

Mining for Gold

Twenty-one young men and women attain the NJAA's highest recognition.

by Jen Biser

Twenty-one members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) received Gold Awards through the National Junior Recognition Program (NJRP) in 2005. The highest honor bestowed to a junior, the Gold Award symbolizes years of dedication, commitment and achievement.

Before earning this highly sought-after award, which considers points accumulated for participation in various activities, juniors must first earn Bronze and Silver level awards. To be considered for the Gold, each award winner must be active in four areas: leadership and association representation; competitions in and out of the showing; registration and compilation of data; and marketing Angus cattle.

Junior members can only apply for the Gold Award during their final year of NJAA eligibility (the year in which they turn 21). As with other competitions, complete, accurate and professional applications are critical. For more information, contact the Junior Activities Department at the American Angus Association at (816) 383-5100, or visit www.njaa.info.

NJAA members capturing the Gold in 2005 include the following.

Coye Crenshaw-Kleve

Attending her first National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in 1993, Coye Crenshaw-Kleve was not old enough to exhibit animals or even participate that summer in Wichita, Kan., but she says she still “got hooked.” Since then, she has missed only one NJAS in 12 years.



“The people I have met, the friends made and the lessons learned will be with me for the rest of my life,” Coye says. “I will never forget winning my first class in Kentucky in 2003, Reserve Grand Champion Carcass Steer at Wisconsin in 2002 or being part of the winning team in the *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off Adult Division when I was only 18.”

She started her cow herd with one heifer, Shamrock Preciosa E675, a gift given to her three months after her first birthday by her grandparents, George and June Crenshaw.

Coye is the daughter of Christy Crenshaw and the late Jim Kleve of Manhattan, Kan. Coye says that even though her father passed away before he could see her show at the NJAS, her mother and grandparents remain vital to her involvement in showing Angus cattle.

“Attending the NJAS and being a member of the National Junior

Angus Association have given me experiences that are unforgettable and valuable,” she says.

Coye will graduate in May 2006 from Washburn University in Topeka, Kan., with a bachelor's degree in business administration and an emphasis in finance management. She plans to continue working for Commerce Bank & Trust, with the goal of working in the Human Resources Department.

Tammy Ettredge

“I will never forget being that shy, quiet girl at my first NJAS in Tulsa,” says Tammy Ettredge. “But, since then I have grown, and I hope that I have left a lasting impression.”



The impression that Tammy leaves with the NJAA is one of leadership and determination. Through the NJAA Tammy has been a national showmanship qualifier, won varying titles in the Texas Junior Angus Association and participated in junior Angus writing contests.

The daughter of Mike and Barbara Ettredge, Pilot Point, Texas, Tammy has been successful outside of the cattle show arena as well. As a member of 4-H and FFA, she has had the opportunity to travel throughout the United States. Specifically, through her involvement with FFA, she has traveled as far as Washington, D.C., for the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) and earned

her American Farmer Degree from the National FFA Organization.

Graduating from Tarleton State University with a degree in animal industries, with emphases in beef cattle and communications, Tammy hopes to continue her progress with her Angus herd and serve as an ambassador for the Angus breed to the state of Texas.

She says, “My success is not measured in the number of trophies on my shelf, but by the useful industry knowledge that will aid me in my future endeavors and the lifelong friendships I have established,” she says.

Tammy is planning for the future as she sets her sights on becoming the first female American Angus Association regional manager.

Chelsea Frost

Chelsea Frost says her most memorable experience was winning second at the 2004 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. She favors the achievement because it helped Illinois take home the top two showmanship honors from the 2004 NJAS in Kansas City, Mo.



The daughter of Cimeron and Rachel Frost of Tallula, Ill., Chelsea says the NJAA has offered her a lifetime of opportunities and rewards in only 21 short years. The Illinois junior has served as the state association president, vice president and secretary; is a former Illinois Angus queen; and has traveled to numerous local, state and national Angus shows.

Chelsea also shows club lambs through her FFA chapter. She has shown market wethers for 12 years. Through the Illinois state and national FFA organizations, she has been awarded her State and American Farmer degrees in Beef Cattle Entrepreneurship. Chelsea is active in the Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlewomen's Association at Oklahoma State University, where she has served as a past secretary and president.

“As I look toward the future, I hope to one day work for a cattlemen's association or for a national breed association in the junior department,” Chelsea says. “I want to help juniors realize the opportunities they are offered through their associations.”

Currently, Chelsea is serving as the Illinois Angus Association summer intern, where she is in charge of managing and keeping track of 40 point shows and working with the



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summer Ag Institutes, which educate teachers as to how to incorporate agriculture into their curriculums through the Agriculture in the Classroom program.

“My summer internship is a big opportunity to allow me to work with juniors,” Chelsea says. “It is also a way to jump-start my career in youth leadership.”

Deanna Hartzell

“It seems like I have always been a part of the junior Angus association,” Deanna Hartzell says. “Having an older sister, I was at all of the activities and shows she was at, and because of those activities, Angus is just part of the family.”



Deanna is the daughter of Ken and Marilyn Hartzell of Mineral Point, Wis. She says the friends and acquaintances she has fostered during the years will be with her for a lifetime.

“Not many of my noncattle friends understand how you can form friendships across the nation with people you see once a year at the NJAS,” Deanna says. “The support system I’ve developed throughout the nation is incredible. Whether you need help with a flat tire, a couch on a long trip, or just a mental or physical pick-me-up when things get tough, the Angus family is there.”

Deanna has been a role model for other juniors through public speaking and her leadership. She has developed her people skills by meeting so many people from diverse backgrounds.

“The members of the NJAA and the American Angus Association are due many thanks for providing me with so many wonderful opportunities and memories,” Deanna says.

Through Deanna’s involvement with Angus, she has been able to finance her college education. She plans to complete her degree in elementary education and mathematics from the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh in December 2006, with the goal of teaching junior high school math and coaching softball.

Rachel Herbst

“As I look back, most of the memories and experiences I cherish came from the junior Angus association,” Rachel Herbst says. Rachel adds that her closest friends are those she



has met at cattle shows and fairs, and a lot of her hobbies came from being raised on a black Angus ranch. She is the woman behind the Idaho Angus Association newsletter.

She has stayed involved in the showing, showing her cattle at regional shows and the NJAS. She has also competed in the national photography, graphic design, poster and public speaking contests.

The daughter of Steven and Janna Herbst of Salmon, Idaho, Rachel says, “I must say that I am truly grateful for my parents and grandparents. They have shared their love for agriculture and the Angus industry with me, and I plan on carrying that same tradition until I can pass it on to my own family. They have pushed and inspired me to become who I am now.”

The Idaho junior is attending Brigham Young University, majoring in agricultural communications with an emphasis in advertising design. Rachel is diving into the real-world communications industry by owning her own small business in graphic design, called Design Grafix. Working with business logos, company ads, brochures, announcements and business cards, Rachel is off to a head start.

“I hope to incorporate my love for graphic and advertisement design into agriculture and the beef industry,” Rachel says.

In her spare time, she works part-time for her uncle’s ag entertainment company, which operates more than 100 corn mazes around the world.

Hope Herd

Hope Herd says the friendships she has made through her involvement with the American Angus Association can never be equaled.

An accomplished leader and an active member of the Fair Grove FFA Chapter, Hope has been awarded her Chapter, State and American Farmer degrees, served as the Area 8 state FFA vice president, been a member of numerous teams, and traveled to the WLC hosted in Washington, D.C.

“My involvement in the NJAA has been a wonderful experience,” Hope says. “I have been given the opportunity to strengthen my knowledge of the Angus industry while moving forward in life.”

The daughter of Mark and Kim Herd of Fair Grove, Mo., Hope has shown her leadership abilities through her participation in shows, junior events and the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference. She says she has gained the self-



confidence that makes it easier to step outside her comfort zone and interact with others.

In addition to her Angus involvement, Hope is also on the board of directors for the Missouri Junior Cattleman’s Association.

Hope plans to use the skills that she has gained through her NJAA experience as a stepping-stone in completing her bachelor’s degree from Southwest Missouri State University in agricultural education and as she pursues a master’s degree.

“I want to be a positive influence for both my students and NJAA members everywhere,” she says.

Kati Hereford

“I can still remember my first NJAS in Indiana,” Kati Hereford says.

“I was so overwhelmed and shocked that a cattle show could be this huge.”

Kati, an Angus producer from Hamilton, Va., is looking forward to the future, and her most important goal is to graduate from George Mason University with a degree in event management. Kati has found her niche from being involved in planning Angus events. She has served on the Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic show committee and is the president of the Virginia Junior Angus Association, which is scheduled to host the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show in 2006.

The Virginia junior is the daughter of Bob and Ann Hereford. She says, “I would never be here without my experiences with the Angus association. They have given me the self-confidence and drive to accomplish my goals and to help others.”

Kati has served as a voting delegate for the NJAS, participated in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, competed in different NJAS contests and represented her state as the Virginia Angus queen.

“Nationals are not so overwhelming to me now,” Kati says. “Who knows, maybe someday I will help plan one.”

Kati’s dreams are far-reaching, but she is ever-mindful of what the NJAA has afforded her.

“I am forever thankful for my experience in the Angus association, and I hope to help give great experiences to other members in future years,” Kati says. “Looking past college, I am hoping to pursue a career in stock car race planning and implementation in NASCAR.”

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Eric King

“Ever since I was big enough to carry a showstick, life has taught me about teamwork, friendship and responsibility,” says Eric King of Sycamore, Ohio.



For the last 10 years, Eric has done what he loves to do — exhibit cattle. Beginning his career when he was 9 years old through his parents’ operation, Kingsway Angus, Eric has exhibited in shows across the country through 4-H and the Ohio Junior Angus Association.

Eric has proven his leadership abilities through his involvement in junior activities, as he has been the president of the Hopewell-Loudon Junior Beef Club and the Ohio Junior Angus Association. He is also an active member of the Ohio State University Saddle and Sirlain Club, serving as chairman of the steer show.

“Over the past 15 years I have traveled many miles to various different shows and have met people who have become lifelong friends,” says Eric, the son of John and Mary King. “The Angus cattle industry has opened many doors for me in the world. My involvement has begun many career goals for me in the cattle industry.”

Eric’s plans include combining his personal experiences with those that he is attaining at Ohio State University as an animal science major, and putting those skills to use when marketing himself as a potential employee in the animal science field.

“I would like to become a herdsman or a manager for a cattle operation,” Eric says. “This would allow me to gain experience so that in the future I can start my own Angus cattle herd and give my children the same opportunities that my parents have given me.”

Stephen Kohl

Stephen Kohl of Waterloo, Wis., says he knows that he can reach his goals in life with the help of his Angus friends and a lot of hard work.



“I have developed many new friendships, which I hope will last me a lifetime,” Stephen says. “Being involved in the Angus breed and its associations is

something that I am very proud of.”

Stephen has been a part of committees that he says have taught him to be a liaison between adult members and the youth who the NJAA represents.

“Angus meant going to many shows out of state, meeting new people, staying in touch with my friends and being part of a group that I have so much in common with,” Stephen says.

Starting his herd with only five cows, Stephen says raising Angus cattle has taught him a lot about livestock management. He now understands and has the resources and ability to utilize embryo transfer (ET) and artificial insemination (AI) on his females.

In addition to his Angus involvement, the son of Dennis and Mary Kohl has been an active 4-H member for the last 10 years.

Stephen is currently attending Black Hawk College in Kewanee, Ill., and is planning on completing a transfer diploma in education. He says he chose Black Hawk for its livestock judging program and has enjoyed competing on the team. Stephen plans on continuing his education at Illinois State University to complete a bachelor’s degree in education. Because of his livestock judging involvement, he would like the chance to travel to different livestock events to judge.

Looking down the road, Stephen says he wants to own an Angus ranch out West to start a new Angus-loving generation.

Jarrett Martin

“Recognition of a Gold Award is bittersweet to so many members of the NJAA,” says Jarrett Martin. “It marks a member’s last year of eligibility in the Association. It is no different for me because I, too, will miss the deadlines, early morning feedings, showing jitters and the agony of defeat that sometimes accompanies a member’s life.”

Jarrett is from Lavaca, Ark., and served as the 2005 NJAA membership director. He says time has passed quickly since he first set eyes on the “green jackets.” It was a dream come true to be elected during the 2003 NJAS to serve on the NJAA Board of Directors.

“Over the past two years I have traveled, met numerous Angus enthusiasts and created a legacy for my family through my work with my fellow board members,” Jarrett says.

Jarrett says he joined the NJAA because of



the opportunities available to him to enable himself to grow as a person. Looking back, he says it also showed him what he could do for others.

“I have had several occasions by which to appreciate the impact that people, places and circumstances have on a person,” Jarrett says. “Every single person who I have met has made a mark on my soul. James Fisher, above all others, taught me that the Association is not just a job for him, but a lifestyle that one lives.”

Jarrett graduated from the NASCAR Technical Institute in North Carolina last December and has plans of continuing his education in mechanical engineering at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, this fall. Jarrett thanks his parents, Mark and Sonja Martin, along with the Angus Foundation and the American Angus Auxiliary, for their continued support.

Emily McCurry

“You do not have to show cattle to benefit from this organization,” Emily McCurry says. “Some of my greatest challenges have come in the midst of juggling many different tasks at the same time at the NJAS. Unless you have participated, you will never realize the depth of what this organization can provide to you.”

Emily has not let any opportunity pass her by. As a highly active member of the Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA) and the NJAA, Emily highlights her achievements through her leadership as the KJAA president, a 2003 Auxiliary-sponsored Crystal Award winner and the 2004 Outstanding Leadership Award winner. Emily has also been influential in her local Reno County 4-H Club and Haven FFA Chapter.

“Much of my leadership work and what I have accomplished with others has been at the grassroots level,” Emily says. “This is the training ground that has taught me to be open-minded and work as a team to accomplish goals. I am particularly mindful of my position as a role model to younger members.”

Emily began her Angus career in 1985 with the purchase of a registered Angus heifer calf. Today, her herd has grown to 20 registered Angus females, all tracing back to that original heifer. Aside from showing her



cattle, Emily also participates in performance bull testing, farm tours and livestock judging.

Emily is the daughter of Mary and Andy McCurry of Burrton, Kan. She is currently enrolled at the University of Kansas, where she plans on pursuing a doctorate degree in pharmaceutical medicine. Upon her expected graduation date in 2008, she plans on working in the retail pharmacy business.

Joanna Olson

"I have learned throughout my junior Angus career that you can't give up or never pursue a goal just because you think that the odds are stacked against you to succeed," Joanna Olson says. "The experience of trying something new regardless of the outcome gives you an opportunity to grow and develop your own character and integrity."



Having two older siblings, Joanna, an Angus junior from Hereford, Texas, has had to pursue her own ambitions and make her Angus experience all her own. As the communications director of the 2005 NJAA Board, a former Miss American Angus in 2003 and a member of the NJAA since she was 9, Joanna has cut her path.

"Being a part of the junior Board has been an invaluable experience that I will never forget," Joanna says. "When I was younger, I was an incredibly shy kid. Granted, I will always be shy about some things, but being a member of the NJAA Board has been one of the most helpful experiences. It has made me bolder and more aggressive in accomplishing the tasks that are set before me."

Showing Angus cattle has always been a family affair. The daughter of Steve and Ginger Olson has been around Angus since she was 2 years old. Having a brother and a sister to follow, Joanna was the third out of her family to wear a green jacket for the NJAA. She has not missed an NJAS since she was old enough to show.

Currently a senior animal science major at Texas A&M University, Joanna encourages each junior member to get involved in as many activities as the NJAA has to offer. "Just step out of your comfort zone and try something new that might intimidate you at first," she says. "You will be glad that you did."

Joanna will graduate from Texas A&M in May 2006 and plans to pursue a career in the beef industry in the Texas panhandle, while

continuing to build the Angus herd she has already started.

Kelly Penner

Time spent and memories made with family are what Kelly Penner of Mill Creek, Okla., will always remember from her experience with the NJAA.



"Showing and raising Angus cattle have been a part of my entire family's lives," Kelly says. "My sisters, parents, grandparents and I have been able to develop a very close relationship through Angus cattle."

Like many juniors, Kelly takes pride in showing the product of her own hard work through the bred-and-owned show.

"I have so many great memories that are tied with the NJAA, but the one thing I am most proud of is showing bred-and-owned cattle," she says. "Almost all of the cattle my sisters and I have shown have been raised at our ranch. I have been very fortunate in the showing, and the show that stands out the most is the 2004 NJAS and winning the bred-and-owned heifer show."

Outside of the showing, Kelly found time to be a part of several activities at her high school. As an active member of the Tishomingo FFA Chapter, she earned her Chapter Star Greenhand, Chapter Farmer and State Farmer degrees. In addition, Kelly was an integral player on the girl's basketball team.

"Basketball was something I took pretty serious," Kelly says. "I was lucky enough to have been part of a team that made it to the state tournament. I received all-area, all-conference, as well as all-state honorable mention."

The daughter of Harris and Vicki Penner is currently a junior at Oklahoma State University, where she is majoring in human nutrition. With her future plans still undecided, Kelly knows that she will continue to build her herd and be active in the American Angus Association.

Emily Pohlman

"Some of my favorite memories come from the week spent at the NJAS," Emily Pohlman says. "I do not believe anyone could erase my



memories of dancing and singing about a recipe at the 2004 NJAS. I believe these contests taught me to be more outgoing."

Emily is from Norfolk, Neb., and is an active junior. Throughout her career with the NJAA, she has competed in as many contests as she possibly could. From attending LEAD conferences to competing in the computerized cow-calf game, the quiz bowl and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American CAB® Cook-Off, as well as representing her state as a voting delegate and placing fourth as a contestant in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, Emily has stayed involved.

"Throughout the years of being a junior member, I have met so many exceptional people who have taught me so much," Emily says. "The life lessons of responsibility, hard work and integrity that I have gained through the NJAA are priceless and will follow me throughout my life."

Aside from Angus activities, the daughter of Chuck and Linda Pohlman is no stranger to the 4-H world. Emily has participated in many aspects of 4-H, including horse, beef and livestock judging contests. As a member of the Nebraska and American Quarter Horse Youth associations (AQHYA), Emily has achieved high honors, including the AQHYA Ranch and Heritage Scholarship. She has shown that she is a strong leader wherever she goes, as Emily has served in various offices within her 4-H club, as well as her junior Angus association.

After graduating from Wayne State College, Emily plans to begin classes at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in the pharmacy program this fall.

Casey Rump

"Even though my junior Angus career is coming to an end, I do not plan for my career and life with Angus cattle to end as well," Casey Rump says. "I have found it to be the best experience of my life."

Casey, from Galva, Kan., is the son of Craig and Marci Rump. He has been involved with the NJAA for 11 years and throughout that time has stayed active in varying aspects of the junior shows. Yet, Casey says that through all of the events, each is only a small portion of what being a junior member truly means.



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"I have met a lot of new people from across the nation," Casey says. "I have also been able to see many new places. Although socializing and meeting new people were a large part of why I enjoyed it so much, I also learned many valuable lessons that I will take with me."

Casey attributes his Angus involvement with teaching him the responsibility that was needed to gain the maturity that he possesses today. He has also learned the value of helping others and has taken the time to assist other juniors when all they needed was a little direction.

"There are no words to express how rewarding it is to see a new junior member smiling when walking out of the showing," Casey says. "I am grateful to have been able to help new members, and I plan to continue to do so."

Currently working as a diesel technician, Casey is already planning for tomorrow. He says he wants his children to be able to have the same type of experiences in their lives that he has had and plans to use all that he has learned in his life to teach others.

Megin Santee

Megin Santee reflects upon the journey that she has taken through her NJAA involvement and knows that the lessons that have been learned will place her, and all junior members, among the world's future leaders.

"The experiences gained within the activities provided by the associations will only advance my knowledge in the livestock industry and allow me to become a more productive producer," Megin says. "It is hard to believe that this is my last year to participate in such a wonderful and supportive association."

Megin says learning how to manage cattle, school, extracurricular activities, and friends and family teaches a valuable work ethic. She has fine-tuned her ability to multitask by participating in a wide range of activities, including the Cook-Off, public speaking, creative writing, graphic design, poster, photography and quiz bowl contests.

"My most memorable moment of them all had to be the opportunity to run for Miss American Angus," Megin says. "Even though I did not obtain the position, the friendships gained through the experience are ones that will not soon be forgotten."

Megin is from Langdon, Kan., and will be



attending Kansas Wesleyan University in the fall, majoring in public relations with an emphasis in interactive digital media for the purpose of advertising and marketing. She will also be working on a minor in social psychology, she says, to better understand consumers and their demands. Through her education, Megin hopes to gain a position in Saint Joseph, Mo., working for the *Angus Journal*.

The daughter of Barry and Karen Santee hopes to be an active communicator throughout her life, as she has gained the skills needed through her involvement with the NJAA.

Katelyn Scharpe

Katelyn Scharpe of Arlington, Minn., has been an NJAA and Minnesota Junior Angus Association member for 10 years and says being a member has helped her to learn and to grow.

"Being a part of the state and national Angus associations has given me the opportunity to meet many different people with an interest in Angus cattle just like I have," Katelyn says. "Showing at various shows, especially the NJAS, has provided me with learning experiences that impact my life."

Katelyn says traveling to Angus shows was her family's way of taking a vacation. Instead of hitting the beach, she, along with her sisters and her parents, James and Myrna Scharpe, hit the road.

"I have become very close with my family. I am especially close to my two older sisters, as we have worked together to build and develop our own herds of Angus cattle," Katelyn says. "Through our participation in Angus shows we have gained that closeness from working together and sharing goals."

Other goals that Katelyn has worked toward completing have been focused around Angus cattle through 13 years as an active 4-H member. Serving in various club offices, she expanded her leadership through organizing different events and serving on committees, many of which were directed toward junior members.

Katelyn has also been involved in the Sibley East FFA Chapter, where she has earned her Star Greenhand, Chapter, State and American Farmer degrees. She has also served as the chapter president and has helped out on a number of committees.

Expected to graduate in 2007 from



Minnesota State University, Mankato, Katelyn is earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education and in special education, concentrating on a specialty in mathematics.

Patrick Smith

The past three years have been the most rewarding for Patrick Smith, as he took it upon himself to help out three families in his hometown of Purcellville, Va., who wanted to get involved in showing Angus cattle.

"I started them in the direction of proper feeding and caring for show animals," Pat says. "The biggest reward was watching them excel in their endeavors, whether it be in the showing or on judging teams."

The son of Betsy Smith knows what it means to help out a fellow junior, as he remembers those who took the time to teach and encourage him just as he has done. He complements his helpful personality through his leadership as a 4-H member and holding offices as an FFA member, in addition to his Angus involvement.

"Cattle have always been a part of my life, and it's a great thing for kids to get involved in," Pat says. "It teaches responsibility and helps to develop a productive, knowledgeable person who can use that knowledge as they go through life."

As he leaves his mark on the NJAA, Pat says the one thing that graduating junior members should do is pass on the knowledge that they have gained to another member or family.

"We all go down the road together to each show, and I have to admit it gets kind of crazy sometimes, but it has been well worth the effort," he says.

Pat says with great certainty that there will be cattle in his future. He plans to continue to develop his own herd and perhaps manage a cattle operation.

Krista Stai

Krista Stai of New London, Minn., has learned what it means to be a part of the NJAA. Looking back, Krista says she remembers all of the fun that she had. From showing her heifers to participating in quiz



bowl, team sales and poster contests at the NJAS, she says she learned a lot.

"It was great being a person younger members could look up to," Krista says. As a past voting delegate, Minnesota Junior Angus Association vice president and treasurer, and Minnesota Angus queen, she has stayed involved through her state and national Angus associations.

Away from the NJAA, Krista has had success showing her heifers through her local 4-H and FFA programs. As a recipient of her American Farmer Degree in Beef Entrepreneurship, she has worked very hard.

The daughter of Gary and Kathryn Stai says she will stay with Angus and what she has started throughout her youth. Krista is attending Ridgewater College, where she is studying physical therapy. Currently, she is practicing her trade at the Miller Chiropractic Office, where she works as a chiropractic assistant.

"I am looking forward to increasing my herd and building up good bloodlines," she says as she markets her animals through consignment sales. "I will sincerely miss being in the junior Angus association."

Lisa Stream

Lisa Stream leaves a message for younger NJAA members as she remembers how her involvement as a junior member has created many fond memories as well as helped her to grow.



"To succeed in life you must have confidence — confidence that cannot be handed out in a classroom," Lisa says. "Once you realize that you really can make your dreams into reality if you work hard enough, you then have the confidence to set more goals and work to achieve them."

Lisa, the daughter of Rodney and Sue Stream of Chariton, Iowa, says the experiences she has encountered through pursuing her goals within the Angus association have helped her develop skills that she plans on using her entire life.

Lisa says that blood, sweat and tears are not all that make a successful person; success is also built on networking.

"Through the junior Angus program, members are able to practice and perfect the art of successful communication with people they do not know, or know well," Lisa says. "As a last-year member of the NJAA, I feel I am leaving the program a more confident,

outgoing person who is better able to set goals and follow a dream"

Lisa's dreams are in the hopes that she make a difference in the cattle industry, even if it is off the farm. She says the great advances in agriculture and the cattle industry come from innovative people who are able to take risks, turn the drawing table upside down and try something completely new.

Renee Thelen

Renee Thelen thinks back about her career as a junior Angus member and says she has learned a great deal through the experiences she has had in a variety of activities.



"From making new friends from around the country to having a great time preparing for and participating in different contests, there are many great memories," says Renee, who currently serves as leadership director on the NJAA Board of Directors.

Owning a small herd of Angus females, the daughter of Steve and Nancy Thelen of Saline, Mich., has had the opportunity to utilize AI, selecting for bulls that excel in calving ease and performance.

In addition to her obligations with Angus, Renee has been active in 4-H. She has competed at the 2002 National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Ky., where her team placed eighth in beef cattle.

Currently, Renee is a student at Michigan State University where she has been an active member of the university Block and Bridle Club and collegiate Farm Bureau. Renee is serving as the editor of the 2005-2006 Michigan Angus Association directory.

"I have enjoyed promoting beef to consumers at the Michigan Beef Commission and Cattlemen's display at our Michigan State Fair," Renee says. "I have also been a youth workshop presenter at the Michigan Cattlemen's annual meeting."

Renee believes it is very important to mentor young and new members of the Angus family.

"My best advice for members is to get involved and take advantage of the opportunities because time goes by very quickly," Renee says.

After graduating from Michigan State with an agribusiness management degree, Renee says she would like to work as a public relations or marketing representative in the agriculture industry.

NJAA Members earn Bronze and Silver awards

The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the National Junior Recognition Program (NJRP), which the American Angus Association began in 1972. To receive these honors, junior Angus members must apply for the awards and meet point requirements in many areas of participation.

Applicants are evaluated for their participation in junior Angus association activities; showmanship and leadership events; use of performance testing to improve their herds; and progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

While the Bronze and Silver awards are presented to members throughout the year, Angus Productions Inc. (API) publishes summaries of the award winners in the May and September youth-focused issues of the *Angus Journal*. James Fisher, director of activities and junior activities for the American Angus Association, announced the following award winners since publication of the May 2005 issue.

Bronze Awards

Lindsey Brown, 17, Federalsburg, Md. She is the daughter of Michael and Charlotte Brown.

Jessica Clarke, 13, Rocky Ridge, Md. She is the daughter of Tim and Becky Clarke.

Kade Nelson, 14, Crete, Neb. He is the son of Kent and Lisa Nelson.

Alissa Stai, 14, New London, Minn. She is the daughter of Gary and Kathy Stai.

Bronze and Silver awards

Zane Gray, 19, Toledo, Iowa. He is the son of Terry and Julie Gray.

Darren Herbst, 19, Salmon, Idaho. He is the son of Steve and Janna Herbst.

Kourtney Nelson, 16, Crete, Neb. She is the daughter of Kent and Lisa Nelson.

Courtney Rump, 18, Galva, Kan. She is the daughter of Craig and Marci Rump.

Kari Stai, 18, New London, Minn. She is the daughter of Gary and Kathy Stai.

Sarah Stream, 17, Chariton, Iowa. She is the daughter of Rod and Sue Stream.

— compiled by Brooke Byrd

