

Good as Gold

Forty-two junior leaders receive the elite Gold Award.

by *Bridget Beron, editorial intern*

All that glitters may not be gold, but for 42 juniors, a golden pin is more than just a pin. Signifying the culmination of years of hard work, National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members can only earn their Gold Award after being awarded both their Bronze and Silver awards.

As they faced their last year of NJAA membership eligibility, these outstanding juniors reflected on the influence the NJAA has had on their lives. From lifetime members to some with short years of Angus experience, the NJAA has presented each of these youth with the opportunity to become better breeders, better leaders and better people.

To receive the Gold Award, members must earn their Bronze and Silver Awards through the National Junior Recognition Program (NJRP) by earning a total of 1,000 points toward each award. This means they must have accumulated 3,000 points over their junior careers. Points can be earned by participating in junior activities, performance testing, production and merchandising of Angus cattle, or via other beef industry activities.

Established more than 40 years ago, the NJRP was designed to help recognize juniors who went above and beyond in their success within the Angus breed. This year's winners were recognized at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Grand Island, Neb.

"There are over 5,000 active juniors and these are the members who have been exceptionally involved and dedicated to the breed and the NJAA," Jaclyn Clark, director of events and education, says.

Morgan Alexander

Morgan Alexander says she finishes her junior career with no regrets, thankful for the experiences that crafted her into a strong advocate for agriculture. Morgan is from



Morgan Alexander

Berryville, Va., and is the daughter of Chuck and Linda Alexander. A senior at Virginia Tech, Alexander is studying human development with a leadership and social change minor. She says she is

considering returning to Virginia Tech for graduate school and then will pursue education, counseling or ministry in her career.

Morgan was extremely active in the Virginia Junior Angus Association, serving as historian, eastern regional co-chair and president. She has served as a delegate and as Virginia Angus Queen. Attending six Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences and five Raising the Bar conferences, Morgan has been committed to getting as much out of her junior years as possible. She also participated in the NJAS mentoring program for three years.

"I took advantage of many conferences, shows and other opportunities in order to learn more about our Angus breed, to learn more about myself and to grow personally," Morgan says.

She was successful in showing bred-and-owned (B&O) cattle at the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, Virginia Junior Breeders Show, Virginia Junior Beef Round-up and Virginia State Fair. Morgan also competed in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in 2014.

At the NJAS, she has participated in the photography, prepared public speaking and Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off contests. She received first-place honors in 2014 in the career development contest. Since 2010, she has registered more than a dozen Angus cattle and has participated in the Northern Virginia Fall Female Classic, Genetic Investment Sale and On-Stage Steer Sale.

An active member of her FFA chapter and 4-H club, Morgan served on the board of directors for both organizations. She has received her Greenhand, Chapter, State and American FFA degrees.

Jordan Barker

Hailing from Monticello, Iowa, Jordan Barker says he has met many friends, learned countless life lessons and gained leadership experience throughout his time as a junior member.

"This junior organization has helped sculpt me into the person I am today," Jordan says.

The son of Ruhl and Cheryl Barker, he is a junior at Iowa State University where he is studying computer science. Within the Iowa

Junior Angus Association he served as a director and as vice president. He served as president of the Hawkeye Junior Angus



Jordan Barker

Association, and he was a recipient of an Angus Foundation scholarship in 2015.

An active member of his local 4-H club and FFA chapter, he competed in various contests and served in leadership roles in

4-H. Jordan is currently pursuing his American Degree and has earned his Greenhand and State FFA degrees.

Jordan is active in the showing, exhibiting mostly B&O animals at the Iowa Junior Summer Show, Iowa State Fair, Great Jones County Fair and NJAS. He has also competed in showmanship on a local and state level.

Outside the showing, Jordan has regularly participated in the quiz bowl, livestock judging and photography contests at the NJAS. He has registered more than 25 head of Angus cattle and has participated in the Iowa Beef Expo Angus, Embryos On Snow, Sharing in the Progress and Texas Limited Edition sales.

Nancy Bickham

A native of Saint Francisville, La., Nancy Bickham calls her NJAA years a blessing. Since 2004, the daughter of Scott and Melanie Bickham has been an active NJAA member. She currently attends Baton Rouge



Nancy Bickham

Community College, where she is pursuing an associate's degree of applied science in diagnostic medical sonography.

She previously served as the south-central district director in the Louisiana Junior Angus Association.

Nancy is also a former Louisiana Angus Queen. She has attended the LEAD conference four times and also attended a Raising the Bar conference.

An active exhibitor, Nancy has participated in the Louisiana Junior Angus Association State Show, State Fair of Louisiana, Louisiana Angus Field Day and NJAS. She has placed in several state showmanship competitions since 2007. Outside of the showing, she has participated in the quiz bowl contest at NJAS and was a member of teams that placed first in the cook-off in 2009 and 2012.

Nancy has registered more than 40 head of Angus cattle since 2005, and in 2012 she participated in the Mississippi Angus Association Female Sale.

"The shiny buckles and fancy ribbons were not the ultimate prize; the life lessons and friendships were," Nancy says. "I learned to be a hard worker, respect everyone, and enjoy the time with my family and friends."

Madison (Maddi) Butler

"Now, as I finish my final year as a junior member, I can only be thankful for the opportunities presented to me through the NJAA," Maddi Butler says. "The skills and experiences I have gained have certainly



Maddi Butler

shaped me into the young adult I am today."

The former Miss American Angus credits the Indiana Junior Angus Association and the NJAA for turning her from a shy child into an involved

go-getter. A member of the NJAA since 2009, Butler is from Vincennes, Ind. The daughter of Rob and Casey Butler just graduated from Hutchinson Community College (HCC) with an associate's degree in animal science. While at HCC, she was a member of the livestock judging team. In the fall, she will study biotechnology at Oklahoma State University.

Maddi has been very involved in the Indiana Junior Angus Association, serving as reporter and a two-year term as president. In 2013 she was a voting delegate at NJAS, and she has attended the LEAD conference and the Raising the Bar conference.

She has been competitive in the showings at the Indiana State Fair and NJAS. She was a finalist for the NJAS showmanship competition in 2015.

Outside the showing, Maddi has competed in the judging contest and received first-place honors with her teams in the cook-off and quiz bowl. In her local 4-H and FFA chapters, she served as president of both organizations, as well as participating in various contests. She is also Genex artificial

insemination (AI)-certified and has been awarded a Sullivan's Supply Scholarship.

Jaden Carlson

Hailing from Pipestone, Minn., Jaden Carlson has been an NJAA member since 2000. She is the daughter of Randy and Sue Carlson. A senior at North Dakota State University (NDSU), Jaden is studying microbiology with minors in animal science, biotechnology and chemistry. She currently works as a quality-assurance intern at Elanco Animal Health.



Jaden Carlson

At the 2015 NJAS, she received a scholarship and served as a voting delegate. She has competed in the photography, quiz bowl and livestock judging contests.

Jaden has exhibited cattle extensively on a state and national level. She has participated in the North Central Regional show, Minnesota Junior Angus Show, Minnesota State Fair, Red River Valley Fair, Sioux Empire Farm Show, Minnesota Beef Expo and NJAS. At the 2014 NJAS she participated in the showmanship contest, and she has placed highly at several state showmanship contests. She has registered more than 40 head of Angus cattle since 2007 and has participated in the Minnesota Junior State Sale.

An active member of her 4-H and FFA clubs, Jaden competed in many beef and livestock judging contests. She is a current member of the NDSU livestock evaluation team and meat animal evaluation team. She is also a member of Collegiate Cattlewomen, Saddle and Sirloin and Judging Club.

Jaden is in the process of conducting research to learn more about the causes and treatment of pinkeye. She hopes to continue raising Angus cattle and give back to the Association as an adult leader for Minnesota and as a member of the American Angus Auxiliary.

Alexis Cash

Hailing from York, Pa., Alexis Cash joined the NJAA in 2005. The daughter of Erskine and Jamie Cash, she is a junior at Pennsylvania State University, where she is studying immunology and infectious diseases. After finishing her undergraduate education, Alexis hopes to go on to either research the genetics behind disease or attend medical school.

A former president and current vice president of the Pennsylvania Junior Angus

Association, Alexis attended the LEAD conference in 2014. At the 2015 NJAS, she was a scholarship recipient.

Alexis has been active in the showing, regularly seeing success while exhibiting at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, Atlantic National, Pennsylvania Breeders' Show, Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show and the NJAS.



Alexis Cash

Beyond the showing, Alexis has participated in the photography, quiz bowl and cook-off competitions at NJAS.

"In terms of the NJAA, getting involved was probably the best decision I could have made," Alexis says. "Being involved in something other than just showing cattle has taught me so much more, and I have gotten so much more out of my experience with the NJAA because I was more involved. That would be the thing I would want to impart on juniors; just get as involved as you can."

As she moves into the future, Alexis hopes to maintain her involvement in the Angus breed by keeping her family farm going, whether in its current location or not.

Taylor Clarke

"As I look back on my career as an NJAA member, it finally hits me that it's all coming to an end," Taylor Clarke says. "I followed in



Taylor Clarke

the footsteps of my cousin, Chad Hahn, and my sister, Jessica, but soon realized I was hooked just as much as my family before me."

Taylor has been an active member of the NJAA since 2004. Now a senior at the University of Tennessee, Taylor is studying agricultural communication. Outside of school, she is an assistant on the barn crew at Land of Little Horses.

A native of Rocky Ridge, Md., Taylor has been an active member of the Maryland Junior Angus Association. Throughout her 12-year membership, she has served as a director, reporter, communications director and is the current president. She was a scholarship recipient in 2015 and attended the Raising the Bar conference in 2012.

She has regularly exhibited at the Maryland Junior Angus Show, Atlantic

CONTINUED ON PAGE D66

Good as Gold CONTINUED FROM PAGE D65

National Show, Eastern Regional Show, Maryland State Fair, NJAS and more. She has competed in many state and regional showmanship competitions and competed in showmanship at the 2015 NJAS.

Outside of the showing, Taylor has been competitive in the poster, quiz bowl and creative writing contests. She is especially strong in the photography competition, earning several first-, second- and third-place honors during the last few years.

Taylor has registered more than 20 head of Angus cattle, and she regularly participates in the Maryland Angus Event sale.

Michaela Clowser

Hailing from Milford, Neb., Michaela Clowser has been attending NJAS since 2005, and she has yet to miss one. She recently graduated from Casper College with an associate's degree in ag business, and she is



Michaela Clowser

now studying agricultural marketing and communications with an emphasis in international market development at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "As my showing career as an Angus junior comes to a close, I am honored my home state of Nebraska will be hosting this year's NJAS," Michaela says. She is serving as the youth chairman for the 2016 NJAS decorating committee.

The daughter of Blaine and Sharon Clowser, she has served as secretary-treasurer and first vice president of the Nebraska Junior Angus Association. She participated in the showmanship contest at NJAS in 2013. In 2015, her team placed first in quiz bowl and second in team sales at NJAS. Michaela regularly participates in the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic sale.

"Angus cattle and the NJAA have been a strong foundation in my personal development," Michaela says. "I have a strong passion and dedication for raising Angus cattle and plan to extend my passion for the cattle industry into my professional career."

Michaela intends to continue to be a part of production agriculture in her future. As an Angus producer, she has incorporated innovative technology to improve the efficiency and quality of her herd through AI, embryo transfer (ET), DNA and genetic testing, and collecting and submitting performance data.

Aliesha Dethlefs

A second-generation Angus breeder, Aliesha Dethlefs, North Platte, Neb., is the daughter of Craig and Laurie Dethlefs. Aliesha is the current public relations and communications intern for the Aksarben



Aliesha Dethlefs

Foundation. She attends the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she is studying agricultural journalism with minors in leadership, communications and animal science. Aliesha has been an active member of the NJAA since 2005. Within the Nebraska Junior Angus Association she has served as historian, secretary-treasurer and first vice president. She has received scholarships at the NJAA, been a voting delegate, and has been a LEAD conference and Raising the Bar attendee. Aliesha has also participated in the NJAS mentoring program. At NJAS she has competed in the cook-off, photography, poster, extemporaneous and prepared speaking and quiz bowl contests.

"Being a part of the NJAA has made me the person I am today," Aliesha says. "I am more confident at meeting new people, can stand up in front of a room and talk without being nervous, not afraid to be embarrassed, and I am more passionate about the Angus breed than I ever knew was possible."

In the showing, she has participated in the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic, Nebraska State Junior Angus Show, Nebraska Junior Angus Winter Show, Nebraska State Fair and NJAS. Aliesha has competed in showmanship on a state and county level, winning the Nebraska Junior Angus Show showmanship contest in 2014. Registering more than a dozen Angus cattle since 2013, Aliesha has consigned to the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic Angus Sale and her family sale.

In the future, Aliesha aspires to one day work for the American Angus Association. Her goals include finding a job in the field of ag communications and continuing to build her Angus herd.

Brittany Eagleburger

Hailing from Buffalo, Mo., Brittany Eagleburger has been an active member of the NJAA since 2006. She is the daughter of Jeff and Pam Eagleburger. Currently a senior at Missouri State University, she is studying animal science. Brittany works as a laboratory

technician at the Missouri Department of Agriculture Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory.

"I began showing Angus cattle in 2007. At that time I had no idea what opportunities



Brittany Eagleburger

and successes were headed my way," Brittany says. She has been active in the Missouri and Southwest Missouri Junior Angus Associations, serving as president for both. She has also been a voting delegate and was the Missouri Angus Queen in 2013. She is a past recipient of scholarships from the Angus Foundation and the American Angus Auxiliary.

In the showing, Brittany has exhibited at the Missouri State Fair, Missouri Cattlemen's All-Breed Junior Show, Missouri Angus Futurity and the NJAS, placing highly with predominantly B&O cattle. Beyond the showing, she has received first-place honors in the cook-off, quiz bowl and team sales contests. She has also participated in the team marketing and photography contests.

Brittany has registered more than 25 head of Angus cattle since 2007 and has participated in the Heart of the Ozarks Angus sale and the Missouri Angus Breeders Futurity sale.

"As I wrap up my junior career, I hope to take advantage of every moment," Brittany says. "Every 'last time' will be enjoyed and missed. The NJAA has given me courage, scholarships, devotion, achievements, experience and a future that would never have been possible without the NJAA."

Kaitlin Fouts

"My career as part of the NJAA has been one of the most influential parts of my life," Kaitlin Fouts says. "I have realized my passion for the Angus business in the few short years that I have been showing Angus cattle."

Kaitlin hails from London, Ky., and is the daughter of Sam and Lisa Fouts. She currently attends the University of Kentucky (UK), where she is studying animal science. She works as a desk clerk at the University of Kentucky Agriculture Information Center. A former secretary and current president of the Kentucky Junior Angus Association, Kaitlin has served as a delegate and has attended a Raising the Bar conference.

In the showing, Kaitlin has exhibited at the Kentucky Beef Expo and participated in

showmanship at NJAS in 2015. She also competed in the extemporaneous speaking, cook-off and quiz bowl contests.

An active member of her 4-H and FFA chapters, Kaitlin served as FFA chapter president and received the Kentucky State Star Farmer award. She participated in many speaking contests and helped to mentor during her time in 4-H. She has also received the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Commissioner's Award and scholarships from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Kaitlin has served as treasurer and reporter for the Kentucky Junior Cattlemen's Association. At the University of Kentucky, she has served as president of Block and Bridle and is a member of Sigma Alpha professional sorority. Fouts is also a student ambassador and on student council for UK Agriculture.

After finishing college, Kaitlin hopes to one day work for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in the Show and Fair Promotions Division as the beef coordinator.

Joezell Fulbright

Hailing from Vale, N.C., Joezell Marcus Fulbright attends Catawba Valley Community College where he studies business administration. The son of Michael and Dianne Fulbright has served as a director for the North Carolina Junior Angus Association. He has attended the LEAD conference and was the 2014 recipient of the North Carolina William M. Sanders Scholarship.

"My past with both the NJAA and the NCJAA has been a fun and life-changing experience," Joezell says. "If it wasn't for showing Angus cattle, I wouldn't be who I am today."

In the showing, Joezell has competed at the Catawba Valley Beef Expo, Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC), North Carolina State Fair and NJAS. He has competed in showmanship at the Catawba



Kaitlin Fouts

Valley Beef Expo, Rowan County Fair and Caldwell County Fair.

Outside of the showing, Joezell has competed in the photography contest and quiz bowl. He received his American FFA Degree in 2015 and his FFA Chapter Beef Proficiency Award in 2014. Joezell intends to return to the family farm in the future and continue selling replacement stock, show heifers and Angus beef to local consumers.

Kylee Geppert

A native of Mitchell, S.D., Kylee Geppert is the daughter of Kevin and Helen Geppert. A member of the NJAA since 2004, Kylee attends South Dakota State University where she studies ag communications with minors in animal science and meat science. She currently works as a lab technician for Genex Dakota Sire Service.



Kylee Geppert

Though she attended her first NJAS when she was just 3 years old, she has only missed two since then.

"Throughout my career I have developed life skills and met lifelong friends," Kylee says. "I didn't know it when I was a brand new Angus junior but this amazing breed would bring people into my life that I will treasure forever. This amazing association deserves to be promoted and encouraged to youth, because I don't know where I would be without it."

Kylee has been successful while exhibiting cattle at the NJAS and the South Dakota State Fair. She also participated in the NJAS mentoring program. Kylee has registered more than a dozen Angus cattle since 2013. She has consigned cattle to her family's sale, Geppert's Rock Creek Production Sale.

She plans to finish her education and then pursue a career in agriculture. Kylee intends to be involved in her family operation. She has a goal to serve as an advisor to the South Dakota Junior Angus Association.

"I have been impacted greatly by my advisors," Kylee says. "Their encouragement and enthusiasm for youth and the Angus breed were unforgettable. I try my best to set a good example and mentor young juniors to the best of my ability."

Brooke Haas

"Throughout my years as a junior, I reflect not only on the ribbons and trophies, but the

friendships that I have made. Those are the real trophies," Brooke Haas says. "I never would have thought of going outside of my own state to make new friends, but I can now say through the National Junior Angus Association I have friends from across the country."



Brooke Haas

A Downs, Ill., native, Brooke has been an NJAA member since 2008. She is studying ag communications at

Kansas State University (K-State) and is the daughter of Bryan and Teresa Haas.

Brooke attended the 2014 LEAD conference and is an active participant in the showing. She has attended the NJAS, the Eastern Regional Junior Show, the Atlantic National Junior Show, along with the Illinois State Fair and Illinois Junior Preview Show. She has participated in showmanship at the Illinois State Fair and Illinois Junior Field Day. At NJAS, Haas has also participated in the cook-off.

She says that the NJAA is to thank for helping to make her a dedicated person, both to her work and her relationships. After graduating from K-State, Brooke plans to find a career that pertains to agriculture, preferably writing for a magazine that focuses on cattle or crops.

"This association has taught me how to reach outside my comfort zone and go up to start a conversation," Brooke says. "It has taught me it's ok to dream big and reach for goals that are not easy."

Will Harsh

Hailing from Radnor, Ohio, Will Harsh has been a member of the NJAA since 1996. He credits his family's influence along with his ag background with setting him on the path for his future.



Will Harsh

"My experiences in the NJAA and in college are adding to the skills and knowledge necessary to help me achieve these goals," Will says. He plans to return to the family farm after finishing

his education and develop that operation into a leading Angus seedstock operation.

Will is a senior at Oklahoma State

CONTINUED ON PAGE D68

Good as Gold CONTINUED FROM PAGE D67

University studying animal science. The son of Tim and Elizabeth Harsh has served as a voting delegate and has been the recipient of several scholarships at NJAS.

Successful in the showing, he has exhibited at the Ohio Beef Show, National Western Stock Show, North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE), American Royal, Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, Ohio Preview Junior Show, Atlantic National Junior Show and NJAS. In 2013 and 2014, he placed second in prepared public speaking.

An active 4-H and FFA member, he was president of his local 4-H club and has received his State FFA Degree. Before his time at Oklahoma State, he was a member of the Lincoln Land Junior College livestock judging team.

"Without a doubt, the opportunities and programs provided through the National Junior Angus Association have helped shape the person I am today and hope to become in the future," Will says. "For that, I will forever be grateful."

Catherine Harward

Former Miss American Angus Catherine Harward is a native of Richfield, N.C. The daughter of Marcus and Patty Harward, she attends North Carolina State University

where she studies animal science.

Catherine has been active in the showing, exhibiting at the North Carolina Junior Beef Round-Up, the South Carolina Junior Beef Round-Up, the North

Carolina Mountain State Fair, the North Carolina State Fair and NJAS.

"My time as a junior member of the NJAA has been one of the most incredible opportunities of my life due to my experiences in the association, in addition to the preparation the NJAA gave me for my future endeavors," Catherine says.

The former president of the North Carolina Junior Angus Association has participated in showmanship contests at the Sampson Showdown, the North Carolina State Fair Clover Classic and is a two-time winner of the North Carolina Junior Angus Association State Show. At NJAS, she has competed in the cook-off.

Catherine plans to return to her family's commercial beef cattle operation and hopes

to continue her and her sisters' endeavors to grow their registered-Angus operation to market cattle as seedstock in their area. She will also be a part of her family's livestock marketing business.

"I also hope to be able to work with public policy and advocacy to advocate for the beef and agricultural industries to promote efficient agricultural production and food safety," Catherine says.

Tanner Hash

Hailing from Archer City, Texas, Tanner Hash is the son of John (Danny) and Leslie Hash. He recently received his associate's degree in farm and ranch management from Howard College.



Tanner Hash

2015. Hash is a regular exhibitor at the Fort Worth Stock Show. Outside of the showing, he has competed in the team sales, quiz bowl, livestock judging and team fitting contests on a state and national level.

"As I look back over the last six years and my experiences showing and owning cattle, I can only think of the adventure I have been on," Tanner says. "What an amazing journey it has been, and I wouldn't trade my experiences for anything."

An active 4-H and FFA member, Tanner competed in livestock judging contests before joining the livestock judging team at Howard College. He was also president of his FFA chapter. Tanner intends to attend Tarleton State University and major in ag education with a minor in animal science. In the future, he plans to become an extension agent or an ag teacher.

Shane Heizer

Hailing from Hagerstown, Md., Shane Heizer has been an active member of the NJAA since 2008. A junior at Loyola University, he is studying finance, economics and philosophy. Shane has served as the communications director and as a representative on the Maryland Junior Angus Association board, as well as serving as the president in 2015. He attended the LEAD conference in 2010 and was a voting delegate at NJAS in 2014.

An active competitor in the showing, Shane has competed at the NJAS, NAILE, NWSS, Atlantic National Junior Show, Maryland Junior Preview Show, Maryland



Shane Heizer

State Fair, Eastern Regional Preview Show and Washington County Fair. He has participated in showmanship contests on a state and regional level.

Outside of the showing, he competed in the fitting contest at NJAS in 2012, 2013 and 2014. He has registered almost 30 Angus cattle since 2010. Shane also has consigned cattle to the Angus Event, a Maryland state sale.

An active member of his 4-H club, Shane served as the treasurer, dealing with fundraisers, membership dues and donations. Shane spent part of two summers volunteering as a counselor for an ag learning camp for elementary-aged children. He spent that time teaching children about all facets of agriculture.

Braden Henricks

A native of Anadarko, Okla., Braden Henricks studies ag business at Oklahoma State University. The son of Tim and Kari Henricks, he is a former first and second vice president of the Oklahoma Junior Angus Association. He has served as a voting delegate and was a scholarship recipient at the 2015 NJAS.



Braden Henricks

An active 4-H and FFA member, Braden obtained his 4-H Beef Proficiency Award at the county and state level. He also received his Greenhand, Chapter, State and American FFA degrees. Braden has been a part of the Reproduction Enterprises AI program, Oklahoma Junior Cattlemen's Association, Collegiate Cattlemen's Association and the Children Against Hunger program.

He is a regular exhibitor at NJAS and the Oklahoma Junior Cattle Association Preview Show, showing predominantly B&O cattle. In 2015, Braden participated in the NJAS mentoring program. In 2013 he won showmanship at the Oklahoma Youth Expo and the Grady County Fair.

Outside of the showing, his team won the cook-off at the NJAS in 2014. He has registered 26 Angus cattle since 2011 and has consigned to the Oldahoma Angus Gathering sale and the Denim and Diamonds sale.

"Looking back, the NJAA has really taught me to jump out of my comfort zone and be the best leader I can be," Braden says. "As my junior career comes to an end, I cannot help but feel extremely blessed by the influence the NJAA has provided in my life today and in the future."

Victoria Hernandez

Victoria Hernandez says when she reflects on her time as a junior member, Harvey Evans, as well as her family, comes to mind as someone who was always in her corner.



Victoria Hernandez

"He has been the driving force behind me to do well and grow as an Angus breeder," Victoria says.

A native of Wellington, Fla., Victoria is currently pursuing a degree in biology, animal

science and health at the University of Northern Florida. She is the daughter of Oreste and Zoila Hernandez. Since joining the NJAA in 2011, Victoria has served as historian and reporter for the Florida Junior Angus Association. She has also been a voting delegate and the Florida Angus Queen.

In the showing, she has exhibited at the Florida State Fair, South Florida Fair, Florida Junior Angus Association Spring Field Day and NJAS. She has competed successfully in several state showmanship competitions.

At the NJAS, she has competed in photography and the cook-off. She was an active member of her 4-H club, serving as president and historian. In the future, Victoria has set goals for herself, including growing her herd genetically. After finishing her education, she plans to return to her hometown and work in the research department of the University of Florida to work to improve the agriculture and cattle industries.

"It will be hard to say goodbye to the NJAA because I love it so much, but I know I will continue on this great journey as an adult member," Victoria says.

Christopher Kahlenbeck

"I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to meet so many other kids

doing the same thing as me from not only my county, but across the state and Midwest," Christopher Kahlenbeck says.



Christopher Kahlenbeck

Though Christopher knows that his friendships with fellow NJAA members will change through the years, he is confident that their relationships will remain strong. An NJAA member since 2006, Christopher is a senior at the University of Missouri (MU) studying animal science. He is the son of David and Kathy Bates.

A former secretary and president for the Missouri Junior Angus Association, Christopher has been involved in the NJAS mentoring program, LEAD conference, and has served as a voting delegate and as Missouri Angus Ambassador. He received scholarships from the Angus Foundation and Missouri Angus Foundation in 2013 and 2015.

Active in the showing, Christopher has exhibited at the NWSS, Missouri State Fair, Eastern Regional Preview Show, Missouri Junior Cattleman's Show, Missouri Angus Preview Show and NJAS. He has regularly placed in showmanship at a local level.

Beyond the showing, Christopher has competed in the quiz bowl, cook-off, extemporaneous public speaking, graphic design, creative writing, team marketing, team sales, photography, poster and video contests. He earned first-place honors in team sales in 2011, photography in 2013 and quiz bowl in 2013 and 2014.

He was an active 4-H and FFA member, receiving his Greenhand, Chapter, State and American FFA degrees. He is also AI-certified.

"The NJAA is truly one of the best groups I have ever been a part of," Christopher says.

Andrew Livingston

A native of Nokomis, Ill., Andrew Livingston is the son of Dale Livingston. He works as a farm hand at Schafer Stock Farm while attending Lincoln Land Community College, where he is studying ag science and is a member of the livestock judging team.

Andrew was an active member of his local 4-H and FFA chapters, serving in various leadership roles in both.

He has been an NJAA member since 2011. He has served on the Illinois Junior Angus Association board and currently serves as

president. He has attended the Raising the Bar conference and received a scholarship at the 2015 NJAS. Andrew has participated in the NJAS mentoring program and served as a voting delegate.



Andrew Livingston

done for me. I hope every member obtains as much as I have in this organization."

In the showing, he has exhibited at the Illinois State Preview Show, Atlantic National and NJAS. He placed second in the Illinois State Preview Show showmanship contest. At NJAS, he has also competed in the quiz bowl, cook-off, cattle judging and fitting contests.

Andrew plans to attend veterinary school and continue his education in graduate school to study reproductive physiology. After school, he hopes to work in an industry devoted to furthering knowledge about veterinary medicine and reproductive physiology.

Hannah Moyer

Hailing from Lamar, Mo., Hannah Moyer is the daughter of Greg and Maureen Moyer. She recently graduated with an associate's degree in agriculture and ag education at Hutchinson Community College. Currently



Hannah Moyer

enrolled at K-State, she intends to earn a degree in ag education.

Hannah has served in many leadership positions with the Missouri Junior Angus Association, including assistant secretary, director and vice president. She has attended the LEAD conference, as well as winning scholarships through the NJAA.

"I have learned a lot from my time in the NJAA," Hannah says. "I've made great friends from all across the country. It's been an incredible experience doing what I love with this association. It's given me the opportunity to raise and show Angus cattle, and I can't imagine something better than that."

CONTINUED ON PAGE D70

Good as Gold CONTINUED FROM PAGE D69

Hannah has been especially active on the NJAA show circuit. She has also participated in showmanship competitions, along with team sales, cook-off, quiz bowl and photography. She has registered more than a dozen Angus cattle since 2011.

An active member of her local 4-H and FFA organizations, Hannah has received her State FFA Degree and is pursuing her American FFA Degree this fall. She has been an NJAA member since 2004.

Destiny McCauley

"As I come to the close of my junior show career, I cannot help but reflect on all the wonderful people and opportunities the NJAA and state Angus associations have



Destiny McCauley

provided for me," Destiny McCauley, Cynthia, Ky., says. "I am positive these learning opportunities and skills have opened many doors for me."

The daughter of Timothy and Nell McCauley, she is a

student at Western Kentucky University studying animal science and communications. Destiny has served as a secretary, treasurer and director for the Kentucky Junior Angus Association. She has also served as a voting delegate and as the Kentucky Angus Queen. A three-year participant in the NJAS mentoring program, Destiny attended the LEAD conference in 2014 and also received a scholarship at the 2014 NJAS.

An active exhibitor in the showing, Destiny has participated in regional Florida and South Carolina shows, the Eastern Regional Junior Show, NAILE and NJAS. She predominantly showed B&O cattle. At many of these shows, and other regional shows, she has participated in showmanship, placing first and second at several state-level shows.

Outside of the showing, Destiny has been just as active, competing in extemporaneous public speaking, photography, poster, creative writing, quiz bowl, livestock judging, prepared public speaking and the cook-off. She placed first in photography in 2014 and 2012.

An active part of her family ranch, she has registered 30 Angus cattle since 2009 and has consigned cattle to the sale at the Georgia Beef Expo.

"Although I am not necessarily ready to say goodbye to being a junior and part of

such a wonderful junior association, I know I am ready to tackle the next chapter of my life," Destiny says.

After finishing her undergraduate degree, Destiny plans to obtain her master's degree at Western Kentucky University. Following graduate school, she hopes to work for the American Angus Association and has a goal to one day be the director of junior activities.

Reed McCormick

A native of Pleasantville, Iowa, Reed McCormick has been an NJAA member since 2005. The son of Chris and Dixie



Reed McCormick

McCormick, he is studying agricultural sciences at Iowa State University.

Reed is a former director of the Iowa Junior Angus Association and a former president of the Warren County Junior Angus Association. Over the years he has received several scholarships from the Iowa and American Angus Auxiliaries.

"My leadership potential has been directly influenced by the organizations I have been involved in," Reed says. "Growing up in the NJAA has instilled in me a strong work ethic, honesty, responsibility and communication skills."

He has exhibited successfully at the Iowa Junior Preview Show, Iowa Beef Expo and NJAS. He was reserve champion in showmanship at the Iowa State Fair and competed in the 2015 NJAS showmanship contest.

At NJAS, he has participated in the livestock judging, quiz bowl and fitting contests. "I have benefitted from participating in cattle shows, livestock judging contests and Raising the Bar and LEAD conferences," Reed says. "These events have helped shape me into the person I am today. Thanks to the Angus breed and the numerous opportunities the NJAA has to offer, I have a network of friends from across the United States that I wouldn't have met if it wasn't for our love of Angus cattle."

Ashley McEwen

Hailing from Bushnell, Ill., Ashley McEwen says that the places she has been able to visit and the friends she has made have solidified that the hard work she has put into her years as an NJAA member was worth it.

She recently received an associate's degree from Lake Land College and is transferring to the University of Illinois to pursue a degree in



Ashley McEwen

ag business-ag accounting. Ashley plans to pursue a master's degree and hopes to work for a large ag finance company.

"Even though after this year I won't be in the ring, I look forward to being able to stand ringside watching my friends and my future children show someday," Ashley says.

The daughter of Brian and Cherish McEwen, she has attended two LEAD conferences. She has served as a leader in the Illinois Junior Angus Association, serving as scrapbook chair, secretary and reporter. She also participated in the NJAS mentoring program in 2007. Since joining the NJAA in 2005, she has shown at the Central Preview Show, Illinois State Fair and NJAS.

Ashley was a member of her state 4-H livestock judging team and was named a 2010 Illinois Superior Young Producer. In FFA, she has received her State and American degrees. She is also AI-certified.

"I have no doubt that being a part of this great organization will bring success into my future," Ashley says.

Clay McGuire

A native of Waverly, Ala., Clay McGuire says that his time in the NJAA brought him out of his shell when he was a child. Clay was a member of the Northeastern Oklahoma



Clay McGuire

A&M Livestock Judging Team and he now attends Oklahoma State University while pursuing a degree in animal science. The son of Mike and Angelika McGuire, he has been an NJAA member since 1995. The former president of the Alabama Junior Angus Association, Clay was a scholarship recipient at the 2013 and 2014 NJAS. He has shown successfully at the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, the Southern National Angus Show, the Alabama National Fair and NJAS. He received an honorable mention in the 2013 NJAS showmanship contest.

He has registered more than 25 head of Angus cattle since 2003. Beyond the Angus arena, he has served on the board of directors for the Alabama Junior Cattlemen's Association.

"Looking toward the future, I plan to find a job in an agriculture-related field, whether it be a sales position, insurance or working for a breed association," Clay says. "I plan to also grow my own Angus herd wherever I might be so that I too can pass on the love my family has had for this breed."

Kerrie Miller

"Being involved in the NJAA has taught me so much," Kerrie Miller says. "I have learned how to be more involved and to speak up. It has taught me leadership, how to



Kerrie Miller

work as a team and how to step out of my comfort zone and challenge myself." A native of Wapakoneta, Ohio, Miller is the daughter of Ron and Kellie Miller. She attends Ohio State University and is studying early childhood education. A member of the NJAA since 2004, Kerrie is a regular attendee at the Ohio Junior Angus Show and NJAS. She has served as a secretary and treasurer for the Ohio Junior Angus Association.

Outside of the showing, Kerrie participated in the NJAS mentoring program in 2011. She also competed in the quiz bowl, livestock judging and team sales contests.

Active in her local 4-H club, she held many offices in her 11 years as a member. Now an alumnus of the Wapakoneta FFA chapter, she received her Greenhand, Chapter, State and American FFA degrees.

Kerrie has registered more than 25 head of Angus cattle since 2007, and she has consigned cattle to the Ohio Angus Super Star Sale and the Best of Both Worlds sale in Ohio.

"I have experienced so much more than I would have if I was not a part of this amazing organization," Kerrie says. "I have gained many friendships that will last a lifetime and have visited many areas and states that I would otherwise not have experienced. I have gained knowledge about different aspects of the beef industry through this organization."

Matthew Mitchell

Matthew Mitchell, Reinholds, Pa., is the son of Jeffrey and Susan Mitchell. He attends Pennsylvania State University to study ag sciences with a minor in ag management. A



Matthew Mitchell

member of the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association since 2007, Matthew is currently serving as the president. "Looking back on my junior career, I went from knowing nothing about cattle to being confident in my decisions," Matthew says. "The association allowed me a great opportunity to meet and get to know a lot of people. Whether it is fellow juniors or adults involved in the association, these are people that have given me the opportunity of a lifetime."

He has been an active participant in the showing, attending NJAS, NAILE, the Pennsylvania Farm Show and Atlantic National. At NJAS he has also participated in the quiz bowl. He has registered more than a dozen Angus cattle since 2013. Matthew has contributed animals to the Pennsylvania Performance Tested Bull Sale and the Pennsylvania Angus Finest Females Sale.

After he finishes school, Matthew intends to return to the family ranch and continue to show and raise Angus cattle.

Christina Mogck

"I have had such a wonderful experience as a junior Angus member," Christina Mogck says. "I have made many lifelong friends and have had the opportunity to be involved in many different activities. I have learned to be respectful and strive to make myself a better person."



Christina Mogck

Since joining the NJAA in 2005, the Olivet, S.D., native has served as the South Dakota Junior Angus Association president and as the South Dakota Angus Queen. Christina is studying animal science at South Dakota State University (SDSU). She is the daughter of Charles and LeAndra Mogck. She currently works as a lab technician at the SDSU Livestock Reproduction Lab.

Christina assists in putting on AI schools through SDSU extension. After finishing her

degree, with minors in ag business and ag marketing, Christina plans to start her career in an agriculture-related field. She also hopes to continue growing her Angus cow herd and have bulls and cows in her family sale, Mogck & Sons Angus Sale.

Audra Montgomery

A native of Carrington, N.D., Audra Montgomery is the daughter of Dennis and Betty Montgomery. The past president of the North Dakota Junior Angus Association



Audra Montgomery

studies ag education at NDSU. She has exhibited cattle at NJAS and the North Dakota State Fair, as well as the Foster County Fair. This year she will participate in the NJAS showmanship competition. She has also participated in the livestock judging and career development contests.

She consigned cattle to her family's 2016 cattle sale, Montgomery Ranch Bull Sale. She was an avid member of 4-H.

Throughout her time in 4-H she received the Foster County 4-H Beef medal and competed for the National 4-H Beef Award and State 4-H Beef Award. She also participated in the national and state 4-H livestock judging contests. On a state level, she was fifth-place individual in 2013 and high individual in 2014. Audra also served as her club representative to the National 4-H Congress.

Active in FFA, she participated in the American Star and State Farmer contests. She received the North Dakota State Star in agribusiness. She was involved in the state FFA judging team for three years and was a national agricultural sale entrepreneurship finalist.

"One of my favorite parts about being involved in the NJAA is the people I have met along the way," Audra says.

After graduation, Audra hopes to stay in North Dakota and teach agriculture, as well as maintaining her own herd of Angus cattle and Hampshire sheep.

Connor Orrock

Hailing from Woodford, Va., Connor Orrock has been an NJAA member since 2004. The son of William and Loretta Orrock, he attends K-State, where he is studying ag communications and journalism. He

CONTINUED ON PAGE D72

Good as Gold CONTINUED FROM PAGE D71

currently works as an intern for K-State Research and Extension.

"It seems like only yesterday that I purchased my first registered-Angus heifer," Connor says. "My journey with the NJAA has helped me make friends all across this great



Connor Orrock

country and Canada. At times it may seem that it takes a lot of hard work and long hours to be involved in the NJAA, but the rewards and friendships make it worth all the effort." A former president and vice president of the Virginia Junior Angus Association, Connor has attended the LEAD conference twice and the Raising the Bar conference once. He was a scholarship recipient at the 2014 and 2015 NJAS. He has also been a part of the NJAS mentoring program.

In the showing, he has exhibited at the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, Atlantic National Show, NAILE and NJAS. At NJAS, Connor has participated in the quiz bowl, extemporaneous public speaking, photography and cook-off contests.

After finishing his degree at K-State, Connor plans to pursue a law degree and hopes to be able to combine his love of agriculture with his legal interest.

Karisa Pfeiffer

"I have enjoyed my NJAA membership beyond measure," Karisa Pfeiffer says. "Growing up in this lifestyle has taught me so many life skills that will be an asset to me.



Karisa Pfeiffer

This industry has taught me so much, and I am humbled to be a part of it."

Karisa is a native of Orlando, Okla., and is the daughter of Jerry and Ada Pfeiffer. She is a junior at Oklahoma State University

where she is studying animal science.

Within the Oklahoma Junior Angus Association, she developed as a leader, serving as district director, second and first vice president before serving two terms as president. Karisa has served as the Oklahoma voting delegate and as the Oklahoma Angus Queen. She attended the LEAD conference in 2012 and 2013.

Active in the showing, Karisa has exhibited at the Tulsa State Fair, Oklahoma Youth Expo, Northwest District Show, American Royal, North American International Livestock Expo, Oklahoma State Fair, Fort Worth Stock Show and NJAS. In 2015 she placed fifth in the NJAS showmanship contest and has regularly won showmanship contests on a state and regional level.

Karisa has been equally active beyond the showing. At NJAS she has competed in the cook-off, quiz bowl and photography contests. She and her teammates received first-place honors in the cook-off in 2008, 2012, 2014 and 2015. On a state level, she has competed in fitting and livestock judging competitions and the Oklahoma Junior Cattleman's Association's Cow Camp.

She has registered more than 25 head of Angus cattle since 2005 and has regularly participated in Express Angus Ranch sales.

Fred (Will) Pohlman II

Hailing from Prairie Grove, Ark., Fred (Will) Pohlman II will be a senior at the University of Arkansas, where he is studying biochemistry and animal science. The son of



Will Pohlman

Fred and Tami Pohlman, he is the former president and vice president of the Arkansas Junior Angus Association.

Will joined the NJAA in 2000 and has been an active participant in the NJAS. He has served

as a voting delegate for three years, was a scholarship winner in 2015 and attended the 2015 LEAD conference. Will also participated in the NJAS mentoring program for three years.

"My time in the NJAA has been one of growth: professional and education," Will says. "The NJAA has given me so many opportunities to explore every facet of the beef industry, and I am deeply indebted to the Association for providing me these opportunities."

At NJAS, he has competed in the showmanship, prepared public speaking, extemporaneous public speaking, cook-off, livestock judging and team sales contests. He won champion overall poster in 2011 and was on a cook-off team that received the Black Kettle Award in 2012.

Will served as the American Angus Ambassador and as a National Beef

Ambassador. He is also Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)-certified and is a graduate of the Master's of Beef Advocacy program.

Moving forward, Will intends to apply to medical school to pursue a lifelong dream of being a physician. Though his career will take him away from the farm initially, Will says he intends to return to the farm to raise his children in the Angus breed.

Alex Rogen

Since 2004, Alex Rogen has been an active member of the NJAA. The son of Dick and Shally Rogen, he is studying biology with minors in chemistry and animal science with



Alex Rogen

a preveterinary science emphasis at South Dakota State University. Alex currently works as a lab technician in the diagnostic lab at SDSU.

"Growing up with Angus cattle has shaped me into the person I am today," Alex says. "My cattle have acted as a vessel to bring me teachers and obstacles that have made me a better person. I could not be more thankful for the time I have had in the NJAA."

The retiring chairman of the NJAA board hails from Brandon, S.D. Alex says his time on the NJAA board has given him the opportunity to give back to the association that has given him so much over the years. He was previously president of the South Dakota Junior Angus Association. He competed in the NJAS showmanship competition in 2015.

"I look forward to many more years of education while I pursue my dream of becoming a veterinarian," Alex says. "I find that animals continually bring happiness and peace to their owners. Whether it is a poodle, a cow or a horse, people have strong connections with their animals and to keep these animals healthy would be an honor. One day, I hope to have a family and a herd of Angus cattle to pass on the traditions and blessings cattle provide to my kids."

John David (JD) Rosman

"The NJAA has fostered my passion for agriculture and my chosen career path," JD Rosman says. "As an agricultural communications major, I have gained the skills and tools to promote the agriculture industry and give a voice to the ag community."

JD, Creston, Wash., spent the summer interning for Angus Media. The son of Jeff and Katie Rosman, he is a senior at Oklahoma State and is studying ag



JD Rosman

JD has been an active member of the NJAA since 2006. He also served as a voting delegate at the 2015 NJAS and has been a scholarship recipient from the Angus Foundation and the Washington Angus Auxiliary.

In the showing, JD has competed in the Washington State Fair Junior Angus show, the Northwest Regional Preview show, the Washington Junior Angus Association Field Day, the Evergreen Ultrasound Challenge, NJAS and other regional shows. He has placed highly in showmanship in several contests at a local, state and regional level. Beyond the showing, JD has participated in the quiz bowl and extemporaneous public speaking contests at NJAS.

"Upon graduating in May of 2017, I aspire to work in the agricultural industry, promoting the producers of our nation," JD says. "Ultimately, I sincerely hope that I am able to work for the very industry that sparked my passion for agriculture and cattle in the first place: the American Angus Association."

Eric Shoop

A native of Dalmatia, Pa., Eric Shoop is the son of Daniel and Carol Shoop. An NJAA member since 2010, Eric attends the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture where he is studying animal science. Following his graduation from the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Eric plans to attend South Dakota State University to obtain a bachelor's degree in animal science

business and production. After finishing his education, he hopes to pursue a career working for a ranch or livestock dealer while building up his own herd.



Eric Shoop

"Looking back over my years as an NJAA member, I have nothing but the fondest memories from every event I attended," Eric says. "I joined the NJAA in 2011 when the NJAS was in Pennsylvania. I figured the show could not get any closer to home, so I bought my first registered-Angus steer to compete at the show. I had no idea buying that steer would be one of the best decisions of my life. He was nothing to write home about, but the friendships that were made and experiences I had in the week's time is something I will never forget."

Eric was especially active outside of the showing. He attended the LEAD conference in 2014 and the Raising the Bar conference in 2016. He served as a voting delegate and received a scholarship at the 2015 NJAS. Eric has participated in the livestock judging, photography, quiz bowl, extemporaneous public speaking, team fitting and graphic design contests.

"My experiences showing at local, regional and national Angus events have been truly an awesome experience," Eric says. "I have made numerous friends and contacts across the country, and have seen and done things many could only dream of."

Haley Throne

The daughter of Chris and Julie Throne, Haley Throne is a native of Lexington, Ga. At the University of Georgia she studies ag communications and animal science. A past secretary of the Georgia Junior Angus Association, Haley served as the Georgia Angus Queen in 2014. She also attended the LEAD conference in 2013 and 2015. In 2014 she was a voting delegate at NJAS and she received a Foundation scholarship in 2015.



Haley Throne

Haley has been active in the showing, exhibiting both owned and B&O calves at the NJAS and Southern National Preview Show. Outside of the showing she has participated in the cook-off, prepared public speaking, career development, extemporaneous speaking, quiz bowl, judging contest, photography contest, team sales and Chef's Challenge contests.

"Reflecting on my years as a junior, I see that I have come a long way," Haley says. "From attending my first meeting to going to my first junior nationals, it seems like a

different lifetime. I have enjoyed the time spent with friends and the knowledge that I have gained from the different activities and shows. I will cherish the time I have spent in this organization."

She has registered 20 animals since 2007 and has consigned animals to the Maternal Matrons sale. After graduating from the University of Georgia, she hopes to find a career that allows her to combine the experience of both of her degrees, along with owning a small operation of cattle.

Renae Tokach

Hailing from Saint Anthony, N.D., Renae Tokach has been attending the NJAS since she was just 4½ years old. A member of the NJAA since 2004, Tokach's parents, Richard and



Renae Tokach

Kathy Tokach, along with her older siblings, instilled a love of NJAA activities into her early on. Now a senior at NDSU, Renae is studying ag education with minors in animal science and

extension. This will lead her into a career in ag education with hopes to eventually obtain a master's degree.

Renae has served as North Dakota Angus Queen and was a recipient of NJAA scholarships in 2013 and 2014. She attended the LEAD conference in 2012 and the Raising the Bar conference in 2013. In 2006 she participated in the NJAS mentoring program.

She has been active in NJAS contests. In photography, she received first-place honors in 2010, 2013 and 2015. In 2008, she placed first in prepared public speaking. Renae followed that up by placing first in extemporaneous public speaking in 2010. She has also competed in the creative writing, career development and livestock judging contests.

An active member in 4-H and FFA, Renae was especially active in livestock judging. She is also a regular consignor to her family sale, Tokach Angus Ranch Production Sale.

Katlyn Tunstill

"It has been an honor, privilege and amazing experience to have the chance to serve the NJAA as the membership director of the board. To think that my time as a junior is quickly coming to an end is a slightly

CONTINUED ON PAGE D74

Good as Gold CONTINUED FROM PAGE D73

unrealistic thing to think about," Katlyn Tunstill says. "My membership will shortly be changing to adult, and I'm thankful to have had the experiences and opportunities as an NJAA member."



Katlyn Tunstill

A member of the NJAA since birth, Katlyn is the daughter of Darrell and Sheri Tunstill. The Fayetteville, Ark., native attends Oklahoma State and is studying ag communications

and animal science. A former secretary, treasurer and president of the Arkansas Junior Angus Association, Katlyn has served on the NJAA board of directors since 2014. She also served as Miss Arkansas Angus in 2012 and 2013, was a voting delegate in 2012 and participated in the NJAS mentoring program in 2013.

Active in the showing, Katlyn has exhibited at the Western Regional Angus Show, NWSS and NJAS. She placed in the top 15 of the NJAS showmanship contest in 2015. Outside of the showing, Katlyn has competed in the cook-off, career development and quiz bowl contests, placing first in each in 2012. She won the graphic design contest in 2011.

Katlyn has registered 20 head of Angus cattle since 2012 and consigned several animals to The Tradition group sale in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Carly Watt

An Iva, S.C., native, Carly Watt has been deeply involved in the South Carolina Junior Angus Association. Serving as South Carolina Angus Queen, secretary-treasurer and vice-president on two different occasions, she has invested a great deal of her time in the



Carly Watt

SCJAA. Carly has also been a voting delegate and attended the LEAD Conference in 2011. She is the daughter of Jody and Rebecca Watt.

"My junior career has been an experience that has created and rounded me into the person I am today," Carly says. "Being a member of the NJAA and SCJAA has taught me to become a better communicator, leader and breeder. This association has given me the

opportunity to travel all around the United States and make connections with others."

Carly has exhibited cattle at the Atlantic National, West Virginia State Fair, South Carolina State Fair, Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, and NJAS. She participated in the NJAS showmanship competition in 2015. At the 2011 NJAS, she also competed in the team livestock judging contest.

While at Clemson University, Carly is a part of Block and Bridle, which allows her to continue her passion of showing cattle. She studies recreational therapy at Clemson and plans to work with adolescents with disabilities.

"For several years, my life has revolved around the Angus industry, and I want to continue the legacy throughout my family," Carly says.

Olivia Wilson

A native of Ogden, Ill., Olivia Wilson is the daughter of Bill and Julie Wilson. She attends the University of Illinois and is studying agricultural and consumer economics with a concentration in farm management.



Olivia Wilson

Olivia has served on the Illinois Junior Angus Association board of directors since 2012 and was an Ebonette in 2013. She has exhibited at the NJAS, NAILE,

NWSS, Illinois Junior Angus Preview show, Georgetown Preview show, University of Illinois Hoof 'n' Horn and Illinois Beef Expo. Olivia has also participated in showmanship contests at several regional shows.

"Going to all of the NJASs over the years and seeing all of these young members that I started with until now has been really cool," Olivia says. "It's been interesting to watch everyone as we grew up. My favorite part of this experience was traveling to shows with my family and how close it has made us."

At the NJAS, Olivia has competed in the quiz bowl, livestock judging and photography contests. She received first place in the 2014 photography contest. An active FFA member, she received her State and American FFA degrees. She is also an active member of the 4-H House Cooperative Sorority at the University of Illinois.

After graduating she plans to stay involved in the field of agriculture and hopes that it will be a part of her life for years to come.

Editor's Note: The bios within this story were compiled with information provided on applications for the Gold Award. They do not include all activities this summer. Please refer to coverage of junior activities, including the 2016 National Junior Angus Show, for details of additional accomplishments by these active juniors.

Gold Award winners

Morgan Alexander
Jordan Barker
Nancy Bickham
Maddi Butler
Jaden Carlson
Alexis Cash
Taylor Clarke
Michaela Glowser
Allesha Dethlets
Brittany Eagleburger
Kaitlin Fouts
Jozell Fulbright
Kylee Goppert
Brooke Haas
Will Harsh
Catherine Harward
Tanner Hash
Shane Helzer
Braden Henricks
Victoria Hernandez
Christopher Kahlenbeck
Andrew Livingston
Hannah Meyer
Destiny McCauley
Reed McCormick
Ashley McEwen
Clay McGuire
Kerrie Miller
Matthew Mitchell
Christina Mogek
Audra Montgomery
Connor Orrock
Karisa Pfeiffer
Will Pohlman
Alex Rogen
JD Rosman
Eric Shoop
Kaley Throne
Renae Tokach
Katlyn Tunstill
Carly Watt
Olivia Wilson