

# Making Waves

The 2007-2008 NJAA retiring officers step down after creating conferences, community service projects and having a great time together.

by **Mathew Elliott & NJAA Board**

**T**hey came from all over the U.S., but their journey together started in a showing in Indiana. Since then it has taken them from Eastern Regionals to the western Raising the Bar and everywhere in between. The 2007-2008 National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors stepped down and retired their “green jackets” at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Des Moines, Iowa, this year — but don’t worry, the juniors look to continue making waves as adults.

At the conclusion of their terms, the *Angus Journal* asked the retiring Board Members to reflect upon their past and look toward the future.



## **Justin Brosey**

Justin Brosey, chairman of the Board, is the 22-year-old son of Daniel and Pam Brosey. Brosey attended Morehead State University, majoring in elementary education.

### **What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members?**

Without a doubt, my favorite memory of being with my fellow Board members was our spring Board trip to Steamboat Springs, Colo.

We had so much fun skiing, but it was when we all decided to go sled riding down the hill next to our condo at 1 a.m. that made the trip for me. We made a ramp that would throw you up in the air, which hurt when you landed, but was a blast.

### **What is your favorite memory of interacting with the junior members in your travels?**

I would say that my favorite memory of interacting with junior members was at the Eastern Regional in Pennsylvania last year. The junior Board did not have many duties, so we were able to go and socialize a lot with the juniors and really get to know them. Also, at the social at the end of the weekend everyone seemed to have so much fun dancing and hanging out together.

### **What have you learned the most about during the past two years?**

During the past two years I have learned what an exceptional association of juniors I have been honored to belong to! I have witnessed younger members being helped by older members and juniors willing to work and set high goals for themselves, which does not always happen anymore. I feel this is what sets our association apart from others — our members’ drive to accomplish great things.

### **What are some of your hobbies outside of Angus cattle?**

Some other things that I am involved in are playing club volleyball, the Teacher Education Program, Bethel Community Church and co-ed softball.

### **How did you affect the NJAA?**

At all times I was promoting positive relationships between myself and juniors. It is also my hope that I was a positive role model for members of all ages.

### **How do you plan to stay involved with the NJAA and the**

## **American Angus Association?**

I will always be involved in showing and raising Angus cattle. Also, this summer I was asked to step into the role of an advisor to the Atlantic National Junior Council, so I will be able to work with and mentor younger juniors.



## **Andrew Foster**

Andrew Foster, vice chairman of the Board, is the 21-year-old son of Scott and Elaine Foster. Foster attends Oklahoma State University (OSU), studying animal science.

### **What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members?**

Our spring Board Meeting in Steamboat Springs was one of the most fun trips I have ever been on. Most of us were not any good at skiing, but we managed to have a great time.

### **What is your favorite memory interacting with the junior members in your travels?**

The Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference in Georgia at Three Trees Ranch. Everyone truly had a great time, and a lot of juniors were involved.

### **What are some of your hobbies outside of Angus cattle?**

I attend OSU, where I am active on the livestock judging team and Block and Bridle. I enjoy playing sports, especially basketball, and hanging out with the people who are close to me.

### **How did you affect the NJAA?**

I hope to have at least affected some junior members and encouraged them to step outside of their comfort zone, get involved and meet new people. I always tried to lend a helping hand and to lead by example.

### **How do you plan to stay involved with the NJAA and the American Angus Association?**

I definitely plan on staying involved in the Angus Association, as my family is extremely involved and it has been a major influence on my life growing up. I will always keep my eyes open for ways I can be involved and benefit the Angus Association.



## **Joe Epperly**

Joe Epperly, leadership director, is the 21-year-old son of Albert and Susan Epperly. Epperly will be a senior at Virginia Tech (VT), where he studies animal science.

### **What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members?**

Favorite “memories” would be more fitting. Our Board meetings and the fellowship we had during those meetings include almost all of my favorite memories of my fellow Board members. From T.P.-ing Shelia’s house, twice, to Andrew and I being chased by James’ dogs, to

our unforgettable sledding adventure, and finally our amazing trip to the roller derby.

**What is your favorite memory interacting with the junior members in your travels?**

I'm not sure I could narrow it down to just one favorite memory, but our bus trips during the past two LEAD conferences stand out in my mind. Getting to hang out with all of those juniors was just a plain ol' good time.

**How did you affect the NJAA?**

It's hard to look at things now and know what type of effect my time has had. I've tried to inspire juniors to become more involved, take on more responsibilities, and take on higher challenges toward loftier goals. Goals of that nature tend to take a long time to see to fruition. But what I hope is that I have been a positive influence and role model in the lives of our members, so that someday they can look back and see growth and change in themselves, and I could be the one who planted that seed as other "green jackets" did for me.

**How do you plan to stay involved with the NJAA and the American Angus Association?**

I'm not sure at this time what the future might hold for me. I know that I plan to be involved in the beef industry in some way, but I've yet to find what form that will take. So, for a little while, I'll be a man in search of a "dare to be great" situation, and with the greatness of the NJAA and the American Angus Association I see no reason to go far from it. I'll always be there for the juniors no matter where I may be or what I'm doing. I'll just be a call away. If nothing else, I plan for my children to grow up in the organization as I did.

**What are some of your hobbies outside of Angus cattle?**

Well, cattle in general are one of my major hobbies no matter what the breed. I love running a set of clippers or just working with cattle. I also enjoy working with horses. I team rope, as well as break and train horses to rope when my schedule allows. Basketball has also been one of my greatest passions growing up, and I still play on a couple of recreation teams while at school. I'm always up for anything outdoors and have tried my hand at rock climbing and four-wheeling as well as fishing and hunting.



**Dana May**

Dana May, membership director, is the 22-year-old daughter of Gregg May and Cathy Kaiser. May attended the University of Wisconsin, majoring in psychology.

**What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members?**

My favorite memory with my fellow Board members would have to be our spring Board Meeting in Steamboat Springs, Colo., last year.

This was a great experience as a Board as well as a group of friends. We were able to really live together as a whole group for five days instead of working out of a hotel, which really brought us all so much closer. We were able to accomplish a lot in our meetings, leaving us time for making meals together, sledding, skiing, snow wrestling and enjoying each other's company.

**What is your favorite memory of interacting with the junior members in your travels?**

The Raising the Bar conferences have given me an amazing opportunity to spend one-on-one time with juniors from all over the country. It allowed me to meet more juniors and really become friends with many of them, as well as hear their desires and concerns for their state associations. I feel that it has made me a better representative of them on the Board and has also filled me with great enthusiasm for the future of the NJAA.

**How did you affect the NJAA?**

It is my hope that I was able to help create an opportunity for

state leaders to continue to improve their leadership abilities while benefiting the state associations. I also hope that I have been able to encourage juniors to believe in their abilities and take advantage of the junior programs. I would consider my term a success if I have been able to touch one junior.

**How do you plan to stay involved with the NJAA and the American Angus Association?**

With my future very much in the air, my involvement with the NJAA and the American Angus Association will remain constant. I will continue to attend events and offer assistance wherever it is needed, but specifics will depend on where more help is needed. I would like to stay involved in some type of advisory aspect to the juniors and work with the Auxiliary.

**What are some of your hobbies outside of Angus cattle?**

Ha, ha. Funny. To think I could have a life outside of work and cattle! I enjoy outdoor sports, running, rollerblading and volleyball, as well as being outside in general. I volunteer at a local children's hospital and community teen crisis center.



**Kara Wilson**

Kara Wilson, communications director, is the 21-year-old daughter of Loran and Kathy Wilson. She is a senior at the University of Kentucky (UK), majoring in agricultural communications and economics.

**What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members?**

Spring Board Meeting 2007 in Steamboat Springs, Colo.; Atlantic Nationals and bonding in Baltimore, Md.; and team-building activities in Athens, Ga., after LEAD last summer.

**What is your favorite memory of interacting with the junior members in your travels?**

Last year I had the opportunity to go to Pennsylvania for the Eastern Regional show. Due to some trouble in flight scheduling and delays, I arrived at the fairgrounds nearly an entire day before most of the Board members and half a day before James. Thankfully, there were a lot of the Pennsylvania juniors and their families already hard at work at the fairgrounds who were ready to put me to work. I really had the opportunity to jump in and get to know a lot of people from outside of my home region. Although I could list many events where I have very fond memories of interacting with juniors, that show is probably my favorite because I met so many people that week from the northeastern states that I hadn't had a chance to get to know before.

**How did you affect the NJAA?**

I hope that I have helped at least some junior members find their place in the NJAA. I hope I have encouraged members to become more involved and face their fears. I hope I have encouraged them to set goals and strive to achieve them. My goal coming on as a junior Board member was to make every junior feel like they belonged, no matter who they were or where they were from.

**How do you plan to stay involved with the NJAA and the American Angus Association?**

I fully intend to continue working with my family's Angus herd and feedlot operation. I want to work in marketing and promotions within the beef industry and someday hope to have a job full-time promoting *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®). The Angus industry is where my passion is, and I hope that I will be able to continue working in it.

**What are some of your hobbies outside of Angus cattle?**

Working in the UK meat lab, running, watching sports, doing UK Block and Bridle activities and making jewelry.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 318



## Making Waves CONTINUED FROM PAGE 317



### Rebecca Tokach

Rebecca Tokach, Foundation director, is the 21-year-old daughter of Richard and Kathy Tokach. She is a senior at Kansas State University (K-State) studying animal science and industries.

### What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members?

The 2007 spring Board Meeting. From the “supposed” two-hour van ride (which really took like four hours), to watching Zeb Gray and Tracee Veenstra attempting to ski, and late-night sledding, that trip left me with a lot of laughs and good memories.

### What is your favorite memory of interacting with the junior members in your travels?

It would have to be the 2007 NJAS. At that NJAS, we as a junior Board had the best opportunity to meet juniors from all across the country. More specifically, I enjoyed signing the mentoring program booklets because it allowed me to meet a lot of the younger members of the NJAA. It was amazing to be able to talk to them and share with them the enthusiasm of the NJAA.

### How did you affect the NJAA?

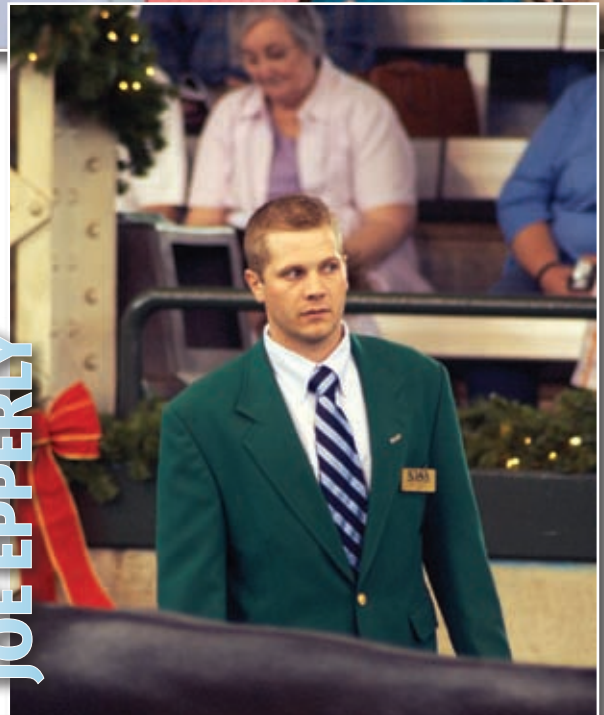
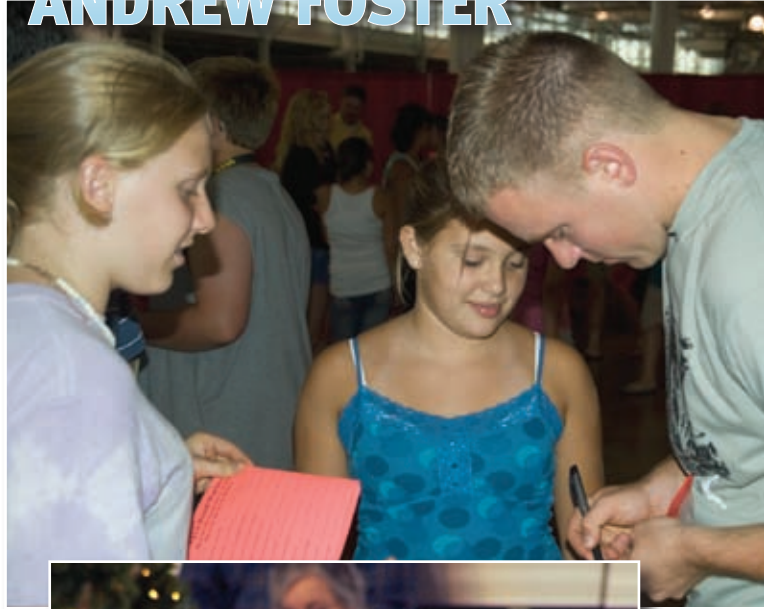
I think it is hard to determine the effect I left on the NJAA this soon. I hope in 10 years, when other people look back on my term, they will be able to see how the NJAA was able to grow through the new opportunities that are funded by the Angus Foundation. I hope these new events and activities will further position our members to be leaders in their own careers and society. I also hope that future Boards and younger members will be able to look back on the 2006-2008 Board of Directors and remember us as being a Board that truly cared about reaching out to every member of the NJAA and working to make a positive difference in each junior’s life.

### How do you plan to stay involved with the NJAA and American Angus Association?

I plan on remaining active in the North Dakota Angus Association and hopefully serving as a delegate for the Annual Meetings for the American Angus Association starting this year in Louisville, Ky. After I finish my graduate degree, I hope to become an advisor of a state junior association. I would love the opportunity to encourage more youth to become active in the NJAA. Eventually, I hope I will get the opportunity to serve on the American Angus Association Board of Directors and help serve and make decisions for the more than 30,000 members of this organization.

### What are some of your hobbies outside of Angus cattle?

Currently, most of my activities revolve around school and K-State. I am very active in the K-State Block and Bridle Club and Blue Key Senior Honorary Society. I also serve as an Ambassador for the College of Agriculture. I love hanging out with my friends and cheering on the Wildcats at football and basketball games.



JOE EPPERLY



JUSTIN BROSEY



**KARA WILSON**



**BROSEY**



**MAY & WILSON**



**REBECCA TOKACH**



**FOSTER & TOKACH**



**DANA MAY**



**EPPELRY**

