



Auxiliary's Top 10

Placing in the top five of any Angus contest is a hard-fought accomplishment. Winning a scholarship from the American Angus Auxiliary is a feat standing in a league of its own.

by Lindsay King, assistant editor

A long-standing tradition of more than 50 years, the American Angus Auxiliary awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving Angus youth. Five males and five females are the recipients of \$18,000 in varying amounts based on how they placed in the scholarship contest.

It's a contest unlike any other;

one solely based on what gets put on paper. National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members are nominated by their state or regional association the spring before their freshman year of college. Winners are announced at the awards ceremony during the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

From the pool of female winners, contestants for the title of Miss American Angus are selected. Once hosted at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky., Miss American Angus is now crowned at the annual Angus Convention each November. This year will be in Reno.

FEMALE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



First-Place Scholarship Winner

Eva Hinrichsen

Hometown: Westmoreland, Kan.
Parents: Ron and Lynne Hinrichsen
High School: Rock Creek HS
College: Oklahoma State University
NJAA Tenure: 18 years

As a fourth-generation Angus producer, Hinrichsen is a well-versed advocate for the agricultural industry.

"I am fortunate to have begun my childhood attending sales and learning how to take care of livestock," Hinrichsen says. "I was given my first cow when I was 2 years old and I have built my own cow herd that I run with

my family's cattle herd."

Leading by example is a trait Hinrichsen learned from her parents and something she strives to exude.

Serving the Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA) and Northeast District Angus Association in a variety of capacities, Hinrichsen is no stranger to servant leadership. It's this mindset

that propels Hinrichsen to pursue a

bachelor's degree in animal science followed by a medical degree to later practice in rural communities. "I have watched numerous junior and adult members give their time, advice and commitment to help others become and perform to the best of their abilities," Hinrichsen says. "Observing these selfless actions allows me to grow in my belief that it is equally rewarding to help others be successful as your own achievements might be."

my family's cattle herd." Hinrichsen continues to contribute more input and responsibility to the family operation. She is a certified artificial insemination (AI) technician and regularly handles that

aspect of breeding season for her family. Serving the Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA) and Northeast District Angus Association in a variety of capacities, Hinrichsen is no stranger to servant leadership. It's this mindset

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The Auxiliary presented Hinrichsen with a \$2,000 scholarship and the opportunity to compete for Miss American Angus.



Second-Place Scholarship Winner

Claire Stevenson

Hometown: Hobson, Mont.
Parents: Darrell and Sara Stevenson
High school: Hobson HS
College: California Polytechnic University
NJAA Tenure: 9 years

"It is easy to promote what is familiar," Stevenson says. "The Montana Angus Association has always been like a large family that I was born into."

A research project through Montana State

changed over the years, but Stevenson's interest remains cemented in continuously improving Angus genetics. She takes the member-driven mission of the Association to heart and fully understands all that she

University (MSU) piqued Stevenson's interest in the inner workings of genetic evaluation. This has led her to pursue a degree in genomics and microbiology.

Her focus has

accomplishes with her own herd only serves to advance the Business Breed as a whole.

Stevenson is determined to use expected progeny differences (EPDs) and genetic testing to breed more efficient cattle.

"A vast majority of the genes responsible for methane gas emissions also influence feed efficiency," she explains. "Therefore, by breeding for less 'gassy' cattle, we can also breed more feed-efficient animals."

The Auxiliary presented Stevenson with a \$1,900 scholarship and the opportunity to compete for Miss American Angus.



Third-Place Scholarship Winner

Morgan Knapp

Hometown: Bloomfield, Iowa
Parents: Brian and Karla Knapp
High school: Davis County Community HS
College: Des Moines Area Community College
NJAA tenure: 9 years

"From a young age I was shown how to be a leader by my older brother, Baxter," Knapp says. "There were several occasions I have watched him go out of his way to greet someone or help in any way he could."

Going out of her way to create meaningful

"The most influential period of a person's life are the years spent in a classroom," Knapp says. "By educating kids, I can help influence future consumers and spark interest in animal agriculture. This will not only create a more informed consumer, but

experiences for kids in her community is what drives Knapp to infuse agricultural education into schools.

more agricultural advocates."

The NJAA inspires Knapp to teach others about the beef and Angus industry. One of her future goals is to develop a beef management program geared toward kids.

Knapp wants to help educate the next generation, but her career goals are focused on real estate appraisal and raising her Angus cattle.

The Auxiliary presented Knapp with an \$1,800 scholarship and the opportunity to compete for Miss American Angus.



Fourth-Place Scholarship Winner

Hailey Roye

Hometown: Fayetteville, Ark.
Parents: Leslie Roye
High school: Fayetteville HS
College: University of Arkansas
NJAA tenure: 9 years

"Every day I do my best so that younger juniors around me will get involved in leadership positions and other activities within the association," Roye says. "Other officers and I set up community service projects and activities that get juniors more involved in our state association,

leading to involvement in the NJAA."

It makes sense that Roye is a proponent of involvement; after all, she is an accomplished cheerleader for her high school. It's her work ethic on the court and in the barns that gets Roye noticed by her peers and mentors.

"Last year, Hailey's mother



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was diagnosed with cancer for a second time and I have seen Hailey step up to maintain her schoolwork, cheer, cattle feeding schedule as well as her FFA and 4-H activities. Her work ethic easily sets

her apart from her peers," one of Roye's references wrote.

Roye credits her Angus herd for helping find her passion in life. She has decided on majoring in animal science with an

emphasis on beef nutrition.

The Auxiliary presented Roye with a \$1,700 scholarship and the opportunity to compete for Miss American Angus.



Fifth-Place Scholarship Winner

Mardee Sadowsky

Hometown: Eagleville, Mo.

Parents: Jim and Teela Sadowsky

High school: North Harrison R-III

College: Oral Roberts University

NJAA tenure: 10 years

"When I look at the culmination of my experience in the Angus breed, I think the best I have learned is that you cannot expect awards and accolades to fuel your passion," Sadowsky says. "The cattle business is tough; from ever-changing beef prices to the pain of losing a calf. The difficulties ranchers face are never ending where the banners and trophies are few and far between."

This has led Sadowsky to make plans of returning to the family ranch.

"I hope to be an advocate for the small Angus operations and diverse breeders," Sadowsky says. "As a small breeder, it might be difficult to see how I can influence such a large association. My influence comes from leading local cattlemen to the Angus breed."

Growing up, Sadowsky saw her

Sadowsky wouldn't trade growing up Angus for anything and simply aspires to lead other juniors to love the industry wholeheartedly.

neighbor's pasture full of Limousin- and Hereford-influenced cattle. Her parents slowly but surely sold Angus bulls to various cattlemen in the area and now those fences house Angus cattle.

Her parents were entrepreneurs in their county and Sadowsky intends to mimic that in her future career.

"My goal in life is to serve my God and others around me," Sadowsky says. "My future career may not exist yet, and as I hope to be an entrepreneur, it will most likely be a job I create for myself. I plan to remain in the cattle industry, but I have chosen a slightly unorthodox path."

The Auxiliary presented Sadowsky with a \$1,600 scholarship and the opportunity to compete for Miss American Angus.



MALE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



First-Place Scholarship Winner

Nicholas Pohlman

Hometown: Prairie Grove, Ark.

Parents: Fred and Tami Pohlman

High school: Prairie Grove HS

College: University of Arkansas

NJAA tenure: 17 years

"It's not the result, but the journey that is truly the most important to me," Pohlman says. "In terms of my own Angus herd, it is about the time spent with my family and friends around the cattle that is the most

I can use my future job to promote the industry," Pohlman says. "I can help correct beef nutrition misconceptions in the health industry. Who better to promote beef as

meaningful to me."

It's these family bonds that inspired Pohlman to pursue both his passion for Angus cattle and helping people as a general physician.

"This may seem like a departure from agriculture, but I know

a nutritious part of a healthy diet than a consumer's physician?"

Pohlman has essentially been promoting the beef industry since he could talk. Moving outside of his comfort zone was the conduit for a well-rounded, and highly successful, experience in the NJAA.

"Nick has never walked the path toward any goal halfheartedly. Once his goal is defined, his conviction and commitment to its accomplishment are outstanding," writes one personal reference.

The Angus Auxiliary presented Pohlman with a \$2,000 scholarship.



Second-Place Scholarship Winner

Jace Stagemeyer

Hometown: Page, Neb.
Parents: Brent and Carla Stagemeyer
High school: O'Neill Public HS
College: Butler Community College
NJAA tenure: 17 years

After missing out on attending the NJAS when Stagemeyer was younger, his family hasn't missed one in many years.

"I regret missing those early years based on some bad advice and am always eager to share this story with others who may be intimidated to attend a national event of that size," Stagemeyer says. "I look at the size of the Association as a benefit. The

scope of events and opportunities are second to none."

Those opportunities taught Stagemeyer the value of animals that perform outside of the show ring. As the son of an Angus

breeder, Stagemeyer took a detour before returning to the Business Breed in 2014.

"With my experiences in production agriculture, I want to use my knowledge to ensure we provide accurate, useable data that can continue to improve the breed," Stagemeyer says. "We need to exercise prudence when chasing trends so Angus

continues to produce an efficient cow while being consumers' first choice at the meat counter."

Through experiences in 4-H, FFA and the NJAA, Stagemeyer understands the value of genuine friendships. His leadership style easily reflects this and will be useful as he eventually pursues a veterinary degree.

"Combining the need for veterinarians in my area and my interest in animal husbandry makes vet school an ideal choice," Stagemeyer says. "My experience with setting up donor and recip cows made me want to specialize in embryology."

The Angus Auxiliary presented Stagemeyer with a \$1,900 scholarship.



Third-Place Scholarship Winner

Zach McCall

Hometown: Greenville, Va.
Parents: Thomas and Sarah McCall
High school: Riverheads HS
College: Butler Community College

"I remember when I was young, the kindness that was shown to me by older members," McCall says. "A former NJAA board member, Shane Clary, allowed me to borrow a heifer for peewee showmanship at the Virginia Angus Breeders show."

Perhaps this is what got McCall hooked on the NJAA. Regardless, it was the small acts

of kindness McCall was shown that have inspired him to give back to younger members.

"As our show family has grown, I have been helping our younger members

with everything from showmanship practice to teaching them how to fit," McCall says. "For the past two years I have led a team of young juniors in our fitting contest at the Virginia Beef Expo."

After picking the calmest heifer in the barn didn't result in the show results McCall was hoping for, he started learning the basics

of livestock evaluation. Now he is always scanning the home herd for "the next great one" to show.

"Something that is really special to me about our operation is the time I get to spend with my dad," McCall says. "As I have gotten older and more knowledgeable, I have been put in a place of more responsibility."

McCall's dad relies heavily on his son's opinion when making keep and cull decisions. Wandering through the herd to look at the calves is something McCall really enjoys doing with his dad.

The Angus Auxiliary presented McCall with an \$1,800 scholarship.



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Fourth-Place Scholarship Winner

Justin Wood

Hometown: Willow Spring, N.C.

Parents: Jeffrey Wood

High school: West Johnston HS

College: Hutchinson Community College

NJAA tenure: 9 years

Thanks to the NJAA, Wood found a passion and a natural talent for livestock judging. After a successful career of judging in FFA, 4-H and the NJAA, Wood will be judging in college.

"What makes the Angus Association great is the success of its members," Wood says. "Something I think all members can do, and something I strive to do, is to always promote

the breed and Wood Angus is a focal point of Wood's future goals.

"I want to go back and work on my family's operation where we run purebred and commercial cattle," Wood says. "I hope to take over the family operation and take it to the next level."

Wood recognizes producers need more

the Angus breed."

With aspirations to obtain a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications and animal science, promoting

than just rock-solid cattle and industry knowledge to become successful on a national level.

"When I started showing, one of my weaknesses was my ability to network with fellow junior members and connect outside of the show ring," Wood says. "The Angus Association has shown me how to step out of my comfort zone, take on new and different roles while making a difference not only in my state association, but in the NJAA."

The Angus Auxiliary presented Wood with a \$1,700 scholarship.



Fifth-Place Scholarship Winner

Truman Byergo

Hometown: Dearborn, Mo.

Parents: Joe and Susan Byergo

High school: North Platte HS

College: University of Central Missouri

NJAA tenure: 10 years

The sky has always been the limit for Byergo, in more ways than one. He is attending college with the goal of becoming a professional pilot.

"After college, I am looking forward to working for a major airline," Byergo says. "I also hope to own a small cow-calf operation to carry on the family tradition, as I do not foresee a future that does not include Angus."

Though equipped with what Byergo

carcass traits along with functional structure when breeding my cattle," Byergo says. "Because of this, I have been able to sell cattle to Angus, Simmental and commercial cattle breeders with herds much larger than mine."

Byergo is not only involved with his local 4-H group, he also helped restart a junior livestock show in his home county.

"My home county, which is in a somewhat suburban area, had not hosted a county

considers a small herd, his impact on large commercial herds is a resounding success.

"I have always focused on calving ease, growth and

livestock show for over a decade," Byergo says. "With financial support from businesses and community members, we were able to have very successful livestock shows at our county fair for the last three years."

As a strong believer in the benefits of beef advocacy, Byergo makes a point to discuss this industry at every opportunity.

"One important step for being a consumer-focused beef organization is to advocate for the industry," Byergo says. "And to educate the consumer about beef production, our safe beef product and ensure they realize we are a sustainable industry that is good for the environment."

The Angus Auxiliary presented Byergo with a \$1,600 scholarship.