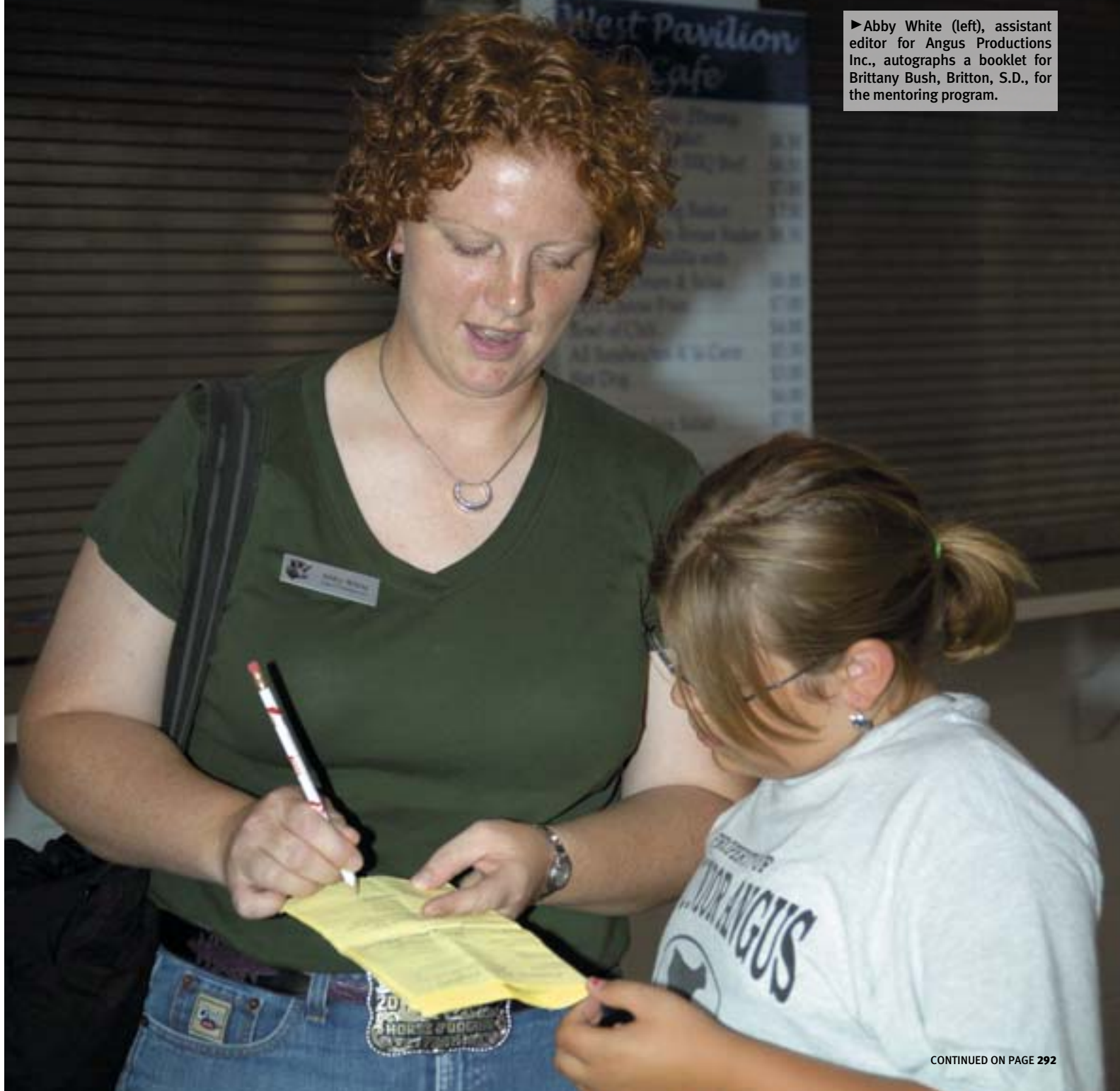


Mentoring Magic

Program partners mentors and protégés to meet and greet.

Story & photos by *Micky Wilson*

► Abby White (left), assistant editor for Angus Productions Inc., autographs a booklet for Brittany Bush, Britton, S.D., for the mentoring program.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 292

A yearly tradition to help newcomers to the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) meet Angus contemporaries, the Mentoring Program matches first- and second-year protégés with seasoned mentors through a lottery system. Mentors help their younger partners gain information about the show and contests, research fun facts, and obtain autographs of NJAS hosts and American Angus Association staff.

Kara Wilson, 19, from Orleans, Ind., was in attendance for her ninth NJAS. This was the fourth time she had participated in the Mentoring Program as a mentor.

“The Mentoring Program gives you a great chance to get to know some [of] the younger members that you otherwise might not interact with on a regular basis,” Wilson said. “It gives them a great chance to get to walk around and know some of the adults that they might not meet on a regular basis. And it’s a great chance to just get around and mingle with people from other states.”

Brittany Bush, 11, from Britton, S.D., was attending her first NJAS. Her parents encouraged her to participate in the Mentoring Program, she said, “because it’s my first year, and I don’t really know very many people. I did it so I could get to know people.”

When she wasn’t working on her owned heifer, Bush was busy getting autographs for her mentoring booklet. Attaining autographs of those printed in their mentoring booklets encouraged the juniors to meet more people during the week of the NJAS.

Ryan Reid, 13, of Eaton Rapids, Mich., also attended the NJAS for the first time this year. He participated in the Mentoring Program for reasons similar to Bush.

“This is my first year, and I don’t really know many people,” Reid explained. “I just wanted to meet some more people.”

In addition to the Mentoring Program, Reid busied himself during the week with his Angus steer entry.

“The Mentoring Program gives you a great chance to get to know some [of] the younger members that you otherwise might not interact with on a regular basis.”

— Kara Wilson

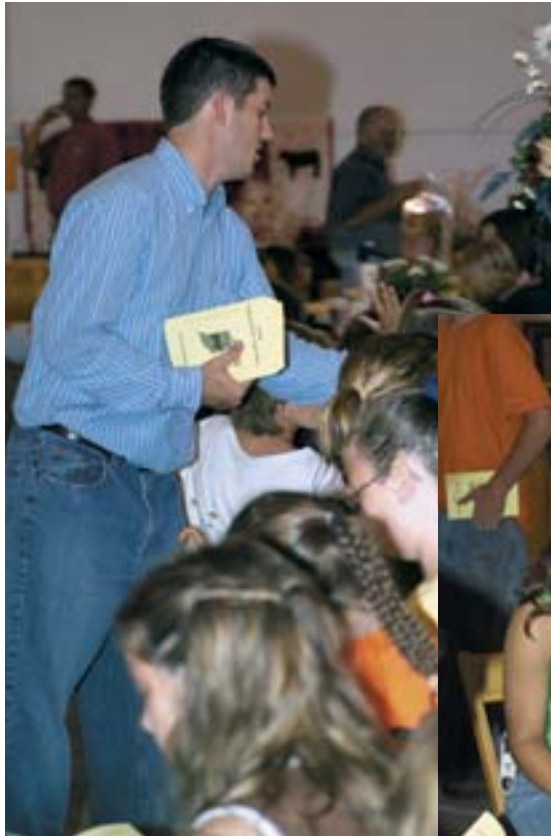
Wilson served as the mentor for both Bush and Reid, in addition to running for a position on the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors, which she attained, and working on an owned heifer. With regard to the Mentoring Program, Wilson concluded, “I encourage everyone to get into it their first or second year. It’s a great opportunity.”



► **Above:** NJAA members come in out of the rain to gather for the Mentoring Mixer where first- and second-year NJAS attendees are grouped with seasoned NJAS mentors.



► **Above & left:** Mentors and protégés introduce themselves to one another and learn more about each other at the Mentoring Mixer.



► **Left:** NJAA Director Casey Jentz, Fennimore, Wis., hands out booklets to Mentoring Program protégés.

► **Right:** NJAA Director Zebadiah Gray (right), Toledo, Iowa, signs a booklet for Katlyn Tunstill, Fayetteville, Ark., who participated in the NJAA Mentoring Program.



► **Below:** Jessica Clowser (right), Milford, Neb., poses with her Mentoring Program protégé. Jessica was very active in helping her partner attain autographs for his booklet.



► **Above:** Kara Wilson (center), Orleans, Ind., talks with Aliesha Dethlefs (right), North Platte, Neb., during the Mentoring Mixer. During the activity, mentors and protégés are introduced and grouped together to complete the Mentoring Program.



► **Right:** From left, Brittany Bush, Kara Wilson and Ryan Reid start filling out their autograph booklets for the Mentoring Program.

