

Winners' Circle

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

by Brooke Byrd

The 2005 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Denver, Colo., was an especially memorable experience for 10 National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members who went home with \$9,700 among them. The American Angus Auxiliary annually awards these scholarships to five young women and five young men. This year, they were chosen from 28 applicants representing 20 states.

The Auxiliary scholarships, funded through such programs as the Auxiliary auction in Louisville, Ky., and the Angus Sale Barn, have been given to beginning college freshmen for 49 years. Sharee Sankey, national scholarship chairwoman, presented the 10 awards Friday night at the NJAS. The outstanding NJAA members below are this year's Auxiliary scholarship recipients.

Julie Thelen, Saline, Mich., is the first-place scholarship winner in the girls' division, receiving \$1,200.

Julie's direct involvement with cattle started early in life at age 6, taking care of an orphan calf. Even before that, she watched her grandparents' Angus cattle through the window. "I knew that I, too, wanted to raise Angus cattle," she says.

A third-generation Angus breeder, Julie is adept at keeping herself busy at home, as she is in charge of all daily care and management of the livestock on her farm. She also runs a custom-clipping business to help fellow 4-H and FFA members. She has built up her own Angus herd from the single orphan heifer to a current herd of 10, and hopes to increase her numbers.

A former Miss Michigan Angus, Julie has a deep appreciation for learning experiences. "Participating in Association programs and contests has increased my knowledge of the Angus breed and beef industry," she says. "These experiences have given me the confidence to try new things and take on new leadership roles."

She has thrown herself into participation on the local, state and national levels, including involvement in school, 4-H, FFA and Angus activities. She has also been a member and officer of the National Honor Society. As she begins her first year of college,

she will also be serving as the Michigan FFA State Vice President.

The daughter of Steve and Nancy Thelen, Saline, Julie



will be attending Michigan State University, majoring in agricultural education. Her goal is to teach in a rural school district, but she plans to keep up her Angus involvement. "No doubt, Angus cattle and the people who raise them will be a part of my life for years to come."

Mallory Trosper, Hamilton, Mo., received the second-place award with a \$1,050 scholarship.

Years ago, Mallory remembers following her older sisters to the washracks as her "summer job." When she finally got her chance to show, she says, "I can't even describe the excitement I had."

Since then, she has spent extensive time at the showing, both inside and outside. Winning multiple awards at county and state fairs, Mallory has also shown and won at the NJAS and other major shows around the country. Her participation and responsibilities in the Missouri Junior Angus Association, including time spent as the Missouri Angus Princess and Missouri Angus Queen, have also grown throughout the years, culminating in roles as the junior communications director, opening ceremonies junior chairman and member of a host family at the 2004 NJAS in Kansas City, Mo.

Her time spent in the NJAA has been valuable, Mallory says. "My Association involvement played a tremendous role in molding me into a young adult." In addition, she says, "We learned at an early age about feeding, health and breeding. Our knowledge



of the circle of life was quite advanced — information my grandmother worried I would share at school!"

This information is something Mallory has decided to pursue into a career in pediatric medicine. Time spent providing child-care services and volunteering at medical clinics has helped prepare her for a future career, as have the skills she learned raising Angus cattle.

Mallory will be attending the University of Missouri-Columbia (MU), majoring in biochemistry. Even if her career path does not lead into agriculture, she says she won't ever forget it. "I yearned to be a part of it as a very little girl, and I will yearn for it always," she notes.

She is the daughter of Steve and Sandy Trosper, Hamilton.

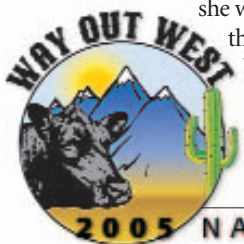
Samantha Harl, Hastings, Neb., has been chosen as the winner of the \$950 third-place award.

Much of Samantha's love for Angus cattle comes from its association with her family heritage. She remembers her grandmother reading her the story of "Baby Black" as a little girl, and realizes that she was, in fact, being taught an underlying meaning about her heritage. "My grandfathers have been in the Angus business their entire lives, and were two of the fiercest showing competitors ever — against each other!" Samantha says. "Their guidance and love for Angus has been instilled in me."

Samantha describes herself as a "hands-on girl," whose multiple responsibilities on her family farm include daily chores, health and nutrition, mating selections, heat detection, breeding, calving, recording data and working with Angus Information Management Software (AIMS), breaking and preparing cattle for the showing, showing, assisting in sales, baling hay, "and even making fence."

She has participated in numerous sales, including consigning a bull to the National Western Angus Bull Sale in Denver, Colo. Other Angus responsibilities have involved time spent as the Nebraska Angus Queen and as president of the Nebraska Junior Angus Association.

Even with so much on her plate, she still finds time to pursue her love of dance, taking classes and even teaching 10 classes a week in different styles to a range of ages. When she attends Mesa State College in Colorado, she plans to continue pursuing her twin loves by



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double-majoring in dance and ag business. "Settling in an agricultural community where I can have my own dance studio and cow herd would please me the most and allow me to carry on my grandparents' heritage," Samantha explains.

She is the daughter of Tracy and Carrie Harl, Hastings.

Katrina Dubs, Billings, Mont., was named the fourth-place winner, receiving \$850.

Katrina's "Angus journey" began 18 years ago, at 2 months of age, when she was given her first Angus calf. "Little did I know that she would build a road for me that would influence my life and make me into the person I am today," she says. Everything she has met on her journey, whether it be a triumph or a disappointment, Katrina has only considered "bricks in the road that heifer paved for me."

Since receiving her first calf, her journey has taken her far into the Angus world. She has a 14-head cow herd of her own, in addition to helping with her family's 150-head Angus farm. Katrina is especially proud of her real-world experience in the Angus business — she raised the high-indexing bull at the Treasure Bull Test, retains her females as replacements and sells bulls to ranchers in her area.

She has also been actively involved in Angus leadership, having served as queen, secretary, and vice president of the Montana Junior Angus Association, where she currently serves as president. She also served as her class secretary and has participated in various bands and orchestras as a percussionist throughout high school.

One of Katrina's goals is to someday continue the journey her grandparents started for her with her own family. "It all started with that heifer — perhaps my journey will be complete when I give my grandchildren their first heifer," she says.

The daughter of Louis and Kathy Dubs, Billings, will be attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in elementary education and business administration.

Bridget Driscoll, Williamsburg, Iowa, is the fifth-place winner, receiving \$800.

When younger, Bridget battled with



being shy in new groups of people. However, she says, "My Angus involvement has helped me learn to be more outgoing." Activities such as the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences, team sales and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off have helped her to be more outgoing and fight her fears.

She has also gained confidence as a result of experiences in the showing. "When I was not completely comfortable with my heifer at the NJAS in Perry, Ga., I worked hard to get her shown and made a good friend along the way," she says.

Bridget has worked with her family to raise quality purebred Angus cattle, and has often exhibited bred-and-owned animals at the local, state and national levels, in addition to selling them for several years at her family's cattle sale.

Her experiences at LEAD have also led her down an unexpected road. While attending the 2003 LEAD Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, Bridget became interested in ultrasound technology. After taking classes through Iowa State University (ISU), she became the youngest ultrasound technician certified through the National Centralized Ultrasound Processing (CUP) Laboratory & Technology Center. Currently, she works as an ultrasound technician on weekends.

As a result of this life-changing Angus experience, Bridget will be attending ISU and majoring in animal science, education or physical sciences to prepare herself to expand her ultrasound business.

Bridget is the daughter of Erle and Renee Driscoll, Williamsburg.

Editor's Note: *These five young ladies are eligible to compete for the 2005 Miss American Angus title. At the 2005 NJAS, all five women 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.*

Clayton Lampe, Scott City, Kan., is the first-place winner in the boys' division, receiving \$1,200.

Clayton says the Angus breed and the NJAA have most influenced the person he is today. He has been extensively involved throughout his junior career, participating in multiple officer and committee roles for his 4-H club, FFA chapter and state junior Angus association. He has attended every NJAS since 1996, participating in the poster, photography, graphic design, team



sales, writing, quiz bowl and Cook-Off contests.

"Participation has broadened my knowledge and perspective of the industry," he says.

Currently president-elect of the Kansas Junior Angus Association, he has also attended five LEAD conferences. Clayton is a frequent participant in livestock judging contests, having judged with his FFA chapter throughout high school, as well as a frequent champion in showmanship contests. He has also contributed more than 150 hours of community service, played basketball, and participated in chorus and choir.

In 1994 he received his first Angus female from his grandfather. Now, he and his brother together own a herd of 42 Angus cows. A fifth-generation Angus breeder, Clayton says, "I am involved in all aspects of my and my family's operations, including daily care, management, selection and breeding." In addition to his daily farm responsibilities, he also works on the side, clipping and fitting cattle for shows and sales.

The son of Mark and Anne Lampe will be attending Butler County Community College in Kansas and participating on the livestock judging team. Future plans include further education in animal science and ruminant nutrition.

Andrew Foster, Niles, Mich., is the winner of the second-place \$1,050 award.

"I can't remember when I fell in love with Angus cattle," Andrew says, "but I know I was very young." At 3 years old, he was already hard at work with his "herd" of one stuffed Angus cow. "I spent every day working on her," he says. "I would imagine showing at the big shows, and I couldn't wait until I was old enough to show."

When that time came, Andrew eagerly jumped into participating in as many events and activities as possible. "I was always the first one to raise my hand to get involved," he says. The current president of the Michigan Junior Angus Association and the vice president of the Atlantic National Junior Angus Board, he has extensively participated in shows around the country, often showing animals he raises and then sells from his own herd.

From his participation, Andrew has learned the importance of being a role model. "I have taken a large role in getting younger kids involved in the NJAA," he says.

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"These accomplishments are the meaning of success."

This desire to lead others has also translated beyond Angus. He was the captain of his varsity basketball team, as well as a referee, coach and counselor for younger players. Even with his focus on Angus and other activities, Andrew maintained a place on the honor roll all four years of high school.

The son of Scott and Elaine Foster, Niles, Andrew will be attending Michigan State to study animal science. While his career is not set, he says, "There is no doubt that it will involve Angus cattle."

Brett Naylor, Buffalo, Mo., received the third-place award of \$950.

While Brett has been involved with three different breeds of cattle, he says, "Angus have meant the most to me by far and [have] given me a wealth of opportunities." He has taken full advantage of the opportunities available by participating in the NJAS photography, quiz bowl, team sales and Cook-Off contests. His love for showing is clear through his participation in numerous shows. Showing, he says, "has taught me responsibility, a good work ethic and showmanship."

One of his favorite experiences was being a part of the mentoring program at the 2003 NJAS. Partnered with a 10-year-old, first-time attendee, Brett says, "I had a wonderful time getting to know him and helping him. I look forward to seeing him each year."

Brett has also learned directly about Angus performance through participation in the University of Missouri Performance Tested Bull Sale, having sold bulls since 1997.

Brett says Angus is his first love, but football is a clear second. He played on his high school football team all four years and has received Outstanding Linebacker and All-District Linebacker awards, was chosen for All-Conference, and was team captain his senior year. At the same time, Brett stayed on the principal's honor roll for all four years, received academic letters and medals, and was a member of the National Honor Society.

His future plans include attending MU and majoring in either animal science or ag business. He hopes to maintain a small herd



of Angus cattle and continue showing and being involved in the Angus breed throughout his lifetime.

"I am proud to say I am an Angus breeder," he says.

Brett is the son of Gary and Pamela Naylor, Buffalo.

Brandon Creamer, Montrose, Colo., received the fourth-place, \$850 award.

At an early age, Angus cattle helped Brandon realize he was a "voice of agriculture." His first heifer helped teach him about responsibility, recordkeeping, hard work and losing, but also inspired him to take what was once just a 4-H project further than his county fair. He says his goals were at first simple: "to win a class at the county fair, to breed my own heifers, to raise a few bulls to sell."

Now, Brandon owns 30 Angus females and two herd sires. He shows his bred-and-owned females and bulls at shows across the United States. Each year, he sells females by private treaty and markets his bulls through his family's annual sale, where he also assists in marketing and preparing cattle for sale. He consigns to sales around the country, including multiple consignments to the National Western Angus Bull Sale. He specializes in selling cattle adapted to his climate's high altitude, summering them at pastures reaching up to 9,500 feet (ft.) in altitude.

He has developed leadership skills through his experiences in 4-H, FFA, the Colorado Junior Angus Association and the NJAA. He has been a voting delegate, mentor and attendee several years at the NJAS. Through these experiences and skills, he has been able to use his "voice" without hesitation.

"I'm not afraid to speak out on diseases, quality of beef, beef production and the nutritional values of beef," Brandon says. "Raising and marketing Angus have helped me grow ... into a self-confident, outgoing high school senior."

Brandon will be attending Northeastern Junior College in Colorado and majoring in ag economics. "My passion for raising Angus and my success in the beef industry will lead me to the next level," he says. Someday, he hopes to own his own cattle ranch.



He is the son of Jeff and Kathi Creamer, Montrose.

Benjamin Greene, Covington, La., has been selected as the fifth-place winner, receiving \$800.

As a third-generation Angus breeder, raising Angus cattle is more than just a hobby to Ben. "It is a tradition and part of my family," he says. He also considers the knowledge he has received to be invaluable. "Learning to be responsible, getting an understanding of the animals as well as the land and all of the common knowledge learned helps me with everyday life," he explains.

Ben has helped his parents restart their Angus herd from scratch after his grandfather's herd, started 50 years ago, was sold. He has learned a great amount about artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer (ET) and helps with both on the family farm. Enrolling every animal in the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) program has taught Ben the value of recordkeeping, eventually leading to ultrasounding ribeye area (REA) and intramuscular fat (IMF) on all of his farm's yearlings.

He is proud of helping his state's intermediate team win first place in the NJAS quiz bowl contest for two years in a row. He has also participated in the NJAS prepared and extemporaneous speaking, photography, creative writing, and scrapbook contests.

On his state level, Ben has been the second vice president, first vice president and Southeast district director for the Louisiana Junior Angus Association.

Currently working as a veterinary assistant, Ben will be attending Louisiana State University and majoring in forestry and environmental management. He hopes to become a dentist and work in a practice with his brother to more closely manage his family farm. "In the future, I would like to expand the herd size to 150 females and sell 50-75 bulls a year," he says.

Ben is the son of Gary and Kimberly Greene, Covington.

