

Junior Members Ring in the Gold

Nineteen of NJAA elite qualify.

by *Katie Gazda*

Nineteen members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) brought their junior careers to the ultimate culmination when they were presented with the Gold Award at the 2011 National Junior Angus Show in Harrisburg, Pa.

The Gold Award is the third and highest level of recognition in the National Junior Recognition Program (NJRP), created by the 1980-1981 NJAA Board of Directors and the Junior Activities Department of the American Angus Association.

To qualify for the award, junior members must first be awarded Bronze and Silver awards, which require an accumulation of 2,000 points or more earned throughout a member's junior career. Gold Awards are bestowed in the final year of junior eligibility and require an additional 1,000 points for a final total of 3,000 or more points.

Points are awarded based on junior activities ranging from Association activities, competitive activities, performance-testing activities and producing and merchandising Angus cattle. Junior members who qualify for the award are presented with a specially designed pin cast in gold. The award is made possible through the generous donors and supporters of the Angus Foundation.

The following juniors were honored with the Gold Award in 2011.

Megan Ahearn

Megan, the daughter of Mark and Cindy Ahearn, Wills Point, Texas, has been active involved in the Texas Junior Angus Association (TJAA) and NJAA since the age of 11. She served as TJAA president in 2010 and as Miss Texas Angus in 2008. Megan received the third-place American Angus Auxiliary girls' scholarship in 2008 and competed for the title of Miss American Angus the same year.

Megan has shown at state and national levels and represented the TJAA in the 2010 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. She has competed in quiz bowl, team sales, the NJAA/*Angus Journal* photography contest and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off. She has also attended the Leaders Engaged in Angus

Development (LEAD) Conference. In 2011, she was elected to the National Junior Angus Board of Directors.

"I am pleased to be part of such a meaningful organization where moral and ethical roots run so deeply," Megan says. "It encourages me to promote this fantastic breed that has become such a heartstring in my life."

Currently enrolled in the Red McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin, Megan is pursuing a degree in marketing with a minor in German. She hopes to work in the industry on an international level.

"It would be my ultimate dream to bring the Angus breed into a new international phase in its history," Megan explains. "I would love to join several nations together striving for a common goal: quality cattle that benefit the market extensively."

Hannah Barton

Hannah has been a member of the NJAA for 10 years. She is also a member of the Alabama Junior Angus Association (AJAA), which she has served as president and vice president.



Hannah Barton

"As I look back on my time as a member of the NJAA and AJAA, I realize just how much it has changed my life," Hannah says. "At my first junior nationals in 2003, I was this shy, timid little girl who never would have imagined being where I am today."

Hannah represented the AJAA in the 2010 National Junior Showmanship Contest and was selected as a top 15 finalist. She has also participated in the Mentoring Program and the quiz bowl competition at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

Hannah is currently enrolled at Auburn University where she is pursuing a degree in animal science production management. She expects to graduate in December 2012. Hannah is the daughter of Jerry and Melody Barton, Dutton, Ala.

"I have learned so many life lessons and skills that will help me through whatever the future holds for me," she says. "I am very thankful to have been a part of such an amazing organization. Angus will forever be a part of my life."

Kaley Bockhop

Kaley, the daughter of Kevin and Michele Bockhop, Belmont, Wis., has been active in the NJAA since 2002. She is a member of the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association (WJAA) and she has served the organization as a director-at-large.

Kaley has participated in Angus events on state, regional and national levels. She received the fifth-place American Angus



Kaley Bockhop

Auxiliary girls' scholarship in 2008 and competed for the title of Miss American Angus the same year. In 2011, Kaley represented the WJAA in the National Junior Showmanship

Contest and was selected as a top-15 finalist. Kaley is currently attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville where she is studying animal science, agribusiness, accounting and biology. She expects to graduate in May 2013.

"My time in the NJAA has been a blur of excitement, education and competition," she says. "I am really sad to see it come to a close, and I cannot wait until my 6-year-old niece turns 9!"

Shane Clary

"Being a member of the NJAA was something that I wanted to do since I was a little boy," Shane explains. A member of the organization since 1997 and an active participant in the Virginia Junior Angus Association (VJAA), he has taken advantage of many of the opportunities the Angus industry has to offer.

Shane has exhibited his Angus cattle in shows on state, regional and national levels. He was the recipient of the first-place

American Angus Auxiliary boys' scholarship in 2008 and has received two Angus Foundation scholarships. He has participated in the LEAD Conference, Raising the Bar and mini-LEAD.

Shane has attended the NJAS many times.



Shane Clary

At each show, he has been active in educational contests, including extemporaneous speaking, team fitting, livestock judging, quiz bowl, team sales, the NJAA/*Angus Journal* photography contest and the Auxiliary-sponsored CAB Cook-Off. Shane represented the VJAA in the 2009 National Junior Showmanship Contest and was selected as a top-15 finalist. In 2010, Shane participated in the NJAS Mentoring Program and was elected to the NJAA Board of Directors. Shane was elected NJAA membership director at the 2011 NJAS.

The son of Randy and Susan Clary, Brodnax, Va., Shane is pursuing a degree in biology at Christopher Newport University. In the future, he plans to attend veterinary school and become a large-animal veterinarian with a concentration on food animals.

"The NJAA has taught me responsibility, communication skills and career management," Shane says. "It has taught me that anything you set your mind to can be accomplished with a lot of hard work."

Bethaney Enos

Bethaney has been a member of the NJAA since 1991. Since that time, she has excelled both in and out of the showing as a member



Bethaney Enos

of the Ohio Junior Angus Association (OJAA) and Eastern Ohio Junior Angus Association (EOJAA). She has served as treasurer of the OJAA and as secretary of both the OJAA and the EOJAA. A highlight of Bethaney's time in the NJAA was attending her first NJAS in 2009. At the show, she participated in the quiz bowl, team sales and livestock judging contests. She also exhibited the reserve champion owned heifer.

"For my first junior nationals, it made the trip worthwhile," Bethaney says. "It's funny how things come full circle. I always wanted to go, but Dad said, 'We're not going unless you have a heifer that can win here in Ohio.'"

Bethaney, the daughter of Chip and Tracie Enos, Cambridge, Ohio, attends The Ohio State University (OSU) where she is pursuing a degree in animal science and a minor in agricultural communications. After graduating, she hopes to become a meat inspector for the Ohio State Department of Agriculture while staying involved in the Angus industry. She credits her time in the NJAA to forming many friendships.

"Through my junior career I have made lots of friends at different Angus events. Some are almost family," Bethaney explains. "If you don't have friends, then going to different events just isn't as fun."

Katie Gazda

Katie, the daughter of David and Carolyn Gazda, Athens, Ga., was gifted a lifetime membership to the NJAA at birth and has since been highly involved in both the NJAA and the Georgia Junior Angus Association (GJAA).

Katie's involvement in the NJAA spans state, regional and national levels. She has attended the NJAS more than 10 times and



Katie Gazda

served as co-chair of the 2009 show in Perry, Ga., where she exhibited the reserve champion bred-and-owned cow-calf pair. Katie represented the GJAA in the 2010 National Junior Showmanship Contest and was selected as a top-15 finalist. She has participated in the NJAS Mentoring Program and the NJAA/*Angus Journal* photography contest. She has also attended LEAD Conference and Raising the Bar.

Katie served the GJAA as president, vice president and secretary. She has received four Angus Foundation scholarships and was the recipient of the first-place American Angus Auxiliary girls' scholarship in 2008. That same year, she competed for and earned the title of 2009 Miss American Angus. At the 2011 NJAS, she was awarded the Barbara Smalstig Outstanding Leadership Award.

"It was an honor to serve as Miss American Angus and as a role model for younger junior members," Katie explains.

"Hosting the NJAS while I was Miss American Angus and having two dreams come together at once was unforgettable."

A senior at the University of Georgia, Katie expects to graduate in May 2012 with a degree in agricultural communication. Following graduation, she plans to attend graduate school. In the future, Katie hopes to work in an environment that combines her passion for livestock and photography. This summer she served as the editorial intern at Angus Productions Inc. (API) in Saint Joseph, Mo.

"The Angus industry has been an instrumental part of my life," Katie says. "The life skills and experiences acquired from my time in the NJAA will undoubtedly play a large role in shaping my future."

Gabrielle Glenister

Gabrielle has been a member of the NJAA for 10 years and has played a key role in the New York Junior Angus Association (NYJAA), serving multiple terms as both president and New York Angus Queen.

Gabrielle has been active on state, regional and national levels. She has participated in the LEAD Conference, Raising the Bar and Mini-LEAD. She represented the NYJAA as



Gabrielle Glenister

a contestant in the 2010 National Junior Showmanship Contest and has also participated in the creative writing contest and the NJAA/*Angus Journal* photography contest at the NJAS. While her state association has not always been one of the most active, Gabrielle remains devoted to the Angus breed and has taken the opportunity to develop her leadership skills through serving in different roles in the organization.

"I have strived to maintain a positive attitude by encouraging my fellow juniors to become involved and participate in one way or another," she says. "These leadership roles have also given me the drive to take initiative and show junior members how to showcase their talents."

The daughter of Paul and Karen Glenister, Pulaski, N.Y., Gabrielle is currently enrolled at the State University of New York-Cobleskill where she is studying dairy production and management and animal science.

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"I have loved every moment of being an NJAA member, but the future looks even brighter," Gabrielle predicts. "I plan to stay actively involved with assisting junior Angus members on their path to success. I cannot imagine my life without Angus."

Lindsey Grimes

Lindsey, the daughter of John and Joanie Grimes, Hillsboro, Ohio, has been a member of the NJAA since 1999. She is also a member of the Ohio Junior Angus Association (OJAA), which she has served as vice president and Ohio Angus Queen.

Active on every level, Lindsey has attended the LEAD Conference and has participated in numerous educational contests at the NJAS, including extemporaneous speaking, public speaking, poster, quiz bowl, team sales, the NJAA/*Angus Journal* photography contest and the Auxiliary-sponsored CAB Cook-Off.

In 2009, Lindsey served on the host committee of the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, was named top showman in the National Junior Showmanship Contest, received the second-place American Angus Auxiliary girls' scholarship and competed for the title of 2010 Miss American Angus. In 2010, Lindsey was elected to the NJAA Board of Directors, for which she currently serves as the Foundation director.

"Although it is bittersweet, it is time for me to move on and use what I've learned as a junior member in my new life endeavors," Lindsey says. "I am very excited for what the future has in store for me. There are so many things I hope to do in the next several years."

Lindsey is currently enrolled at The Ohio State University where she is majoring in animal science and food safety. Following her expected graduation in spring 2013, Lindsey hopes to attend Kansas State University (K-State) to obtain a master's degree in meat science. She plans to one day raise a family on her own cattle operation.

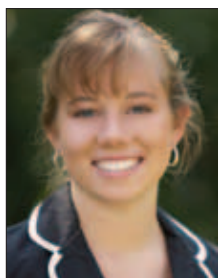
"The beef industry is full of hundreds of amazing, good-hearted people," Lindsey explains. "How could someone not want to surround themselves and their family in that kind of atmosphere?"

Bailey Harsh

Bailey, a junior at The Ohio State University (OSU) pursuing a dual degree in agricultural communications and animal sciences, has been a member of the NJAA since 1990. She has served as president,

secretary and Ohio Angus Queen as a member of the Ohio Junior Angus Association (OJAA).

The daughter of Tim and Elizabeth Harsh, Radnor, Ohio, Bailey has excelled on many levels. She has participated in the LEAD



Bailey Harsh

Conference and numerous educational contests at the NJAS, including first-place wins in extemporaneous speaking and the Auxiliary-sponsored CAB Cook-Off.

Bailey was a top-15 finalist in the 2008 National Junior Showmanship Contest, and in 2010 she was awarded the prestigious Barbara Smalstig Outstanding Leadership Award.

"As my years in the junior Angus program come to a close, I am extremely grateful for each and every experience," Bailey says. "I will finish this chapter in my life well-prepared to meet the future."

Upon receiving her bachelor's degree, Bailey hopes to go to graduate school to continue studying animal science. In the future, she hopes to work for an agricultural organization as a lobbyist and communications specialist, developing upon her interest in public policy. Outside of her professional life, Bailey would like to serve as a state junior advisor for Angus youth and continue to build her Angus herd.

"What began with a simple cattle show has grown into a lifestyle, a passion, and my plan for the future," she explains.

Emelia Heimsoth

Emelia, the daughter of Scott and Becky Heimsoth, Lathrop, Mo., has been active in the NJAA since 2003. She is a member of the Missouri Junior Angus Association (MJAA), and has participated in Angus events on state, regional and national levels.

Emelia has served the MJAA in two terms as treasurer and as Missouri Angus Queen. She has received scholarships from the Missouri Angus Association and the Angus Foundation. Emelia has also participated in the LEAD Conference, Raising the Bar and the NJAA/*Angus Journal* photography contest.

"I have made wonderful friends and memories that will last a lifetime," Emelia

says. "I appreciate all the work and dedication of the NJAA and the MJAA. I was given amazing opportunities because of them."

Emelia is currently enrolled in Maple Woods Community College where she is studying photography.

Madison Henderson

Madison has been active in the Angus showing in her home state of Iowa as well as nationally. She joined the NJAA in 1999 and



Madison Henderson

served the Iowa Junior Angus Association (IJAA) as first vice president for two terms.

Madison has competed in the showing on state and national levels. At the NJAS, she has participated in the

NJAA/*Angus Journal* photography contest and the quiz bowl contest. Additionally, Madison reigned as Iowa Angus Princess in 2007. She participated in Raising the Bar the same year, and received a scholarship from the Iowa Angus Association in 2008.

The daughter of David and Becky Henderson, Drakesville, Iowa, Madison attends Iowa State University (ISU) where she is pursuing a degree in family and consumer sciences. Following graduation, Madison plans to attend dental school.

Madison says that she appreciates the NJAA for giving her the opportunity "to meet so many people who all share the same passion of showing Angus cattle." Her fondest memories include participating in the National Junior Showmanship Contest and serving as a voting delegate at the NJAA annual meeting.

Ellen Hoffschneider

Ellen is a true advocate for not only the Angus industry, but also the beef industry as a whole. A member of the NJAA since 1994, and a past president of the Nebraska Junior Angus Association (NJAA), Ellen served the nation's beef industry as a 2010 National Beef Ambassador.

In addition to her responsibilities as an ambassador, Ellen also served as a junior co-chair of the 2010 NJAS in Denver, Colo. At the same show, she received top honors in the senior division of the extemporaneous speaking contest and served as a voting

delegate. Ellen has attended a total of seven NJAS, and has taken advantage of many of the educational contests available. Aside from extemporaneous speaking, she has also participated in team sales, public speaking and the CAB Cook-Off. Her cook-off team won its division in 2009 and 2010.



Ellen Hoffschneider

In 2009, Ellen received the fifth-place American Angus Auxiliary girls' scholarship, and she has been a recipient of Angus Foundation scholarships, as well. She has also received a Certificate of Achievement from the Auxiliary. Ellen reigned as the Nebraska Angus Queen in 2008-2009.

She is pursuing a degree in agricultural communications with a focus on advertising and marketing from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is the daughter of Scott and Jennifer Hoffschneider of Arlington, Neb.

Joseph Jackson

Joseph, the son of James and Elda Jackson, Salvisa, Ky., has been a member of the NJAA since 1999 and has been active on state, regional and national levels since that time. He has served his state association, the Kentucky Junior Angus Association (KJAA), as a director.

In 2007, Joseph was the recipient of the fifth-place American Angus Auxiliary boys' scholarship. He has also received a scholarship from the Angus Foundation.

As a member of the NJAA, Joseph has taken advantage of many of the opportunities made available to him. He has attended the LEAD Conference, and has also participated in the quiz bowl and judging contests at the NJAS.

Joseph is currently a student at the University of Kentucky where he is studying biosystems and agricultural engineering. He expects to graduate in December 2011.

Josh May

Josh, the son of Steve and Vivian May, Hurricane Mills, Tenn., has been a member of the NJAA since 2000. He is also a member of the Tennessee Junior Angus Association (TJAA).

Josh has participated in Angus shows

and events on state, regional and national levels. He has been the recipient of an Angus Foundation scholarship. In 2009 he received the fourth-place American Angus Auxiliary boys' scholarship. In 2008, he exhibited in the National Junior Showmanship Contest. He has also



Josh May

participated in the fitting contest.

At the 2011 NJAS, Josh represented the TJAA as a voting delegate for the third time, a responsibility he does not take lightly.

"When old enough, I would encourage every junior to strive to represent their state as a voting delegate," Josh says. "As a voting delegate, you are given the opportunity to meet juniors from all over the United States."

Josh attends the University of Tennessee at Martin where he is studying agricultural business and farm and ranch management. After his expected graduation in May 2013 he plans to go back to his family farm where he can continue producing corn, soybeans and Angus cattle. He hopes to continue raising and selling show heifer prospects, and, in that capacity, continue working with the Angus breeders and producers he has met throughout his junior career.

"There are so many stories that bring a smile to my face," Josh concludes. "As my junior career ends, I will remember the friends I have made and the fun that I have had."

David Ownby

David has been a member of the NJAA since 2003. He is also a member of the Tennessee Junior Angus Association (TJAA) and has served the organization as the East Tennessee director for five years.

David represented the TJAA in the 2009 National Junior Showmanship Contest. In addition to showing Angus cattle, he has also participated in the NJAA/*Angus Journal* photo contest at the NJAS and has represented his state association at Raising the Bar. David is a past recipient of the American Angus Auxiliary Certificate of Achievement.

He is currently a student at Cleveland State Community College where he is pursuing a

degree in agricultural business. He is the son of Kathy and Randall Ownby, Cleveland, Tenn.

Christina Ritter

"It's hard to believe that my time as a junior has come to an end," says Christina, who has been highly involved in the NJAA and the Maryland Junior Angus Association (MJAA) since she joined in 2000. "The past 11 years of being a member of the NJAA can be summed up as an experience I will never forget."



Christina Ritter

Christina has served the MJAA in several capacities, including president, vice president, secretary, reporter and communication director. In 2006, Christina was crowned Maryland Angus Princess. The following year, she transitioned into the role of Maryland Angus Queen. Additionally, she received the 2006-2007 Outstanding Intermediate Member award from the MJAA.

Christina has participated in many NJAS educational contests, ranging from quiz bowl and team sales to the Auxiliary-sponsored CAB Cook-Off. She has also participated in the NJAS Mentoring Program. It is because of attending events such as the NJAS that Christina says she has made "everlasting friendships with people from across the country."

The daughter of Tom and Marsha Ritter, Laytonsville, Md., Christina attends Virginia Tech, where she is majoring in communications with an emphasis on sports broadcasting. She plans to graduate in May 2012.

"In the future I can see myself raising Angus cattle on a farm somewhere," Christina predicts. "It has been such an honor to be a part of the NJAA."

Robert Velisek

Robert, the son of Douglas and Pamela Velisek, Gaithersburg, Md., has been a notable member of the Maryland Junior Angus Association (MJAA) and the NJAA since he joined in 1999. Additionally, he plays an active role on his family's farm, PDV Angus.

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Robert has served many roles in the MJAA. He has served three terms as vice president, and has also represented the MJAA on the Maryland Angus Association board of



Robert Velisek

directors, as well as served as MJAA's communication director and historian. He was recognized as the MJAA Outstanding Junior Member for 2004-2005, and received the organization's

Golden Pitchfork Award for 2008-2009.

Robert also received a scholarship from the Maryland Angus Association in 2009.

In addition to his responsibilities on a state level, Robert has also developed upon his leadership skills on a national level by attending the LEAD Conference. At the NJAS, Robert has represented the MJAA as a state delegate and has been a participant in

the NJAS Mentoring Program. In 2010, he participated in the Mini-LEAD Conference in West Virginia.

Outside of the showing and his many leadership roles, Robert has been an active participant in educational contests at the NJAS, including the CAB Cook-Off, team fitting, livestock judging and quiz bowl. At the 2011 NJAS, Robert was voted the Junior Herdsman of the Year.

Robert currently attends Montgomery College where he is pursuing a degree in business and marketing. He expects to graduate in 2013.

Dereck Washam

"As a fourth-generation Angus breeder, I am proud of my Angus heritage," says Dereck, who has been a member of the NJAA since 1995. "I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunities associated with being raised on a farm and learning from the Angus industry firsthand."



Dereck Washam

Dereck has been active in the Missouri Junior Angus Association (MJAA) and the Southwest Missouri Junior Angus Association (SWMJAA), serving two terms as president of the SWMJAA.

"Through shows, contests, conferences and other activities, the NJAA aided me, not only in the development of my herd, but also with the enhancement of my social and leadership skills," Dereck continues. He has attended LEAD Conference multiple times, and has also participated in the NJAS Mentoring Program. In 2008, he represented the MJAA as a voting delegate to the NJAA Annual Meeting. In 2011, he represented the organization in the National Junior Showmanship Contest.

Aside from his leadership roles within the MJAA and SWMJAA, he has also been competitive in the educational contests at the NJAS. He has received first-place honors in graphic design, poster, the CAB Cook-Off, and the NJAA/Angus Journal Photography Contest.

Today, Dereck, the son of Rick and Mary Jo Washam, Pierce City, Mo., is actively involved in the daily management and production of his family's cow-calf operation.

He hopes to continue to develop and market registered Angus in the future.

"Raising and exhibiting Angus cattle has taught me that responsibility, dedication and persistence pay off not only in the Angus industry, but in all areas of life," Dereck explains. "I am grateful to the NJAA, fellow Angus breeders and especially my parents for making so many opportunities available to me."

Sally Yon

The Angus industry is no stranger to Sally, the daughter of Kevin and Lydia Yon, Ridge Spring, S.C. An active member of the NJAA and the South Carolina Junior Angus Association (SCJAA), Sally reigned as the 2010 Miss American Angus after receiving the fourth-place American Angus Auxiliary girls' scholarship in 2009.

"When I had the opportunity to serve as Miss American Angus, I made relationships that I am so thankful for," Sally says. "Whether it was other contestants, junior board members, Association staff or juniors in the showing, I have so many people that I can call on for anything. It's safe to say that my best friends are spread throughout the country."

Aside from serving as Miss American Angus, Sally has represented the SCJAA as a voting delegate on multiple occasions. In addition to her Auxiliary scholarship, she received an Angus Foundation scholarship in 2009, the Richard Spader scholarship in 2010, and the NJAA Alumni and Friends scholarship in 2011.

Sally represented the SCJAA in the National Junior Showmanship Contest in 2009 and was selected as a top-15 finalist. Outside of her success in the showing, she has also participated in many educational contests at the NJAS, including team sales, team fitting, quiz bowl and the CAB Cook-Off. In 2011, Sally was elected to the NJAA Board of Directors.

Sally is a junior at Clemson University where she is pursuing a degree in agricultural education with a minor in animal science. She expects to graduate in May 2013.

"Time sure does fly by," Sally reflects. "I'm so blessed and thankful for all the NJAA has done for me the past 21 years. It has been an honor to be a part of such a great organization."

