

Following in the footsteps

Sophomore Mary King's
parents, grandfather also
attended Troy University

By Andy Ellis



Troy University sophomore Mary King, second from left, is surrounded by her brother George King III, her sister Beckie King Kiefer and her parents Aggie and George King during a recent visit home.

N“Norman Rockwell would be happy with Troy,” George King said, pausing for the thought to sink in. King, of Bethany, CT, became reacquainted with the city and his alma mater, Troy University, last fall. The 1976 business administration and marketing graduate freely admits the TROY he knows now is vastly different than the TROY he knew back then.

“This is wonderful,” the elder King recalled as he visited to watch his daughter, Mary, perform with the Sound of the South during football season last fall. Mary, now a sophomore, was a member of the dance line. Today, only a short year later, she is captain of the dance line.

“It just brought tears to my eyes when I saw it,” George King says of his first trip back to campus. “TROY is growing, and it is the environment we could only have wished for when I was in school. My hat is off to Dr. (Jack) Hawkins (chancellor). He has provided wonderful leadership and has a tremendous vision for this University.”

Mary's mother Aggie agrees. She spent her freshman year at TROY and was a member of the then-nationally ranked debate team, Miss Alumni Hall and a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

“We were really excited about Mary's decision to attend TROY,” Aggie King said. “Everything happened so fast with her getting admitted and receiving a scholarship. We flew into Birmingham, rented a car and drove to the campus. We arrived just as the sun was setting and the lights were beginning to shine on the quad. I got goose bumps. We took a lot of pictures.”

“I have very fond memories of my time at TROY,” George King said. “I had opportunities to go other places, but I chose TROY and have never regretted it for a moment. My father graduated from TROY. I have great memories of coming to football

games as a kid and watching Sim Byrd.”

George King was a founding member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and admits that he has “wonderful memories of the old drive-in.”

The Kings are thrilled that Mary chose to attend their alma mater. However, there was a time when that never really entered their minds.

“We just never really thought about it until we came to Mobile for the National Junior Miss pageant,” Aggie King said, noting that Mary represented the state of Connecticut. “We began to see all of these Troy people there and, for the first time, we began to think about that as a possibility.”

Mary King was originally headed for New York University. Growing up, she had done some commercial work and acting and was comfortable in the large city. Aggie King, like her daughter, is glad those plans changed.

“At NYU she would have been just a number. This has been a life-changing experience for her,” Aggie King says.

Mary is majoring in broadcast journalism with a minor in French. In addition to dance line, she is an at-large senator in the Student Government Association, a member of the Phi Mu sorority where she serves on the executive board, a member of the College Republicans, a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society and a teacher at the Troy School of Dance.

The Kings are in the process of moving from Connecticut to be closer to Mary and be able to enjoy, once again, a time and place that holds special memories.

“We are thrilled Mary has found a place where she is so happy. She really wishes to succeed,” George King said.



King, a broadcast journalism major, is captain of the Sound of the South's Dance Line.

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