

# Years of Dedication Pay Off

Auxiliary awards 10 scholarships to NJAA members.

by **Corinne Blender**

**T**he application isn't exactly simple, but it's not complex. Filling it out requires years of recordkeeping and attention to detail, something most Angus breeders do just to stay in business. For 10 National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members, good recordkeeping paid off as they were awarded \$9,000 in scholarship money from the American Angus Auxiliary.

Five young women and five young men were chosen from 25 applications representing 18 states. The scholarship program has been providing financial support to beginning college freshmen for 47 years.

Amy Iman Bellis, national scholarship chairwoman, presented the scholarships at the 2003 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Louisville, Ky. The following outstanding NJAA members are this year's Auxiliary scholarship recipients.

## Wravenna Phipps

Wravenna Phipps, Kearney, Neb., describes her involvement with Angus cattle as "an education on wheels." It's true. This young lady is constantly on the move, supporting *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®), showing cattle and representing the breed to organizations across America. It is her dedication to Angus that helped her claim the \$1,100 first-place scholarship.

"My Angus cattle experiences provided me priceless life skills like responsibility, a strong work ethic, recordkeeping and financial lessons. Those cattle had to be fed regardless of the weather or how I felt," Wravenna says. "They brought me in touch with some of the finest people and taught me how to heat detect, figure rations, vaccinate, calve and assist with AI (artificial insemination). Taking part in the speech, quiz bowl and team sales further developed me into a confident and knowledgeable Angus breeder."

Wravenna has been active in the Nebraska Junior Angus Association and the NJAA for six years. She has been a leader at many events, including state shows and the NJAS.

Her speaking talents have not only earned her many awards, they have also afforded her the opportunity to be a guest speaker at the White House.

Wravenna is the daughter of William and



Robin Phipps. She currently attends Black Hawk College, Moline, Ill., and will finish her degree in ag communications and public relations at Oklahoma State University (OSU), Stillwater.

## Lisa Stream

Iowa Junior Angus member Lisa Stream, Chariton, says growing up on a farm has taught her many life lessons in common sense, health care and responsibility.

These traits exemplify qualities desired by the selection committee, who awarded Lisa the second-place \$950 scholarship.

"I feel that the work ethic learned by those raised in agriculture is an integral part of being successful in life," Lisa says. "For this reason, I'm

grateful for my parents raising me in an agricultural setting, as it has made me a stronger, more independent person."

Lisa has successfully represented agriculture and the Angus breed by being active on state and national levels for almost a decade.

"I differ from my grandfather in the fact that I have been able to experience the people around this breed," says the third-generation Angus breeder. "They have helped shaped me into the person I am today. They not only taught me the importance of the cattle, but the value of life and importance of friends and the support they provide."



Agriculture has taught Lisa that there's always work to be done. "Learning to do work has been one of the most important lessons that I have learned," she says. "Through hard work you can accomplish most all of what you desire."

Lisa's future plans include majoring in biomedical engineering at the University of Iowa this fall. The daughter of Rodney and Sue Stream also plans to attend medical school and specialize in dermatology.

## Megin Santee

Nine years of being an NJAA member have allowed Kansas junior Megin Santee's Angus herd to grow. She brought her first Angus heifer to the farm near Langdon in a two-horse trailer.

"Now the trailer is larger and the pickup gains miles while we travel to regional and national shows," Megin says. Megin's growth in Angus hasn't just been in numbers. She has also gained experience through her involvement on the state and national levels. For this reason and many more, Megin was awarded the third-place \$900 scholarship.

"As a member of the Kansas Junior Angus Association, I have been able to participate in a wide variety of contests at the national level," she says. "These experiences have helped to develop my public speaking skills as well as given me a strong work ethic and a sense of responsibility that have molded my vision for the future."

Megin has represented her state as Kansas Angus Ambassador and currently serves as Miss Kansas Angus. The daughter of Barry and Karen Santee, Megin plans to attend Hutchinson Community College with majors in agribusiness and



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accounting before finishing her degrees at Kansas State University (K-State).

"With these degrees, I hope to be able to help others keep their operations profitable and to ensure a future for those who want to stay on the farm," she adds. "I also plan on continuing with my herd in true Angus tradition."

### Keela Retallick

Keela Retallick, Glen Haven, Wis., is the fourth-place, \$800 scholarship recipient. Keela doesn't remember the first show she attended, but Angus cattle have always been a big part of her life.

"Although I don't remember it, I attended my first show when I was 5 days old," Keela says. "My parents played a major role in my livestock show career. They were always there to help me and to teach me. I started showing in the open shows at age 3 and continue to love it today.

"Through showing and caring for animals, I have learned a lot about the realities of life. I have learned that hard work, patience, a positive attitude and determination are key elements for success," says the 2003 Wisconsin Junior Angus Association president.

Involvement outside of the showing has also played an important role in Keela's life. She was the Welcome Committee chairwoman for the 2002 NJAS in Milwaukee, Wis., and has been chairwoman for many other Wisconsin junior Angus activities. Her leadership earned her Wisconsin Junior of the Year honors in 2001 and 2002.

Keela attends the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison and is majoring in animal science and plans to pursue a career in animal genetics. She is the daughter of Kevin and Keri Retallick.

### Chelsea Moffitt

The fifth-place, \$750 scholarship recipient is Chelsea Moffitt, Kirksville, Mo. She is the daughter of John and Deena Moffitt.

Chelsea has grown through her nine-year Angus



career, learning many valuable lessons along the way. "Showing cattle has taught me to never give up, to always try my hardest, to have patience and to be disciplined in caring for my animals," Chelsea says.

Taking an active role in the Missouri Junior Angus Association has given Chelsea the opportunity to participate in many competitions offered on the state and national levels. While she spends a lot of time preparing her animals for the showing, her experiences extend further than receiving a purple ribbon.

"Even when I work hard, winning in the showing is never a sure thing," she says. "I have learned to be gracious in winning and losing. However, I now realize that my real winnings are the friends and memories I have made by being actively involved in raising Angus cattle."

Chelsea plans to graduate with a degree in ag journalism so she can help spread the good word about agriculture. She currently attends the University of Missouri-Columbia (UMC).

"My experiences showing cattle have been great," Chelsea says. "I have developed leadership and social skills while adhering to a strong work ethic."

**Editor's Note:** *The five young ladies are eligible to compete for the 2004 Miss American Angus title. The competition will be conducted in November at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky.*

### Jarrett Martin

Many years of dedication to helping other Angus juniors and sharing a passion for raising cattle have been rewarded by a \$1,100, first-place scholarship in the boys' division to Jarrett Martin, Lavaca, Ark.

"Over the years I have combined my love of the Angus breed with my desire to help others and to develop mentoring programs that really work," Jarrett says. He has found showing cattle to be an easy platform to strike up a conversation with people from all walks of life.

"Striking up a conversation allows me to share with them how my life has

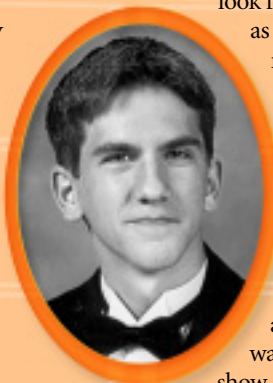


been changed by becoming a member of 4-H and the National Junior Angus Association," he says.

Jarrett, the son of Mark and Sonja Martin, has seen hard work pay off by the many awards he has received during his tenure as a junior member. But perhaps more impressive is the sheer number of events he attends and to which he dedicates his time.

This fall opens a new chapter in Jarrett's life. He is attending the NASCAR Technical Institute in Mooresville, N.C. Upon graduation he plans to continue his studies in engineering at the University of Arkansas (UA) in Fayetteville. He says his parents have agreed to "cow-sit" while he is at school, but it won't be long until he is taking care of Angus cattle.

"Showing, raising and breeding Angus cattle is in my blood," Jarrett says. "No matter where I go or what I do, I will always look fondly upon my days as a junior Angus member and breeder."



### Mark Gleason

It had been 20 years since his father had owned Angus cattle when Mark Gleason, Midlothian, Texas, asked for a heifer after watching his cousin

show. This family experience would offer Mark many opportunities to be involved in the NJAA and has afforded him the second-place, \$950 scholarship.

"Like many kids, I was transfixed by the showing, but being involved in the Angus business has taught me to look beyond the arena and focus on the real issues facing the beef industry," Mark says. "Today, I am proud to say we've grown our herd to over 40 head with an emphasis on carcass, performance and strong EPDs (expected progeny differences)."

Mark has dedicated much time to the Texas Junior Angus Association, in which he has been a leader by holding many offices, including president in 2002. He has gotten the most out of his eight years as a junior member by being active in many contests, Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences and shows.

"Decision-making, teamwork, organization and the responsibility of

leading such a large group contributed to the person I have become,” says Mark, the son of William and Kerri Gleason.

“Angus cattle have contributed much to my life, and I am forever grateful,” Mark says. “As I begin my studies at Texas A&M (University) in biomedical science, I welcome the challenge and know I’m going prepared. I plan to continue on to vet school with emphasis on genetics and research.”

### Cody Washman

“Growing up with Angus cattle has had many rewarding experiences, whether it’s in the barn, at the show or in the pasture,” says Missouri Junior Angus Association (MJAA) member Cody Washman, Pierce City. Cody is the winner of the third-place, \$900 boys’ scholarship.

“My love for Angus cattle started very young,” Cody says of his debut showing cattle at age 6. “As my interest grew, I wanted to become more involved and joined the MJAA.” Cody reached for his goal of being more involved by working his way through many leadership roles. He soon found himself president of the MJAA for 2001-2002.

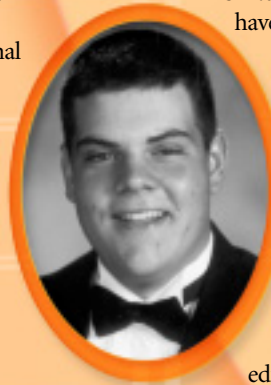
He found it important to communicate with his fellow juniors to be an effective leader. “As president of the MJAA, I started writing an article in the *Missouri Angus Trails*, our monthly Angus publication,” Cody says. “This was a means of communication to juniors year-round.”

Cody has taken on the responsibility of being a 2004 NJAS co-chairman and looks forward to the new experiences it will bring.

The son of Rick and Mary Jo Washam plans to attend Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) and major in animal science.

### Jacob Wolfrey

Jacob Wolfrey, White Post, Va., is the fourth-place, \$800 scholarship winner. Jacob, the son of Dan and Judy Wolfrey, offers credit to his parents for his involvement in the Angus business.



“When I was younger, my father decided that my sister and I needed to be responsible for something other than ourselves, so we went into the cattle business,” Jacob recalls. His first project was an Angus steer, but not long after that first show, he began a breeding program of his own.

Jacob realized that there was even more to being an Angus junior than just raising and showing cattle. He says he has made many lifelong friends and has learned “the value of hard work, ethics and sportsmanship.

“In the last several years, I have become more interested in the leadership aspect as well as the Angus business as a whole,” Jacob says. “I am currently president of the Maryland Junior Angus Association and chairman of several committees.”

Before reaching his ultimate goal of having a herd of his own, Jacob will attend Lord Fairfax Community College in Virginia and major in ag business management.

“Angus cattle have such a tremendous influence in my life, and I would like to continue raising them and eventually owning my own operation,” he adds.

### Brady Quam

Angus cattle and Angus breeders have been a big part of Lodi, Wis., junior member Brady Quam’s life. Brady was awarded the \$750, fifth-place scholarship for his dedication to the Angus lifestyle.

“My parents have instilled their love for Angus cattle and people in me,” Brady says. “Angus activities and the people I have met have enriched my life. I have had the opportunity to travel the United States and develop friendships I shall have for a lifetime.”

Brady is the son of Terry and Ardel Quam. The family farm was established in 1942 by Brady’s grandfather, and farming is a tradition that Brady seeks to continue.

“My ultimate goal is to stay actively engaged in farming,” he says. “To achieve this in the very competitive world of production agriculture, I will need to further my education.”



Brady is currently attending Madison Area Technical College in Wisconsin and is specializing in diesel mechanics. “My goal is to own my own diesel and heavy equipment dealership while actively farming,” he says. “I plan on expanding my farming operation to acquire more land for raising cash crops and increasing my cattle operation. Currently, my brother and I own and operate Quam Custom Baling.”

Brady’s overall approach to production agriculture will offer him many opportunities in the future. He says, “I have learned many life skills from my Angus activities that will help me build a successful Angus and farming operation.”

