

Juniors Meet Gold Standards

Twenty-five NJAA members achieve Gold Award status.

by *Tosha Powell*

Twenty-five outstanding National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members received Gold Awards in 2008. The Gold Award is the third and top award honored through the National Junior Recognition Program (NJRP). The 1980-1981 NJAA Board of Directors, along with the American Angus Association Junior Activities Department, developed the award system.

Students receiving the Gold Award must be past Bronze and Silver award recipients who are in their last year of eligibility as junior members. The award is based on points earned throughout members' NJAA experiences. Members must earn a total of 3,000 points — 1,000 points in addition to those previously accumulated to receive Bronze and Silver awards — to receive the honor of a Gold Award. Points are received in four areas:

- ▶ Association activities;
- ▶ competitive activities;
- ▶ performance-testing activities; and
- ▶ producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

Retiring junior members are recognized with the Gold Award for their continued achievement. The award presents them with a specially designed pin, cast in gold. The generous donors of the Angus Foundation make this award possible.

This year's Gold Award recipients include the following NJAA members.

Rachel Bartholomew

"My years as a National Junior Angus Association member have been some of the best years of my life," Rachel Bartholomew says. "The experiences I have been blessed with through this association are unforgettable, and the knowledge and skills I have gained will help me for years to come."

Rachel's junior career has been highlighted with victories in the NJAA showing and contests. She's also been the Missouri Junior Angus Association president, secretary, treasurer, queen and scholarship winner. She attributes her determination for success to the NJAA and

the Missouri Junior Angus Association.

"My participation in the NJAA and the MJAA has taught me many things," Rachel says. "In addition to learning about the



Rachel Bartholomew

Angus industry, I have gained networking, communication, leadership, professionalism and decision-making skills, and many lifelong friendships. I will be forever grateful to the NJAA and MJAA for all I have gained during my years as a member."

Raised on her family's Angus ranch in Archie, Mo., agriculture and Angus cattle are instilled in Rachel's past and her future. She plans on finishing a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from the University of Missouri, with an emphasis on teaching.

"I plan to do one of three things: enter the agricultural teaching profession; obtain a job in business and industry, preferably beef-focused; or continue with my education to obtain a master's degree," Rachel says.

Whatever she does, Rachel says her future will always include Angus.

"I fully intend to continue raising registered Angus cattle and plan to have a herd based on the herd I currently own," she says. "No matter what my future career becomes, I plan to stay involved in the Angus Association, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association, and most importantly, I plan to maintain my involvement in my church and faith-based organizations."

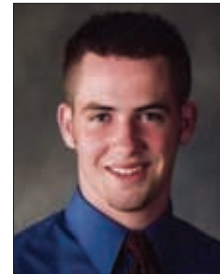
Christopher Cassady

Christopher Cassady, Ancona, Ill., is the son of Kevin and Debbie Cassady. He is a May 2008 graduate of Black Hawk College East Campus—Kewanee, Ill., where he studied animal science. He now attends Texas A&M University, continuing his education in animal science.

"Someday I aspire to establish my own

embryo transfer (ET) facility, as well as manage my own Angus herd," Christopher says.

While at Black Hawk, he was active in the livestock judging team. He says he would like to continue judging in hopes that someday he may be asked to evaluate cattle at the NJAS.



Christopher Cassady

His leadership skills, developed through the NJAA and the Illinois Junior Angus Association, have proven him a well-rounded NJAA member. He has served as president and a director in his state association.

"The NJAA has developed my leadership skills and directed me toward my future within the cattle industry," he says. "It has shaped a pathway for my future."

Brandon Creamer

Brandon Creamer grew up on his family's ranch, Lazy JB Angus, near Montrose, Colo. The son of Jeff and Kathleen Creamer, Brandon works closely with his family



Brandon Creamer

raising and showing Angus cattle.

Ever since he can remember, he has loved showing cattle.

"It seems like only yesterday that I began caring for and showing my first heifer," Brandon says. "My passion for Angus cattle grew through my involvement in the National Junior Angus Association. And my herd grew from one to 30."

Not only did his herd grow, but Brandon

grew as a junior member. With guidance and assurance from respected Angus breeders, former NJAA Board members, family and Angus friends, his passion for Angus cattle grew.

“One week at the National Junior Angus Show in Tulsa, Okla., in 1999 I realized that I wanted to be actively involved in the NJAA,” he says. “I wanted one day to wear a green coat. My participation in NJAA contests expanded, as did my circle of Angus friends.”

In 2007 Brandon returned to Tulsa and was honored by his peers as they elected him to the NJAA Board of Directors. Brandon soon became involved in additional leadership activities such as Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences and serving as a two-term president, treasurer and reporter of his state junior Angus association. While attending school at Colorado State University (CSU), Brandon continues his leadership skills in other organizations, including Block and Bridle and the collegiate Farm Bureau.

Brandon is working toward a degree in agricultural business and animal science at CSU and plans to continue his education and receive a master’s degree.

“I plan to pursue a career in marketing within the beef industry and to expand Lazy JB Angus Ranch,” Brandon says. “I truly believe you should do what brings you joy and what gives you a sense of purpose, and for me that is and has been my involvement in the Angus breed.”

Bridget Driscoll

“I am going to miss being a part of this association,” Bridget Driscoll says. “I feel that this is one of the biggest parts of my life, and it really represents who I am.”



Bridget Driscoll

Bridget is the daughter of Erle and Renee Driscoll, Williamsburg, Iowa, and is working toward a dual major in agricultural communications and animal science at Iowa State University.

“After I graduate from Iowa State, I’m contemplating going to graduate school for something along the lines of ‘beef industry leadership,’” Bridget says. “I plan to keep involved with the Angus associations and

to pursue a career in the beef industry, with top career goals including working for a breed association, preferably with youth, and ultimately getting my Ph.D., so I can be a professor at a university.”

But, most importantly, she is an Angus breeder and leader.

She says she feels a little spoiled with the opportunity to extend her junior experience for one more year and end her career where it all began at next year’s NJAS in Perry, Ga. But she won’t be leaving the NJAA without a few leadership accomplishments. Serving as secretary, director, voting delegate and queen of the Iowa Junior Angus Association, Bridget knows a thing or two about leadership.

“Ever since I was 9 years old, at my very first National Junior Angus Show in Perry, Ga., I wanted to wear a green jacket,” Bridget says. “I did everything I could to prepare myself for the opportunity to run for the Board, and I achieved that. I am a member of the NJAA Board of Directors and lead one of the greatest associations in the world.”

Christina Egner

Christina Egner has been president, vice president, secretary, reporter, scholarship winner and queen during her Ohio Junior Angus Association career. Her career as a member of the NJAA is marked with leadership skills and many exhibition awards. These are accomplishments of which the Shelby, Ohio, native is proud.



Christina Egner

“As I move forward in my life and look back at all the things I have accomplished, I thank God every day for the time I spent in the National Junior Angus Association and Ohio Junior Angus Association,” Christina says. “Without these organizations, I never would have made it as far as I have.”

In addition to her NJAA experience, Christina acknowledges her accomplishments in 4-H and the National FFA Organization in leading to her success.

“In 4-H, I was named the 2004 Ohio State and Richland County Beef Achievement winner, in addition to being selected a representative to the National 4-H Club Congress. And in the FFA, I was honored with the 2007 Eastern States Star

Farmer award, the 2007 Ohio FFA Star Farmer award and a National FFA Beef Entrepreneurship Gold Rating, as well as being named the 2006 Ohio FFA Beef Proficiency Entrepreneurship Winner and receiving my American and State FFA degrees,” Christina says.

Christina attends the Ohio State University (OSU) studying animal science. At OSU, Christina is a member of the meats evaluation team, Saddle and Sirloin Club, Buckeye Dairy Club, Towers Agriculture Honorary and The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, while working as an administrative clerical assistant in the animal sciences department.

“Looking to the future, I look forward to returning to the family farm to continue my involvement and improvement in the Angus industry,” she says. “I would like to secure a job with a livestock pharmaceutical company and work as a sales representative.”

Christina’s parents are Kelvin and Jackie Egner.

Mandy Gimbel

Mandy Gimbel is the youngest daughter of Delton and Shirley Gimbel. Growing up on her family’s farm near Ree Heights, S.D., Angus cattle have been a part of her life since she can remember.



Mandy Gimbel

“I started attending Angus shows at age 4, watching my older sisters exhibit and show heifers,” Mandy says. “Many of the people I look up to are Angus breeders that I have grown up knowing.”

Mandy enjoys summertime because she can see her extended Angus family. And although the people mean a lot to her, Mandy says the cattle are what mean the most.

“Every person, plaque, trophy and ribbon are special to me,” she says. “But, more special to me are the Angus heifers I have shown throughout the years. I love to reminisce and watch their progeny grow and sometimes become my show progeny.”

Mandy has also stepped up and taken leadership roles within her state association. In the South Dakota Junior Angus Association, Mandy has served as a director,

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vice president, scholarship winner, princess and queen.

Mandy graduated in May from Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D., where she majored in the agricultural technology program. She praises the South Dakota Angus Auxiliary and Angus Foundation scholarship programs for helping her with school payments.

"Angus programs are great for making scholarships available for junior members," Mandy says.

Mandy's goals are to stay active in showing Angus cattle at open shows. She also plans on breeding and watching her family's Angus cattle grow and expand.

"I enjoy working with my parents hand-in-hand through our whole operation," Mandy says. "Someday I am hoping to take over the family farm after my parents retire."

Samantha Harl

"These past 13 years with the National Junior Angus Association have taken me on an incredible and unforgettable journey,"



Samantha Harl

Samantha Harl says. Samantha is the daughter of Tracy and Carrie Harl of Hastings, Neb.

Her journey as a member of the NJAA has included various cattle shows, as well as participating in the photography, prepared speech, creative writing, team sales and cook-off contests. Through cattle shows, contests and various state leadership positions, Samantha says she has learned more about herself than she ever thought possible. "Every experience is what I consider 'character building,' whether the outcome is victorious or ends in defeat," she says. "And experience isn't defined by the outcome, but by the process used to get to the finish line."

Samantha graduated from Mesa State College in May with a degree in theatre and a concentration in dance. Her goals are to move back home to Nebraska and pursue a master's degree, so she can continue raising and showing cattle while having hopes to open her own dance studio.

Alison Johnston

The daughter of Tammy and David Johnston of Houston, Minn., Alison

Johnston has spread her wings within the NJAA, but will always remember the fond memories. A past Minnesota Junior Angus Association secretary and queen, Alison



Alison Johnston

recalls fun times at LEAD conferences. "I have so many fond memories of all the junior nationals and LEAD conferences I have attended," Alison says. "I especially remember going white-water rafting in Boise. Since I cannot swim, it was nerve-racking, but after the experience, I would love to go again."

Alison plans to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse next May with a degree in marketing and a minor in broadcast and digital communications. "After graduation, I plan to start a career in marketing and communications, hopefully staying in the agricultural field," she says.

Kyle Kemp

"My most cherished memory in the NJAA has been making lifelong friendships," Kyle Kemp says. A Bridgeport, Texas,



Kyle Kemp

native and son of Thomas and Evie Kemp, Kyle has been a member of the NJAA for the past 12 years. Through all his experiences in the junior association, some of his favorite memories include LEAD conferences and socials, such as the dance at the NJAS.

Friendships made will stay with Kyle through his lifetime, but the leadership gained through involvement in the Texas Junior Angus Association and the NJAA will also follow him.

"My Angus experience has been a fun learning experience," Kyle says, "from traveling all over the United States and Texas showing and promoting the Angus breed and participating in activities such as the mentoring program, cook-off contest, quiz bowl, showmanship contest, livestock judging and being a voting delegate." He has also participated in the poster and photography contests.

Confidence and learning experiences

gained through these competitions have followed Kyle through his collegiate experience at Tarleton State University. He plans to graduate in December 2009 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications and ag Extension industry.

"I am still active with showing, producing, managing and selling Angus cattle," Kyle says. "My plans after college are to start my own herd, breeding Angus cattle."

Mariah Lawrence

A member of the NJAA since she was 10 years old, Mariah Lawrence, West Plains, Mo., has learned many lessons about leading a life in agriculture.

"After purchasing my first registered Angus heifers at age 10, I quickly began



Mariah Lawrence

showing cattle at local shows and fairs, and became involved with our local junior Angus association," Mariah says.

In high school Mariah became involved in the FFA and watched

her herd grow to more than 40 head of registered cattle. She soon developed leadership skills, serving in various offices of the local junior association, local adult association, high school FFA chapter, and area FFA association.

Attending but one NJAS, Mariah enjoyed seeing so many people who love Angus cattle the way she does.

"Showing cattle and caring for my herd has taught me so much growing up," she says. "Being involved with my livestock has taught me responsibility that will benefit me in everything that I do. The competition from showing cattle has taught me lessons in winning and losing, which you deal with in every aspect of your daily life."

Growing up helping her parents, Eddie and Vickie Lawrence, on the family farm, Mariah has been involved in the cattle industry since she can remember. "I have been involved in the cattle industry my whole life and plan to continue raising livestock in the future," Mariah says. "I cannot imagine what my life would have been like without my cattle, the lessons I have learned from them and the people that I have met along the way. Raised on a

farm where the livestock depend on me, I have learned responsibility that I do not feel could have been taught as well in any other form.”

Mariah plans to graduate in May 2009 with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

Will Mayfield

Attending the University of Tennessee and majoring in animal science, Will Mayfield of Pulaski, Tenn., plans to use lessons learned



Will Mayfield

from the NJAA and the Angus industry throughout his life. “My experience with the NJAA started as soon as I was able to join at the age of 9,” the son of Mike and Susan Mayfield says. “The experiences have helped me make goals and do my best to achieve them. I have also learned much about the Angus business and which part of the business I will try to encompass.”

Will stays active in the agricultural industry through his college experience, participating on the livestock judging team, being a certified artificial insemination (AI) technician, and being involved in the FFA and 4-H. Awards from FFA and 4-H are numerous as well as participation in many cattle exhibitions and NJAA contests.

“I have very much enjoyed all my experiences with the Tennessee Junior Angus Association and the NJAA,” Will says, “competing in several contests: the photography, poster, livestock judging, team fitting, quiz bowl and many others.”

Leadership skills learned through state and national junior Angus associations will follow Will throughout his career. “Being a part of an association such as this has molded me as a person and as a leader,” Will says. “I can now try to overtake the goals I have set for myself in the future.”

Lauren Moss

Lauren Moss credits the NJAA for lessons she has learned both in and out of the showing.

“Whether it's my speaking and social skills that come from being a board member and officer of my state association, or being a delegate at junior nationals and learning that winning isn't everything, the NJAA

has taught me so much,” the daughter of Stewart and Charlotte Moss says.

Involved in the Kentucky Junior Angus Association and the NJAA, she has represented her state as president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary, reporter and scholarship winner. An NJAS mentoring program participant, exhibitor, and a photography, cook-off and livestock evaluation contestant, Lauren credits the NJAA for many life lessons and friendships made.



Lauren Moss

“I'm going to take away so much from being a part of the National Junior Angus Association,” Lauren says, “a lot more than I could ever give back. The lessons learned and lifelong friendships I gained are some things that can never be replaced.”

Lauren attends Bluegrass Community and Technical College and is majoring in web design. She has aspirations to work for a breed association or an agricultural publication.

“I would also like to stay involved in the Angus Association at the state and national levels, whether it's being involved with the adult Board and/or committees or the Auxiliary,” Lauren says.

Haley Rieff

“A supportive family, Angus cattle and Angus people are the secrets to my success,” Haley Rieff says. Haley is the daughter of Kevin and Michelle Rieff of Bentonville, Ark.



Haley Rieff

“Haley began her career as a fourth-generation Angus breeder, and things seem to have fallen into place for her. “One of the main things was the strong foundation of Angus females in my family's herds,” Haley says. “Another thing that set the pace for me was a supportive family who was well-versed in cattle knowledge, cattle selection and mating combinations.”

When she began showing in 1997, little did she know that for the next 11 years her summers would be filled with showing Angus cattle. “My family has a standing

joke: We never leave town without a heifer in tow.”

Haley says showing heifers and competing in educational contests has taught her many life skills, such as organizational talents, teamwork, goal-setting and time management. “Besides having a greater understanding of the cattle industry, I have also learned responsibility, and improved my writing, design and photography skills,” Haley says. “I have fine-tuned my skills in working with people in teams, facilitating groups, directing activities, planning events, and teaching and motivating youth.”

Haley credits the skills she has learned as paving the road to her future.

“My Angus experiences have greatly influenced my career decisions,” she says. “I am interested in pursuing a career in agricultural communications, with an emphasis on youth development, public relations or broadcast journalism. I begin my junior year at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., this fall.”

Courtney Rump

“Being a part of the NJAA for the past 13 years has given me more than I could have ever imagined,” Courtney Rump, daughter



Courtney Rump

of Craig and Marci Rump, says. Courtney, a native of Galva, Kan., has competed in many contests and showed both on the state and national level. She has also served as president, president-elect,

reporter, district director and Angus ambassador for her state association. Throughout her various NJAA competitive events, Courtney says her greatest accomplishment has been the contacts, ties and friendships made through the NJAA.

“As a member of the NJAA, the experiences I have enjoyed, the places I have seen and the people I have met have impacted my life greatly,” Courtney says. “One of the most valued parts of my Angus career would be the lessons of responsibility and respect. I will be able to apply these lessons throughout my life.

“I have learned that helping others and teamwork make getting things accomplished much easier,” she continues.

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"I will always encourage young people to become involved with the Angus breed and the NJAA whenever they have the opportunity, and I will do my best to be a role model for them."

Courtney is a graduate of the American Academy of Massage Therapy. She plans to pursue a career in therapeutic massage.

"My career goals may not allow me to be actively involved with Angus cattle," Courtney says. "There is one thing that will be for certain, my years involved with the Angus breed have been the best times in my life and have given me the tools and experiences I need to be successful."

Lauren Schroeder

Lauren Schroeder, Clarence, Iowa, knows what it takes to be a farm kid. And from that she has learned important life skills along the way.

"I have been fortunate to travel with my calves to many different states and meet



Lauren Schroeder

a lot of people," says the daughter of Doug and Glenda Schroeder.

"Showing cattle has helped me develop skills and love for my cattle. I have learned to work hard for my achievements and appreciate the discipline it has given me."

Lauren was active in 4-H and the FFA while in high school. She served various leadership roles in each organization, ranging from president, vice president, treasurer, historian and reporter. In both organizations, Lauren was a community service chairman and advocate.

Studying economics and finance at Simpson College, Lauren plans to apply for law school after completing a bachelor's degree.

"I have had many teachers and leaders in organizations to help me lay the groundwork by providing me with the right balance of knowledge and leadership," Lauren says. "They have prepared me to meet challenges with an open mind and the desire to do whatever it takes to realize my dream. I'm enjoying the challenge; with the right knowledge, I know I can be successful."

Kari Stai

Kari Stai is the daughter of Gary and Kathy Stai of New London, Minn. She has been a member of the NJAA 12 years

and has been actively involved in the FFA, 4-H and the Minnesota Junior Angus Association.

"I started showing cattle with my two older sisters in 1996," Kari says. "We leased heifers from Roger and Marge Sunvold and drove down once a week to work them until our family built our own barn. We started with a few heifers and now have about 50 head."



Kari Stai

Chapter Farmer, state livestock judging gold individual, a regional beef proficiency award and the American FFA degree. In her state junior association she served as queen in 2005 and received the Outstanding Leadership Award in 2006.

Kari attends Ridgewater College and is studying liberal arts and selected agricultural courses.

Walt Stinson

The son of Robert and Jan Stinson, Walt Stinson knows what it takes to be a leader in the NJAA. Walt began his stint on the NJAA



Walt Stinson

Board of Directors in 2007. Since then, he knows that leadership skills learned through the NJAA can stick with you throughout life.

"At my first junior national in Milwaukee, Wis., I was astounded at the enormity of the show and the leadership of the green jackets," Walt says. "I have evolved from a quiet junior member to a leader of the NJAA. My junior Angus career has taken me all over the country, introduced me to some of the greatest people in America and taught me leadership qualities I will possess the rest of my life."

Walt attends Tennessee Tech University, studying animal science with a preveterinary option. He plans to go to dental school after graduation.

"I hope to have my own dental practice in five years, but I will continue to breed Angus cattle for the rest of my life," Walt says.

Sarah Stream

"It's been an exhilarating ride," Sarah Stream says of her NJAA experience. "Trips to junior nationals and state shows, laughing



Sarah Stream

until it hurts, water fights, ice cream socials, and friends I'll never forget."

The daughter of Rodney and Sue Stream of Chariton, Iowa, Sarah begins by thanking her family for giving her the opportunity to raise cattle and work on the farm, which taught her most of all she knows. "I have learned good values like hard work and dedication, understanding that if you want something you have to go get it. I've also learned things my mother never wanted me to know, such as how to drive a tractor, fix fence and AI cows."

As life closes one door, Sarah says she looks forward to it opening the next door of opportunity. Currently a senior at Iowa State University majoring in agricultural communications, Sarah hopes to have her own real estate business someday.

"I plan on continuing a partnership with my older sister in our cattle business and holding an annual show-calf sale every fall," Sarah says. "I want to continue to give young people the opportunity to show good cattle and hopefully grow and learn as I did in this industry. I think the future of the beef industry is as exciting as ever, and I look forward to being a part of it."

Emily Tennant

Patience and perseverance are two things Emily Tennant, Greensboro, N.C., has learned through her experiences with Angus



Emily Tennant

cattle. "Greensboro is not your typical cattle farming location," Emily says. "Our urban neighbors don't [understand] why I allow my cattle to take up my valuable time. But the way I see it, working with Angus cattle hasn't taken my time; rather, I give them my time."

Leadership skills and the people met when she served as president of her state junior association are what Emily calls the best part about raising livestock.

"I met different types of breeders, but [they] all share the same passion and devotion," Emily says. "I served as Miss American Angus in 2007 and that year showed me the power of being a positive influence for youth as I traveled the country, meeting people from every walk of life."

After graduating from NC State College, Emily plans to attend pharmacy school. Outside of her vocation, Emily hopes to own and run a small farm of beef cattle and sheep at some point.

"I want to raise a family on a farm because I believe that there is no better way to teach true dedication and hard work than through personal experiences in junior organizations like the NJAA," she says.

Julie Thelen

Being a role model to the younger generation of NJAA members is an important task for Julie Thelen. Leadership is something Julie takes to heart and has



Julie Thelen

determined to be a leader to future generations of agriculturalists.

The daughter of Steven and Nancy Thelen of Saline, Mich., Julie has been an active member of 4-H, the FFA and NJAA.

Julie has served various leadership positions in 4-H and FFA, and on the state and national junior Angus association levels. She has led as secretary, reporter/historian, Miss Michigan Angus and scholarship recipient. Outside the showing, Julie has participated in extemporaneous public speaking, the cook-off, poster contest, graphic design, photography and quiz bowl.

"I have learned a great deal through the experiences I had in a variety of NJAA activities," Julie says. "From making new friends to having a great time preparing for and participating in different contests, there are many great memories."

Julie attends Michigan State University where she is studying to obtain a dual degree in agriscience and animal science. Julie is an active member of Block and Bridle, Sigma Alpha, student senate and ag ambassadors. After graduation she plans to become an agricultural education instructor.

"I believe it is important to mentor younger and new members of the NJAA and be a role model to them," she says. "My advice to younger members is to

get involved and take advantage of the opportunities because time goes by very quickly."

Rachel Vaassen

The daughter of Dan and Sharon Vaassen, Ann Arbor, Mich., Rachel Vaassen says the NJAA has taught her things that



Rachel Vaassen

most other young people don't have the chance to learn.

"My career as a junior Angus member has by far exceeded any expectations that I could have had in any group or organization,"

Rachel says. "I have accomplished and been involved in so much through the Michigan and National Junior Angus associations that I feel it's a part of my life."

Rachel has competed in the cook-off, photography, graphic design and team sales contests at the national level, as well as showcased her bred-and-owned and owned heifers. Rachel's leadership skills have been developed through serving as a director, treasurer, reporter, vice president, state queen and scholarship recipient.

"The hardest thing about ending my junior career will be missing the many friends I have made over the past years," Rachel says. "These are some of the greatest people I have ever met. I will miss them all so much."

Rachel will begin her senior year at Central Michigan University this fall, majoring in graphic design.

"At this point, I'm not sure what area I would like to work in, but it would be great to be a graphic designer for an agricultural group or publication," she says.

Ericka Waggener

Ericka Waggener, Harrodsburg, Ky., strives to become an agricultural leader, as well as an Angus leader. Involved in her state junior association, Ericka has served as first



Ericka Waggener

vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, state queen and scholarship recipient. She has

served as a mentor in the NJAA mentoring

program and has participated in the photography, cook-off and quiz bowl contests at NJAS.

"As a junior Angus member I have experienced things that I probably would have not done," Ericka says. "I did livestock judging in my 4-H club, and in the FFA I received my state and American degrees."

Attending Murray State University, Ericka is a junior working toward a degree in agricultural education.

"Now that my time as a junior is coming to an end, I wish there were more time, but I feel that I have accomplished and excelled at many things, and I'm really thankful for the experiences," Ericka says.

Lindsay Waugh

"Participating in contests such as team sales, cook-off, quiz bowl, public speaking, judging, team fitting and photography



Lindsay Waugh

has helped me to grow as a person," Lindsay Waugh says. Lindsay is the daughter of Bruce and LeeAnn Waugh of Goodhue, Minn.

Lindsay says seeing her state junior and adult

associations grow, not only in numbers but as well as involvement, has been a blessing. Another exciting achievement for Lindsay is starting her own herd of Angus cows.

"Through showing heifers I have been able to start my own herd that is helping me pay for my college education," Lindsay says.

She attends North Dakota State University and plans to graduate with a dual degree in animal science and equine studies. But her Angus involvement hasn't come to an end yet, as she was selected to serve on the NJAA Board of Directors at the 2008 NJAS.

"In the years to come I hope I will be able to give back to the junior association," Lindsay says. "By attaining a position on the junior Board, I am able to contribute to the lives of thousands of juniors across the U.S."

Jon Paul Whitlock

"It has been an honor to be a part of such an outstanding and well-respected organization," says the son of Paul and Phyllis Whitlock. Jon Paul Whitlock, Iuka, Miss., credits the NJAA for the many leadership skills that have affected his life.

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“I will have many memories from my time with the NJAA that I will cherish forever.”

Jon Paul has served his state organization as president and vice president, as well as LEAD participant. Outside the showing, he has competed in the photography, cook-off and team sales competitions.

“I am very thankful that I have been given the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing group of people with a common interest — Angus cattle,” he says.

Jon Paul attends the University of North Alabama, studying elementary education.

“Through my years in the NJAA, I have had the opportunity to work with other juniors and serve as a positive role model to young juniors,” Jon Paul says. “I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the younger children and have chosen a career path in elementary education.”

He says he feels that this will be a great way to help children enhance their

education and inspire young children in a positive manner, just as those of the American Angus Association and NJAA have done for him.

Kara Wilson

“My career as an NJAA member is something that I look back on and wonder how it has gone by so fast,” Kara Wilson says. “I look back at where I was 11 years



Kara Wilson

ago, then I look at where I am now, and I know, without a doubt, that so much of the improvement I have made is solely because of my experience with the NJAA and the people in it.”

Kara, the daughter of Loran and Kathy Wilson, Orleans, Ind., says it’s the people who have kept her in the cattle industry.

“I have learned so much from the Angus enthusiasts who helped me along the way,” she says. “I have truly enjoyed having the opportunity for the past two years on the junior Board to try and be that helpful person to other juniors and their families.”

Besides her involvement on the junior Board, Kara has attended the LEAD Conference, numerous national shows, and has participated in several contests outside the showing, including the cook-off and extemporaneous public speaking.

Kara attends the University of Kentucky enrolled in agricultural communications. Her career goals are to be in the marketing and public relations industry.

“Companies like Certified Angus Beef, Cargill, the beef check-off program and so many others work every day to ensure the quality and future of the beef industry,” Kara says. “I have a strong passion to work with producers and consumers alike to teach producers how to market their products effectively and to alleviate misconceptions that consumers have.

“My experience in the NJAA has helped train me for this type of career,” Kara continues. “I look forward to a life and career in the beef industry and to continue working with the wonderful people I have met along the way.”

