

Give Me the Gold

Thirty-three NJAA elite qualify for top honor in National Junior Recognition Program.

by Lynsey Meharg, intern

Thirty-three members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) ended their junior careers with a bang, receiving the Gold Award at the 2013 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Kansas City, Mo.

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

In order to qualify for the Gold Award, junior members must first be awarded Bronze and Silver awards, which require an accumulation

of 2,000 points or more earned throughout the junior's career. Gold Awards are bestowed in the final year of junior eligibility and require a total of 3,000 points or more.

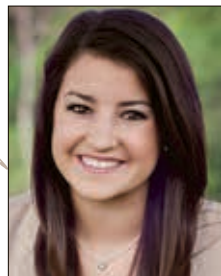
Points are awarded for participation in various junior activities. These include Association activities, competitive activities, performance testing, production and merchandising of Angus genetics, and other relevant beef industry activities.

Members who meet all qualifications for the award are presented with a specially designed pin cast in gold. This award is made possible through generous donors and the Angus Foundation.

The following juniors were awarded 2013 Gold Award honors.

Jacy Alsup

A native of the Natural State, Jacy Alsup of Gravette, Ark., was recently elected as the



Jacy Alsup

2013-2014 National Junior Angus Board chairman. The daughter of Danny and Debbie Alsup has been a member of the NJAA since 1999. Selected to represent the state of Arkansas for the 2011 National

Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, Alsup ultimately placed third in the nation.

Alsup, who was elected to the NJAA Board in 2012, was awarded three scholarships that same year, including one for outstanding leadership. She also participated in the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference in 2012.

"Being involved in the NJAA for the past 12 years has [given me] the best years of my life," Alsup says. "From traveling across the country for just a few minutes in front of a judge, I have met lifelong friends and gained leadership skills that I know will help me in my future endeavors. I am so blessed to have been 'raised Angus.'"

Alsup, who will be a senior in the fall, is expected to graduate with a degree in agribusiness and marketing from Oklahoma State University in May 2014.

Lauren Barker

After joining the NJAA in 2000, Lauren Barker of Monticello, Iowa, took full



Lauren Barker

advantage of the opportunities provided through her state and national associations. Having served multiple leadership positions through the Iowa and Hawkeye junior Angus associations,

as well as being a member of the Eastern Iowa Junior Angus Association, Barker has been determined to make the most of her time in the NJAA.

As a junior member, Lauren has served as Miss Iowa Angus, as well as a voting delegate at the NJAS. She has also participated in LEAD.

Barker has participated in events at the NJAS including the quiz bowl, livestock judging, photography, graphic design and scrapbook contests.

Because of her experience with Angus cattle, Barker was well-prepared to serve as a Zoetis intern for the summer of 2013.

"The NJAA has given me so much," Barker says. "It has helped me grow as an individual in all the different contests, as well as meeting new people and learning a lot about great Angus cattle. I am so appreciative of everyone who has helped me throughout my NJAS career."

The daughter of Ruhl and Cheryl Barker plans to obtain her degree in ag communications and merchandising through Iowa State University with plans to graduate in December 2015.

Hannah Bartholomew

Hannah Bartholomew of Archie, Mo., joined the NJAA in 2001. The daughter of Steve and Tammy Bartholomew has served in several offices for the Missouri Junior Angus Association, in which she was elected president for 2012-2013.



Hannah Bartholomew

Having participated in LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences for several years, Bartholomew has taken advantage of the opportunities provided for her through the NJAA.

"Very few organizations allow young people to make friends from all over the U.S. while doing something that you love," Bartholomew says. "NJAA has been that organization. As much as I enjoy showing, the anticipation of seeing friends at Angus events and the leadership opportunities NJAA has provided through LEAD and Raising the Bar have made me realize that my Angus involvement is not ending, it is just beginning."

2013 National Jr. Angus Show • Kansas City, Mo.



Exhibiting cattle at NJAS nearly every year since 2004, Bartholomew has participated in the quiz bowl, livestock judging and career development contests, as well as the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off.

After graduating from the University of Missouri–Columbia in 2014 with a degree in health sciences and nursing, Bartholomew hopes to pursue her dream of becoming a neonatal nurse practitioner.

Jessica Clarke

“There is no doubt that being a member of the NJAA for the past 12 years has shaped me into the person that I am today,” Jessica Clarke says. “For years, I followed my cousin around at Angus shows and dreamed of the day that I would be old enough to have my own Angus heifer.”



Jessica Clarke

Clarke, of Rocky Ridge, Md., has always wanted to show Angus cattle. Since her junior career began in 2002, she has served as an officer for the Maryland Junior Angus Association, as her state’s Angus princess and queen, and as a voting delegate at the NJAS. In addition, Clarke has received scholarships from both her state association and the NJAA.

As a junior member, Clarke attended LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences, and she competed in the creative writing, photography, Cook-Off, team fitting, livestock judging and the Chef’s Challenge contests.

“It has been an honor, and I consider myself lucky to be a part of this amazing organization,” she says. “I know I will always look back and truly miss my days as an Angus junior.”

Clarke, the daughter of Tim and Becky Clarke, plans to graduate in 2014 from West Virginia University with a degree in ag extension education.

Gregory Connell

After joining the NJAA in 2002, Gregory Connell, of Eugene, Mo., began to realize the benefits of his involvement in the Missouri Junior Angus Association, as well as the NJAA.

“Being a member of the Missouri Junior

Angus Association and the NJAA has given me the ability to make many lifelong friendships,”



Gregory Connell

Connell says.

As a member, Connell exhibited cattle across the state of Missouri and at the NJAS. He also took advantage of the leadership opportunities through the NJAA,

attending the LEAD conference in 2009. Connell was selected in 2011 to represent his state in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, in which he was recognized with an honorable mention.

“I will always treasure the experiences and the people that I have met,” Connell adds. “Through my participation in the NJAA, I have gained many experiences to use in the future to operate as a successful cattleman.”

Connell, the son of Victor and Jessica Connell, expects to earn a degree in agriculture and agricultural business from Oklahoma State University in 2015.

Nathan Eagleburger

When Nathan Eagleburger of Buffalo, Mo., joined the NJAA in 2006, he never imagined how the organization would affect him.



Nathan Eagleburger

The only thing he would change about his junior career is to have joined sooner, Eagleburger says. “It has been one of the greatest experiences of my

life thus far, and I will always cherish the many good times. Being a member of this great association not only helped me make new friends, but it helped me come out of my shell of shyness.”

Eagleburger has participated in a variety of activities on the state and national level. A member of the NJAA, the Missouri Junior Angus Association and the Southwest Junior Angus Association, Eagleburger has held offices on the state and regional level.

Eagleburger attended the LEAD conference several times and participated in the photography, poster, Cook-Off, livestock

judging and team fitting contests multiple times at NJAS.

“In the future, I plan to continue raising registered-Angus cattle,” he says. “After my NJAA experiences I can’t see myself without them. I will also help to support the future junior members, as they are the future of the organization that I have become so fond of.”

Eagleburger, the son of Jeff and Pam Eagleburger, attends Missouri State University and expects to graduate in May 2014 with a degree in ag business and animal science.

Taylor Flach

“Spending the last 13 years of my life as a junior member of the Angus association has forever changed my life,” says Taylor Flach of Harrodsburg, Ky. “Now that it is time for me to start planning my future, it is easy to look back and see how my involvement with the association has greatly impacted me.”



Taylor Flach

Flach joined the NJAA in 1996 and has been involved with the Angus breed through the NJAA and the Kentucky Junior Angus Association ever since. She served her state association as an officer for three years, attended the LEAD conference twice and was selected to receive several scholarships through the Angus breed in 2010.

Exhibiting cattle across her state, region and nation, Flach says her time in the NJAA has had an effect on the person she is today.

“I could go on for days about how this industry has molded me into who I am,” she says, “however, the two things that I think have helped build my future the most are friendships and responsibility.”

The daughter of Brett and Lynn Flach, she currently attends Southern Illinois University–Carbondale where she expects to earn an agribusiness economics degree in May 2014.

MacKenzie Flory

MacKenzie Flory of Baldwin City, Kan., first joined the NJAA in 2004. As a member of the Kansas Junior Angus Association, Flory took on multiple leadership roles,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 110

Aberdeen in twenty-thirteen

Give Me the Gold CONTINUED FROM PAGE 109

including her service as the 2012-2013 first vice president. Flory saw the opportunities



MacKenzie Flory

conference.

As an NJAS exhibitor, Flory competed in contests including the Cook-Off and quiz bowl events. In 2013, Flory was selected to represent her state in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, in which she placed second.

Flory, the daughter of Jason and Wendy Flory, attends Iowa State University and is seeking a degree in agricultural studies. She plans to graduate in 2015.

James Full

Joining the NJAA in 1997, James Full of Woodbine, Md., has been an active member



James Full

enriched Full's junior career, as well as his future.

"The NJAA has impacted my life in ways that no other organization ever could," Full says. "Being a part of this Association has enabled me to branch out to other Angus enthusiasts across the country and build lifelong relationships. I have developed leadership and communication skills, along with a strong work ethic, to take with me in whatever my future holds."

Traveling across the country to exhibit his cattle, Full has created many memories, including being selected by his state to participate in the NJAS Showmanship Contest.

"The opportunities I've been given over the

last 12 years, and the memories made along the way, will never be forgotten," Full says.

The son of Douglas and Donna Full plans to obtain an agribusiness degree from Carroll County Community College.

Taylor Gazda

"When I stop and think back on my career as a National Junior Angus Association



Taylor Gazda

member, it's hard to keep tears from filling my eyes," Taylor Gazda says. "I guess you could say we are all beyond blessed to be a part of such an influential organization."

Having received her member code in November 1992, Taylor Gazda of Athens, Ga., was officially an NJAA member at 1 month of age.

"My dad's role in the American Angus Association and the NJAA truly made both my sister and I's junior careers a family affair. I will never be able to thank the NJAA enough for making my family who we are today."

As a member of both the Georgia Junior Angus Association, as well as the NJAA, Gazda has served as the president of her state junior association, was crowned in 2009 the Georgia Junior Angus Queen and was selected as a voting delegate for the 2009 NJAS. Gazda also participated in NJAA conferences such as LEAD throughout her junior career. Exhibiting cattle across the southeast and at NJAS, Gazda was also involved in the team sales and photo contests at NJAS.

Gazda, the daughter of David and Carolyn Gazda, attends Oklahoma State University where she expects to graduate in May 2016 with a degree in agricultural communications and animal science.

Tara Gray

From the Hawkeye State, Tara Gray of Toledo, Iowa, joined the NJAA in 2001 and has since benefitted greatly from her experiences in the NJAA. Gray took advantage of opportunities such as attending the LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences, as well as applying for and receiving an NJAA scholarship. Gray has also participated in the photography contest.

"The production facet of my NJAA journey has been challenging, the



Tara Gray

producers and associates," Gray says.

In the future, she hopes to continue her Angus herd expansion and establish herself as a premier breeder; earn double majors at Iowa State University in ag education and ag business while earning minors in animal science, meat science and agronomy; and continue to support the Angus breed and beef producers through participation and advocacy.

Gray, the daughter of Terry and Julie Gray, received her ag business and ag education degrees from Kirkwood Community College in May 2013.

Cole Greiman

Cole Greiman of Garner, Iowa, first joined the NJAA in 1996. Greiman, the son of Ted and Mary Greiman, soon became



Cole Greiman

involved in the Iowa Junior Angus Association, as well as the Iowa Junior Angus North Central District Association, in which he would serve many officer roles. Greiman took full advantage of his time as a junior member by applying for and receiving scholarships from both the Iowa Angus Auxiliary and the NJAA, serving as a state delegate, and attending both the LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences.

At the NJAS, he was involved in a variety of activities, including competing in the photography, quiz bowl and livestock judging contests. In 2012, he was selected to represent his state in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, in which he placed third.



Greiman has worked hard to build the genetics of his herd, and has marketed his cattle through sales including Sharing in the Progress sale and the Sioux Empire Show & Sale for several years.

Currently attending Iowa State University, Greiman expects to graduate with an agricultural studies degree in May 2015.

Hannah Grim

An NJAA member since 2001, Hannah Grim of East Berlin, Pa., became heavily involved in the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association in many capacities, including as a voting delegate to the NJAS in 2009 and 2010. Grim was also crowned the Pennsylvania Angus Queen in 2010.



Hannah Grim

Having exhibited cattle at shows including the NJAS for multiple years, Grim also participated in the livestock judging contest at the NJAS. After establishing her cattle herd through the family farm, Grim began raising her own Angus cattle and consigned to the BCA Private Treaty Sale for the first time in 2012.

“If I had not bought my first heifer, I would have never gained these great skills, which I will continue to use,” Grim says of her involvement as a junior in the Angus breed.

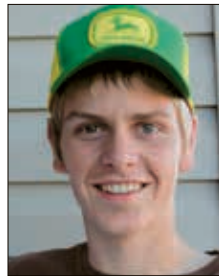
“The National Junior Angus Association has shaped me into the individual I am today by instilling different leadership skills and a great work ethic that I will continue to use throughout my life.”

Grim, the daughter of Elizabeth Landis and Gregory Grim, attends Penn State University, where she expects to earn her degree in animal science with a minor in agribusiness in May 2014.

Jared Herbst

When Jared Herbst of Salmon, Idaho, joined the NJAA in 1996, he couldn’t have imagined the experiences he would have through the organization. Herbst attended LEAD; exhibited at many shows, including the NJAS; and participated in the NJAS mentoring program, quiz bowl, team fitting and team sales competitions. Herbst

also received a scholarship from his state association as a result of his involvement in the Angus breed.



Jared Herbst

“I enjoy the lifestyle of the Angus business and the ability to work with the good people that share the same interests. My desire to help build the agriculture industry has been planted in

me since I was a young boy working with my hands, and has grown as I have continued to work in the industry,” Herbst says.

“I have discovered that there are many aspects of the work, but recognize that each aspect has its place in building the industry. I know that it takes hard and smart work to become successful, and I intend to do both of those as I continue my life in the field of agriculture. Thank you to NJAA for giving me such a great start!”

Herbst, the son of Steve and Janna Herbst, expects to earn an ag business degree from Brigham Young University in 2016.

Judson Hoffschneider

“The National Junior Angus Association has been a great experience for me,”



Judson Hoffschneider

says Judson Hoffschneider, the son of Scott and Jennifer Hoffschneider of Arlington, Neb., who has been a member of the NJAA since 1995. Enrolled at the University of

Nebraska–Lincoln, he is pursuing a degree in agribusiness, banking and finance with a minor in animal science. He says showing cattle has taught him the lessons of hard work and dedication.

Having been given an Angus heifer at the age of 3 by his parents, Hoffschneider has used that female to build a herd of 10 females. He admits that he did not realize early in life how influential that gift would be and how it would define his life.

Through his involvement in the NJAA, he has gained skills that have helped him succeed in college and life. He is currently

serving as the Nebraska Junior Angus Association president. He has participated as a junior member since 2004 on a national level, having served as a voting delegate, as well as a participant in the career development contest and quiz bowl.

“I look to stay involved in the Angus Association in any capacity that I can,” Hoffschneider says. “As I continue towards my future, I know agriculture will play a key role, and I know my Angus roots will not be forgotten.”

Jason Jallo

Joining the NJAA in 1993 at a little over a year of age, Jason Jallo of Fordville, N.D.,



Jason Jallo

has grown up in the breed. Since then Jallo has served as the vice president and president of the North Dakota Junior Angus Association, in addition to being selected as a voting delegate to the NJAS

in 2008, 2010 and 2011.

Jallo participated in the LEAD conference offered by NJAA, as well as the Guiding Outstanding Angus Leaders (GOAL) conference through the Canadian Junior Angus Association.

“Thinking back on all the opportunities that I have had due to the Angus industry makes me realize how lucky I have been,” Jallo says. “I didn’t just travel to many places around the United States, but have also been able to see different parts of the world.”

Having exhibited at NJAS for a number of years, Jallo has competed in the quiz bowl, team sales and cattle judging contests.

Jallo, the son of Daryl and Debbie Jallo, attended Northland Community and Technical College studying farm management and operating systems before becoming the herdsman on the family farm, Jallo Angus Ranch.

Maggie Jasper

A Kentucky native, Maggie Jasper of Versailles, Ky., first joined the NJAA at 3 months of age. As a member of the Kentucky Junior Angus Association, Jasper served as both a director and reporter. She was also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 112

Aberdeen in twenty-thirteen

Give Me the Gold CONTINUED FROM PAGE 111

selected to serve as the 2009 Kentucky Junior Angus Association Princess and as voting delegate to the NJAS in 2010.



Maggie Jasper

Jasper's participation in the showing extended past her home state, and her involvement included exhibiting cattle and competing in the Cook-Off, quiz bowl, photography and livestock judging contests. Jasper was also selected to represent her state in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in 2012 where she earned an honorable mention.

Elected to serve on the NJAA Board in 2012, Jasper was selected to serve as the communications director for 2013-2014.

"When I began showing cattle, I never imagined that the opportunities would reach past ribbons and banners," Jasper says. "My time as a junior has come to a close, but I know that I will never have to leave behind all that I have learned. NJAA experiences do not cease at the end of the show or the conference, but will continue with me as I embrace new and exciting opportunities in the future."

Jasper, the daughter of Jim Jasper and Elizabeth Waterfill, attends Eastern Kentucky University and expects to earn a degree in occupational science in May 2015.

Sadie Kinne

Sadie Kinne of Eagleville, Mo., joined the NJAA in 2001 and joined the Missouri Junior



Sadie Kinne

Angus Association that same year. As a junior member, Kinne served as an officer for the Missouri Junior Angus Association, was selected as a delegate to the 2012 NJAS and attended LEAD twice.

Competing in the Cook-Off, quiz bowl, team sales, creative writing and photography contests at NJAS were another way for Kinne to make the most of her time as a junior.

"It provided countless opportunities to travel across the state and nation exhibiting

cattle, and I gained invaluable lifelong skills by participating in such events as team sales competitions, Cook-Off, and LEAD conferences," Kinne says. "Along with developing animal husbandry skills, I have gained the skills of communication, leadership, self-discipline and dedication that will equip me for a career in agriculture. I will always encourage all young Angus and cattle enthusiasts to take advantage of what the NJAA has to offer."

Kinne, the daughter of Keith and Shelly Kinne, attends the University of Missouri-Columbia and expects to earn an ag education degree with an emphasis in teaching in May 2015.

Colton Kreager

Joining the NJAA in 2000, Colton Kreager of Newark, Ohio, became involved in the



Colton Kreager

NJAA, as well as the Eastern Ohio Junior Angus Association, the Miami Valley Angus Association, the Northeast Ohio Junior Angus Association and the Ohio Junior Angus Association.

In addition to serving as an officer for the Eastern Ohio Junior Angus Association, Colton was awarded scholarships by the Angus Foundation, the American Angus Auxiliary and the Ohio Angus Auxiliary.

While exhibiting cattle at NJAS, Kreager participated in the photography, quiz bowl, livestock judging and poster contests.

"I learned so many life lessons and leadership skills from being involved in this organization that has helped me grow into the person I am today," Kreager says. "I will continue to stay involved as I finish my journey in the NJAA and enter adulthood and join the American Angus Association. I will also continue to be an advocate for agriculture as I stay involved in agriculture organizations in my community."

Kreager, the son of Dean and Becky Kreager, attends the Ohio State University and expects to graduate in June 2014 with a degree in ag education.

Kate Livingston

When Kate Livingston, the daughter

of Tim and Nancy Livingston, first joined the NJAA in 1993, she was almost 2 years



Kate Livingston

old. As she got older, Livingston became an involved member of the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association. She eventually was elected to serve as the association's president in 2009 and again in 2010.

Livingston, a resident of Dover, Pa., also took advantage of the organization's opportunities earning scholarships from the Pennsylvania Ladies Auxiliary and the Angus Foundation, and attending conferences such as LEAD.

As a junior at NJAS, Livingston would compete in the photography, poster, Cook-Off, extemporaneous speaking and quiz bowl contests, as well as the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest as her state's representative.

"The NJAA has provided me with a foundation upon which I built leadership, communication, organizational skills and a strong work ethic," Livingston says. "The NJAA, with its vast resources, provides opportunities to gain self-confidence and foster growth. I am very grateful for the time spent in the NJAA because they have helped to define the person I have become. The friendship and the memories really do make it the best 21 years of your life."

Livingston attends Penn State University and expects to graduate with a degree in ag education and extension in May 2014.

Colby Myers

Having originally joined the NJAA in 2002, Colby Myers of Harrodsburg, Ky., later broadened his involvement by joining the Kentucky Junior Angus Association. Myers served throughout his state association as a two-year director, treasurer and, finally, first vice president.

Competing at the NJAS in the Cook-Off and team sales competitions taught Myers that the NJAA involved so much more than exhibiting his cattle.

"I first began my involvement in the NJAA by exhibiting cattle, but I quickly learned that the NJAA has much more to offer," Myers says. "I have traveled to LEAD and Raising



the Bar conferences all over the country where I gained valuable industry knowledge and leadership skills, but also had the chance to make many friends.



Colby Myers

evaluate cattle. Thanks to the NJAA, I have Angus friends all over the nation and have plans to continue developing my herd of Angus cattle.”

Myers, the son of Joe and Toni Myers, is enrolled at the University of Kentucky majoring in ag economics with a minor in business. He expects to graduate in May 2014.

Miles Pearson

A native of the Sunflower State, Miles Pearson of Scott City, Kan., first joined the NJAA in 1999 before widening his opportunities on the state level by becoming involved in the Kansas Junior Angus Association. Pearson served from 2006 until 2012 as the state’s District 7 director.



Miles Pearson

Attending the NJAS twice, Pearson participated in the mentoring program, as well as the Cook-Off, photography, extemporaneous speaking, livestock judging, quiz bowl, poster, creative writing, graphic design, team sales and coloring contests.

Having built a herd through the years, Pearson began consigning cattle to the Mid-Kansas Angus Breeders sale in 2005 as a way to showcase his herd’s genetics.

Pearson feels his involvement in both his state association and the NJAA prepared him for his future.

“Being involved with the NJAA, and with cattle in general, has made me more aware of my responsibilities and the importance of staying on top of them,” Pearson says.

Pearson, the son of Clint and Lisa Pearson,

attends Kansas State University while pursuing a degree in food science, which he expects to earn in 2015.

Jessica Radcliffe

Jessica Radcliffe of Weston, Wis., joined the NJAA only a few months after she was born in 1993.



Jessica Radcliffe

Radcliffe became involved in the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association later in her junior career, serving as the organization’s president in 2011 and 2012. Radcliffe has taken full advantage of the leadership opportunities offered by the NJAA by attending both the LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences. In 2012 she was selected by her state association as its representative to the NJAS, where she was named top showman.

Radcliffe, the daughter of Renee and the late Jan Radcliffe, attends the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign while pursuing a degree in agriculture and consumer economics. She hopes to graduate in May 2015.

Kelsey Stabler

Kelsey Stabler of Laytonsville, Md., first joined the NJAA in 2005. A member of both the NJAA and the Maryland Junior Angus Association, Stabler has served twice as a director of her state association. In addition, Stabler applied for and received a scholarship from the Maryland Angus



Kelsey Stabler

Association and was selected to serve as the Maryland Angus Queen in 2010.

Exhibiting her cattle across the United States has been a great opportunity for Stabler, who participated in the 2012 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, in which she placed fifth.

“The Junior Angus Association has offered me many opportunities that I will carry forward with me,” Stabler says. “I will forever treasure the lifelong friendships I have made

throughout my junior career. Even though I am at the end of my time as a junior, I plan to actively work with the American Angus Association and the Auxiliary in the future to be able to impact other juniors’ lives as positively as mine was impacted. I would like to especially thank my father for giving me this opportunity and supporting me as I continue my journey through life!”

Stabler, the daughter of Randy Stabler, graduated from Mount Saint Mary’s University in May 2013 with a degree in accounting.

Austin Thummel

Representing the Show-Me State, Austin Thummel of Sheridan, Mo., joined the NJAA



Austin Thummel

in 2001 and became a member of the Missouri Junior Angus Association that same year. As a Missouri junior member, Thummel served as the District One representative before being elected president in 2011.

Thummel took part in a range of NJAA activities, from applying for and receiving an NJAA scholarship to serving as a delegate to the NJAA in 2012, and even attending both the LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences.

Exhibiting his cattle across the Midwest, Thummel traveled to NJAS multiple times, participating in the extemporaneous speaking, quiz bowl, photography, creative writing and Cook-Off contests, as well as the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest.

“Through the NJAA, I have seen many segments of the agricultural industry in many states,” Thummel says. “I have enjoyed ‘talking shop’ with those making an impact on this vital industry. Without my involvement in the NJAA, I would not have had the opportunity to travel so extensively or visit with such a vast array of people. I urge younger juniors to make the most of all opportunities.”

Thummel, the son of Jeff and Deb Thummel, expects to earn his ag business and agronomy degree from Northwest Missouri State University in May 2015.

Give Me the Gold CONTINUED FROM PAGE 113

Lindsay Turner

A native of Covington, Tenn., Lindsay Turner joined the NJAA in 2001. As a member of the Tennessee Junior Angus Association, Turner served in many officer positions, including president for 2010-2011. She was selected as the Tennessee Junior Angus Association Queen for 2011-2012, as well as serving as a delegate for her state at the 2012 NJAS.

Besides her involvement on the state level, Turner has attended both Raising the Bar and LEAD conferences, and has exhibited her cattle across the state of Tennessee and the nation by traveling to several junior nationals. At the NJAS, Wilson participated in the poster, photography, livestock judging and quiz bowl contests.

"The Angus association has helped shape who I am by allowing me to work with my passions: cattle and talking to people," Turner says. "By working with animals all my life, I found my passion for educating people on the breed and agriculture in general. By going to shows, I made connections and got to talk to so many wonderful people that show me that agricultural communication is what I want to do with the rest of my life."

Turner, the daughter of John and Amber Turner, expects to earn an ag communications degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin in December 2014.

Lindsay Upperman

Lindsay Upperman of Chambersburg, Pa., first joined the NJAA in 2003 and became involved in the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association later on in her junior career in 2004. Through the years, Upperman held the offices of director, vice president and president with her state association. In addition, she served as the Pennsylvania Angus queen, was



Lindsay Upperman

awarded scholarships from the American Angus Auxiliary and Angus Foundation, and participated in the LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences.

As an exhibitor at the NJAS, Upperman participated in the Cook-Off, prepared public speaking, quiz bowl, livestock judging, career development, creative writing, extemporaneous speaking and team fitting contests. She was recently elected to serve as a director of the NJAA.

"Angus cattle and the Angus Association have played a vital role in the person I have become," Upperman says. "As I hope to turn all my current and future visions into realities, I also want to help advocate the agricultural industries to the public in how they have influenced my decisions, and have provided the role models that I look up to every day. In the end, it's not about the realities we experience, it's about the many visions we can turn into a reality."

Upperman, the daughter of Steve and Jane Upperman, earned her animal science degree from Butler Community College in May 2013.

Paige Wallace

Born and raised in Missouri, Paige Wallace of Stotts City joined the American Angus Association one month after her birth in 1992. Wallace joined the Missouri Junior Angus Association and served her state as secretary, vice president and president before running for and being elected to the NJAA Board. Wallace was selected as Miss American Angus in 2011.



Paige Wallace

At past NJAS events, Wallace has served as a voting delegate for Missouri, competed in the team sales, photography and Cook-Off contests, received the Outstanding Leader award, and, this year competed in and won the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest.

"My involvement in the NJAA has been one of the most impacting activities I have been involved in thus far and has undoubtedly shaped my future. Growing up in the cattle industry enabled me to spend

time with my family, and taught my brother and I the true value of hard work. Learning this and other skills at a young age enabled me to have an understanding of drive and passion. Today I carry that drive and passion into my pursuit of a career in the agriculture industry," she says.

Wallace, the daughter of Ernie and Tammy Wallace, attends Oklahoma State University and intends to graduate with an ag communications degree in May 2014.

Cory Watt

As a junior, Jonathan "Cory" Watt of Iva, S.C., first joined the NJAA in 2000 and became involved in the South Carolina Junior Angus Association (SCJAA) not long after. As a state member, Watt served in a number of capacities, including as director, secretary, vice president and, finally, president.



Cory Watt

"By becoming a member of the NJAA and the SCJAA, it has taught me how to become a better communicator, leader, showman, breeder and the person I am today," Watt says.

As a junior member, Watt was selected to serve as a state delegate to the NJAS and participated in leadership activities such as the LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences. At the NJAS, he competed in the team sales, quiz bowl and livestock judging.

"I feel like being a part of the Angus breed has taught me hard work, responsibility and dedication," Watt says. "I feel like those three characteristics are what it takes to be successful."

At the 2013 NJAS, Watt was elected to the NJAA Board and will begin his two-year term as a director this summer.

Watt, the son of John and Rebecca Watt, studies animal agribusiness at Clemson University and expects to graduate in the spring of 2014.

Katelyn Wilson

From the Hoosier State, Katelyn Wilson of Orleans, Ind., first joined the NJAA in 2000 and later became involved in the Indiana Junior Angus Association, serving



as the junior advisor in both 2012 and 2013. Wilson exhibited cattle throughout her state and at the NJAS, where she received an Angus Foundation scholarship in 2012 before attending the LEAD conference that summer. While at NJAS, Wilson made the most



Katelyn Wilson

of the experience by participating in the Cook-Off, team sales, quiz bowl and team fitting contests, as well as competing in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in 2012.

“My time in the NJAA has opened more doors than I ever thought possible,” says Wilson. “I started out as a 9-year-old just wanting to follow in the footsteps of my big sisters, showing cattle and spending my summers on the road traveling the show circuit. That hobby turned into my biggest passion and led me to meet some of the most important people in my life. The National Junior Angus Association has become like a second family to me and given me opportunities that otherwise would not have been in my life.”

Wilson, the daughter of Loran and Kathy Wilson, attends the University of Kentucky and expects to earn a degree in ag communications and animal science in December 2014.

Hannah Wright

First joining the NJAA in 1999, Hannah Wright of Spring City, Tenn., has served her home state through many positions, including as president of the Tennessee Junior Angus Association in both 2010 and 2012, as well as being named a junior co-chair for the 2012 NJAS in Louisville, Ky.



Hannah Wright

While involved in the NJAA, Wright applied for and was awarded scholarships by both the Angus Auxiliary and the Angus Foundation, was named as a delegate to NJAS twice, attended both LEAD and Raising the

Bar, and was named the Outstanding Leader at the 2013 NJAS.

As an exhibitor at NJAS, Wright competed in events including extemporaneous speaking, prepared speaking and career development, as well as the 2011 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, in which she earned an honorable mention. Wright also had the opportunity to vie for the NJAA Angus Ambassador in 2012, and she was a finalist for Miss American Angus in 2011.

“My involvement in the NJAA has deepened my knowledge of the breed of cattle that I love,” Wright says. “It has provided me with the tools of leadership and confidence that have supported me throughout my education. The knowledge I have gained has propelled me forward into a job market confident in my decisions.”

Wright, the daughter of Timothy and Connie Wright, attends the University of Tennessee–Knoxville and plans to earn her ag economics and animal science degrees in May 2014.

Shannon Yokley

Shannon Yokley of Jefferson City, Mo., joined the NJAA in 2007 before becoming involved in the Missouri Junior Angus Association. As a member of her state association, Yokley served in many leadership roles, and was elected to first vice president for the coming year. During



Shannon Yokley

her junior career, Yokley benefitted from the NJAA by receiving a scholarship from her state association, serving as a voting delegate at NJAS and attending the LEAD conference.

At NJAS, Yokley participated in the quiz bowl, Cook-Off and photography contests.

“Organizations like the NJAA are so essential to the growth and development of young agriculturalists,” Yokley says. “I myself have grown and developed, but most importantly I have found my passion through this organization. Since the age of 8, I have been active in showing and various contests, but at the end of the day, there is much more than competition — you are left with lifelong friends. I have been truly blessed for being

able to be a member of this organization, and I cannot wait to pass my passion for it to the next generation.”

Yokley, daughter of S. “Wayne” and Karen Yokley, attends the University of Missouri–Columbia while pursuing an ag journalism degree, which she expects to earn in May 2015.

Drake Yon

At less than 1 month old, Drake Yon of Ridge Spring, S.C., joined the NJAA. After becoming involved in the South Carolina Junior Angus Association, Yon served as the vice president of the organization in 2011. As an NJAA member, he received scholarships at the NJAS for two years,



Drake Yon

attended LEAD conferences in Colorado and Tennessee, and served as a voting delegate for his state at the NJAS. A participant in NJAS, Yon competed in the quiz bowl contest in 2012.

“Angus cattle have always had a major influence on my life. Ever since birth I have been submersed in the Angus industry, and it has been a key factor in shaping me into the person I am today, positively influencing me on many levels. It has taught me the value of hard work and a job done right,” Yon says.

Currently enrolled at Clemson University, Yon, the son of Kevin and Lydia Yon, is pursuing an ag economics degree with a minor in animal science, which he expects to earn in May 2014.

“Hopefully, my agricultural economics degree will prepare me to evaluate feasible ways for our business to expand,” he adds. “Most importantly, I am excited to someday get to raise my own family around an industry that has taught me so much and offered me so many opportunities.”

