



# Juniors ‘Raise the Bar’ in Georgia

NJAA members gather for three-day event in Atlanta.

by *Jena Wagner, American Angus Association*

**A**ngus youth from eight different states gathered in Atlanta, Ga., April 9-12 to attend Raising the Bar at the University of Georgia. The conferences represent an opportunity for National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members to travel to different parts of the country, learn from experts in the beef business and meet new friends with the same passion for Angus cattle.

Fifteen NJAA members met to tour the University of Georgia campus, participate in leadership training workshops and enjoy social events. The group also made a stop at the Partisover Ranch, Colbert, Ga., for a tour and dinner.

“Raising the Bar

conferences are a really fantastic way for our Angus juniors to learn more about higher education, careers in agriculture, and visit Angus farms and ranches,” says Jaclyn Upperman, American Angus Association director of events and education.

While on the University of Georgia campus, juniors were able to hear from a variety of professionals, including Dean Pringle, who discussed the meat-processing procedure in the campus meat lab. Participants also heard from Franklin West, who gave insight to his stem cell research in large animals. Mark Froetschel

discussed digestion in the ruminant animal and gave the juniors an

opportunity to feel inside the rumen of a steer.

Participating in the conference were, by state, from Georgia, Abbey Gretsch, Haley Throne and Greyson Fernandez; from Idaho, Shane Kerner; from Kansas, Bailey Corwine; from Nebraska, Cheyann Lovett; from New York, Katharine Wesche; from South Dakota, Alex Rogen; from Texas, Tylee Jo Williams; and from Virginia, Mark Alexander, Lauren Beasley, Morgan Alexander, Catie Hope and Helena St. Clair.

Now in the eighth year, Raising the Bar conferences continue to foster the development of Angus youth by hosting events in four regions across the country. The NJAA, with sponsorship from the Angus Foundation, has conducted Raising the Bar conferences in cities such as Nashville, Tenn.; Ames, Iowa; Columbus, Ohio; and Stillwater, Okla. To learn more about how to participate in an upcoming Raising the Bar conference, visit [www.njaa.info](http://www.njaa.info).



**Editor’s Note:** *Jena Wagner is the activities and events intern for the American Angus Association.*

