

The Gold Standard

*National Junior Angus Association members receive their Gold Awards
for their involvement in the organization.*

by Madi Baughman, editorial intern

A gold medal signifies success and a lifetime's worth of hard work and dedication. Just as Olympic athletes strive for the gold medal, National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members spend their entire junior careers striving for the Gold Award.

The NJAA honors members who have achieved the highest level of involvement and accomplishments by presenting them with the Gold Award. This year, 30 Gold Award recipients met and exceeded the "gold standard" in their endeavors.

In order to apply for a Gold Award, junior members must be in their last year of eligibility of junior membership and have previously received the Bronze and Silver Awards prior to Jan. 1 of the current year. To be eligible for any of these awards, members must earn points through Association activities, competition activities and showmanship participation, with Gold Award earners accumulating at least 3,000 points.

This year's Gold Award winners exhibited the highest qualities of *The Business Breed* through their tenacity and drive to succeed. They will receive a specially designed, gold-casted pin for their efforts, as well as local, regional and national

recognition through the Association's media and events.

Cassidy Becker



Cassidy Becker from Diagonal, Iowa, has been an active participant of the Iowa Junior

Angus Association (IJAA) and NJAA.

"Being a junior member is so much more than working on cattle," Becker says. "It is building a relationship with people with the same passion. It is an opportunity to lend a helping hand, network and improve your communication skills, all while learning lessons and creating memories that will last a lifetime."

The daughter of Joe and Susan Becker attributes her passion for the Angus breed to growing up watching her brother show. Since then, she has competed successfully in multiple junior Angus shows and served as state director and secretary of the IJAA. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), she competed in quiz bowl, the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off and photography contests. She even served as a national voting delegate in 2018.

Receiving multiple national and state scholarships allowed Becker to obtain an education from Northwest Missouri State University (NWMSU) studying elementary education. She will graduate in the spring of 2021.

After graduation, she plans to become an elementary school teacher and continue her education to eventually acquire a doctorate in education. While teaching, Becker plans to continue her involvement in the Association and become a member of the Iowa Angus Auxiliary.

Joshua Birge



The son of Scott and Rhonda Birge, Joshua Birge has taken advantage of his time in the

NJAA to work on improving the genetic quality of his Angus herd.

Growing up in Graceville, Fla., Birge used weaning records, ultrasound records and genetic profile testing to learn all he could about his Angus cattle. In addition, he has several cattle registered in his name, including multiple transfers purchased and sold.

During his time with the Florida Junior Angus Association, Birge



served as a director and first vice president. He also exhibited at the Florida Junior Angus Show, and served as an NJAS mentor in 2017.

Birge is currently employed at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Ala., as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). He attends Wallace State College studying nursing and critical care, where he plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in May 2022. After graduation, he plans to specialize in either anesthesia or surgery, all while pursuing to grow his Angus herd.

"For all of the advantages of this career field I could cite for you — like job satisfaction, career advancement, job security, being able to help your fellow man and many others — it will make it possible for me to continue my passion of Angus cattle," Birge says.

Georgia Blackwell



Originally from Venus, Texas, the daughter of Clint and Kelly Blackwell, Georgia Anne

Blackwell, reflects on her time in the Texas Junior Angus Association (TJAA) and the NJAA with fondness.

During her time as a junior, Blackwell exhibited cattle at multiple Texas junior shows and NJAS, even participating in events such as the Cook-Off and photography contests. She served TJAA as first vice president, was a state scholarship winner and attended the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development

(LEAD) conference three times.

Blackwell says her experiences because of the Angus breed have led to lifetime friendships and a growing love for the breed.

"Showing Angus cattle has taught me the value of hard work, persistence and leadership skills. Being a part of such a supportive, tight-knit and welcoming community has molded me into the woman I am today. I'm excited to see where my post-junior life takes me."

Currently attending Oklahoma State University (OSU) majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology, Blackwell plans to pursue further education and a career in dentistry after graduating in May 2021.

She credits her time in the NJAA for helping her recognize many agriculturalists live in rural communities often underdeveloped in terms of healthcare. Her goal is to bring quality dental care to a rural community where she can advocate for agriculture and provide healthcare to farmers and ranchers.

Morgan Blommel



Though Morgan Blommel did not become a junior member until 2014, she says she has made the

most out of her time with the NJAA. The memories and connections made since joining will last her a lifetime.

The Dade City, Fla., native earned much recognition during her junior membership with the Florida Junior

Angus Association (FJAA) and NJAA. She served as the 2019 Florida Junior Angus Queen, received state and national scholarships, placed third at the NJAS public speaking contest, and won the FJAA senior showmanship in 2019.

By attending these various events, Blommel says she has made memories to last a lifetime. She says she has also had the unique opportunity of making a difference in her state association.

"Coming from a state with a smaller membership and being able to go to the events allowed me to bring information back to my members and get more of them involved," Blommel says. "Because of that, our association has grown."

Attending Pasco Hernando State College to obtain her associate degree in agricultural policy and law, the daughter of Paul and Donna Blommel wants to eventually attend law school. Her ultimate goal is to one day become the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and give a voice to smaller producers throughout the state.

Genesis Brannon



A member of the NJAA since 2012, Genesis Brannon has boasted a successful career

exhibiting Angus cattle and raising her own herd.

Originally from Ellsinore, Mo., the daughter of Dwayne and Virginia

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Brannon has grown her operation through keeping performance records and testing genomic profiles. She has also exhibited at multiple shows, including the NJAS and the Missouri Angus Preview.

Brannon's involvement in the Missouri Junior Angus Association led to her serving as region director, secretary and treasurer for the Heart of the Ozarks Junior Angus Association, as well as earning a scholarship from the Missouri Auxiliary. She has also participated in multiple LEAD conferences and contests at NJAS, with wins in the Cook-Off and team sales.

Brannon attends Southeast Missouri State University studying agricultural education, and she credits her time as a junior for helping her realize this passion.

"The best part of being a junior member is the lifelong friendships I forged across the United States," Brannon says. "This association has been a huge part of my life and will continue to be ... Being a junior member has been the best 11 years of my life and is what pushed me to pursue my dream of becoming an agricultural instructor."

Katie Brock



Daughter of David and Kris Brock, Katie Brock credits the Angus breed for the life she

plans to lead. She says two words come to mind when she reflects on

her time as a junior: fast and impactful.

"Even though I am aging out of the NJAA, I will take many lessons and skills I have learned into my everyday life in the Angus industry," Brock says. "I will continue to encourage youth coming up behind me to take every opportunity offered by NJAA to grow and learn."

Hailing from Stilesville, Ind., Brock earned the title of 2019 Indiana Angus Queen, a role she says taught her poise and elegance while representing her state. During her time with the Indiana Junior Angus Association, Brock also was awarded an Indiana Angus Auxiliary Scholarship and exhibited Angus cattle at a high level at various state and national shows.

Currently attending Lake Land College, she plans to graduate with an associate degree in agribusiness and supply in May 2021.

After graduation, Brock plans to return to her family farm as a herd manager, where she will care for the cattle on a daily basis, make breeding decisions to raise better Angus cattle, and continue to improve their freezer beef business.

Garrett Bromenshenk



Joining the NJAA was just family tradition for Billings, Mont., native Garrett

Bromenshenk.

The son of Paul and Brenda Bromenshenk became a member in 2006 to follow in the footsteps of his older siblings. However, he recalls being shy and having difficulties speaking to strangers.

"With the encouragement of my parents and the attention I received from older members, I overcame my shyness and started to interact with others," Bromenshenk says. "It was through my cattle and this organization that I found my passion."

His involvement included serving as the Montana Junior Angus Association vice president and president as well as a state voting delegate, all while registering multiple cattle of his own. At the NJAS, he represented his state in showmanship and competed in the extemporaneous public speaking contest and carcass contest.

With the assistance of Angus Foundation and livestock judging scholarships, Bromenshenk graduated from Northeastern Junior College with an associate degree in animal science. After completing a bachelor's degree in animal science from Montana State University, Bromenshenk plans to pursue a career in the industry.

His end goal is to return to his family's operation upon his parents' retirement to become a sixth-generation agriculturalist and continue raising Angus cattle.



Grant Cash



"I have had the opportunity to travel the country and meet juniors that have the

same passion for Angus cattle as me," says Grant Cash, from York, Pa.

A member since 2015, the son of Chad and Jamie Cash utilized the opportunities given to him through the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association (PJAA) and NJAA to learn more about the Angus breed. During this time, he served as PJAA treasurer and first vice president and exhibited at multiple shows.

On the national level, Cash attended the LEAD conference and participated in the mentoring program, Cook-Off and livestock judging contest at NJAS. He credits national events with allowing him to witness how Angus cattle adapt to different environments outside of the show ring.

During all of his involvement, Cash also managed to utilize performance testing and genomic profile testing, as well as register multiple cattle in his name.

Thanks to the assistance of Angus national scholarships, Cash plans to graduate from Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in May 2021. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a career in this field, but says he will always have a soft spot for Angus cattle. This passion will be supported through continued involvement with his family's farm.

Tyler Coleman



Tyler Coleman of Modesto, Calif., recalls his sister winning grand champion owned female at the 2018

NJAS as one of his favorite memories.

"Seeing her expression and knowing that we had worked so hard for that moment as a family, it finally all made sense to me," Coleman says.

The son of Tim and Kara Coleman has plenty of accolades of his own throughout his time as a junior member, including earning a division champion title at the NJAS and first place in the photography and Cook-Off contests.

A member since 2009, Coleman has also participated in two LEAD conferences and earned his Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Transportation Program certificate, along with registering and purchasing Angus cattle of his own. He says he values these experiences outside of the show ring, as they have given him invaluable knowledge for his future in the breed.

Currently serving as a ranch hand intern for Express Ranches of Yukon, Okla., Coleman plans to continue to learn from successful cowboys, herd managers and owners to gain knowledge to take back to his family's operation.

He credits the time spent as a junior member with providing opportunities to gain knowledge to utilize in his career, while building friendships and business relationships to benefit the business.

Caroline Cowles



Hailing from Rockfield, Ky., Caroline Cowles says her junior career began with a heifer

named Chip.

Since joining in 2008, the daughter of Gil and Mary Cowles has flourished in both the Kentucky Junior Angus Association (KJAA) and the NJAA. Just a few of her accomplishments include serving as KJAA vice president, state voting delegate, LEAD participant and NJAS showmanship finalist.

However, the biggest goal Cowles strived for during her time in the Association was to be one of the "green jackets" she was amazed by at her first junior nationals. Following in the footsteps of her brother, Cowles was elected to the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) in July 2018. She credits the role along with her time as a member with developing her into the young woman she is today.

"All of this is not a result of the last two years of my board term, but a combination of these almost 11 years diving deep into this breed and association," Cowles says. "I am a young and confident woman equipped with the skills and experiences I need for my future."

Cowles currently attends OSU studying biochemistry and molecular biology. Upon graduation, she plans to eventually become a doctor and move closer to Kentucky to open her own practice and start her own Angus operation.

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Sydney Cutler



The daughter of Jody and Mike Cutler, Sydney Cutler says growing up on a family cow-calf

operation made the Angus breed and its junior programs a perfect fit to learn more about the beef industry.

The Philipsburg, Mont., native became a member of the Montana Junior Angus Association (MJAA) in 2011 and has continued to grow in the association since then. She served as an MJAA director for several years and exhibited at multiple Montana junior preview shows.

Cutler says she hopes her involvement at the state level inspired other juniors in Montana to be involved in the junior association and the breed. The opportunity to make connections with young Angus breeders from across the country came for Cutler when she attended LEAD conference in 2018, hosted in Billings, Mont.

“One way I’ve grown is I’ve made several connections throughout the state and country with other junior Angus breeders,” Cutler says. “I’ve really enjoyed getting to know other juniors involved in the Angus breed and their thoughts on how to improve our breed.”

Currently attending Pima Medical Institute, Cutler plans to become a certified veterinary technician in March 2021. She would like to then move home to continue work on growing her black Angus herd while working under a veterinarian from her area.

Lindsey Decker



Lindsey Decker of Philo, Ill., says her love for Angus cattle is undeniable, even if her

junior career started by chance. Her parents, Ed and Kim Decker, purchased her first heifer from her uncle, who just happened to raise registered Angus cattle.

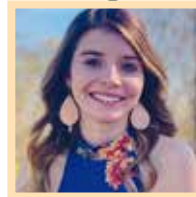
Since becoming a member in 2009, Decker has served as Illinois Junior Angus Association president and second vice president and earned the honor of Illinois Junior Angus Queen in 2017. She has also represented her state at the NJAS showmanship contest.

On a national level, Decker participated in the LEAD conference and exhibited at the NJAS while also participating in multiple contests with wins in team sales and the Cook-Off.

Thanks to national and state scholarship awards, Decker currently attends Kansas State University (K-State) majoring in animal science and was a member of the meat judging team. Upon graduation, Decker says her experience working with high-carcass-value Angus cattle and meat judging sets her up for success in a master’s program in meat science and, eventually, a career in the industry.

“Being a part of this association has truly changed me for the better,” Decker says. “The shows, conferences and events have allowed me to grow my love for Angus cattle and the people who raise them.”

Katelyn Eathington



“I never thought the day would come so soon that I would be a last-year junior member,” says

Katelyn Eathington of Avon, Ill. “Looking back at all my experiences, I can’t help but get nostalgic about how far I have come. Throughout the years, I have learned to improve my showmanship and the quality of stock and have grown in so many years.”

Growing up on a cattle and grain farm, the daughter of Kevin and Patricia Eathington became a member in 2008. She utilized her time in the association to grow her knowledge of the Angus breed.

During her time as a junior member, Eathington served as Illinois Junior Angus Association director; exhibited at NJAS, placing as the division 1 intermediate champion; and won a national scholarship. Regardless of the competitiveness of the industry, Eathington says she has truly come to understand what it means to be a part of the Angus family.

Eathington currently attends the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign studying agribusiness markets and management. Upon graduation in May 2021, she wants to further her education to eventually work in human resources for an agricultural company. She also wants to own an Angus cow-calf operation and produce *Certified Angus Beef*®-quality cattle to sell to local restaurants and grocers.



Brianna Erdmann



Raised on a ranch in Leola, S.D., Brianna Erdmann says she plans to continue her

family's legacy in agriculture and Angus cattle.

The daughter of Daniel and Anne Jo Erdmann says she has shown in the South Dakota Junior Angus Show every year since she was 8. Along with exhibiting livestock, Erdmann earned the title of South Dakota Junior Angus Queen in 2018, served as a South Dakota Junior Angus Association director and won a state scholarship. On the NJAA level, she won the Cook-Off and a national scholarship.

"Since I have been a member of the National Junior Angus Association since I was 6 years old and have gotten to go along to fairs and shows, I have had the privilege to meet people from all over the United States," Erdmann says. "The Angus community is like family to us, as my great-grandparents have raised cattle and taught cattle breeding to younger generations all over the United States."

Erdmann attends South Dakota State University (SDSU) studying agribusiness and economics in order to learn the tools necessary to succeed in the cattle business. After graduation, she plans to utilize her education to help manage her family's Angus operation.

She believes her love for the Angus breed will continue to flourish and wants her family to continue to be involved with the breed.

Kalli Flanders



Growing up in Buffalo, Ky., Kalli Flanders boasted a successful career during her time

as an Angus junior.

A member since 2009, the daughter of Kelly and Melissa Flanders served as Kentucky Junior Angus Association president and second vice president, received a state scholarship, and exhibited at multiple shows.

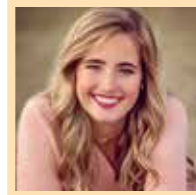
Flanders credits her show career with teaching her many life lessons. She says, "I have learned that hard work pays off because I know that when I work with my cattle more, I get more out of them. These are life lessons that will help me be more successful as I graduate and get out into the real world. I am thankful for them all."

While at the NJAS, Flanders competed in the livestock judging, photography and skill-a-thon contests, continuing to develop knowledge she says will aid her in her future career. She credits her involvement with the NJAA for providing many opportunities locally, statewide and nationally.

Currently studying animal science and elementary education at Western Kentucky University, Flanders plans to pursue a career in teaching after graduating in May 2022.

She says she hopes to one day run her own cattle operation and continue her family's legacy in the agricultural industry and *The Business Breed*.

Alisa Friesen



"Being a member of the Angus Association and the Angus family has taught me so many valuable

lessons that I will be able to take with me and use throughout my entire life," says Alisa Friesen, of Arnett, Okla. "The Angus Association is truly a family, where your biggest competitors are also your biggest fans. This association gives you the opportunity to make connections and lifelong friends from all across the country, and I will forever be grateful for the impact it has had on my life."

The daughter of Lisa Friesen has conquered many wins in the show ring since joining in 2009. Some of her biggest accomplishments at the NJAS include placing as a finalist in national showmanship in 2019 and winning owned female junior division 6 champion in 2018.

In addition to her successful show career, Friesen also participated in the mentoring program while competing at the NJAS and used performance testing, registrations and sale experience to grow her foothold in the Angus breed.

Friesen attends Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), where she plans to graduate in May 2022 with a bachelor's degree in agribusiness. She plans to then return to western Oklahoma to become a certified public accountant (CPA).

She plans to stay involved in the Association to positively influence the lives of future junior members.

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Paige Gaffney



Joining in 1999, the daughter of Scott and Valerie Gaffney, Paige Gaffney has achieved

much throughout her years as a junior member.

Originally from Barneveld, Wis., Gaffney served as Wisconsin Junior Angus director and a Wisconsin Angus Auxiliary Ambassador. On a national level, Gaffney attended the LEAD conference and competed at the NJAS, including exhibiting a class winner in 2019 and participating in the quiz bowl, livestock judging and team fitting contests.

Gaffney says her junior member experiences have taken her all over the United States to meet other youth members passionate about the cattle industry.

“Involvement in the Angus breed made me realize that the breed runs deeper than the seedstock producers in the spotlight,” Gaffney says. “From the commercial cattlemen to consumers year after year choosing the *Certified Angus Beef* option at restaurants and grocery stores, ‘Angus’ is a word associated with value and quality.

“I am excited to see where my generation can take the breed in our time as adult Angus members,” she continues.

With the help of Wisconsin Angus Auxiliary and Angus Foundation scholarships, Gaffney plans to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural business from SDSU in May 2021.

She plans to become a certified and licensed appraiser and continue to be involved with the cattle industry from pasture to plate.

Gabriela Hernandez



Wellington, Fla., native Gabriela Hernandez began her 13-year career in the Angus

business with a single show heifer.

“My life from then on revolved around the cattle industry,” Hernandez says. “This has shown me how to manage and run a herd, how to build and manage a breeding program, how to market and sell my cattle, and, finally, I learned how to appreciate this association and all it has to offer.”

During her time in the Florida Junior Angus Association (FJAA), the daughter of Rusty and Zoila Hernandez served as vice president, historian and for a five-year run as president of the association. She also earned the titles of FJAA Sweetheart, Princess and Queen.

Nationally, Hernandez served as a state voting delegate, participated in the LEAD conference and received a national scholarship. While at the NJAS, she exhibited cattle, competed and placed in numerous contests, and was granted two Angus Stars.

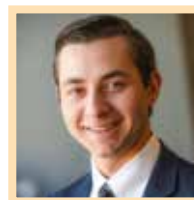
Hernandez plans to graduate from the University of Florida in December 2021 with a degree in agricultural education and communication.

Her dream is to find a job in the cattle industry where she can meet

people from around the world who share her passion.

She also plans to continue managing and building the Angus herd at Rocking RZ Ranch, where she is currently employed.

Cale Hinrichsen



“I guess you could say I was born to be involved in the Angus business,” says Cale

Hinrichsen from Westmoreland, Kan. “My aunt gifted me with my NJAA membership the day I was born. As the fourth generation to be involved in agriculture, I was fortunate that my life included great people, Angus cattle and the opportunity to be part of something that would build the foundation of my life and goals.”

The son of Ron and Lynne Hinrichsen has certainly made the Angus business his own. He served as Kansas Junior Angus Association secretary, second vice president and first vice president.

Since his first NJAS in 2009, Hinrichsen won reserve grand champion bred-and-owned bull in 2016, earned second place in showmanship, and participated in almost every contest offered.

All of Hinrichsen’s involvement led to him being selected to serve as the National Angus Ambassador in 2019. Through this experience, he traveled to industry events to represent the Angus breed and its members.

Currently attending Oklahoma State University (OSU) studying



agribusiness and marketing, Hinrichsen plans to attend law school after graduation with a focus in agricultural law. He would also like to continue involvement with his family's operation in a marketing role while continuing membership in his state and national associations.

Kolin Huth



The son of David and Jayne Huth, Kolin Huth began his junior career in 2010. Since

then, the junior from Richland Center, Wis., says his experiences through the Angus breed created memories to last a lifetime.

Huth served as a Wisconsin Junior regional officer, earned a Wisconsin Angus Auxiliary Scholarship, and was awarded Wisconsin Master Stockman in 2020.

This involvement led Huth to serving as one of Wisconsin's national voting delegates in 2016, an experience he says allowed him to cultivate meaningful relationships with Angus youth across the nation. When preparing for the 50th NJAS hosted in Madison, Wis., Huth served as a committee chairman.

Throughout the years, Huth notes, the life lessons learned through his time as a junior can be applied to other areas of his life.

"I have learned that hard work always pays off," Huth says. "If you put in the time and effort into any project, whether it is your livestock project or a school project, the rewards always pay off in the final

drive or with your finals."

In May 2021, Huth plans to graduate from Viterbo University with a bachelor's degree in healthcare administration. After continuing his education, he plans to settle in rural Wisconsin to work in healthcare and build his Angus herd.

Kallie Knott



Originally from Laotto, Ind., Kallie Knott says she was inspired to continue her family's legacy

in the Angus breed after seeing how the cattle industry brought them together.

Knott recalls this sentiment, "You may not have everything you want, but you have everything you need." Rich Ward, my grandfather, taught this statement in my family's Angus operation, in which we practice every day. Not only do I remember his encouraging words, but also, I have learned to put them into action."

Put them into action she did. The daughter of Robert and Rebecca Knott served as Indiana Junior Angus Association first vice president and attended the Raising the Bar and LEAD conferences and Angus Convention. During the NJAS, Knott found success in the show ring, including serving as Indiana's state representative in showmanship and participating in multiple contests.

However, one of Knott's favorite memories was winning the title of Miss American Angus in 2018. While serving, she built relationships with juniors, producers and consumers as

she represented *The Business Breed*.

Knott is currently attending Purdue University majoring in animal science. After graduation, she plans to continue her education to become a veterinarian, a career she says for which her time as a junior has prepared her.

She plans to stay involved with the NJAA and the American Angus Auxiliary to become a role model in the industry.

Maggie Maas



While Maggie Maas from Adair, Iowa, may be in the last year of her junior career,

she says her time in the Angus industry is far from over.

Starting out, Maas remembers being afraid of cattle until her grandpa, father and mother taught her to be more confident in herself and her abilities.

A member since 2009, the daughter of Kevin and Darci Maas has served as an Iowa Junior Angus Association director since 2013, earned a state scholarship, and was crowned Miss Iowa Angus Queen in 2019. Thanks to her involvement at the state level, Maas says she went on to attend the LEAD conference, show at NJAS and even compete at several contests while there.

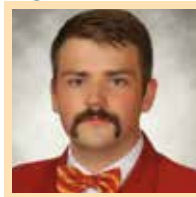
"Looking back on my time as a junior member, I am so beyond blessed and thankful for all the lessons learned," Maas says. "I learned how to communicate

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effectively, reach out to others and push myself to become better as a member, leader and showman.”

Maas plans to graduate in May 2022 with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and special education from the University of Northern Iowa. She wants to work in education in a rural community, where she will become involved with the 4-H extension office to help spread the value of the agricultural industry.

Ryland McCormick



Ryland McCormick from Pleasantville, Iowa, says his time as a junior

member has made him the person he is today.

The son of Chris and Dixie McCormick says many doors opened for him through the Association, leading him to serve as an Iowa Junior Angus Association director and boast multiple wins at state Angus shows.

During his NJAS exhibitions, he had success in the show ring and participated in the livestock judging, quiz bowl and skill-a-thon contests. However, McCormick credits the people, not the wins, as the most noteworthy part of his junior career.

“The people I have met through this association have given me friends and people all across the state and the nation that I can always rely on when I need help with something,” McCormick says. “Reflecting on my junior career, I

think about the people who always helped me out at the shows and made the shows the most exciting part of my summer and my year. If I could do it all over again, I wouldn’t change a thing.”

McCormick plans to graduate from Iowa State University in May of 2022 with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural studies. He will then pursue a career in the agricultural industry and continue to grow his family’s Angus herd.

Sarah Pelton



“As I reflect on my career as a junior member in the NJAA, I am met with feelings of pride and

accomplishment,” says Sarah Pelton of Paradise, Kan. “During the biggest times of growth and change in my life, the NJAA was always a constant for me.”

The daughter of Chris Pelton says the Angus breed has given her a support system that feels like her second family. One opportunity she felt noteworthy was attending the LEAD conference and getting to see the perspectives of producers from across the country.

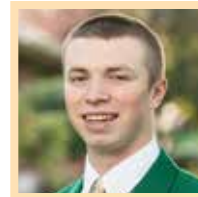
During her years at the NJAS, Pelton won first place in the Cook-Off, team sales and team marketing contests. She says preparing for contests and growing her family’s herd are things she looked forward to each year. The biggest win came for Pelton and her family in 2015 when she exhibited the grand champion owned Angus steer in Tulsa, Okla., a

memory she says will stick with her forever.

Currently attending K-State studying marketing with the assistance of a national scholarship, Pelton plans to attend law school after graduation to become a corporate attorney, focusing in the agricultural sector.

She says she believes her NJAA experiences have prepared her for a successful career advocating for the agricultural industry.

Daniel Rohrbaugh



Making connections with people from around the country who share the same

passion for the Angus breed changed his life, says Daniel Rohrbaugh from Seven Valleys, Pa.

“Reflecting on my junior career, the banners and ribbons were great, but in the end, the friends and connections that I have made through the NJAA are what I cherish most,” Rohrbaugh says. “I will be forever grateful for the opportunities that I have had with the NJAA.”

Serving as the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association president for two years, the son of Doug and Cathy Rohrbaugh says this position taught him organizational skills and how to properly delegate responsibilities. Rohrbaugh’s participation in his state association pushed him to attend the LEAD conference and to branch out to meet juniors from across the nation.



Rohrbaugh also claims achievements in the show ring, including winning grand champion bred-and-owned steer at the Atlantic National Regional Preview Show in 2016. All of this involvement led to him being elected to serve on the NJAB, where he will finish his term in 2021.

Studying agribusiness at K-State, Rohrbaugh plans to pursue a career in agricultural sales and marketing. He also plans to build his Angus herd and give back to his state junior association while continuing his membership in the American Angus Association.

Cara Smith



Cara Smith of Pleasant Garden, N.C., says her eight years of junior membership

shaped her into the individual she is today.

The daughter of Craig and Elaine Smith served as North Carolina Junior Angus Association (NCJAA) treasurer, president for three years and national voting delegate twice, and she was crowned NCJAA Queen in 2015.

While participating at the NJAS, Smith competed in multiple contests including team marketing, skill-a-thon and the Cook-Off. One of her biggest aspirations, however, was representing her home state in showmanship, a dream that came true in 2019.

“My family has always been my number one supporters, and to have

them there and watch me accomplish one of my major goals was amazing,” Smith says. “I will never forget hugging my parents after I made top 15.”

Smith went on to place third overall that year, and she says the moment still seems surreal.

Currently attending the University of North Carolina in Greensboro studying nutrition, Smith plans to graduate in December 2021. She would like to pursue a career educating elementary and high school students on the importance of nutrition and agriculture.

Smith also plans to continue to breed Angus cattle and join the North Carolina Angus Association, the North Carolina Angus Auxiliary and the American Angus Association.

Rowdi Van Zee



“Looking back and reflecting on my junior Angus career, I realize how truly blessed I am,”

says Rowdi Van Zee from Sioux Center, Iowa. “I have traveled all over the country, met tons of new people, made new connections, and learned a lot of life lessons along the way. I may not have joined the Association until later in my show career, but this Association will have a lasting impact on my life.”

The son of Ryan and Bridgette Van Zee has had an extremely successful career in the show ring. He’s exhibited at shows such as the Iowa Beef Expo, American Royal, Atlantic National and had class winners at the

Iowa Angus Preview and NJAS.

While at the NJAS, Van Zee also participated in the mentoring program. His involvement in shows even led him to attend the LEAD conference in 2019, where he met and networked with youth passionate about the Angus breed from across the nation.

Currently studying agricultural science at SDSU, Van Zee plans to graduate in May 2022. After graduation, he looks forward to producing Angus bulls and females that are competitive on a national level and continuing to grow his herd.

Katharine Wesche



Utilizing her time as a junior to grow her state’s involvement, Katharine

Wesche from Shortsville, N.Y., says the NJAA has always treated her like family.

Since attending her first Angus conference in 2015, the daughter of Allan Wesche hasn’t missed a single one — LEAD or Raising the Bar — since. To further her participation, Wesche served as New York Junior Angus Association (NYJAA) president in 2018 and a national voting delegate in 2019.

At the NJAS, she competed in the skill-a-thon and livestock judging contests, and placed first in the quiz bowl contest in 2017. She says seeing the NJAB members at national events inspired her to help expand her state’s participation.

Continued on page 122

Because not all of her state's juniors had the opportunity to travel to the NJAS, she organized bringing the junior board to the New York State Fair for the first time to allow juniors to interact with them.

"Looking back on my junior career, it has shaped who I am today," Wesche says. "I have learned hard work, responsibility and leadership."

While attending a Raising the Bar conference, Wesche visited SDSU and realized it was her dream school.

After graduating in May 2021 with a bachelor's degree in animal science, she plans to pursue a career in the animal agricultural industry.

Regarding the Angus breed, she would like to continue to expand her family's operation while improving their herd's genetic merit.

Morgan Woodbury



"Thankful. I am nothing but thankful for the 12 years I have been a member of the NJAA,"

says Morgan Woodbury of Quenemo, Kan. "From attending our family's first NJAS in 2007 in Tulsa, to my last show this coming summer, I can only think of good people and great memories."

Since her junior career started in 2007, the daughter of Howard and Elise Woodbury served in multiple

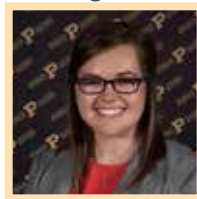
positions within the Kansas Junior Angus Association, including treasurer, secretary, first vice president and second vice president. She was even crowned Kansas Junior Angus Queen in 2015.

During her years of exhibiting at the NJAS, Woodbury served in the mentoring program, participated in the public speaking and Cook-Off contests, and represented the state of Kansas in showmanship. All the successes, though, didn't come even close to the people she met and the friends she made during her time as a junior, she says.

With the assistance of a national scholarship, Woodbury currently attends K-State studying animal science and industry.

After graduating in May 2021, she plans to be a 4-H agent somewhere in Kansas to allow her to help with the family farm. She says her heart will always stay with the farm and Angus cattle.

Karsyn Zenor



Karsyn Zenor says her Angus career started long before she was born, in 1979, when her

grandpa Terry Goodrick purchased her mother's first Angus show heifer and converted his herd from crossbred to Angus.

The Attica, Ind., native started showing at age 5, and began her junior career with Angus in 2008. Since then, the daughter of Heidi Zenor served as the Indiana Junior Angus Association vice president, secretary-treasurer and Indiana Angus Queen.

Zenor's participation in her state association led her to be selected as one of Indiana's national voting delegates, and she met people from all over the country at the NJAS.

Some of the competitions she has entered in include quiz bowl and team fitting, and she represented Indiana in showmanship in 2018. Zenor credits her first NJAS with helping her break out of her shell.

The pride Zenor gets from breeding and owning her show cattle, however, makes her successes in the ring much sweeter.

"Our small herd of eight cows has one cow family going back to the late '80s, and another cow family from the '90s," Zenor says. "It is so rewarding showing bred-and-owned going back multiple generations."

Zenor is currently attending Purdue University studying animal science.

After graduation in May 2021, she is considering graduate school in agricultural communications or beef production. **AJ**



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CED	BW	WW	YW	MRB	RE	SM	SB	SC
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Her Progeny Also Sell!

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SHE SELLS!

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K C F Bennett Fortress x Poss Erica 5118

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13	-1.6	79	135	0.99	0.47	76	144	263

POSS BLUEBLOOD 410
17918935

Poss Easy Impact 0119 x Poss Blueblood 2135

CED	BW	WW	YW	MRB	RE	SM	SB	SC
4	0	63	106	0.89	0.93	55	160	263

POSS BLUEBLOOD 6502
18631711

Dam of Poss Rawhide

Poss Easy Impact 0119 x Poss Blueblood 920

CED	BW	WW	YW	MRB	RE	SM	SB	SC
3	1.5	74	126	0.94	0.90	75	180	308

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