

# GOING FOR GOLD

Twenty-six National Junior Angus Association members receive Gold Awards.

by *Mayzie Purviance, editorial intern*

**R**eceiving a Gold Award from the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) is the most prestigious honor a junior member can achieve. The effort and dedication of these members has not gone unnoticed. They have put in countless hours of hard work in order to achieve their goals while advocating for the Angus breed. Gold Award winners were recognized for their achievement at this year's National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Des Moines, Iowa.

To qualify for a Gold Award, members must be previous winners of the Bronze and Silver awards, which can be achieved by earning a total of 1,000 points per award. To be recognized for a Gold Award, a member must have accumulated at least 3,000 total points. Points can be earned by participating in junior activities, performance testing, producing and merchandising Angus genetics, and other activities within the Association.

More than 40 years ago, the National Junior Recognition Program was created to accentuate and showcase what the best members of the NJAA had to offer. Gold Awards, along with Bronze and Silver awards, are perfect ways to recognize the continuous success and ambition NJAA members exhibit.

## Laramie Chaffin

Laramie Chaffin is a lifelong member of the NJAA and a fourth-generation Angus breeder. Chaffin calls Roodhouse, Ill., home, and is the daughter of Annie Ruyle-Chaffin. She is also a member of the Illinois Junior Beef Association and the Illinois Cattlewomen's Association.

Within the Illinois Junior Angus Association, Chaffin served as director in 2012 and secretary in 2016. She represented the Illinois association as queen in 2015 and ebouette in 2013. She has also attended and participated in three Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences.

Chaffin has participated in several contests

during her years as a member of the NJAA. She has shown in four National Junior Angus Shows and has shown two class winners. Chaffin has competed in team sales at the national level, and her team won first place in 2014 and 2015 and second place in 2016. In 2015, she competed in the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off and received third place; she came back the next year with her team and won first.

Chaffin has been an active member of 4-H and FFA, participating in various activities within the two associations. She won her county 4-H Beef Award and competed at the national level in the 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest. During her time as an FFA member, she was the Illinois Section 13 sentinel, was awarded North Greene star greenhand, and was on the Section 13 FFA livestock judging team.

Chaffin has learned many lessons as a NJAA member. She says, "It was in those barns with the hum of the fans and blowers in my ear that I was able to open myself up to a connection with not only nature and the Angus breed, but the virtues that push NJAA members into a league of our own."

Chaffin intends to graduate from Webster University in 2018 with a degree in sociology and will further her education by obtaining her doctorate. She plans to continue her family business of owning and operating Laramie Cattle Co., and by conducting field research on social problems and how they affect the cattle industry.

"I want to travel the world and have cows to come home to," says Chaffin.

## Abby Collison

"Throughout my involvement in the National Junior Angus Association, I have made countless memories. From showing heifers to the contests that I took part in, each moment has helped shape me into the person I am today," says Iowa native Abby Collison of her NJAA experience.

Collison has been a member of the

American Angus Association since 2008 and is the daughter of Tim and Lori Collison. She has competed in various junior shows, and has won grand champion at the 2015 Iowa Beef Expo and at the 2016 Iowa Angus Preview. She also received first place in showmanship at the 2016 Iowa Junior Angus Show and has participated in the quiz bowl and livestock judging, both at the national level.

Collison has been an active member of her local 4-H club and FFA chapter. During her eight years of showing livestock through 4-H, she has received three county beef project awards. During her four years as an FFA member, she achieved her Iowa FFA Degree and was a Star Finalist in Agri-Science at the Iowa State FFA Convention.

"Breeding, processing, raising and showing my homegrown livestock while implementing procedures such as AI (artificial insemination) and ET (embryo transfer) allowed me to receive these awards," Collison says.

She plans to attend veterinary school upon the completion of her undergraduate studies in the Animal Science Department at Iowa State University. Collison hopes to become a large-animal veterinarian and specialize in reproduction.

## Katelyn Corsentino

Katelyn Corsentino of Denham Springs, La., became a member of the NJAA when she was 10 years old. She is studying animal science and agribusiness at Oklahoma State University (OSU) and plans to graduate this December.

Corsentino is a former president of the Louisiana Junior Angus Association, and has served as a director on the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) for two years. She has participated in Raising the Bar and LEAD conferences, and was a voting delegate at the 2014 NJAS. She is also a 2014 NJAA scholarship winner and has participated in several junior Angus shows.

Corsentino shows gratitude to the



Laramie Chaffin



Abby Collison



Katelyn Corsentino

Association, as well as many of her family members and her friends.

“I think it goes without saying that this is one of the hardest things that we, as juniors, will ever have to do — to say goodbye,” she shares. “They ask you to reflect back on your time as a junior and write a paragraph or two about what it means to you. How do you sum up the best 12 years of your life? For me, I think the best way is [to] simply say thank you ... Thank you to everyone who made this possible. I will be forever grateful.”

## Leslie Craig

Leslie Craig became a member of the NJAA when she was 10 years old and has been actively involved ever since. She is the



Leslie Craig

daughter of Dan and Katrina Craig, and calls Harrodsburg, Ky., home. Craig has been an active member of the NJAA, Kentucky Junior Angus Association, and the Central Kentucky Junior

Angus Association. Throughout her time as a member of these organizations, she has been elected to various offices and positions, including director, president, treasurer, vice president and second vice president. Craig also is a former Kentucky Junior Angus Association Queen and was awarded a Kentucky Angus Association scholarship.

Craig has participated in numerous Angus shows across the country, and has won grand champion at the KDA Preview and at the Kentucky State Fair — twice. She also won first at the 2014 Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off, and third in 2016. Craig placed second in the 2016 NJAS photography contest and has participated in quiz bowl.

## Katie Friedrichs

Katie Friedrichs, an OSU senior, has had a love for the agriculture industry her entire life. She showed her first calf at the age of 3, and became a member of the NJAA seven years later.

Friedrichs is the daughter of Dean and Deb Friedrichs of Walcott, Iowa. She is currently studying animal science and agriculture communications, and expects to graduate in May of 2018.

She was also a member of Iowa Junior Angus Association and the Eastern Iowa Junior

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— Laramie Chaffin

Angus Association. She has been elected to many offices during her time as an Iowa Junior Angus Association member, including director, historian, vice president and president.

Friedrichs has represented the NJAA as a Raising the Bar participant, LEAD conference participant, and was an Angus Auxiliary scholarship winner. She was also a voting delegate, scholarship winner for the Iowa Junior Angus Association, and has participated in the NJAS mentoring program multiple times.



Katie Friedrichs

Friedrichs received the title of the 2011-2012 Iowa princess and served as the 2012-2013 Miss Iowa Angus Queen.

Friedrichs has a large collection of ribbons, plaques and buckles from the various junior shows she has participated in throughout the years. She also competed in many contests at the NJAS from 2008 to 2014, such as extemporaneous public speaking, creative writing, photography, team sales and the Cook-Off.

Throughout her time as a 4-H and FFA member, Friedrichs received numerous awards and accomplishments. She was actively involved in livestock judging, especially at the Beef Expo. Friedrichs was a member of the Iowa State 4-H Council, and was awarded the Muscatine County 4-H Outstanding Senior in 2014. From 2011-2014, Friedrichs served on the Iowa Junior Beef Breeds Association Board.

She is a member of the OSU Meats Judging Team. Friedrichs and her team won the national title for the 2016 Intercollegiate Meat Judging Team, and the 2017 Reserve National Champion Intercollegiate Meat Animal Evaluation Team.

“As I started to get more involved in the NJAA and my state association, I found a passion for the Angus breed. At that point,” says Friedrichs, “it became more than just a

hobby. The places I’ve been, the experiences I’ve had and the people I’ve met have led me to where I am today. I can’t imagine what my life would be like if not for the Angus breed and the relationships I’ve been able to grow because of this organization.”

## Megan Green

Megan Green of Leavenworth, Kan., has been a member of the Angus Association for 14 years. She is the daughter of Jerry and Tonya Theis, and Gene Green. Green is an ag communications and journalism major at Kansas State University (K-State) and plans to graduate in December 2018.

She is the former vice president of the Kansas Junior Angus Association, and the



Megan Green

current Kansas Junior Angus Association president. She served as a voting delegate for the NJAA in 2015, and participated in the LEAD conferences in 2015 and 2016.

Green has also participated in many junior Angus shows.

Green is extremely grateful for her time as a member of the NJAA.

“As my last years in the National Junior Angus Association are quickly coming to an end, I am proud of everything that I have accomplished as a member, but also for myself,” she says. This association is amazing to be a part of. There have been lifelong friends that have been made all over the United States, as well as lifelong lessons that can be passed down for generations to come.”

## Allison Hawthorn

Allison Hawthorn is the daughter of Jim and Kim Hawthorn and calls Westby, Wis., home. She is an agribusiness and economics major at Iowa State University, and is a member of the class of 2019.

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She has filled numerous positions within the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association, including publicity chairman, vice president,



**Allison Hawthorn**

treasurer, president, membership director and director at large. Hawthorn was also awarded the title of 2014 Angus Queen for the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association, and she has represented the NJAA as a voting delegate, LEAD participant and scholarship winner. She has participated in several junior Angus shows through the years, and competed in quiz bowl at the national level.

Hawthorn has been very involved in ag organizations during her years attending Iowa State. She was a peer mentor for the Women in Science and Engineering Club in 2015 and is currently a member of the Agricultural Business Club. Hawthorn is also very active in Block and Bridle.

### Claudia Hissong

Claudia Hissong of Greencastle, Pa., has been a member of the NJAA for seven years. She is an ag economics major, with a specialty



**Claudia Hissong**

in prelaw and minor in animal sciences and industry. Hissong is a member of K-State's class of 2019, and is the daughter of Spencer and Regina Hissong. Hissong has been elected to the positions of treasurer and Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show (ERJAS) co-chair within the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association. She has also been a member of various committees within the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association and was awarded the 2014 Outstanding Girl Award. Hissong has represented the NJAA as a voting delegate and at LEAD. She was selected as the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association Princess for 2013-2015.

She has received scholarships from the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association, Angus Auxiliary and the Angus Foundation. During her years as an NJAA member, she has participated in more than 20 junior Angus shows and has received numerous titles.

### Catie Hope

"It was almost two months ago exactly when it hit me. I was writing a postcard to a new member to welcome them into the Association, and I was trying to portray how



**Catie Hope**

much opportunity was right in front of them on that little card. It hit me just like that: I would be walking the ring as a junior for the last time, I would be putting on that harness, washing my heifer and packing my trailer for my last show season as a junior. I paused as I finished up that postcard and got lost on memory lane," says one of the 2017 NAJB directors.

Catie Hope is the daughter of Beecher and Gina Hope and calls Berryville, Va., home. She is a member of the Ferrum College class of 2018 and is majoring in animal science.

Throughout her time in the Virginia Junior Angus Association, she has served in the offices of secretary, board director, president-elect and president. She has also served within the Virginia Junior Angus Association as the 2011 princess, 2013 queen and a voting delegate. Hope was selected to receive an NJAA scholarship in 2014.

She has participated in various shows and exhibited the champion mature cow-calf pair at the 2012 NJAS and the 2015 ERJAS. She has entered and won various other contests within the NJAS, such as winning first at the senior level of the Around the Farm or Ranch category in the 2015 photography contest. Her teams also received first in the 2012 Cook-Off in the recipe category, and in the 2012 NJAS livestock judging competition — both at the intermediate level.

Hope plans to continue her education in animal science with an emphasis in photography and marketing. She hopes to one day own a photography studio and work as a marketing professional. Hope says she is thankful for her time spent wearing her green coat and all the memories and connections she has made.

### Cheyenne Jones

Cheyenne Jones of Campbellsville, Ky., has been a member of the NJAA since she was 9 years old. The daughter of Mike and Gail Jones is an animal science and ag communications major at OSU, planning to graduate in December of 2018.

Jones has been extremely active in the Louisiana Junior Angus Association. She has served as its historian, treasurer, secretary, director, vice president, president and second vice president. She was selected as the 2014 Louisiana Junior Angus Association Angus Queen and received scholarships from the NJAA and her state association. Jones has served as a voting delegate for the NJAA.

Jones has participated in numerous junior Angus shows across the country, winning the titles of grand champion, reserve grand champion and division



**Cheyenne Jones**

champion. At the NJAS, she has participated in livestock judging, the Cook-Off, the photography contest and the poster contest. Outside of the Association, Jones is a member of the livestock judging team at OSU. She is also involved in Block and Bridle, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow and the meat animal evaluation team. Upon graduation, she hopes to obtain a position with a company like Merck Animal Health or Zoetis as a sales representative or marketing coordinator.

When asked to reflect on her time as an NJAA member and look ahead at her future, Jones says: "As I move forward in pursuing my degree and goals, I will continue to better myself in hopes that I can give back to the agriculture and Angus industry that has given me so much over the years. I am confident that my positive mind-set, passion for the agriculture industry and fervent work ethic will help me become the person I am meant to be."

### Michelle Keyes

Michelle Keys of Springfield, Neb., has been an advocate for the Angus breed



**Michelle Keyes**

since she became a member of the NJAA at 13 years old. She is a senior agribusiness major at K-State and is the daughter of Kevin and Teresa Keyes. Keyes served as the secretary-treasurer of the Nebraska Junior Angus Association for two



consecutive terms in 2015 and 2016. She also served as a voting delegate in 2014. The Nebraska Angus Association selected Keyes as the 2015 Nebraska Angus Queen.

“As I began my journey as a junior member,” says Keyes, “I never dreamed I would have made the connections and memories I have. The National Junior Angus Association gave me a network of friends across the nation, as well as increased leadership and social skills.”

## Kyle Livingston

Kyle Livingston of Dover, Pa., became a member of the NJAA when he was 2 years old. He is a member of the Western Illinois University class of 2018 and is an ag science major with a minor in animal science. He is the son of Tim and Nancy Livingston.



**Kyle Livingston**

Livingston served as a director for the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association for a total of four years. He has received scholarships from the NJAA twice, the Angus Auxiliary, and the Pennsylvania State Scholarship through the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association. Livingston has participated in several Angus shows and won reserve grand champion at the 2014 Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE).

Outside of the Association, Livingston has been active in 4-H and FFA. He is a former winner of the York County Beef Award and has won the Pennsylvania 4-H State Days Competition in livestock judging three times. Within the FFA, Livingston has received his Keystone State Farmer Degree and his American Farmer Degree.

“Looking back at my years as a junior,” says Livingston, “I can’t help but think how lucky I have been to be in such a great junior organization. I have met many great people and friends. Being part of the Angus family is just that, a family.”

## Kale Kiesewetter

Kale Kiesewetter of Letts, Iowa, is the son of Bruce and Cara Kiesewetter. He is a livestock merchandising major at OSU and graduate in 2019.

Since joining the NJAA in 2002, Kiesewetter has been actively involved with the Angus breed. He has filled many officer positions within the Iowa Junior Angus

**“THEY ASK YOU TO REFLECT BACK ON YOUR TIME AS A JUNIOR AND WRITE A PARAGRAPH OR TWO ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU. HOW DO YOU SUM UP THE BEST 12 YEARS OF YOUR LIFE? FOR ME, I THINK THE BEST WAY IS [TO] SIMPLY SAY THANK YOU ... THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE. I WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL.”**

**— Katelyn Corsentino**

Association and the Eastern Iowa Angus Association, including director, secretary and president. He has attended both the LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences multiple times, and has been involved with the NJAS mentoring program.

Kiesewetter has been a livestock exhibitor at numerous junior Angus shows. Within his showing career, Kiesewetter has won



**Kale Kiesewetter**

showmanship five times and the titles of supreme grand champion, grand champion Angus, reserve grand champion and division champion. He has also competed in many NJAA contests,

such as team sales, quiz bowl, team fitting, livestock judging and the Cook-Off. When asked to elaborate on his future plans within the Association, Kiesewetter says: “Once my time is done here in the junior program, I plan to be a strong advocate for sure. I hope to guide some young juniors whether it be through a calf I raise and sell for a family that just needs a helping hand or [sharing] a ‘trick of the trade.’ I plan to be there flying that Angus and NJAA flag the whole time.”

## Timothy Mardesen

“The old saying is true that if you really put your mind to it and work hard, any junior can accomplish the experiences I have been blessed with!” says Oxford, Iowa, native, Timothy Mardesen.

Mardesen is the son of Heath and Shelli Mardesen and has been a member of the NJAA since 2008. He served this past year as the NJAB leadership director and the Iowa Junior Angus Association president. Mardesen has also participated in various shows and won grand champion at the 2016 IJAA Preview.

Currently, Mardesen attends Western Illinois University and is majoring in computer science. Upon graduation in 2019



**Timothy Mardesen**

he plans to settle down somewhere in the Midwest while combining his passions for agriculture and technology. Mardesen also elaborates on a special project he has been working on, which is a game revolving around showing, breeding and trading Angus livestock based on current data to encourage more junior participation.

## Robert Nixon III

“I had no idea that attending one cow show could impact my life the way it did. My first big show was the NJAS in Harrisburg,



**Robert Nixon III**

Pa., in 2011. From that point on I was hooked,” says Robert Nixon III.

Nixon became a member of the NJAA in 2009. The son of Tom and Kim Nixon calls Rapidan, Va., home. Nixon has recently

obtained a degree in diesel mechanics and ag technology from the University of Northwestern Ohio. Nixon has been elected to many positions within the Virginia Junior Angus Association, including reporter, director and historian. He has also represented the NJAA as a voting delegate and has received two scholarships from the Angus Foundation. Nixon has participated in various shows all across the country, and has won many titles to add to his list of accomplishments. At the NJAS,

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Nixon has competed in team sales, livestock judging, quiz bowl, the Cook-Off and career development.

Outside of the NJAA, Nixon was an active member of the Orange County 4-H Livestock Club, FFA, livestock judging, Stockmen's Team, the Virginia State Fair, Cattle Working Contests and has participated in various community service projects.

### Macy Perry

"The NJAA has been a huge part of my life for the past 20 years. This association has given me many opportunities, countless



**Macy Perry**

friends, cherished memories and a chance to serve in the green jacket," says Prather, Calif., native, Macy Perry.

Perry is the daughter of Randy and Susan Perry and has been involved in the

Angus Association her entire life. She is majoring in animal science with a business minor at OSU and plans to graduate in 2018.

She has served as chairman of the NJAB and president of the California Junior Angus Association. Perry has also been awarded the Talon Scholarship from the Angus Foundation.

Grateful for the time spent wearing her green jacket, she says: "As I say goodbye to the junior association that has helped shape me into the young women that I am today, thank you is all that comes to mind. Thank you for allowing me to grow up around people with similar values as myself. Thank you for giving me something to do with my family. Thank you for allowing me to serve something greater than myself. Thank you for forever changing my life for the better."

### Kendra Pryor

Kendra Pryor of Pleasant Hill, Mo., is an animal science major with a feed science minor at K-State. She is the daughter of Rick and Stephanie Pryor and plans to graduate in May of 2018.

Pryor has been a member of the NJAA for 11 years and has attended the LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences. She has participated in various junior Angus shows and won grand champion at the 2013 Missouri State Fair and the 2016 Missouri Preview. Pryor has also participated in the

NJAS team sales competition, where her team won second in 2012 and 2013.

Outside of the NJAA, Pryor has been an active FFA member, earning her chapter's Star Farmer award, her chapter and area Beef Proficiency Award, her state FFA degree and her American degree. She has also been involved in the AI



**Kendra Pryor**

program at K-State and has been certified in feedlot nutrition and beef cattle ranch management. Upon graduation, Pryor plans to attend graduate school for ruminant nutrition with the goal of becoming a consulting nutritionist.

During the past nine years as an NJAA member, she has developed friendships and business acquaintances, says Pryor. "These interactions have taught me practical and effective skills in leadership, communication and marketing, which has, in turn, produced my abilities to begin my career as an Angus producer. ... The National Junior Angus Association has given me the opportunity to prosper independently and feel passionate about the cattle industry."

### David "Troy" Rawlings

New Holland, Ill., native David "Troy" Rawlings is a senior ag sciences-business management major at Lincoln Land



**David "Troy" Rawlings**

Community College. The son of Tracy and Dave Rawlings has been a member of the NJAA for the majority of his life (20 years). Rawlings served as the director of the Illinois Junior Angus Association from 2013 to 2016. He also served as director of the Lamoine Valley Angus Association in 2016 and as the vice president of the Logan County Angus Association. Rawlings has participated in various shows throughout his time in the NJAA, as well as the Cook-Off and team fitting contest.

Outside of the NJAA, Rawlings has been an active 4-H member and received a county and state 4-H beef award. He was selected to attend the National 4-H Congress in the animal science area and won his FFA chapter

and section beef proficiency award. He is a member of the Lincoln FFA Alumni and, Heartland Beef Alliance, and is a former member of the Lincoln Land Ag Club.

"I am glad to say I love the path I have chosen to pursue," says Rawlings. "I have a plan to become one of the top Angus breeders in the business. I am currently building my herd with a lot of key and prime genetics to ensure success for the future. I also plan to put my children on the similar path and hope one day that they will enjoy it as much as I have. Without the Angus breed, I wouldn't be the person I am today."

### Sterling Reichenbach

Sterling Reichenbach joined the NJAA when she was 10 years old and has been an advocate for the breed ever since. She is



**Sterling Reichenbach**

the daughter of James and Melissa Reichenbach and calls Bath, Mich., home. Reichenbach is a marketing major at Baker College and plans to graduate in 2018.

She has served this past year as a director for the Michigan Junior Angus Association. She has also participated in the LEAD conference and won a scholarship from the Michigan Angus Auxiliary. Reichenbach has participated in many junior Angus shows throughout her time as a member of the NJAA.

Upon graduation, Reichenbach plans to enter the agricultural marketing field in hopes of someday owning her own livestock marketing company.

When asked to reflect on her time as an NJAA member, Reichenbach didn't dwell too much on the past; instead she spoke of the future: "My goal is to give back to the association that has given so much to me. Giving back is essential to the Association and will mean so much to me, as I wish the future members the best, and I hope that they will have an amazing journey."

### Lawson Rowlett

Lawson Rowlett of Hurricane Mills, Tenn., is the son of Buddy and Kelley Rowlett and a fourth-generation Angus breeder. He became a member of the NJAA in 2004, and interned at McCurry Angus Ranch.

Rowlett has served as the 2015 president-elect and the 2016 president for the Tennessee

Junior Angus Association. He has represented the NJAA as a voting delegate, and received an NJAA scholarship in 2015 and 2016.

Rowlett has participated in numerous



**Lawson Rowlett**

Angus shows and has won champion in showmanship at the ERJAS show, the Volunteer Classic, and the Final Drive. He was selected to represent Tennessee at the national level. He has also participated in the

NJAS team fitting contest for four years.

Rowlett plans to continue gaining knowledge and experience while working for a registered cow-calf operation in Kansas. He hopes to raise his future children to have the same love and passion for the livestock industry as he does.

Says Rowlett: "The National Junior Angus Association shows me that goals are important to strive for. I look forward to passing these values to my children to continue the next generation of members."

## Cooper Sadowsky

Cooper Sadowsky of Eagleville, Mo., is a lifetime member of the NJAA. The daughter



**Cooper Sadowsky**

of Jim and Teela Sadowsky plans to attend Oral Roberts University and study psychology and communications with a focus in writing.

Sadowsky has been actively involved in the NJAA and the Missouri Junior Angus Association. Within her state, she has served as second vice president, secretary and president. She has also participated in the Raising the Bar and LEAD conferences.

Sadowsky has competed in many junior Angus shows and has won the title of champion showman at the Missouri State Fair and the Mid-Buchanan FFA Show. She represented Missouri in the showmanship ring at the 2016 NJAS. She has participated in numerous contests within the NJAA — extemporaneous speaking, writing, graphic design, team marketing, team sales, the Cook-Off, quiz bowl, public speaking, photography, career development, poster and creative writing — and has placed in each of these

**"THESE INTERACTIONS HAVE TAUGHT ME PRACTICAL AND EFFECTIVE SKILLS IN LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING, WHICH HAS, IN TURN, PRODUCED MY ABILITIES TO BEGIN MY CAREER AS AN ANGUS PRODUCER. ... THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROSPER INDEPENDENTLY AND FEEL PASSIONATE ABOUT THE CATTLE INDUSTRY."**

— Kendra Pryor

contests at least once.

Outside of the NJAA, Sadowsky has been an active participant in 4-H and FFA. In 4-H, she has participated in a beef project every year and has served on the Missouri State 4-H Council as regional representative, secretary and executive team member. She was selected to represent Missouri at the 2012 National 4-H Congress and competed on a 4-H livestock judging team that advanced to nationals.

Within FFA, Sadowsky has received her American degree and her Missouri State FFA degree. She was selected as the Missouri State Star Farmer in 2015 and has competed in livestock, dairy and horse judging at the Missouri State FFA Convention, as well as extemporaneous speaking.

Sadowsky has been president on the Missouri Junior Cattlemen's Association. She has been a member of the Redlands Community College livestock judging team, as well as being elected president of the Redlands Community College Aggie Club.

"Regardless of where my journey takes me," says Sadowsky, "a piece of my heart will always beat for Angus cattle and [the] community that can be found within the breed. Ultimately, I aim to use my skills, talent and life to build God's kingdom."

## Emily Stovall

Emily Stovall is the daughter of Lorie Stovall and calls Corsicana, Texas, home. She is a junior at Texas A&M University (TAMU) and is majoring in agricultural leadership and development.

Since becoming a member of the NJAA in 2012, Stovall has been actively involved. She has participated in the LEAD conference twice and served as the 2016 Texas Junior Angus Association president. Stovall has been the recipient of two scholarships from the Angus Foundation and one from the Texas Angus Auxiliary. She has participated

in several shows and contests within the NJAA and Texas Junior Angus Association, and has won first in the Texas Junior Angus



**Emily Stovall**

Association photography contest twice.

Stovall has also been involved with 4-H and FFA. She has served on the Texas State 4-H Council, as District 8 4-H delegate at large, as State 4-H

Congress delegate, and in various officer positions within the Navarro County 4-H and the Emhouse 4-H. Stovall has been elected to the positions of president and treasurer within the Corsicana FFA and is a former Corsicana District FFA officer. She has also received her Lone Star Farmer FFA degree. At Texas A&M, Stovall is a member of the Sigma Alpha Sorority (National Ag Sorority), TAMU National CattleWomen's Association, TAMU and Navarro County Ducks Unlimited and TAMU Saddle and Sirloin Club.

In Stovall's reflection of her time as a member of the NJAA, she says, "I will forever be grateful to all these organizations that give so much of their time and money to help the youth of America."

## Savanah Schafer

Savanah Schafer of Nehawka, Neb., is the daughter of Craig and Stephanie Schafer. She is a junior at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and is studying agricultural education. Schafer has been a member of the NJAA since 2004.

Within the Nebraska Junior Association, Schafer has filled the roll of president twice. She has been a participant in LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences, and in the Cook-

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Off. Throughout her career as a showman, Shafer has placed first in showmanship at the Nebraska Junior Angus State Show and



**Savannah Schafer**

In the future, Schafer plans to have a career as an FFA advisor or a county extension agent. She wishes to continue her involvement in the American Angus Association and successfully operate Schafer Angus Farm. When reflecting on her time as an NJAA member, Schafer says "... spending time with my Angus friends, as well as making new friends, was more important. I thank the NJAA for the education, friendships, connections, adventures and for building my passion for the Angus breed."

### Jordyn Wagner

"My personal belief is leading by example. I feel I am a leader; I do not follow the most common path or idea. I believe I set a high goal for myself, and I never quit. Anything



**Jordyn Wagner**

worth having takes determination and hard work," says Billings, Mont., native, Jordyn Wagner.

Wagner is the daughter of Darryl and Kari Wagner and is currently attending Rocky Mountain College. She is an elementary education major with a minor in reading, and plans to graduate in May of 2019. Within the Montana Junior Angus Association, Wagner has served as director and vice president. She served two consecutive terms as president. She was also selected as Montana's junior Angus princess in 2011 and queen in 2012. She has represented the NJAA as a 2017 director on the NJAB, voting delegate, at the Raising the Bar conference, and at the LEAD conference. She has exhibited livestock in several junior Angus shows and has won the title of champion senior showman at the Montana Fair Junior Angus Show and the Montana Beef Expo.

was a finalist at the 2016 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. Outside of the Angus world, she is a member of the Alpha Zeta Honor Society and mentors with the TeamMates program.

**"I HAVE MADE TOO MANY FRIENDS TO COUNT. I HAVE A COUPLE OF FAMILIES THAT I MENTOR, AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THEM CARRYING ON WITH THE GENETICS THAT I HAVE SOLD THEM. THE WHOLE JUNIOR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN UNFORGETTABLE."**

— **Carter Ward**

Wagner's goal is to obtain a degree in elementary education and ag business. She wants to continue raising Angus cattle in hopes to one day expand "JL Farms," the cattle company she and her sister operate.

### Carter Ward

Lifetime NJAA member Carter Ward will start his senior year at OSU in the Animal Science Department. He is the son of Jack and Mary Ann Ward and calls Plattsburg,



**Carter Ward**

Mo., home. Ward has attended the LEAD conference many times and was selected as the American Angus Auxiliary's fifth overall boy in 2014. He began exhibiting livestock at the 2006 NJAS, where he exhibited a division champion. Ward has won many titles within his time showing, and has won grand champion at the Missouri State Angus Show. He has also received placings in many showmanship contests, and won overall champion at the American Royal show in 2007. Ward has participated in numerous contests within the NJAA, including: livestock judging, team sales, quiz bowl, prepared speech, team fitting and the Cook-Off.

Ward was an active member of his local 4-H and served the offices of secretary and president. He also participated in his county's livestock judging program. Ward was a member of the Plattsburg FFA chapter where he served as sentinel and received the Star Chapter Member Award.

Ward will conclude his livestock judging career this fall at OSU. Upon graduation, he plans to maintain his current employment at the Circle B Underground ranch in Oklahoma and bring some of his own herd with him.

"I like to think that I have influenced others within our breed," says Ward. "I have

made too many friends to count. I have a couple of families that I mentor, and I am looking forward to them carrying on with the genetics that I have sold them. The whole junior experience has been unforgettable."

### Courtney Young

Since she joined the NJAA in 2008, Courtney Young has been actively advocating for the Angus breed. She is the



**Courtney Young**

daughter of Marc and Robin Young and calls Ventura, Iowa, home. Within the Iowa Junior Angus Association, Young has served as secretary and has received an Angus Auxiliary Scholarship. She has also received NJAS undergraduate scholarships from the NJAA. At the 2016 NJAS, Young was chosen to represent Iowa in the senior showmanship ring and went on to win the prestigious national competition.

Young is a sophomore at Drake University and is majoring in pharmacy. She hopes to graduate with her doctorate and continue to be a part of the Angus breed.

"I would like to give back to an organization that has given so much to me by continuing to be involved with the breed at the state and national level," says Young. "This industry educates its youth in a way that is unmatched and has given me a great love for the Angus breed. For this reason I want to stay very active and involved in the cattle industry that I love so much."



**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 2017 National Junior Angus Show, for details of additional accomplishments by these active juniors.