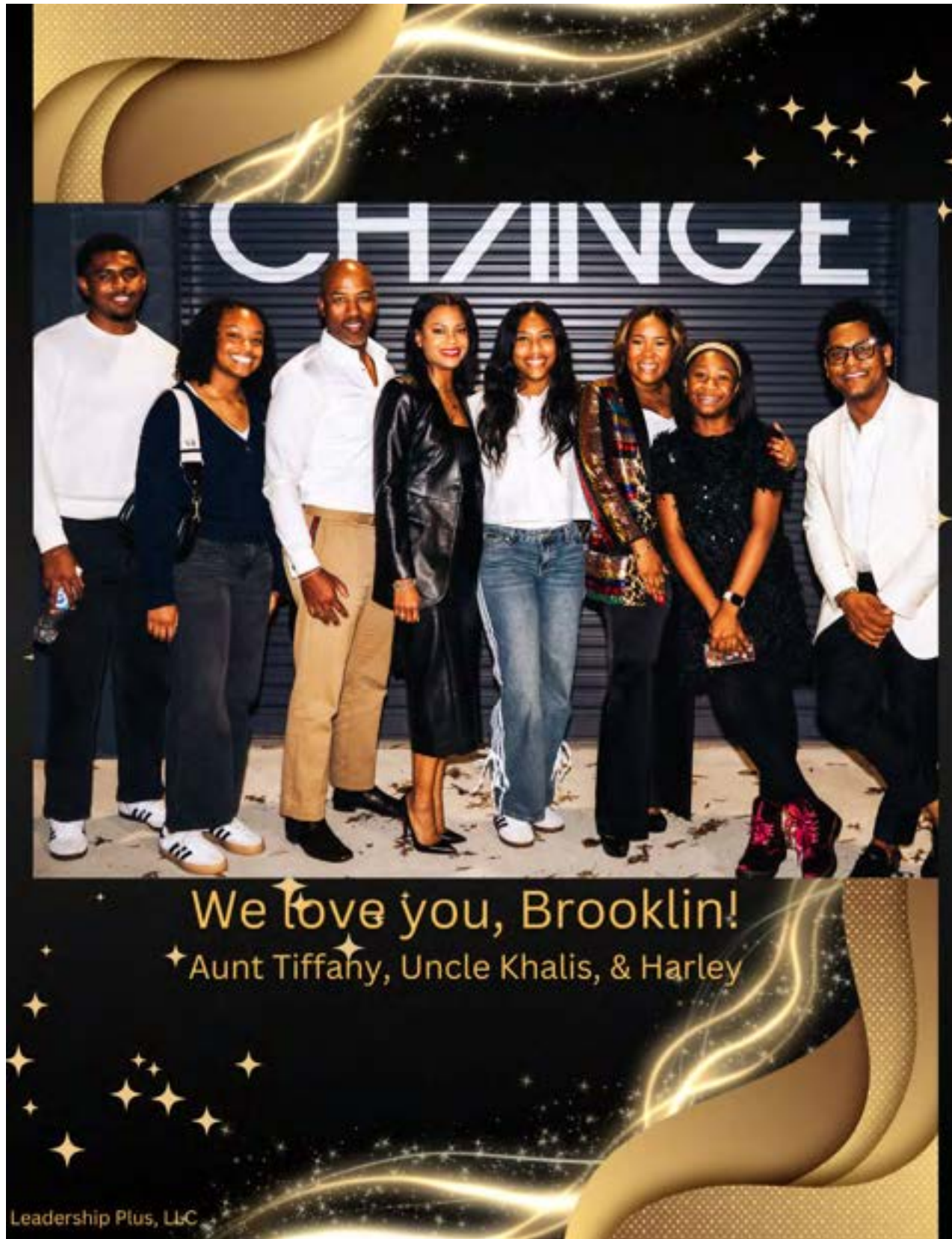
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*Good luck, Lauren!*

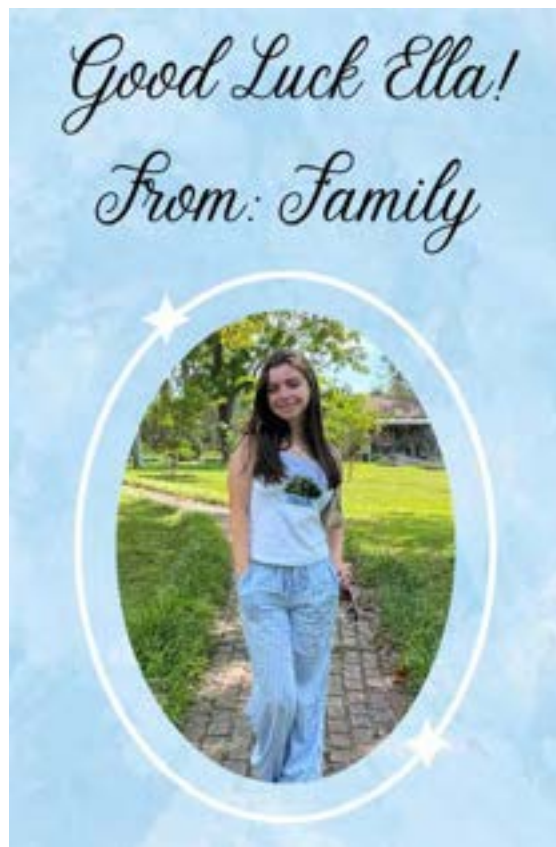
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*Keep going,*  
**BROOKLIN FOUST!**

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# 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 & Adam Gilbert Films - 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, Becky Creech, Kim Galentine, Robin and Stan Hansley, Sam Highsmith, Sara Beth Howard, McKinley Lanier, and Minh Vu - 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 2025 Princess.

Scharlotte Eby and Jackie Casey - for being our auditors.

Chase Fulton- 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, Carrie Everett, Kamryn Hollowell, and Andi Creech for providing our entertainment this evening.

Kenzie Hansley for emceeing tonight's event.

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

Bluewater Restaurant for hosting Judges' Dinner.

Camille's of Wilmington for providing attire for our Princess throughout her reign and for dressing our entertainers this evening.

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!

Dr. Sarah Pless of Renaissance Dental Studio - for the generous STEM scholarship for one of our contestants.

The Lanier Family for the addition of the McKinley Lanier Community Service Award.

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





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★ *Good Luck!* ★



*Best of luck to Mia Volety,  
Brooklin Foust, and Claire  
Mearns at the Azalea Festival  
Pageant!*

*Tina, Will, and Alex Rivenbark*



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