



# Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights. Compiled by *Kasey Brown*, special projects editor.

## Four traits of successful people

*My years of being a junior member are almost up. While I have made mistakes along the way, I have gained valuable lessons throughout my 10 years of being involved in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). I am only 20, so I know I will make more. However, I have had the privilege of watching so many successful people within the American Angus Association, all of whom carried four distinct personality traits.*

### Observations

**Perseverance** is the steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty in achieving success. I believe that the most important lessons in life are learned through the difficult and hard times. Often in the midst of the storm we don't understand why these things are happening. To quote John Wooden, perhaps one of the most famous basketball coaches of all time, "The initiative to push through difficult times is the ability to act."

Failure to act is often the biggest failure of all. We need to prepare ourselves in all ways and summon the wherewithal to apply the initiative to push through in difficult times. This Association has persevered to see the future generations succeed beyond expectations.

**Humility** is having a modest view of one's importance. This might be the hardest lesson to learn, but it is the most rewarding. Showing selflessness for another can give you a great feeling. In today's world, it is something we rarely see. People tend to boast about their accomplishments and are quick to take the credit for another's success. What I have learned, however, is the guy who doesn't need the credit is the guy you want on your team.

C.S. Lewis might have said it best:

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." I have seen many people willing to put this organization ahead



**Jordyn Wagner**

of themselves and do whatever it takes to further each aspect of the Association.

**Character** is moral or ethical quality. For me, character is a work ethic and drive to do whatever it takes to achieve your goals.

Our lifestyle in the cattle business does not lend itself to the lazy or unmotivated. If you want it, you have to work for it. I have learned that no one else will get it for you ... you have to earn it.

To quote Derek Jeter, one of the most famous New York Yankee baseball players of all time, "There may be people that have more talent than you, but there is no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do."

There may not be one person in this Association that has all the talent, but with the collaboration of many individuals to drive the Angus breed forward, we will reach our goals.

**Grace** may be my favorite, and it is definitely the most valuable lesson I have gained. I am not talking about showing elegance and refinement of movement, although those are very important. I am more focused on the action of showing grace to those around me. The verb form of the word is to honor or credit someone — to forgive! That is the part of grace that is the most important lesson.

The hardest thing in life is often to forgive someone who has wronged you. Forgiveness is the gift that will set you free and allow you to move forward to persevere. Be humble and show your true character. Amplify that in your life to offer grace to those around you. I believe this is something we need to make a conscious effort to work at each day. This lesson is one that is ongoing.

We are in the people business, and sometimes feelings get hurt. However, if you are able to put those feelings aside to do what is best for that organization or that individual, you are on your way to achieving grace.

A former FBI agent, John Connolly, says, "There is nobility in compassion, a beauty in empathy, a grace in forgiveness."

If we can live our lives by persevering and showing humility, character and grace, we will have gained some of the most valuable lessons in life. As for me, when the person I want to be collides with the person I am working to be, it will make for a beautiful thing. It will make for an Angus girl from Montana who is leading and promoting black Angus cattle in the best way possible.

— **Jordyn Wagner, Montana**

## NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### TERMS UP IN 2017

**MACY PERRY**, California, **chairman**, macy.perry@okstate.edu  
**REESE TUCKWILLER**, West Virginia, **vice chairman**, reeset94@gmail.com  
**GABRIELLE LEMENAGER**, Illinois, **communications director**, gabriellelemenager@yahoo.com  
**BRADEN HENRICKS**, Oklahoma, **Foundation director**, bradenhenricks@gmail.com  
**TIM MARDESEN**, Iowa, **leadership director**, timothymardesen@yahoo.com  
**KATELYN CORSENTINO**, Louisiana, **membership director**, katelyn.corSENTINO@gmail.com

### TERMS UP IN 2018

**MADISON BUTLER**, Indiana, mbutler\_44@hotmail.com  
**MICHAELA CLOWSER**, Nebraska, michaela.clowser@gmail.com  
**CORBIN COWLES**, Kentucky, corbin.cowles@okstate.edu  
**CATIE HOPE**, Virginia, chope714@gmail.com  
**WILL POHLMAN**, Arkansas, fwpohlma@uark.edu  
**JORDYN WAGNER**, Montana, jordynlynnwagner@gmail.com



Visit the NJAA web site at [www.njaa.info](http://www.njaa.info).

## Angus students awarded CME beef industry scholarships

Three college-aged Angus youth pursuing careers in the beef industry have been chosen for the 2017-2018 \$1,500 CME beef industry scholarships. The scholarship is sponsored by the CME Group and administered by the National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF). **Taylor Sitz** of Bozeman, Mont., is the overall essay winner.

In addition to the \$1,500 scholarship, Sitz receives a trip to Nashville, Tenn., for the 2017 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show, where she will be recognized at the Best of Beef Awards Breakfast. Sitz currently attends Montana State University, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in animal

science, as well as a minor in business administration. She is currently enrolled in the pre-veterinary program with plans to become a large-animal veterinarian.

“Growing up on a ranch, I developed a commitment to the beef industry at an early age,” Sitz said. “I am interested in becoming a large-animal veterinarian, and through ranch life I have been able to see and visit as they doctored cut horses or lame cattle. These experiences only furthered my desire to pursue the large-animal veterinary career.”

In her essay, Sitz tackled the question of describing a risk confronting the beef industry and a solution by describing the risk of decreasing consumer confidence. Sitz wrote about the importance of using education through social media as a tool to improve consumer confidence in the beef industry.

Other \$1,500 CME Scholarship winners included **Dan Johnson**, Kansas State University, Dillon, Mont., and **Shelby Schiefelbein**, Texas A&M University, Kimball, Minn.

To learn more about scholarship opportunities and additional youth support from the NFC visit [www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org/](http://www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org/).

### **National Junior Recognition Program**

**Izabella Bear**, Aurora, Ind., has earned the

## **Register for Raising the Bar**

The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) hosts Raising the Bar leadership conferences each year as a way to encourage its members to travel, meet other NJAA youth and learn more about the Angus business. Raising the Bar conferences will take place in two locations this spring, and juniors are encouraged to take note of upcoming deadlines.

Raising the Bar conferences will be hosted in Baton Rouge, La., March 2-5; and Des Moines, Iowa, April 6-9. The tentative schedule for both conferences includes a campus tour, educational workshops, farm and ranch tours, as well as social activities and games. Go online to access a conference schedule for Louisiana and Iowa.

“The National Junior Angus Board has been planning some fantastic events in Baton Rouge and Des Moines,” says Chelsey Smith, American Angus Association assistant director of events and education. “We encourage all of our junior members to consider attending one of the conferences.”

Made possible through donations to the Angus Foundation, the NJAA’s Raising the Bar conferences are an opportunity for junior members to experience college campuses across the country, learn about careers in agriculture and connect with other cattle enthusiasts.

Registration for the Louisiana event is due by Feb. 1. To attend Raising the Bar in Iowa, you must be signed up by March 1. To participate, visit the NJAA website to download registration forms. The \$100 registration fee covers lodging, conference meals and materials.

For more information on these events or to see more registration deadlines, visit [www.njaa.info](http://www.njaa.info).

— by *Jena McReel, Angus Media*

NJAA Bronze award, according to Jaclyn Clark, education and events director of the American Angus Association.

The 11-year-old daughter of Kenny and Heather Bear attends Manchester Elementary and is a member of the NJAA and the Indiana Junior Angus Association, which she serves as historian and district director.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Izabella participated in the photography and writing contests.

She has submitted weight data to Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®).

