

December 16, 2021

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A newsletter for alumni & friends of King University

# THE E-TORNADO

## Merry Christmas from King University

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from King University. We wish you and yours a blessed, healthy, and joyful season of celebration. This year has been a memorable one, to say the least, and as we reflect on all we have learned and experienced, we are especially grateful for the King community and for your support. We are praying for you all as we enter into the year 2022.



## The Joy of Giving this Holiday Season

Already tired of endless holiday sales for gizmos and gadgets? Instead, consider making a year-end gift to King University to invest in a new generation of thoughtful students, committed to thinking deeply about others and the world around them. Even a small gift can have a huge impact when you invest your money wisely. At King, we aim to support resourceful students who work cooperatively with others in service to God, the Church, and the World.



Please go to [www.king.edu/donortree](http://www.king.edu/donortree) to read the stories of some incredible students we have at King. There are many reasons to celebrate and support our students this Christmas season.

Consider also utilizing **Amazon Smile** this year when ordering your last-minute Christmas gifts. It is as easy as logging into your Amazon account and updating your charity preferences. A donation will be made to King for all of your purchases. Thank you for your support!

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## Congratulations to our Newest Alumni



This year's Fall Commencement was a wonderful spectacle of the next generation of King success stories. As our students walked across the stage, each with his or her own path waiting to be carved out in the world, you could feel the excitement. We are so proud of all they have achieved thus far and for what they have in store. [Click here](#) to view photos from the day. Congratulations to the King University Class of 2021!

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## Metz Employees Give Back

The Metz Culinary Management Team took time out of their busy schedules to help the less fortunate by providing meals to the homeless in Bristol. The team also collected coats, gloves, blankets, and warm weather hats during the month of November to give away. Metz provides our students with excellent culinary services and we are grateful to have them on campus.



## Alumni Spotlight - Randall Gilmore '85



Randall Gilmore was born into a hardworking family in Scottsville, Kentucky, the birthplace of the mega-chain store Dollar General. “My father had a 9th-grade education and was the oldest of nine children. My mother was the 13<sup>th</sup> of 15 children,” he said.

The fact that that he was able to come to King was somewhat of a miracle considering where he came from. But despite humble beginnings, Gilmore was able to flourish in life. He says he couldn’t have done it without the support of different people along the way, including his

parents. “I couldn’t have achieved what I did without them,” Gilmore said.

“It was in my senior year of high school when I really started to take my studies seriously. I ended up dating a girl from New York who was a dedicated student and it inspired me to do the same. Only then did I really put forth the effort.”

Gilmore enrolled at King and found a love for history that was inspired by the teaching of two professors, Dr. Thomas Rhea Peake, and Dr. John Gaines. He excelled in his studies and by 1982-83, he’d earned recognition as an O.L. White Scholar, having obtained a 4.0

GPA by the end of his sophomore year. At the same time, he learned that both of his parents had been laid off from their jobs as the recession continued to plague the country.

“My dad worked in construction which was already unpredictable, and my mother worked for Raytheon. She told me that they could no longer afford to send me to King. I approached Dr. Peake and told him my situation and that I couldn’t continue for the time being. He took me immediately to President Mitchell’s office and told the President, ‘I can’t afford to lose this man. He is the best student in my department.’” Until that moment Gilmore had no idea that Dr. Peake viewed him in such high esteem.

“How much can you give him,” Dr. Peake asked of the King College President. President Mitchell found money to help Randall Gilmore remain in school. He was also given a tutoring position in Dr. Peake’s department helping fellow students with Western Civilization, a notoriously difficult class. “Many classmates found it difficult, but I loved the class,” he said. “And it paid \$8 per hour at a time when the standard minimum wage was \$3.35 per hour.”

He graduated with a bachelor’s in education and went on to earn a master’s in education from Milligan and his Ed.S. from Lincoln University. “I taught for twenty-three years, coached, and also spent 18 years as a sportswriter for the Bristol Herald Courier. It was definitely a test in time management,” Gilmore said.

He would also hold the position of Assistant Principal at Sullivan South High School for two years, and Head Principal at Colonial Heights Middle School for four years. He would eventually come full circle and return to King where it all began. “When I came back to King, I reached out to Dr. Peake and took him and his wife to breakfast to celebrate. Dr. Peake was the best teacher I’d ever had,” Gilmore said. He explained that Thomas Peake truly valued students’ opinions and always tried to spin everything toward the positive. Gilmore would try to emulate that throughout his own time as an educator. “My favorite part about teaching is when I receive an answer to a question, or I am asked a question that is completely different than I had anticipated. To me, that means that the student is listening and thinking about the discussion.” Today, he is an Assistant Professor and serves as the Teacher Education Program Coordinator. His enthusiasm is infectious and his storytelling ability makes it difficult to leave his office.

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## **Dogwood Homecoming Weekend & Celebration of the Arts**

Mark your calendars and save the date for Dogwood Homecoming Weekend on April 1-2, 2022. We are looking forward to having alumni back on campus this spring to celebrate Dogwood Homecoming. Stay tuned for a full list of activities and events including reunions.

*Save the Date*

**DOGWOOD**  
*Homecoming Weekend*  
**APRIL 1-2, 2022**

Including Special Anniversary Reunions for  
Class of 1972 • 50 years | Class of 1997 • 25 years  
and classes of '62, '67, '77, '82, '87, '92, '02, '07, '12, and '17



For more info, contact Jenna Christie at 423.652.6399  
or [jmchristie@king.edu](mailto:jmchristie@king.edu). See you at Dogwood!

If you are interested in organizing your class reunion please contact Jenna Christie at [jmchristie@king.edu](mailto:jmchristie@king.edu).

Don't forget that alumni award nominations are due on January 31st and will be given out during Dogwood. **Click here** for more information.

Make plans now to join alumni, faculty, students, and staff for the 2022 Celebration of the Arts at King, to take place Saturday, April 2nd, 2022, from 8-10 pm at the lovely Bristol Train Station in Bristol, Virginia! An elegant evening of music, art, theater, and friends from far and near, this event promises to be a wonderful time of reconnection and celebration of the rich history of the arts at King. Guest of honor Dr. Pat Flannagan headlines our special program. Ticket sales coming soon. For further information, contact Jenna Christie at [jmchristie@king.edu](mailto:jmchristie@king.edu).

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022**  
A CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS AT KING UNIVERSITY  
BRISTOL TRAIN STATION IN BRISTOL, VA  
FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW

## Athletic News

King University is excited to partner with Master's Entertainment Group to stream the Tornado men's and women's basketball home games again this season, following a successful 2020-21 season. New this year, King basketball games will also be broadcast locally on BTES Power 7 or HD 207. In addition to local BTES stations, all games will continue to be available on the King Athletics website via the Tornado Sports Network and the Conference Carolinas Digital Network through streaming platforms and devices such as Roku, Apple TV, and Fire TV.

Go Tornado!





*"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

**Matthew 1:21**



*"When you give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." Maya Angelou*

Consider making a gift to King University  
and watch your blessings multiply in the  
faces of our students!

[give.king.edu](https://give.king.edu)

King University | 800.621.5464 | [alumni@king.edu](mailto:alumni@king.edu)

*Get social!*

