

# FINDING GOLD in the New Millennium

## 19 junior members earn National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Gold Awards

**T**hese 19 members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) have earned the coveted Gold Award in 2000. Qualifications for the award serve as educational opportunities that will lead these NJAA members to further success in the beef industry.

Outstanding members are recognized at several steps during their NJAA careers through the American Angus Association National Junior Recognition Program (NJRP). Gold Awards represent the culmination of several years, perhaps a decade, of hard work. Intermediate steps are the Bronze and Silver awards.

Each level requires participation and achievement in leadership, show competition, performance testing, production and merchandising of Angus cattle. To qualify for the Gold Award, NJAA members must have received Bronze and Silver recognition, then apply during their final year of eligibility as an NJAA member.

Complete and accurate records are vital when applying for any of these awards. Contact the Junior Activities Department for more information.



**Jonathan Andrews**

### **Jonathan Andrews**

A highlight of Jonathan Andrews' Angus career was exhibiting the senior division owned heifer champion at the 1997 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). He also won the 1998 California National Contestant Showmanship Competition.

"The junior association has helped me become a better 'people' person," says the son of John and Linda Andrews, Dos Palos, Calif. "I can communicate better with Angus breeders and in every other aspect of my life. I'm

just better at being around people because of it."

Jonathan is currently a senior at California State University-Fresno. He is pursuing a degree in animal science. He says he looks forward to using his degree to turn his junior Angus project into a full-time occupation.



**Dee Jay Linn**

### **Dee Jay Linn**

Dee Jay Linn has used his time as an Oklahoma Junior Angus Association member well. The son of John Aaron and Burdettja Linn of Red Rock, Okla., says his parents helped make it an enjoyable experience.

An important part of Dee Jay's state association work was serving as a 1992-94 district director. He received a 1997 Oklahoma Angus Association Scholarship. In 1994 Dee Jay exhibited a second-place bred-and-owned bull at the NJAS.

"Angus cattle have helped teach me about responsibility and work ethics. These qualities have stayed with me, both in the showing

and in the 'real' world," Dee Jay says. "Showing Angus cattle throughout the country is an experience of a lifetime. The most important part of this experience was that it was a family affair. We all went together and enjoyed."

Dee Jay is currently self-employed as a farmer and rancher.



**Daniel Donati**

### **Daniel "Rocky" Donati**

A highlight of Daniel "Rocky" Donati's Angus career was serving as 1997-98 California Junior Angus Association president. His involvement in the state association carried him to three national Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences and allowed him to represent California as a delegate at the 1999 NJAS.

The showing helped Daniel display his Angus herd, especially at the 1997 NJAS where he

exhibited the reserve champion bred-and-owned bull. Attending the NJAS has been fun for Daniel, and he has enjoyed meeting many people through showing and the NJAA.

"Running for the national board was a lot of fun for me," Daniel says. "I met a lot of new people. The junior association has given me a lot of contacts and networking opportunities. It's allowed me to learn more about the industry and other places."

The son of Tom and Sally Donati, Oroville, Calif., Daniel is currently pursuing a degree in agricultural business from California Polytechnic State University. He plans to graduate in 2001 and will continue raising Angus cattle.



**Terri Cameron**

### **Terri Cameron**

Terri Cameron, the daughter of Paul and Elaine Cameron, Winder, Ga., served as the Georgia Junior Angus Association second vice president during 1996 and 1997. Terri attended the 1997 NJAS as a voting delegate.

Through the NJAA, Terri has traveled to many different places, but she's learned more than how to pack for a trip.

"I learned about winning and losing and how life wasn't fair all the time. The leadership skills and

maturity that I have gained through my experiences with Angus cattle will be invaluable as I leave the National Junior Angus Association and move into my adult life."

Terri is pursuing a degree in child and family development at the University of Georgia. She plans to graduate in December 2001. Terri says she expects to continue her Angus involvement and to help other children reap the same benefits from the NJAA as she did.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 132



Rhonda Nida

**Rhonda Nida**

Oklahoma Junior Angus Association member Rhonda Nida has had many achievements during her membership, but her leadership and showmanship stand out as incredible memories. The daughter of Brenda Tautfest, Red Rock, Okla., Rhonda served as a 1997-99 NJAA director and the organization's 1998-99 vice chairman. She also placed second in showmanship at the 1999 NJAS.

"Throughout the years, I have acquired a love for the Angus

breed and its people. Being a member of the NJAA shaped my life as a junior member. It opened doors for me in so many ways, both personally and publicly, that I could not list them all," Rhonda says. "My favorite and most memorable time as an NJAA member was during my term on the board of directors. I had the opportunity to travel, meet wonderful Angus families and work with the future leaders of the Angus breed — the kids."

Rhonda is currently attending Kansas State University, majoring in agricultural communications and journalism. She plans to graduate in May 2001.

"My most memorable moment was being elected to the junior [NJAA] board. I was the first second-generation director, and that meant a lot to my whole family," says Miranda, who is the board's leadership director. "The junior association has given me a lot of pride in the industry. That's something I feel our society lacks these days. To see these kids and families raise their livestock and genuinely care about their industry is very important and very influential."

Miranda is currently attending Oklahoma State University majoring in agricultural economics and international agricultural marketing. She plans to graduate in May 2002 and to help farmers improve their marketability and efficiency.

**Sy Olson**



Sy Olson

Sy Olson has been a strong leader in the Texas Junior Angus Association and has served as a director in the organization since 1990 — giving him a full decade of Angus leadership.

Sy, the son of Steve and Ginger Olson, Hereford, Texas, is serving as a 1999-2001 NJAA director and is the board's newly elected Angus Foundation director. He also has had success in the showing, exhibiting the 1995 NJAS bred-and-owned reserve

champion bull.

"It's been fun," Sy says of his involvement in the NJAA. "The NJAA has helped develop my leadership skills through contests and making new friends. I always look forward to the NJAS as the event of the year. It's an event the whole family gets involved in."

Sy is currently attending Texas A&M University, majoring in animal science. He plans to graduate in May 2001 and to obtain a job in the cattle feeding industry. Sy says the NJAA has helped him recognize the importance of Angus in agriculture and has given him the skills to use his Angus knowledge to better the industry.



Robert Johnson

**Robert Johnson**

The good times Kentucky junior Robert Johnson has had at past national junior shows have kept him coming back for more.

Robert is the son of Ken and Karen Johnson of Tompkinsville, Ky., and has been involved in more than just the showing. He has held leadership positions in his state junior association since 1995 and served as its voting delegate in 1994. Robert also has represented Kentucky in the NJAA public speaking contest

from 1992 to 1996 — placing second in 1992 and fifth in 1993.

"My most memorable moments were past national shows because it's great to see how a group can pull together and make it work," Robert says. "You get to see cattle from across the country and meet new people and see all your old friends."

Robert is a senior at Western Kentucky University, majoring in animal science. He will graduate in May 2001 and plans to obtain a job in the beef industry.

**John Melton**



John Melton

Responsibility has helped make Virginia junior John Melton one of its finest members. John, the son of Carter and Connie Melton of Bridgewater, Va., held the responsibility of 1999-2000 NJAA membership/information director and 1996 NJAA voting delegate.

His involvement with junior Angus has helped him understand the effect the NJAA has on its members.

"I wish everyone could have such an opportunity to see the NJAA at work from the inside; there really is much to appreciate and learn about the organization by serving the organization in a leadership capacity," John says. "It has been a great honor to serve the NJAA, and I surely don't see my involvement and support of junior activities ending with the end of my junior years."

John is currently attending the University of Georgia, majoring in finance. He plans to graduate in May 2001 and to pursue a career that ties together his entrepreneurial, financial and agricultural interests.

**Miranda Grissom**



Miranda Grissom

Oklahoma Junior Angus Association member Miranda Grissom served as the group's 1996-97 president. The daughter of Vic and Anita Grissom, Prague, Okla., Miranda has participated in many local, state, regional and national events. Her teams have placed first in the Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef*™ Cook-Off Contest in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997.



Laurie Rueber

**Laurie Rueber**

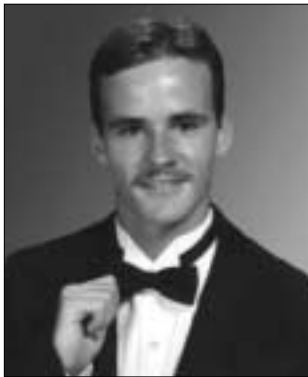
The NJAA has helped Iowa junior member Laurie Rueber achieve her dreams through scholarship and leadership.

Laurie is the daughter of Doug and Marcia Rueber, Arlington, Iowa. Laurie has won both Iowa Junior Angus Association and American Angus Association scholarships. She served as a Northeast Iowa Junior Angus Association director in 1995 and secretary in 1996.

Laurie sees the NJAA as unlike any other opportunity offered to youth.

"Unlike sports and games, this is one of the few events where everyone after the show congratulates each other on their accomplishments," she says. "We may go into the event a hard competitor, but when things are all over, we celebrate each others' victories."

Laurie is attending the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in accounting and finance. She plans to graduate in May 2002 and to study for the Certified Public Accountant's Examination.



Scott Bourne

**Scott Bourne**

Scott Bourne served as South Carolina Junior Angus Association reporter in 1995. At the 1994 NJAS, Scott placed second and third in the owned division. He also won first place in the owned division of the 1991 Eastern Regional Show.

Although Scott has had many achievements during his time as a junior member, he always has enjoyed showing.

"My most memorable moment in NJAA was 1995. We won the junior, open and supreme champion at Maryland. That same year, I showed the reserve grand champion heifer at NJAS," Scott says. "I've gotten to go a lot of different places and meet different people through NJAA."

The son of Judy and Ted Bourne, Donalds, S.C., Scott is currently working for the family business, C.E. Bourne & Co. Inc.



Jennifer Scharpe

**Jennifer Scharpe**

Minnesota Junior Angus Association member Jennifer Scharpe is the daughter of James and Myrna Scharpe of Arlington, Minn.

In 1999 Jennifer placed third in an NJAS bred-and-owned heifer class. She won grand champion owned female at the Minnesota Junior Angus Field Day in 1998 — making the showing her favorite place to be.

"By participating in shows like these, I can realize the value and strengths and weaknesses of my cattle so that I may continue to

improve their quality," Jennifer says. "More importantly, the people I have met and the friends I have made during these shows are invaluable. During the show season, we work together, learn from each other and grow up together."

Jennifer is a senior at North Dakota State University, majoring in animal science with a minor in mass communications. She plans to continue to raise Angus and to expand her herd while providing cattle for youth so they can get a start in the Angus breed.



Melissa Johnston

**Melissa Johnston**

The NJAA has had an influence on every aspect of junior member Melissa Johnston's life. The Minnesota Junior Angus Association member is the daughter of Dave and Tammy Johnston, Houston, Minn.

Melissa is competitive in the showing, winning champion and third-place bred-and-owned honors at the World Beef Expo in 1999. She won champion bred-and-owned honors at the

Minnesota State FFA competition in 1999.

"The Angus business has had a tremendous influence on my life," she says. "I have learned many important attributes from raising and showing Angus cattle, including responsibility, hard work and confidence, as well as gaining many lifelong friendships that I hope I will never lose."

Melissa is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, majoring in animal science. After college Melissa plans to find a position within the beef industry and to continue to expand her family's Angus herd. She hopes to continue showing and judging cattle at the local, state and national levels.



Garrett Pohlman

**Garrett Pohlman**

Nebraska Junior Angus Association member Garrett Pohlman has done it all — from showmanship to scholarship and from committees to cook-offs. He never missed a Nebraska Junior Angus Show from 1988 to 1998.

Garrett is the son of Charles and Linda Pohlman, Norfolk, Neb. He has served on the NJAA board of directors since 1998.

Garrett says his time on the junior board gave him a chance to give something back to the NJAA and its members.

"My time as Foundation chair was my chance to put a lot of work and effort into the NJAA by helping sell the Foundation heifer and come up with new fund-raisers," he says. "Serving on the board has meant a lot to me."

Garrett is currently attending the University of Nebraska, majoring in animal science. He plans to graduate in May 2001. He is currently applying to medical school and hopes to get back into the Angus business after he is an established physician.





Dallas Montoya

### Dallas "Britt" Montoya

Angus cattle aren't just important to junior member Dallas "Britt" Montoya — they're his livelihood. The Colorado Junior Angus Association member is the son of Facundo and Leigh Montoya of Monte Vista, Colo.

Britt showed Angus cattle at several livestock shows and exhibited the 1997 Colorado Golden Trend and Colorado State Fair grand champion bred-and-owned bull. He has attended

several seminars to increase his knowledge of beef production, including calving clinics and feeding, veterinary and vaccination seminars.

"My career as a junior member has been active and a source of good relations," Britt says. "We live in a rural area, and traveling to the shows was a good experience for me."

Britt graduated from Trinidad State Junior College with a welding certificate. He is currently working as the manager of Question Mark Angus in Monte Vista.



Kami Krebs

### Kami Krebs

Kami Krebs, Gordon, Neb., has been active in the Nebraska Junior Angus Association and served as its 1992-93 historian and 1998-99 first vice president. She received the second-place NJAA scholarship in 1997 and received an Angus Foundation scholarship in 1998 and 1999.

The junior heifer show was always a special time of year for Kami, the daughter of Eldon and Louisa Krebs.

"The junior heifer show was more like a family vacation," she says. "The whole family went. . . . It was our summer vacation. Most people went to Florida, and we went to a heifer show!"

Kami exhibited the grand champion steer at the 1999 NJAS. She was a 1999 NJAS showmanship finalist. She won the Silver Pitcher Award at the 1999 NJAS.

Kami is currently attending Oklahoma State University, majoring in journalism and broadcasting. She would like to pursue a career in print journalism, working with sale books and advertising.



Jamie Meyer

### Jamie Meyer

Exemplary leadership defines Jamie Meyer's hard work in the NJAA. The Kansas Junior Angus Association member is the daughter of Marilyn Meyer and Dale and Pam Meyer, Douglass, Kan.

Jamie is serving as a 1999-2001 NJAA director and is currently the board's membership/information director. She held offices in the KJAA from 1997 to 1999. She also served as an NJAA

voting delegate in 1998. Jamie has participated in the national public speaking contest several times, including the 1993 NJAA contest, where she placed second.

"Through Angus involvement, I have found leadership, public speaking and organizational skills," Jamie says. "The Angus breed has given me the opportunity to engage in lifelong friendships."

Jamie is currently attending Oklahoma State University, majoring in human resources. She plans to graduate in May 2001 and to begin her master's degree in human relations and industrial relations.



John Erwin Jr.

### John Erwin Jr.

Through all the ups and downs of competition, West Virginia Junior Angus Association member John Erwin Jr. has enjoyed the ride.

He is the son of John and Sandy Erwin, New Milton, W.Va. John says his years as a junior member have given him many memories.

"I have made hundreds of new friendships and have met people from all over the United States," John says. "I have had the

privilege to exhibit my cattle all over the country. I have participated in many contests, some where I placed really well, and others where I did not place at all. It has been a fun and educational experience for the past eight years being an NJAA member."

He has participated in numerous shows, including the 1995 West Virginia State Breeders' Show, where he won grand champion bred-and-owned bull. In addition to five years on his state association's board of directors, he placed first in the 1995 NJAA Poster Contest herd-advertisement category.

John is currently attending Glenville State College, majoring in management and computer science. He plans to graduate in 2002.



Peter Bachman

### Peter Bachman

Peter Bachman served as an Arkansas Junior Angus Association director in 1997 and was the group's 1997 scholarship winner. The son of Larry and Virginia Bachman, Lamar, Ark., he also represented his state as a voting delegate in 1999. Opportunities to improve his leadership and agricultural education never passed by him, and he says the organization has helped in every aspect of his life.

"It has given me opportunities to meet new people from all over the country. I also gained leadership skills by holding several committee and officer positions in our state organization," Peter says. "My people and communication skills also improved following my participation in the public speaking and beef quiz bowl events at the National Junior Angus Show."

Peter graduated in May from Arkansas Tech University, majoring in agricultural business with an animal science option. He plans to attend graduate school and to enter ranch management with a progressive Angus breeder.