

Footsteps

Father, daughter follow same pathway to leadership on NJAA Board of Directors.

Story & photos by **Corinne Blender**

Footsteps that a father leaves aren't always the direct steps his daughter will follow. However, they may be the start of a path that will lead to new dreams and memories.

Miranda Grissom, Prague, Okla., saw the steps left behind by her father, Vic, while he was a member of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). Those footprints guided Miranda down a path of her own.

"I always dreamed of serving on the Board since I was a little girl. I heard stories of the great times my father had and met many of the wonderful people he served with," Miranda says.

Vic served on the NJAA Board of Directors from 1981 to 1983. In 1999, Miranda became the second generation of the Grissoms to wear a green jacket, making them the first father-daughter pair to have served in NJAA history.

"I was on the second Board,

so I have seen a lot of changes. It is now well-organized, and the kids work a lot harder and are kept out of a lot more trouble. It has come a long way," Vic says of the NJAA Board, which celebrates its 21st anniversary this year.

Developing leaders

Vic says he has seen his daughter follow in his footsteps in becoming a strong leader and in her ability to work with others.

"He let me decide on my own if I wanted to run for the Board. I am a very strong-willed person, and he realizes that, so he just made sure he always approached me in the right ways to encourage me to pursue the position," Miranda says.

Miranda's leadership has not gone unrecognized or unsupported by her father.

"My father has been really understanding. He understands the hard work and long hours



► Vic Grissom and his daughter, Miranda, share more than their last name. Miranda followed her father's footsteps and became the second Grissom to serve on the National Junior Angus Association Board of Directors, making them the first parent-child duo to have served on the Board.

that go into many events, and he also understands the fun time that the Board shares as a group," Miranda says.

There's more to it for Vic and Miranda than just having the NJAA Board experience in common.

Path of memories

"The Angus industry has definitely made my father and me close and gives us something to do together. It is always fun to get out of Prague and go hang out with my family at stock shows because, when you travel with the Grissoms to shows, you are guaranteed to have a lot of laughs and many embarrassing and lasting memories," Miranda says.

Vic says he has seen his daughter have a great time, just as he did, and knows that she will miss the experience as she moves on with her life.

"It's made us closer and has given us some great memories. She has been showing for so

long and might be ready to be done, but I know she is going to miss it," Vic says. "I recommend it for anybody."

An impact

Miranda would not downplay her leadership role, however. She knows the importance that Board members play in the lives of the junior members.

"Being on the Board has definitely taught me that those green jackets really are so special to every young member and not just to me when I was growing up," Miranda says.

"Every time I attended an event, I felt like the younger members really looked up to me, and they always seemed to know what was going on in my life outside of the Angus scene. Seeing that kind of admiration from the young children really makes me realize the impact I can have on so many people's lives."



► Vic Grissom says he has seen Miranda grow and mature as a member of the NJAA Board. For Vic and Miranda, Angus cattle have been more than just a leadership builder; they've provided a way for the Grissoms to spend time with each other and to grow in their personal relationship.