

Next Generation

POSTCARD FROM AN NJAA DIRECTOR

The Lesson

A few weeks ago, I was asked by a professor to write a short essay about an event or person who taught me a lesson. To be honest, in the midst of final exams and 10-page papers, that assignment was on the bottom of my priority list. However, once I actually began the essay, I realized I should not have underestimated how difficult the seemingly simple task turned out to be.

As I began to gather ideas for my topic, I realized that numerous events involving many people were integral in the development of my character, and there was no way I could single out one. But there is one event in my life that taught me a lesson I will never forget.



Brittney Burns

During one of my first 4-H fairs, I began to “learn” about people and life. At this particular fair, I discovered how important it is to lose, as well as to win, with grace. The first time I ever showed a heifer, I got sixth place. Now, you may be thinking that sixth place is not that bad. But there were only six heifers in the class! As you can imagine, at that point, I was one unhappy 9-year-old.

Just as I began to pout, the showman who received first place appeared at my stall. He looked at me, congratulated me and shook my hand. For a moment, I thought he was kidding, but then I realized he was sincere. As he walked off, I thanked him and began to question what had occurred. I remember wondering why in the world he had made an effort to congratulate me when

he was the one who got first place, not me. I became so curious that I decided to go to his stall and ask him.

When I approached him, I asked why he had congratulated me when I got last place and he got first. His explanation made me realize just how important it is to *lose and to win with grace*. The boy explained that he had been showing for five years and he had never *ever* received higher than fifth place. He said he was often at the bottom of his classes and knew all too well the feeling of being in my position.

He explained that all of those times he was in last place, he wished someone would have congratulated him sincerely and encouraged him because he always made an effort to congratulate the winner. This was the first time he had ever been in a position to congratulate someone at the end of the class, and he did not want to miss the opportunity.

From that moment, I realized the importance of always showing with compassion. After writing my essay, I sat back and thought about how fortunate I was to have learned such a hard lesson at an early age. I never got the opportunity to thank him, so B.J., if you are reading this, thank you for teaching me that lesson (and for helping me get an A on my paper).

While showing this summer, make an effort never to miss the opportunity to teach someone a life lesson.

— **Brittney Burns, Kickapoo, Ill.**

■ Idaho

Junior member **Kira Paine**, Caldwell, Idaho, is the recipient of an Idaho 4-H Endowment Fund scholarship. She plans to attend the University of Idaho to study agribusiness or political science.

TERMS UP IN 2001

Sonya Smith, chairman— 5065 Cainsville Rd., Lebanon, TN 37090; phone: (615) 443-3139; e-mail: srsmith78@hotmail.com

Brandon Douglas, vice chairman— 117 E. Jefferson Rd., Cheyenne, WY 82007; phone: (307) 635-4830; e-mail: dshowangus170@cs.com

Sy Olson, Angus Foundation director— Rt. 3, Box 480, Hereford, TX 79045; phone: (806) 647-2698; e-mail: sy_olson@hotmail.com

Allison Porter, communications director— 168 Hardman Rd., Jefferson, GA 30549; phone: (706) 367-9731; e-mail: sapallie@aol.com

Miranda Grissom, leadership director— 121 Meadows Lane; Shawnee, OK 74804; phone: (405) 878-6747; e-mail: grissomm@hotmail.com

Jamie Meyer, membership/information director— 12799 S.W. 210th St., Douglass, KS 67039; phone: (316) 747-2922; e-mail: jamielmeyer@aol.com

TERMS UP IN 2002

Brittney Burns— 9318 N. Old Towerline Rd., Kickapoo, IL 61528; phone: (309) 692-0146; e-mail: brittneyburns07@hotmail.com

Heath Johnson— 125 Dunbar Drive, Corinth, MS 38834; phone: (662) 287-7483; e-mail: bd_heath@hotmail.com

Tom Patterson— 123 Patterson Ranch Rd., Columbus, MT 59019; phone: (406) 445-2332; e-mail: twpatt@hotmail.com

Jessica Sawyer— HCR 75, Box 110, Bassett, NE 68414; phone: (402) 684-2371; e-mail: jessicaannov3@hotmail.com

Ryan Sweeney— 3215 Sandhill Rd., Mason, MI 48854; phone: (517) 332-5274; e-mail: sweene33@msu.edu

Christy Walther— 5561 Faughts Rd., Mount Crawford, VA 22841; phone: (540) 234-0242; e-mail: cmw1204@hotmail.com



Serving on the Board of Directors for the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) for 2000-2001 are (seated, from left) **Sonya Smith**, Lebanon, Tenn., chairman; **Brandon Douglas**, Cheyenne, Wyo., vice chairman; **Allison Porter**, Jefferson, Ga., communications director; **Sy Olson**, Hereford, Texas, Angus Foundation director; **Miranda Grissom**, Shawnee, Okla., leadership director; and **Jamie Meyer**, Douglass, Kan., membership/information director; (standing, from left) **Christy Walther**, Mount Crawford, Va.; **Jessica Sawyer**, Bassett, Neb.; **Tom Patterson**, Columbus, Mont.; **Heath Johnson**, Corinth, Miss.; **Ryan Sweeney**, Mason, Mich.; and **Brittney Burns**, Kickapoo, Ill.

■ **Mississippi Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet**
May 4, Raymond



The Mississippi Angus Auxiliary awarded two scholarships. Pictured are (from left) **Christy Franks**, Mantachie, scholarship recipient; **Jamie Overall**, Potts Camp, accepting the scholarship for her brother, Brian; and Melanie Kiani, Mississippi Angus Auxiliary.

■ **Oklahoma Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet**
May 4, Stillwater



Amanda Penner (left), Mill Creek, is awarded the outstanding junior member traveling trophy by the Oklahoma Angus Ass'n. John Pfeiffer Jr., Orlando, makes the presentation.



Oklahoma Angus Auxiliary scholarship recipients are (from left) **Rebecca Nida**, Red Rock, and **Amanda Penner**, Mill Creek.



Kelli Armbruster (left), Burlington, was crowned the 2001-2002 Oklahoma Angus queen. Amanda Penner, 2000-2001 Oklahoma Angus queen, is also pictured.

■ **Minnesota Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, March 27, Rochester**



Minnesota Angus royalty are (from left) **Katelyn Scharpe**, Arlington, and **Krista Stai**, New London, both 2001 queens; and **Kim Johnson**, Pipestone, and **Amanda Stai**, New London, both 2000 queens.



Sunny Carlson (left), Thief River Falls, received her Bronze and Silver awards, and **Katelyn Scharpe** (right), Arlington, received her Bronze Award.

