

Auxiliary Winners Find 'Gifts'

Auxiliary scholarship winners announced at the 2008 NJAS.

by *Mathew Elliott*

Quite in the giving mode, the American Angus Auxiliary embraced the spirit of "Christmas in July" at the 2008 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Des Moines, Iowa. Every year the Auxiliary awards qualified recipients with generous gifts of scholarships to the top five young men and top five young women.

To qualify for one of the scholarships, applicants must be National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members and graduating high school seniors nominated by their state or regional associations. The scholarship application consists of 19 sections where applicants include everything from their biographical and farm information to a 300-word Angus story.

The applications are due in May, and the winners are announced at the NJAS Awards Ceremony. This year there were 25 applicants from 21 different states, and the Auxiliary awarded \$12,000 total.

This year's award winners are:

Shane Clary

Shane Clary of Brodnax, Va., won the first-place, \$1,400 scholarship in the male division. Clary says his Angus cattle have provided him "a safe environment and the opportunity to view the world as an awesome place to live the American dream."



Shane Clary

Not landowners, Clary's parents believed in providing a wholesome experience for their children in junior Angus activities. Renting land allowed opportunity for a junior Angus program, starting with Clary's older brother. It was then that Clary realized what he wanted to do with his future.

"During these early years, I knew that my family was protected in a vast resource base, Angus cattle and Angus families," Clary says. "By joining in activities, I recognized we were working team families not only locally but nationally."

While still participating in peewee Angus events, Clary says his appetite for Angus activities was whetted and he looked forward to when he could become a full-fledged NJAA member. Looking back, Clary remembers how the older NJAA members

mentored and served as role models to him.

"The Angus cattle program has also benefited me beyond the showing," Clary says. He has learned about recordkeeping, budgeting, banking, genetic selection and numerous other traits through combining research knowledge and "good ole cow sense."

Clary plans to attend Christopher Newport University and major in biology/pre-veterinary medicine.

"Presently, I am able to serve as a mentor to the youth and give back," Clary says. "I am looking forward to pursuing my college work with plans to return to my rural, southeastern Virginia community as a veterinarian."

Cole Pearson

Cole Pearson, Scott City, Kan., received the \$1,250 second-place scholarship. Pearson, his parents and younger brother all



Cole Pearson

work together to help with the family herd.

"The beef project is truly a family project," Pearson says. "We all work together feeding, vaccinating, weaning, halter-breaking and just admiring our cattle."

A source of pride for Pearson is that all animals he and his brother have shown in the past few years have been home-raised. "We are pretty proud of that because we have been competitive at the county, state and national level," Pearson says.

While he enjoys the showing and appreciates everything he has learned and all the people he has met, Pearson says he has more interest in the day-to-day raising and breeding of Angus cattle.

Pearson plans to attend Kansas State University (K-State) and major in food science and industry within the animal science and industry department.

"I chose to major in food science because it seemed to be a good fit with my academic strengths and interests in science and math," Pearson says. Areas in which Pearson is interested include food safety and developing new products.

"Because of my Angus background and experiences in meats judging, I understand

the importance of producing a safe and high-quality food product for consumers," Pearson says. "In fact, one of my goals would be to someday work for Certified Angus Beef [LLC (CAB)] developing new products."

Ethan Holly

Ethan Holly, Decatur, Ark., was awarded the \$1,200 third-place award.

Holly's love for Angus cattle comes natural to him. His mother raised Angus



Ethan Holly

when she was in 4-H, and the tradition continues. Having Angus cattle for as long as he can remember, Holly's love and knowledge of the Angus industry has grown as he has.

Along with many other exhibitors, each summer Holly and his family load up a livestock trailer and head to the NJAS for their vacation. "The memories I have aren't just about the showing, but also the contests I was involved with and all of the friends that I have made," Holly says.

Angus cattle have taught him lessons he plans to use throughout his life. "They have taught me to work hard in life, how to get along with others and to work as a team," Holly says. "They have also taught me that winning isn't everything."

With a herd consisting mainly of heifers that he has shown, Holly hopes to continue increasing his herd and use more artificial insemination (AI) in the future. He plans to attend Northeastern Oklahoma A&M (NEO) before finishing at Oklahoma State University. Studying ag business in school, he hopes to work at a bank and continue to raise Angus cattle.

"I can't imagine where my life would have been without Angus cattle," Holly says. "I am sure it would have been very boring!"

Jonathan Temple-Lee

Jonathan Temple-Lee, Maysville, Okla., won the \$1,100 fourth-place scholarship.

The middle child in a single-parent family of five, Temple-Lee has had to overcome some obstacles.

"[When I was 12], my mother found

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herself a single parent," Temple-Lee says. "I have had to assume many of the roles as head of the household. [My] mom has undergone many challenges and still held up the vision



Jonathan Temple-Lee

that my brothers, sister and I will all go to college."

Then as an active freshman in high school, he became ill during football practice. Two days later, Temple-Lee was diagnosed with Chiari

Malformation Type 1, a condition in which brain tissue protrudes into the spinal canal.

"I am assured," Temple-Lee says, "I will become a doctor and get through this, just like we do with any of our livestock obstacles."

Temple-Lee has already accomplished some of his goals, but he has set many more for himself. "I do work hard, and when I set my heart on a vision, I strive to make that dream come true. Twelve years ago, when I started school, I set a goal to make straight A's." That dream became reality when he graduated as valedictorian of his high school class. Another goal is to become a partner with Temple Ranches and become a rural medical doctor.

Accepted into the honors program at Oklahoma State University, he plans to pursue a degree in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) in microbiology and pre-medicine.

"Showing livestock has shown us that diversity might come our way, but we must stick together like a family and make the best better," he says.

Jared Brosey

Jared Brosey, Hamilton, Ohio, is the fifth-place scholarship winner, receiving \$1,050.

One of Brosey's first memories was attending his first NJAS in Des Moines in 1994. He wasn't old enough to show, but he remembers watching his two older siblings show.

"It was from that moment that I knew that showing Angus cattle would play an instrumental role in my development as a person, cattle farmer and overall responsible human being," Brosey says.

Crediting growing up on an Angus farm for the life lessons he has learned, Brosey used these lessons and applied them to schoolwork, sports and community service.

"I believe that my success in these areas has a direct correlation to learning that I am responsible for my own destiny. ... With hard work and determination one can accomplish their dreams."

As part of an Angus operation focusing on embryo transfer (ET) and raising show cattle, Brosey was responsible for



Jared Brosey

everything from daily feeding and checking herd health to giving donor shots.

Undecided about the university he plans to attend, Brosey plans to start

his education in biological science teaching and continuing to play football.

"I have chosen the field of education due to the many opportunities and experiences the NJAA has offered me," he says. "My involvement in this organization has made me into who I am today and will continue to have an influence in shaping my future. No matter what my future holds, it will always contain Angus cattle."

Kathleen Gazda

Kathleen Gazda, Athens, Ga., was this year's first-place female winner, winning a \$1,400 scholarship.

Passion for Angus cattle has been instilled in Gazda since birth in her "purebred" Angus family. Her dad serves as a regional manager for the American Angus Association, but



Kathleen Gazda

she was also heavily influenced by her mother, who grew up showing Angus cattle and served as Miss Georgia Angus some 24 years before she did.

Growing up, Gazda has attended a small, urban

private school since kindergarten and says she has perfected standing out in a crowd while helping raise 75 head of cattle on 200 acres in their county.

"There have been countless times that I have opted out of various events in order to work show heifers or help with chores. While school friends flinch at the sight of a needle, I have spent hours in the barn vaccinating the herd," she says. "And while the thought of a calving cow makes some of my friends

nauseous, seeing a calf stand on his shaky legs for the first time always brings a smile to my face."

Shaping her childhood, Angus cattle are also the threshold to her future, Gazda says. She plans to attend the University of Georgia where she will major in agricultural communications and plans to stay active in the NJAA.

"Through my participation in the NJAA, I hope to achieve two lifelong goals — serving as Miss American Angus and obtaining a position with the NJAA Board of Directors," she says. "I am thankful for my involvement in this incredible industry and hope to one day have the opportunity to work in the field of agriculture and pass my love for the Angus industry down to my own children as my parents did to me."

Elizabeth Williams

Elizabeth Williams, Fort Smith, Ark., received the \$1,250 second-place scholarship.

Williams' family has been in the cattle business since the 1800s, but she says Angus cattle have been a part of her life since she was 3 years old.

"We bought five registered Angus heifers in 1992, and I spent all my preschool life in



Elizabeth Williams

the pastures and barns 'helping' with the cattle," she explains. "Living on the farm there were no neighborhood kids to play with, so my cattle were my best friends."

Their cattle herd grew as did Williams' knowledge of breeding, showing and caring for it. She loves exhibiting the cattle she has raised. "Through researching pedigrees and crunching numbers, I would come up with the perfect match for my cows and couldn't wait to show the world what I had produced," she says.

With their ranch bordered on two sides by the city limits of Van Buren, Williams is the only student in her high school of 1,500 students who shows cattle. While some would see this as a disadvantage, she has capitalized on her uniqueness and has enjoyed the best of both worlds.

"This has given me confidence to pursue leadership opportunities at my school in my community; I like to refer to it as my 'Angus Advantage!'"

Williams plans to attend the University

of Central Arkansas to obtain a degree in political science and then attend law school.

"The legal issues that are facing agriculture, especially the smaller family farms, are numerous and complicated," Williams says. "I know that it will take dedication, persistence and patience to fulfill my goals, and I am ready to accept the challenge."

Megan Ahearn

Megan Ahearn, Wills Point, Texas, is the winner of the third-place, \$1,200 scholarship.

Ahearn says a sound vision, strong work ethic and research have put the Angus breed on top. Glad that her dad chose Angus cattle, she helps her parents manage their registered seedstock herd of 200 head.



Megan Ahearn

"Sometimes I take for granted the lifestyle of rural living and ranch knowledge until my city friends come to visit," Ahearn says.

"I am proud, yet amused, when they want to go to the barn and see my show cattle. But they usually stand back when there is hard work to be done."

Always looking to improve their herd, Ahearn spends time with her father looking at cattle trends and ways to improve their calf crop. While they do not breed for show purposes, Ahearn says it is always rewarding to find one that will perform in the showring.

"Angus cattle opened the door to a world I didn't know," she says. "I started showing when I was 10 years old, and I have traveled more than most kids I know. The friends I have made will be for a lifetime, and experiences and lessons learned were not the ones taught in the classroom."

Ahearn plans to attend the University of Texas and pursue a business degree. She wants to own her own business and have a herd of Angus cattle.

"I want to teach my children the same lessons I learned. After all, there are important lessons to be learned in feeding, vaccinations, hoof trimming, breeding and by all means watching for 'standing heat!'"

Katrina Frey

Katrina Frey, Quarryville, Pa., received the fourth-place, \$1,100 scholarship.

Frey is a fourth-generation member of her family's registered Angus herd. Angus cattle

are the center of her life, from early morning feeding to late-night calving.

"I have learned from my father and grandfather how to care for our herd and manage a successful Angus business," Frey says. "I am involved because I love what I am doing, not because I have to carry on a family tradition."

Currently she owns 40 registered cows that she breeds and shows, sells as breeding stock and markets through private treaty and sales. She is actively involved in the day-to-day operation that includes feeding, herd health care, breeding selection and marketing.



Katrina Frey

"Because of my success in the showring, I have expanded our base market for breeding stock from the local to the national level," she says.

Frey is enrolled at West Virginia University in the prepharmacy curriculum. She hopes to graduate the six-year program with a doctor of pharmacy degree and work in a small town pharmacy, an environment she hopes will allow her to continue to be actively involved in the Angus industry.

Raising Angus cattle has given Frey the opportunity to be involved in her home state of Pennsylvania and national breed organization. Having participated in cattle shows across the country and in NJAA programs such as public speaking, photography and mentoring has given Frey the opportunity to meet many new people.

"I have been given the opportunity to meet people from all over the country, and I have made lasting friendships that will thrive far beyond my junior years."

Kaley Bockhop

Kaley Bockhop, Belmont, Wis., was awarded the fifth-place, \$1,050 scholarship.

As a child, Bockhop would flip through the pages of the *Angus Journal* and gaze at the pictures of the show champions, dreaming of one day stepping on the green sawdust of the showring. Throughout the years, the anticipation grew until 2003 when she got her chance.

"The exhilaration I felt was unexplainable as I walked into the showring with my bred-and-owned heifer at a national show," Bockhop says.

Her parents got their first Angus cattle

in 1990, and the family now has 65 head. Bockhop credits her farm upbringing for her interest in Angus cattle.

"I remember writing to the Angus



Kaley Bockhop

Association and inquiring how I could become more involved. I started attending meetings, and I was amazed by the opportunities offered by the Angus Association."

Participating in these opportunities has helped Bockhop step out of her comfort zone, meet new people and shape her ideas, goals and interests in agriculture.

Bockhop plans to attend veterinary school where she will focus on reproduction and ET.

"I plan to return to the farm, and I dream of having Angus sales with my father," she says. "Ever since the first day I stepped on the green sawdust of the showring, my heart has been in Angus cattle."

