

The Best of the Best

Auxiliary awards \$9,700 in scholarships to NJAA members.

by Brooke Byrd

The 2004 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Kansas City, Mo., ended on a high note for 10 National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members who went home with \$9,700 among them. The American Angus Auxiliary annually awards scholarships to five young women and five young men. This year, they were chosen from 26 applicants representing 20 states.

The Auxiliary scholarships, funded through such programs as auctions in Louisville, Ky., and the Angus Sale Barn, have been given to beginning college freshmen for 48 years. Shirley Williams, national scholarship chairwoman, presented the 10 awards Friday, July 16 during the NJAS. The following outstanding NJAA members are this year's Auxiliary scholarship recipients.



Kristen Oaks, Calhoun, La., won the first-place scholarship in the girls' division and received \$1,200.

When Kristen wasn't selected for cheerleading in the sixth grade, she thought her "world had ended." Instead, she says, "my life had just taken another direction." This direction led her to Angus cattle, where her many leadership roles led to her selection as first-place winner.

In addition to her roles as the 2003 Louisiana Angus Queen and the 2004 Louisiana Cattlemen's Queen, Kristen served as the president of her high school student body, her local 4-H club and the Louisiana Junior Angus Association (LJAA). She also found time to serve as the northeast director of the LJAA from 1999-2003, director of the Louisiana Junior Cattlemen's Association, soccer team co-captain and founder of the LJAA Mentoring Program.

A frequent participant at the NJAS and the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, Kristen says, "Angus cattle have given me a niche that no one else in my school has. It has been fun to explain to my 'city' classmates about showing cattle and our cattle activities."

She adds, "Today our herd is truly the 'heart' of our daily lives and operation. We view each birth with awe and anticipation, searching for that future 'great one.'"

Kristen's dedication has earned her



Kristen Oaks

awards in and out of the showring, including the 2003 Junior Premier Breeder Award at the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, as well as Roll of Victory (ROV) point awards. A frequent showmanship winner, Kristen also has experience on the other side of the heifer. In 2004, she was a surrogate judge at the Atlantic National Showmanship Contest.

She will be attending Louisiana State University (LSU), Baton Rouge, to study ag communications. "My future is an open book," Kristen says. "While I am undecided about my career path, I am sure that communicating with others and promoting Angus cattle will be part of my future."

And the day she didn't make cheerleading? "That was the best day of my life!" says the daughter of Emerson IV and Rebekah Oaks of Calhoun.

Chelsey Warfield, Andersonville, Tenn., received the \$1,050 second-place scholarship.

Before she was old enough to show, Chelsey remembers being anxious for her turn in the ring. "I was so excited when I could finally show," she says. This excitement has followed her throughout her life, especially in her own Angus herd. She has worked hard to make her cattle more marketable by using expected progeny differences (EPDs) and genetics.

"To stay competitive, I keep up with what bloodlines other breeders want," Chelsey says. "My calves from bulls that are known for their carcass genetics have brought a significantly higher price."

Chelsey has also worked hard to improve

things in her community. A volunteer at the East Tennessee Children's Hospital and the Mariner Health Nursing Home, she coordinated a project to assist a disabled farmer. "The chance to help others and experience seeing the joy I have brought to the face of a child has enriched my life," she says.

Chelsey constantly strives to better herself academically, as shown by her membership in the National Honor Society and her role as valedictorian.

Even though showing cattle wasn't the most "socially accepted" thing, she consistently involved herself in Angus and other ag activities. She has served as the East Tennessee Angus Association (ETAA) Queen for two years, state Angus association queen, ETAA vice president, regional FFA vice president and local 4-H vice president. "To me," she says, "Angus cattle mean friendships and educational opportunities."

These opportunities have provided her with a sense of direction. "I have also learned that nutrition of the animal is very important, and identifying quality feed, grass and hay is imperative," Chelsey says.

She has been accepted at the University of Tennessee (UT), Knoxville, where she will study food science and technology. Future goals

include eventually obtaining a master's degree in the subject. "I hope to have a career that combines my interests in food safety and genetically modified organisms or pharmaceuticals."

However, Chelsey doesn't plan on forsaking her cattle anytime soon. "I plan to continue increasing the scope of my Angus operation in the future. My next goal is to own at least 40 head of Angus cattle before graduating from college," she says.

Chelsey is the daughter of Philip and Darla Warfield, Andersonville.

Dana May, Mineral Point, Wis., is the winner of the \$950 third-place award.

Angus cattle are a family tradition for Dana. "I have grown up within Fernvale Angus Farms, an Angus operation that my



Chelsey Warfield

grandfather started in 1953," she says. When she was first starting out with her own cattle experiences, Dana was strongly influenced by her family. "Our farm has shaped our family and, inherently, me as well," she says. One of her biggest challenges has been to "step out of the shadows," created by her family members' accomplishments, to find her "own niche in the Angus world."

In her attempts to do so, Dana has attended every NJAS since 1995, participating in the Auxiliary-sponsored All-



Dana May

American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) Cook-Off for five years, as well as other contests. Dana also had a big part in planning the 2002 NJAS in Milwaukee, Wis.,

as social chairman. Recently, she has served as Miss Wisconsin Angus and assisted in planning a state LEAD conference, where she conducted a workshop about showmanship.

Dana has also worked at creating a niche outside of the Angus world. The vice president of her local National Honor Society, she has participated in mock trial competitions for two years. In addition, Dana has had several opportunities to visit Redruth, Cornwall in the United Kingdom through a student exchange program.

Service also plays a large role in Dana's life. Besides having served as the vice president and president of her 4-H club, she has been involved in a large number of volunteer activities, such as Habitat for Humanity and highway cleanups.

Despite all her activities, her Angus cattle have always remained important. "Once I accepted my unique lifestyle, I stepped out of the shadows and have come into my own," she says. She will be attending the University of Missouri, Columbia (UMC), to study biology and psychology, but feels her niche still remains with Angus. "Even though I am not going directly into an agricultural field, I know that the Angus Association will stay an active part of the rest of my life."

Dana is the daughter of Gregory May and Cathryn Kaiser-May, both of Mineral Point.

Brittany Gillig, Aurora, Mo., won fourth place and \$850. Brittany is grateful for the opportunities agriculture has provided for her. "As a fourth-generation agriculturist, Angus cattle have taken my life to new heights," she says. "Being involved with the farm has taken my life in a direction that I might not have followed otherwise."

Brittany has been avidly involved in her local FFA chapter, participating in the National FFA Convention for three years, as well as a leadership conference in Washington, D.C. Brittany has been the secretary and vice president of her FFA chapter, in addition to winning many awards and contests.

She acknowledges the effect these activities have had on her life. "FFA and various Angus organizations have molded me into a leader with communication skills and the confidence to pursue any goals that I may set for myself," she says.

A frequent NJAS participant, Brittany was involved in hosting the 2004 NJAS as the gift and trophy junior chairman. She has competed in the team sales contest for the past three years, consistently placing high. "Participating in the team sales competition at the National Junior Angus Show has allowed me to do what I enjoy and know best — sell cattle," she says.

Outside of the showing, Brittany has been very involved in her community and other activities. She has provided a petting zoo for community events and has volunteered as a debate judge. Involved in forensics throughout her high school career, Brittany received an award as a part of the novice team debaters of the year for 2001-2002.

Brittany will be taking her sales knowledge to Southwest Missouri State University (SMSU) in Springfield, where she will study ag business with an emphasis in marketing and sales. "I look forward to my college experience and continuing my life in the Angus industry," says the daughter of Ken and Elizabeth Gillig, Aurora.

Kindra Wood, Holly Pond, Ala., is the fifth-place scholarship winner, receiving \$800. The breadth of Kindra's many activities is astounding. From clogging to pageants, and cheerleading to choir, she has participated in a large number of different experiences. In addition to placement on the honor roll for six years, she has

participated in track, cross-country, basketball and drama, as well as math and science clubs.

"Showing Angus cattle has been the best experience of my life. It has been an education and a learning experience," she says. "My Angus projects have allowed me to travel, meet many interesting people, and experience things that many young people only experience or read about in books."

Some of these experiences involve the many contests Kindra has participated in at the NJAS.

Kindra has entered the photo, poster, quiz bowl, team sales, prepared speech, creative writing and Cook-Off contests throughout her junior career.

She has also been a leader for various organizations. She has served in several capacities for her high school student body, her local FFA and 4-H chapters, the Alabama Junior Cattlemen's Association (AJCA), the Cullman County Junior Cattlemen and the Alabama Junior Angus Association (AJAA), in addition to serving as Alabama Angus Queen and Alabama Junior Angus Queen.

"My love for Angus cattle has brought about a desire to work as a [veterinarian]," she says.

The daughter of Keith and June Wood, Holly Pond, plans to attend Auburn University to study animal science, with a minor in poultry science, on a pre-veterinary medicine course. "I plan to continue to raise Angus cattle as I begin a new chapter in my life," she says. "I hope to give back to my community some of what has been given to me through the years."

Editor's Note: The five young ladies were eligible to compete for the 2004 Miss American Angus title. At the 2004 NJAS, Kristen Oaks, Chelsey Warfield, Dana May, Kindra Wood and Ricka Boehmer, Williamston, Mich., announced their intent to participate in the competition, which will take place in November at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky.

Garrett Lampe, Scott City, Kan. received the \$1,200 first-place scholarship in the boys' division.

Garrett became an American Angus

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Kindra Wood



Brittany Gillig

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Association member at 7 days of age, when his grandfather paid his membership dues. "That was probably the best gift I've ever been given," he says. "Angus. To many people, that word represents a breed of cattle; to me, the definition is much broader. It means a way of life, friendships and opportunities."

Garrett is well-known for taking advantage of those opportunities, as evidenced by his leadership within the Angus world and agriculture. Having served in many offices for the Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA), he was awarded the Outstanding Leadership Award at the 2002 NJAS. Garrett has also served as a mentor at the NJAS and as a voting delegate, in addition to attending several LEAD conferences.



Garrett Lampe

In attendance at the NJAS since 1995, Garrett has participated in the poster, prepared speech, extemporaneous speech, team sales, photography, graphic design, Cook-Off, quiz bowl and writing contests.

"Each contest I have participated in, from the showing to the Cook-Off to team sales to photography, has broadened my knowledge and understanding of the industry," he says. As a result of this deep level of involvement, he won the Auxiliary Crystal Award three times — in 1999, 2002 and 2003.

Garrett has been a big part of his high school's music program, participating in a play every year, as well as serving as president of the choir/music club. He has been very active in his church and community, performing more than 100 hours of community service.

In addition to being the fifth generation of Angus breeders in his family, Garrett is also an entrepreneur. He runs his own custom-fitting and clipper-blade sharpening business, along with his everyday duties on the ranch. "I am very involved in all aspects of the operation, including daily care, selection, culling, nutrition and breeding," he says.

Garrett will attend Butler County Community College in El Dorado, Kan., to participate on the livestock judging team. He plans to pursue a degree in animal science

and agri-communications and hopes one day to have his own livestock marketing and advertising business, as well as his own herd of registered Angus cattle. "I am positive that Angus cattle will always be a big part of my life," says the son of Mark and Anne Lampe, Scott City.

John Pfeiffer, Mulhall, Okla., is the winner of the \$1,050 second-place scholarship. When he was 6 years old, John had his first introduction to the cattle world. "My parents gave me two bottle calves to raise, and after I sold them, I was officially a beef producer," he says. As part of a family that has raised Angus cattle since 1907, some of his very first memories include checking cattle.

John has been building a successful cattle program by carefully monitoring each stage of production. "I am very proud of the fact that my herd is totally AI (artificial insemination) and I have had the opportunity to feed out some of the steers I have raised and retain them all the way to the packer so that I can judge the progress I'm making in my herd," he says.

From his herd, John has had the honor of winning the champion carcass steer award at the 2002 NJAS, as well as the reserve champion carcass steer award at the 2003 NJAS.

"I have been able to use this carcass information as a selling tool when I market my bulls," he says. "I have learned that taking weights and recording the information may be just as important to my success as learning how to run a set of clippers."

An NJAS participant since the 1999 event, which he also helped coordinate and prepare, John has competed in many different NJAS contests. He has also been



John Pfeiffer

very involved with his 4-H and FFA groups, as well as the Oklahoma Junior Cattlemen's Association (OJCA). He has taught 28 workshops as a part of his 4-H involvement, has helped organize events and has participated in contests for the OJCA.

John has also played a large role in his high school class and student council activities. An officer each year for his class, he has served as the captain of the academic and golf teams, and he helped manage the basketball team. A member of the National Honor Society, John has had

the opportunity to serve as a page in the Oklahoma State Senate.

He will be attending Oklahoma State University (OSU), and majoring in ag economics. Future plans include attending law school and working in public policy, maybe as a lobbyist for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). "I know that wherever my ambitions take me, I will always have a pasture of good Angus cows that need to be checked," he says.

John is the son of John Jr. and Gaye Pfeiffer of Mulhall.

Drew Schroeder, Clarence, Iowa, is a third-place scholarship winner, receiving \$950. Drew says he is grateful for all the opportunities that Angus cattle have given him.

"I have been fortunate to travel with my projects and have formed many good friendships," he says. As the

2003-2004 president of the Eastern Iowa Junior Angus Association (EIJAA), Drew has had a variety of great experiences, including attending the 2003 LEAD Conference and participating in NJAS contests.

"Showing cattle has given me a lot of recognition for the breeding line we have produced on our farm," Drew says. This recognition comes in the form of several Iowa animal of the year awards, as well as two Pathfinder cows in the last year. In addition, showing cattle has led Drew to a variety of showmanship championships.

A former basketball camp counselor, he has participated in basketball, baseball, golf, football and track at his high school. In addition, Drew has been very active in his church and community, including planting trees and flowers around the community and serving church suppers. Drew has participated in his FFA and 4-H chapters, winning various awards and serving offices, such as president, for each.

Drew will be attending Black Hawk East College in Kewanee, Ill., to participate in livestock judging. He plans to transfer to Iowa State University (ISU) and expects to further his education in animal science and agribusiness. "I have clear-cut goals to work in the agriculture field, by getting educated in the business side and production that will



Drew Schroeder

give me a wide range of careers to pursue," he says.

Drew is the son of Douglas and Glenda Schroeder, Clarence.

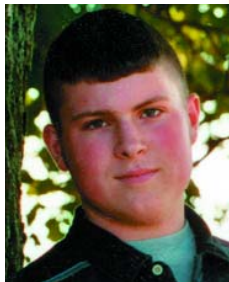
Evan Boehmer, Olivet, Mich., won fourth place and \$850.

When Evan had to give up sports for medical reasons, he had never really been excited about showing cattle. However, this quickly changed. "When I had to give up my participation in athletics, I quickly made working with cattle my practice and showing them my sport," he says.

"Maintaining this herd is no easy feat," Evan adds. When his father, a certified public accountant (CPA), is working long hours, he takes charge. "In a sense, ... I inherit the farm for a four-month period," Evan says. "I maintain herd health, make breeding decisions and monitor the nutrition of the animals."

Despite long hours on the ranch, he has made time for other activities. The Michigan Junior Angus Association (MJAA) president since 2002, Evan also received the outstanding junior member award in 2000. In addition, he participated in the 2003 NJAS Cook-Off, where the Michigan team won first place in the senior fresh meat division. He also competed in team sales that same year.

Evan has been the secretary, treasurer and



Evan Boehmer

president of his FFA chapter, and he served three times as a beef presenter for Agricultural Literacy Day. He won the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) Merit Award in his last year of high school.

He plans to attend Kellogg Community College to study premed. "In addition to my personal development and learning to take responsibility, working with livestock has helped me to decide to pursue a career as an orthopedic surgeon," he says. "This will not only allow me to work with people, but also help me fund a farm in the future."

Evan is the son of Earl and Kristin Boehmer of Olivet.

Justin Brosey, Hamilton, Ohio, received the fifth-place \$800 scholarship.

When people question him about showing cattle, Justin responds that he sees it "as an opportunity to learn about responsibility, meet new people and make lifelong friends." An active member of both 4-H and FFA, as well as the Ohio Junior Angus Association (OJAA), Justin has learned much from showing cattle and being involved with agriculture. "This is where I learned that it wasn't whether I placed first or last if I had given it my all," he says. "It made me work harder because I knew the more I worked, the better I would do."

Justin has also learned from his leadership roles, including his two years as OJAA

reporter when he was in charge of the state scrapbook. A past voting delegate at the NJAS and the president of his youth group, he has also learned responsibility. Justin has actively participated in community and church events, including working with the homeless at soup kitchens and working with elementary-age special-needs children.

Showing cattle has led him to his career.

"Through being actively involved in showing Angus cattle, I have been able to work with children (planning our display for junior nationals, working on contests or being part of the mentoring program)," Justin says. He will attend either Morehead State University or Miami University, Ohio, to major in elementary education. "I've known that I wanted to work with children for a long time," he says. "There is nothing better than watching a child discover something for the first time."

However, he says he doesn't plan on leaving his Angus lessons behind. "I know that no matter where I am, or who I become, I will always be active in showing and raising Angus cattle," says the son of Daniel and Pamela Brosey, Hamilton.



Justin Brosey

