

Next Generation

POSTCARD FROM AN NJAA DIRECTOR

Special plans for a special holiday

This is the time of year when everything gets so busy. Each of us has to figure out what our family wants for Christmas. We have to get something for our friends and maybe for that special someone, too.

Everyone has plans to do something special this year; and, of course, we all have those "traditions" that are done every year. At my house Mom, my brother and I always put up the tree as Dad stares on as manager of the activity. We all laugh a lot because usually half the lights will mess up after they are on the tree.



Julie Scarlett

Food is always a big part of the season. Mom and I always make white chocolate pretzels and a cheese ball. And every Christmas morning we get eggs, homemade buttermilk biscuits, country ham and red-eye gravy.

My dad's family always gets together after Christmas, and Christmas Eve is my mom's family time. Every year so much changes with growing up, but so much stays the same.

Probably my favorite moment of the year is on Christmas Eve when all of Mom's family gathers in the living room, after the gifts have been opened and just before everyone starts to leave and go their separate ways. My aunts, uncles, cousins, Mama Ghee, brother, Mom and Dad all start to recite the Christmas story from Luke 2. Every year I look around the

room at family present and think about everyone there and everyone else on the other side of my family, and I think about how blessed I am. Although there have been loved ones who have passed away, and knowing that things will change in a year's time, I know that what is most important in life is present.

The most important thing is the story of a Man, from birth to death. The real meaning behind this time of year is the celebration of life. It's also a chance to tell everyone how much you love them. It's a chance to start over and to improve one's self. It's not something that can only be done now, but it's the time of year when everyone close to me can know how much they are a part of me.

So this Christmas and every day of the new year, thank those who have been with you every step of the way and tell them how much you care. Even though this is the time of year we all think about the important things in life, let's let this be the beginning of a year in which we take nothing for granted.

— **Julie Scarlett**
Snow Camp, N.C.

NJAA members earn recognition awards

James Fisher, American Angus Association director of junior activities, recently announced that seven members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) earned their Bronze and/or Silver award(s). These awards are the first and second levels of the National Junior Angus Recognition Program, which was initiated in 1972.

NJAA members must apply for the awards and must meet point requirements in many areas, including participating in showmanship and leadership competitions, using performance testing to improve their herds, and making progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

A member of NJAA since 1993, **Cortney Collins**, Tanner, W.Va., has qualified for the Bronze award. The 18-year-old daughter of Rick & Jane Collins is a senior at Gilmer County High School. She has shown her Angus in local, state, regional and national shows and has competed in the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*™ Cook-Off and the public speaking contest at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). She is a member of the West Virginia Junior Angus Association.

James Foshea, Midlothian, Texas, has qualified for the Bronze award. The 15-year-old son of Bill & Cathy Foshea is a sophomore at Midlothian High School. A member of the NJAA since 1995, he has shown his Angus in local, state, regional and national shows, and he is first vice president of the Texas Junior Angus Association. James has competed in the All-American *Certified Angus Beef* Cook-Off and in the public speaking contest at the NJAS.

Lacey Gorby, Alma, W.Va., has qualified for the Bronze award. A sophomore at Tyler Consolidated High School, she is the



Elected to serve as officers of the Mississippi Junior Angus Association are, from left, **Heath Johnson**, Tupelo, president; **Kirk Johnson**, Tupelo, vice president; **Dana Hancock**, Myrtle, secretary-treasurer; and **Christy Franks**, Mantachie, reporter.



Elected to serve as directors of the Mississippi Junior Angus Association are, from left, **Ashley Keith**, Mount Olive, southwest; **Jamie Overall**, Potts Camp, northwest; **Brandon Davis**, Lucedale, southeast; and **Chandra Stokes**, Ripley, northeast.

daughter of Jim & Paulette Gorby. She has shown her Angus in local, regional and national shows. Lacey, 16, has animals enrolled in Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR). She is the 1999 West Virginia Angus Queen and is secretary of the West Virginia Junior Angus Association. She has been a member of the NJAA since 1994.

An NJAA member since 1990, **Emily Hartzell**, Shawano, Wis., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. The 18-year-old daughter of Ken & Marilyn Hartzell is a freshman at Western Kentucky University. She has shown her Angus in local, state, regional and national shows and has participated in the photography, poster and team sales contests at the NJAS. Emily is the Wisconsin Angus Queen and has served many offices in the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association.

Gina McCurry, Sedgwick, Kan., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. A senior at Haven High School, she is the 17-year-old daughter of Greg & Pam McCurry. She has shown her Angus in local, state, regional and national shows and has several animals enrolled in AHIR. Gina has been active at the state and national levels, serving as the 1999 Kansas Angus Queen and attending national junior leadership conferences. She has served as secretary of Kansas Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1991.

Minnie Roberts, Sarcoxie, Mo., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. A junior at McAuley Regional High School, the 16-year-old is the daughter of Tom Roberts, Mount Vernon, Mo., and Linda Elderton, Sarcoxie, Mo. She has shown her Angus in shows at the local, state, regional and national levels. She has participated in the photography contest at the NJAS and in various showmanship contests. Minnie is a member of the Southwest Missouri Junior Angus Association and the Missouri Junior Angus Association. She has been an NJAA member since 1993.

Cody Washam, Pierce City, Mo., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. The 14-year-old son of Rick & Mary Jo Washam is a freshman at McAuley Regional High School. He has shown his Angus at local, state, regional and national shows. Cody also has participated in the photography and team sales contests at the NJAS. He is the president of the Southwest Missouri Junior Angus Association and is a member of the Missouri Junior Angus Association. Cody has been a member of the NJAA since 1985.

NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERMS UP IN 2000

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Officers and Directors of the National Junior Angus Association (front row, l to r) are **Melissa Pickrell**, Paris, Ky., chairman; **Julie Dameron**, Lexington, Ill., vice chairman; **Lindsey Trospen**, Hamilton, Mo., communications director; **Garrett Pohlman**, Norfolk, Neb., Foundation director; **Julie Scarlett**, Snow Camp, N.C., leadership director; and **John Melton**, Bridgewater, Va., membership/information director. Additional Directors (back row, l to r) are **Miranda Grissom**, Prague, Okla.; **Allison Porter**, Jefferson, Ga.; **Brandon Douglas**, Gentry, Ark.; **Sy Olson**, Hereford, Texas; **Sonya Smith**, Lebanon, Tenn.; and **Jamie Meyer**, Douglass, Kan. **James Fisher**, back right, is director of junior activities.