

Wise Investment

Angus Foundation scholarship recipients prove the program is helping Angus students succeed.

BY ABRA UNGEHEUER

In 1998 the Angus Foundation first awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to Angus juniors. Three years later, the scholarship program continues to provide financial support to junior members attending college. Currently, two scholarships are offered in the amount of \$2,500, and 15 scholarships valued at \$1,000 are awarded.

A committee of two Angus Foundation representatives, two Angus industry representatives and one National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) representative reviews applications. The scholarship money can be used for various scholastic purposes, such as tuition, books and living expenses, and as four particular junior members demonstrate, the funds they received have been put to good use.

Lindsey Trospen, Kansas City, Mo., was awarded an Angus Foundation scholarship in 1999. Trospen attended Stephens College, a private women's college in Columbia, Mo. Upon graduation in May 2000, Trospen accepted a position with Barkley Evergreen & Partners, where she works in the public relations division.

Because Trospen attended a private college, she knew she would have higher costs than at other universities. The scholarship helped cover her living expenses.

Since the money covered all of her additional expenses, she didn't have to get a job during the school year. That helped her maintain a high grade-point average (GPA) in order to keep a scholarship she was

awarded from Stephens College, which covered tuition expenses. Trospen says the Angus Foundation scholarship allowed her to remain active in the NJAA, which she would not have been able to do had she been required to hold a job.

"The program impresses many other beef breed associations," Trospen says. States are following the lead of the national scholarship program, she believes. "Missouri Angus juniors are bringing in more junior members because of assistance for the youth."

Rhonda Nida, Red Rock, Okla., is finishing her final year as a student at Kansas State University. Nida is majoring in agricultural communications and journalism. She first won a \$1,000 scholarship in 1998 and was a top scholarship recipient in 1999, winning one of the two \$2,500 scholarships. A student may receive no more than two scholarships from the Angus Foundation.

Since she decided to travel out of state for college, Nida's primary expense is her tuition. Therefore, tuition was a big concern for her. She also used the scholarship money for books and living expenses. Having the financial security the scholarship provided gave Nida peace of mind.

She remains active in the Angus breed today by staying involved with the Oklahoma Angus Association. She still enjoys going to shows and other Angus functions. Her goal is to become a life member of the Auxiliary, and she hopes to be a junior advisor in the future.

"My involvement with the NJAA is very special to me," Nida says. She credits most of her success to junior Angus involvement.

Janelle Sommers, Silver Lake, Ind., recently graduated from Purdue University, where she majored in animal agribusiness and agricultural communications. Upon graduation in December 2000, she accepted a position as a communications specialist for Maple Leaf Farms, Milford, Ind.

Sommers received a scholarship while serving as chairman of the NJAA Board. She agrees the money "took financial strain off me and allowed me to focus on Board activities."

The scholarship lessened her financial

concerns. Since she didn't have to focus on earning money for college, she was able to concentrate on her GPA and extracurricular activities.

Sommers believes her NJAA experience helped her land a good job. Because the Angus Foundation and producers are so committed to and involved with the NJAA, her experience was invaluable.

Staying involved with the Angus breed is something Sommers plans to do for a long time. She currently serves as co-advisor of the Indiana Junior Angus Association with her mom and sister. She is also involved with the Auxiliary.

When considering the value of donating to the Angus Foundation, Sommers reminds producers that "it doesn't necessarily matter how big or small your donation is. It matters that you invest in the future of the Angus breed."

Garrett Pohlman, Norfolk, Neb., is currently a senior in animal science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has received the Angus Foundation scholarship twice. Since his tuition is paid for by other scholarships, Pohlman uses the money for books and housing.

Money is a big concern for most college students, but Pohlman has peace of mind from not having to worry so much about covering costs. The scholarship enabled him to focus on other goals, including his GPA.

Pohlman believes the NJAA is an extremely valuable program. The opportunities to travel through the NJAA helped him meet new friends. In turn, that made the transition to college easier since he already knew some of his fellow students. In addition, the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference helped Pohlman develop his leadership skills.

Pohlman remains active in the Angus industry by helping with his family's operation when he's home from school.

The Angus Foundation is pleased with the success of its scholarship program and hopes it will continue to grow. If you are interested in making a donation to the Angus Foundation specifically for the scholarship program, you may send your gift to Angus Foundation Scholarship, c/o National Junior Angus Association, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506-2997.

Scholarship applications and a complete list of qualifications can be downloaded from www.angus.org/njaa. The 2001 scholarship application deadline is quickly approaching. Applications are due **May 15** to the same address. Questions may be directed to the Junior Activities Department at (816) 383-5100.



The Angus Foundation Scholarship program enables students to focus on other goals, including NJAA activities and GPA, according to scholarship recipient Garrett Pohlman, Norfolk, Neb.