



Worth Their Weight in Gold

Eighteen NJAA members achieve Gold Award status.

by *Chelsea Good*

Eighteen elite National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members received Gold Awards in 2007. Developed by the 1980-1981 NJAA Board of Directors along with the American Angus Association Junior Activities Department, the Gold Award is the third and highest honor offered through the National Junior Recognition Program (NJRP).

Successful applicants must be past Bronze and Silver award recipients who are in their last year of eligibility as junior members. The award is based on points earned throughout members' NJAA careers. To receive the Gold Award, members must earn a total of 3,000 points — 1,000 points in addition to those previously accumulated to receive Bronze and Silver awards. Points are received in four areas:

1. Association activities;
2. competitive activities;
3. performance-testing activities; and
4. producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

The Gold Award recognizes retiring junior members for their continued achievement and presents them with a specially designed pin, cast in gold. This award is made possible by the generous support of Angus Foundation donors.

This year's Gold Award recipients include the following NJAA members.

Elizabeth Ann Blumer

During the summers when Elizabeth Blumer's parents, Adam and Nancy Blumer, were working, she would stay with her grandparents.



It was here where 10-year-old Elizabeth was exposed to the Angus cattle her uncle was beginning to purchase. Elizabeth wanted to be a part of the venture. She spent as much time in the barn and around her uncle as possible.

Soon, Elizabeth had the opportunity to exhibit one of the heifers at a show at Clemson University. She loved it. As she continued to show, Elizabeth enjoyed spending time with the other children who shared her interest in cattle. They learned together that taking care of

cattle wasn't always fun and games. They also learned waking up at 5:30 a.m. to prepare cattle at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) is exciting but tiring.

Elizabeth says one of the most rewarding experiences of her junior career was helping a younger girl, who was thinking about quitting, decide to continue showing Angus cattle. The younger girl thought she had to win to enjoy showing. After watching Elizabeth place near the bottom of the show one day, the younger girl and Elizabeth sat

down and talked. Elizabeth told her about the fun of showing and importance of sticking with what you like to do.

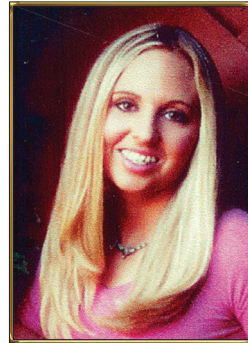
Elizabeth is certainly glad she stuck with Angus cattle. In addition to her showing success, her junior Angus career highlights include being an NJAA voting delegate, scholarship winner and Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference participant. The Chesnee, S.C., Angus enthusiast has also served three terms as the South Carolina Junior Angus Association president.

Elizabeth will graduate from Millsaps College in Mississippi with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She plans to pursue a master's degree in the same field. Her interests involve communications, advertising art and real estate. She plans to own an Angus farm once she settles into her career in business.

"I have solidified my lifelong love for Angus cattle under the close tutelage of my uncle," Elizabeth says. "I hope to always have Angus cattle as part of my life."

Jordan Davis

"Opportunity can best sum up my experiences in the NJAA," Jordan Davis says. "It has given me the opportunity to forge new friendships, to travel to different states, to set realistic goals and to become successful."



Angus friendships are something Jordan plans to take from the NJAA into her adult life. She says growing up in rural western Oklahoma has limiting factors. She calls it a great place to live but says there are few opportunities to meet new people. With her NJAA travels, she's made lasting friendships through competitions, Angus shows, the mentoring program and LEAD conferences.

During these Angus activities, Jordan gained many skills, including how to set and meet goals. She says that most people have goals but where they fall short is the action to work toward them. Thomas Edison once said, "Opportunity comes dressed in overalls and looks a lot like work." Jordan agrees. She says it takes a lot of work to get a heifer ready for competition.

Success has been the reward of Jordan's hard work. She's reaped victories in the NJAA showing and contests. She's also been an Oklahoma Junior Angus Association president, queen and scholarship winner. However, she says, success does not always mean placing first, but it does mean doing her best. She says inspiring younger members in the NJAA mentoring program is just as important as winning contests.

"Life lessons are the summation of friendship, travel, goal-setting and success that I have learned in the NJAA," Jordan says. "It has helped mold me into the person I am today."



Jordan is studying business management at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. After graduation, she plans to move back to the family farm in Foss, Okla., and help her parents, Jim and Debbie Davis, raise and market Angus cattle.

Andrew Foster

Andrew Foster grew up on a farm near Niles, Mich. The son of Scott and Elaine Foster, Andrew worked closely with his family raising and showing Angus cattle.



Ever since he can remember, he has loved showing cattle. He has exhibited at every NJAS since 1996 in Kansas City, Mo., which was his first year of eligibility. He has looked forward to the NJAS every year since. Andrew says he met many of his best friends at Angus events during the course of these past years. He has also seen much showing success, exhibiting champions at every level of competition.

At the NJAS in 2006, Andrew was elected to the NJAA Board of Directors and placed third in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. He also has served in leadership positions in the Michigan Junior Angus Association, including president for two terms, vice president and secretary. He has been a director of the state junior association since 1996.

Andrew spent the last two years studying business at Southwestern Michigan College. This fall, he is attending Oklahoma State University (OSU), where he plans to receive a bachelor's degree in animal science in 2009.

"I plan on making my living in the Angus industry and look forward to working closely with the many people I have met over the years," Andrew says. "I can't help but thank everyone in the Angus breed who has helped me be successful throughout my junior career."

Zane Gray

"I understand, through my Angus-related experiences, that great success can only be achieved through commitment and hard work,"



Zane Gray, Toledo, Iowa, says. He has seen this success as he has established his own herd through his Angus projects. He has helped his family implement an extensive breeding program with more than 80% artificial insemination (AI), enroll all cattle in the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) program, and expand their marketing program beyond state borders.

He's also seen success through his participation in junior activities.

He's helped the Iowa Junior Angus Association and his regional associations host local, regional, state and national events. He has also attended the LEAD Conference

and won NJAA scholarships. One of his favorite NJAA activities was serving as a mentor, because he could help establish the next generation of leadership.

Zane is the son of Terry and Julie Gray. He is a student at Iowa State University (ISU) where he is studying animal science. He hopes to become a veterinarian. His future goals also include expanding his Angus herd and establishing himself as a premier Angus producer.

He says the bond he has developed with other Angus producers is the main thing he'll take away from his NJAA experiences.

"The production work is challenging, the Association competitions are great, the honors are rewarding, but my most treasured NJAA memories will be the lifelong friendships that I have established with Angus producers and associates," Zane says.

Darren Herbst

Darren Herbst was raised on an Angus ranch in Salmon, Idaho. He's been around cattle and farm equipment all his life. Ever since



he was young, he's been responsible for chores around the ranch. He also had many breeding projects growing up, but he never loved showing. He says the reason was because he was short. But, that all changed in 2005.

"That was my best year yet. I had a super cow and calf and two excellent heifers to show. More importantly, I grew," Darren says. He put in a lot of work that year, and it paid off with many championships and two junior herdsman awards.

Darren has served as the Idaho Junior Angus Association vice president, has been an NJAS voting delegate and attended the LEAD Conference. He loves farming and says he is constantly thinking of ways to make machinery work better. He would like to find a way to incorporate this interest into his future career.

Darren was the valedictorian of his high school class and earned many scholarships. He plans to go to college to become an agricultural engineer. These plans are currently on hold, as he is serving as a full-time missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. This two-year commitment is up September 2007.

Darren, who is the son of Steve and Janna Herbst, says he has greatly enjoyed growing up in the NJAA. He especially appreciates the friendships he has made and the opportunities for leadership and growth.

"I hope to raise a family one day in the same way," Darren says. "For me, it is definitely a way of life."

Sarah Holland

"As a member of the Arkansas Junior Angus Association and NJAA, I have learned much about people, cattle and life," Sarah Holland, Imboden, Ark., says. She attended her first LEAD Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2003 and has been to every one since. She also served as Northeast Arkansas District Princess in

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2004 and was a voting delegate at the 2006 NJAS. Additionally, she represented Arkansas in the national showmanship competition at the 2004 NJAS in Kansas City, Mo.



Sarah credits the Mark Martin family and Michelle Rieff for having the biggest influence in her junior career.

“They have always been encouraging and made me feel a part of their families, and for that I will always be grateful,” Sarah says.

She also appreciates Association employees she’s met during her junior career.

“Mr. James Fisher, director of junior activities for the Association, is one of the most positive people I have met.

I am indeed thankful for the leadership roles he and Mr. Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president, have played in the lives of so many young people,” Sarah says.

Sarah wants to make a difference as well. She is proud she has persuaded others to invest in Angus cattle. One example of this is a young man from her former high school who is now a member of the Arkansas Junior Angus Association and NJAA.

Sarah, a junior at Arkansas State University, is pursuing a double major in biology and chemistry with a pre-professional emphasis and a minor in English. She plans to apply to the University of Tennessee School of Dentistry.

Even though Sarah is not majoring in agriculture, she plans to stay active in the Angus cattle business. Her parents, Michael and Lisa Holland, and sister maintain her cattle herd while she is away at college. She hopes to establish a dental practice in an area of Arkansas where she can continue to raise cattle.

Clayton Lampe

“If I were asked what has influenced the person I am today the most, I would answer without hesitation that being involved in breeding Angus cattle and junior Angus association activities have been the greatest influences on my life,” says Clayton Lampe of Scott City, Kan.



Clayton, the son of Mark and Anne Lampe, is proud to be a fifth-generation Angus breeder. He received his first registered Angus bred heifer as a gift from his grandfather in 1994. That heifer became the foundation of his current herd. Clayton and his brother are partners on more than 40 Angus cows. Clayton is involved in all aspects of his family’s operation as well as his own herd. This includes daily care,

management, selection and breeding. He has shown on the local, state and national level throughout his junior Angus career.

In addition to showing and managing his herd, Clayton has been active in the Kansas Junior Angus Association and NJAA. On the state level, he’s served in numerous officer positions and on many committees. He has also attended every NJAS since

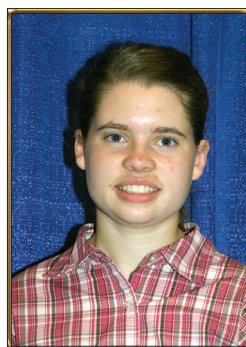
1996 and six LEAD conferences. He says participation in NJAS poster, photography, graphic design, team sales and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off contests have broadened his knowledge and perspective of the industry.

Clayton spent the last two years at Butler Community College where he was a member of the livestock judging team. Now, he is enrolled at Kansas State University (K-State) where he is pursuing a degree in animal sciences and industry with a production option. He says he is confident that Angus cattle and the beef industry will always be part of his life.

“From on-the-farm responsibilities, to leadership roles, to educational contest participation, to the friends I have made, the Angus breed and the NJAA are a way of life for me,” Clayton says.

Kristen Lundgren

“I joined the NJAA as a teenager, and while I have not been a member for an extended period of time, I feel that I have gained an incredible amount of knowledge through experiences I would



have underestimated or overlooked at a younger age,” Kristen Lundgren says.

Kristen appreciates the opportunities the NJAA provided her to work with some of the top producers in the Angus breed and to build friendships with other juniors. She dove into NJAA activities, participating in team sales, extemporaneous public speaking, photography and graphic design. She was also a member of the champion quiz bowl team at the 2006 NJAS.

“I have had the opportunity in my few short years [as an NJAA member] to experience many accomplishments in the Association outside of the showing that gave me a greater knowledge and appreciation for the breed we all love,” Kristen says.

One of the experiences she especially enjoyed was serving as a mentor to younger members. However, this also made her realize that she regrets not having the time to give back to the NJAA as much as she would have liked. She says that even though she’s graduating from the junior program, she still plans to attend events where she will assist her siblings and other juniors.

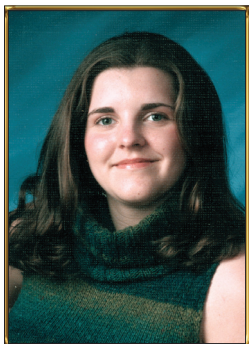
One of these siblings is the reason Kristen chose to take her current path in life. When Kristen was eight, her sister was born with a congenital heart defect. This experience helped Kristen decide she wanted to be a high-tech, neonatal nurse. She is studying in the nursing program at Oral Roberts University in Broken Arrow, Okla. Beyond this, she hopes to receive her master’s degree and become a clinical nurse specialist.

Kristen says Angus cattle will always have a special place in her heart, and she plans to continue her involvement with her family’s Angus herd, where her current responsibilities include submitting AHIR information, working with the AI program and managing herd health.

Kristen is the daughter of David and Sandy Lundgren of Ottawa, Kan.

Laura May

Laura May's NJAA career got off to a slow start. After all, her family had not shown cattle in 20 years. However, in 2001, when she attended her first Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show in Tupelo, Miss., she was hooked.



Since then, Laura has participated in four Eastern Regional Junior Angus Shows and attended the NJAS six times. She's been involved with quiz bowl, judging, photography and Cook-Off contests. She's also participated in the mentoring program and attended four LEAD conferences.

Laura is the daughter of Steve and Vivian May of Hurricane Mills, Tenn. She is a student at Texas A&M University (TAMU), where she's studying animal science and agricultural economics. Her school activities include Aggie REPS and the Saddle and Sirloin club. She was also a member of the 2006 national champion meats judging team. Laura has completed internships with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and QAF Meats in Australia. After completing her undergraduate coursework in December 2008, she will begin a meat science graduate program at TAMU. She wants to obtain a job within the meat science industry in the research and development field.

Of her NJAA involvement Laura says, "I am going to miss being a member of the greatest junior Angus association in the world."

Brett Naylor

"Looking back over the last 10 years, it has been an amazing journey as an NJAA member," says Brett Naylor, son of Gary and Pam Naylor of Buffalo, Mo.



When Brett began showing Angus in 1997, he had little idea of the opportunities that lay ahead. He says that in the past 10 years Angus cattle have brought him many awards because of his hard work and dedication. However, he values the leadership skills he's developed even more as they will benefit him throughout his lifetime.

He also values the people he's met through his Angus experiences. Each year he looks forward to seeing old friends

and meeting new ones when attending the NJAS.

"Thanks to great NJAA programs such as the mentoring program and LEAD conferences, I have met junior members from all over the U.S.," Brett says. "The many hours of fun I have enjoyed with Angus friends cannot be counted."

Brett also says his NJAA involvement has helped him secure college scholarships. He is a student at the University of Missouri where he is active with the Alpha Gamma Rho agricultural fraternity and Collegiate Farm Bureau. He plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in plant science and a minor in animal science. After graduation, he hopes to further his education by obtaining a master's

degree. His future plans also include maintaining a small herd of Angus cattle.

Kristen Oaks

"Angus cattle are my life, and the people in the [American Angus] Association are my family," says Kristen Oaks, the daughter of Emerson IV and Rebekah Oaks of Calhoun, La.



Twelve years ago, her father gave her what she considers the best Christmas gift she has ever received — two beautiful Angus heifers and a membership to the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

"To most of my friends, it was a very strange gift," Kristen says. "But to me, it was so much more than cows and a membership card; it was a world of opportunity."

Kristen attended her first NJAS in 1999 in Tulsa, Okla. She participated in many competitions in addition to showing cattle. To her surprise, she placed second in the public speaking contest. From that day on, her passion for and involvement with the NJAA has surpassed any other activity in her life.

Through the NJAA, Kristen has learned and accomplished more than she ever thought possible. She has gone from not being able to keep her heifer in the ring to winning the NJAS showmanship competition and from admiring the older NJAA Board members to wearing her own green jacket.

Kristen says she feels she has achieved this success by taking advantage of all of the opportunities the NJAA offers. She attended every LEAD Conference, applied for each award and scholarship for which she was eligible, and went to every show she could attend.

Kristen is a senior at Louisiana State University with a double major in mass communications and agricultural business. Upon graduation, she hopes to pursue a career that involves communications and Angus cattle.

Regardless of the career path Kristen chooses, she will treasure her NJAA experiences and the people she has met.

"It is true that life often comes full circle," Kristen says. "The site of my first NJAS will also be the site of my last. While this NJAS may mark the end of my career as a junior member, it is only the beginning of a life filled with cattle and my Angus family."

Roy Petteway

"Being a member of the Florida Junior Angus Association, as well as the NJAA has afforded me opportunities that I never would have imagined possible," Roy Petteway of Zolfo Springs, Fla., says. "The path my life has taken could not have been planned without God's blessing."

Roy says that when he was a child he never could have imagined all of the places he would go and the opportunities that would be presented to him. He has traveled all over the country to show cattle and participate in sales and conferences. These travels include being a Florida Junior Angus Association and NJAA voting delegate and a LEAD Conference participant.

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Roy joined the NJAA in 2000. Around the same time, he became certified to perform AI at the age of 14. Since then, he's been



responsible for the AI breeding of his family's herd and hires out to perform breeding services for other ranches in his area. He's also an area beef representative for Genex Cooperative.

Roy graduated with an associate's degree from South Florida Community College in May. He attends the University of Florida, where he's working toward a bachelor's degree in animal science. He'd like to become a veterinarian near his hometown.

The son of Roy and Wendy Petteway, Roy says citrus and cattle have been good to his family, and he looks forward to continuing that tradition.

John Pfeiffer

John Pfeiffer of Mulhall, Okla., is the son of John and Gaye Pfeiffer. He is a student at OSU, where he is studying animal science. He also works at the OSU Purebred Beef Center as a student herdsman.



John manages a herd of Angus cows that are bred entirely through AI. He uses computerized records to make informed breeding decisions. The knowledge he has gained through the NJAS carcass contest and feeding bulls in Oklahoma Beef Inc. (OBI) bull tests contributes significantly to his herd. He says that this information allows him to compare his herd against his peers in the industry. He also aims to improve pastureland and

utilizes rotational grazing to coax the most from the sometimes-harsh environment of central Oklahoma.

John has been involved with the National FFA Organization along with the NJAA, exhibiting cattle in shows across Oklahoma and the U.S. He also has excelled in judging and speech contests. He was an NJAA voting delegate in 2003 and the recipient of state and national Angus scholarships in 2004.

John says he will use the skills and habits he has picked up during his years with the NJAA to help him finish his college education and make his way into the world.

Peter Scharpe

Peter Scharpe of Arlington, Minn. was the sixth and final child in his family to begin a career in the NJAA. It didn't take him long to discover that the showring wasn't the place for him. Although he did his share of showing cattle, he says it wasn't his favorite thing to do. Rather, Peter thinks of himself as a behind-the-scenes guy. He preferred taking care of the cattle and getting them ready for the show vs. actually showing them. Peter began to wonder what else there was in the NJAA.

Then, in 1998, he attended his first NJAS. He realized that the NJAA offered so much more than just a showring. That year, he

competed in prepared public speaking, Cook-Off and quiz bowl contests.

Since then, Peter has been attending the NJAS, competing in both livestock and educational contests. He also encourages younger members to compete and helps them with their projects. Additionally, he got involved in the Minnesota Junior Angus Association (MJAA) where he used his parliamentary procedure skills to keep meetings running smoothly.



Peter, who is the son of James and Myrna Scharpe, transferred to ISU from North Dakota State University last year. He is studying animal science. After graduation, Peter would like to attend veterinary school. He wants to return to rural Minnesota and work as a large-animal veterinarian.

"The experiences and leadership skills that I learned through my involvement with the MJAA and NJAA will always be with me, as I work at a vet clinic or start my own clinic," Peter says.

Peter also intends to start his own farm and continue to raise registered Angus cattle. He says he will always encourage young people to get involved with their state Angus association and the NJAA. He's found that junior Angus opportunities are wide-ranging, and there is something for everyone — even for someone like him, someone who found his place outside the showring.

Rebecca Tokach

"To a lot of people, Angus cattle are just a hobby or something they do for fun," Rebecca Tokach, Saint Anthony, N.D., says. "But to my family, Angus cattle are a way of life and a passion."



Rebecca, who is the daughter of Richard (Dick) and Kathy Tokach, says many of her earliest memories go back to the summers she and her brother spent working with their Angus heifers. She says that even as a little girl, she had a passion for Angus cattle and the NJAA.

In 2000, she attended her first NJAS. Rebecca remembers being terrified to spend a week away from her friends

where she didn't know anyone. Once she got to the show, other juniors were quick to take her under their wings and show her the ropes of the NJAS. Ever since then, Rebecca's known she wanted to be successful in the NJAA. She became a leader in the North Dakota Junior Angus Association, participated in numerous contests and attended LEAD conferences.

At the 2006 NJAS in Indianapolis, Ind., Rebecca was elected to the NJAA Board. She also won the prepared public speaking and creative writing contests.

Rebecca is a K-State student who is double-majoring in animal science and agricultural economics. On campus, she is active in Block and Bridle, Agriculture Ambassadors, College of Agriculture Student

Council, and the Meats Judging Team. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school, pursuing a doctorate in either ruminant nutrition or genetics. She would like to develop a career that will allow her to use her knowledge and ambition to benefit livestock producers.

Her other future plans include having a family and serving as the advisor of a state junior Angus association.

"I hope that through my work in agricultural organizations and volunteer hours, I will accomplish my personal goal of getting young people to return to the agricultural industry," Rebecca says. "After all, the youth of tomorrow are not only the future of the agricultural industry, but also the future of my world and yours."

Mallory Trosper

"As I look back on my years of involvement in the NJAA, I can recall so many exciting moments and achievements," says Mallory Trosper, a 15-year NJAA member who was Miss American Angus in 2006 and has served two years as the president of the Missouri Junior Angus Association.



"How I placed in a show or contest are not going to be the things I remember 20 years from now," Mallory says. "The trips to the shows, the juniors I competed with in contests and the numerous people I have met through the years are the moments I will cherish."

Mallory credits the NJAA for developing her into the confident young woman she has become. Mallory is the

daughter of Steve and Sandy Trosper of Hamilton, Mo. She says the NJAA has given her family the opportunity to share a special bond with the Angus community, which she calls her second family.

"Not only have I gained a second family within the Angus breed and NJAA, but my closest friends and the people who know me best are those who have crossed my path during my involvement," Mallory says.

She's confident that these bonds will stand the tests of time and distance. Mallory, who is a student at the University of Missouri, Columbia, plans on completing bachelor's and master's programs in nursing. She aspires to serve as a family nurse practitioner in a rural setting.

She says she appreciates the responsibility and work ethic she gained from being raised on a farm and participating in NJAA activities. This is something she hopes to pass on.

"I would greatly enjoy seeing my children reap the benefits I have from the NJAA," Mallory says. She hopes her future children "have the opportunity to grow as individuals in such a rewarding environment as the Angus organization."

Ashley Wagner

Ashley Wagner's first NJAS was in Kansas City, Mo., in 1996. She says she went to the show as a young girl who had no clue what she was getting into. She came home addicted to the NJAS. That year, she was on the first-place recipe Cook-Off team. She's attended all but one NJAS since then.

"The NJAA has made me a better person and given me a passion for Angus cattle and the people that go along with it," says Ashley, the daughter of Lori Wagner of Genoa, Neb. "My experience through the NJAA has helped me in almost every aspect of my life."



Ashley served as the secretary-treasurer, historian and queen for the Nebraska Junior Angus Association. She has a herd of 20 cow-calf pairs with a select group of embryo transfer calves. She also helps with her family's herd.

Ashley is an online student at Southeast Community College studying business. She also works full time

performing accounting for Christensen Cattle Co. Her future plans include receiving her degree from Southeast Community College and continuing to work for Christensen Cattle Co. She also will continue raising Angus cattle.

Kindra Wood

Kindra Wood attended her first NJAS in Perry, Ga., when she was 9 years old. The daughter of Keith and June Wood of Holly Pond, Ala., Kindra was in awe the entire week. Little did she know it was the beginning of something too great to imagine — her career as an NJAA member.



"My 12-year career has taken many twists and turns along the way, opening doors to many great opportunities," Kindra says. The NJAS has provided her family with yearly vacations to places she had only read about. She says these trips have been an ongoing education for her family. While at the shows, Kindra has met some wonderful people she will call friends for a lifetime. Along the way, she

also has gotten to know adults who have served as great mentors.

There have been many highlights during Kindra's junior career. However, the one that stands out in her mind is being a member of the NJAA Board of Directors. The older members in the green jackets had always been role models for Kindra. She dreamed of becoming part of that elite group. That dream became reality at the 2005 NJAS in Denver, Colo., when Kindra was chosen by her peers to represent the NJAA. Throughout her term, she tried to be a good role model for other juniors and encourage them to strive to reach their dreams.

Kindra will receive her bachelor's degree in animal science from Auburn University in May 2008. She then plans to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine. Kindra would like to return to her rural roots and open a veterinary clinic specializing in large animal care. She also plans to have a family with whom she can share her love for the NJAA.

"I will continue the tradition that my family has set by attending the NJAS each year as a vacation in learning," Kindra says. "As we all know, you are never too young or old to learn!"

