



Ciao Juniors!

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

Mark Twain

Traveling the world and experiencing other cultures has always been one of my dreams. And last November, life showed me dreams really do come true. I spent four weeks living, working and studying in a small town in southern Italy. It was an incredible experience. I was immersed in the culture, speaking Italian, traveling to tons of historical sites, meeting and interacting with some really amazing people, and eating a lot of really great Italian food (those Italians really know how to cook a great filet mignon!). In Italy, my world was turned upside down. It was a real culture shock at first. But then it turned into the time of my life and I became a different person because of the experience. It was a trip I will never forget.

My trip opened my mind to another dream, which is to inspire each of you to explore, dream and discover your own wonderful experience. Trust me, I know how difficult it is to plan a trip and get away from life on a farm or ranch for an extended period of time. But once you do, it is completely worth it. Go ahead—grab a group of friends or your family and go! There is a lot of the world out there just waiting for you to explore it.

“No one realizes how beautiful it is to travel until he comes home and rests his head on his old, familiar pillow,” said Lin Yutang.

After living halfway around the world, I will never forget the feeling of coming home from the airport and seeing Limousin cattle in our pasture. It was my “old, familiar pillow” and how I knew I was finally safe at home. So when you go somewhere, always remember to come back. As part of our Limousin family, the other NALJA board members and I will be dying to hear all about your experience. And we also have to see you at all of our cattle shows. Our shows would not be a success without you there.

Speaking of successful cattle shows, NALJA had a wonderful week at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado. An enormous thank you goes out to everyone who helped with our fundraising efforts in the Mile High City. The Genetics on Ice Benefit Auction was a blast and an enormous success this year thanks to all of our contributors and buyers. We could not have done it without you.

Additionally, another huge thank you goes out to the Schilling family of Edson, Kansas, for donating Schilling’s WinningTicket to NALJA. We were able to raise \$20,000 for NALJA and the Cornerpost Fund! Thank you to everyone who generously participated in Genetics on Ice and the Cornerpost Fund this year.

So Juniors, I leave you to make your own plans to explore, dream and discover, because as Eleanor Roosevelt said, “the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

Arrivaderci!

Cassidy Woodard
NALJA Secretary