The Fall Newsletter was designed and written by Animal Science Student Ambassador Levi McPhillips.

A new ‘Hub’ of activity

The Hub is a new faculty-led student help center in the Department of Animal Science. Located on the second floor of the Animal Science Complex in A214, this room was once used for storage and is now a vibrant center for student interaction.

“The idea for the Hub came when I was looking at the room that was here and thought, ‘Wow, what it would be like for students and faculty to have a room for opportunities to build academic success,’” said Dennis Brink. Brink has been a Professor of Animal Science at UNL for 35 years and oversees student advising in the Department of Animal Science. The Hub is complete with sofas, two computers, a room for private or group study, and tables and chairs. A mini-fridge and microwave are available for students if they need a place to store and heat their lunch during the day.

Brink moved his office to the Hub so that a faculty member would be there and available for students who have questions. Seth Barnes, a graduate student in Student Affairs, works in the Hub as part of his graduate school experience. He also has an office in the Hub and is available to advise students with academic, personal, and professional questions.

Seth, a native of Halsey, NE, graduated from UNL in 2012 with a degree in secondary math education. “Seth came on in June as a graduate assistant, and works with students well because he is closer as a peer,” Brink said.

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Animal Science Options

Animal science is a broad area of study with disciplines ranging from companion animal breeding to swine biosecurity. UNL Animal Science gives a plethora of classroom and real world experiences in all of these areas. Students have the opportunity to choose from seven different degree options to narrow their area of expertise.

Meat Science

Career Focus: Ample career opportunities can be found in meat quality assurance, food safety, meat research, and product development.

Description: Meat Science puts special emphasis on quality assurance, research, and development of meat products. The molecular composition of muscle, the processing of meat, and the grading of meat quality are also included in the coursework. There are jobs available within the department where students can gain experience with animal harvest and fabrication and packaging of meat products. This option gets students up close and personal with the meat they eat.

Companion Animal

Career Focus: With this emphasis in animal science students will find careers with pet food companies, companion animal product development, and exotic animal care.

Description: This curriculum gives a wholesome background in companion animal physiology, nutrition, and management. Students will also learn about the companion animal food industry, as well as the importance of animal behavior.
**Business**

**Career Focus:** Some possible career opportunities include advertising, banking, marketing, and sales of livestock and companion animal products.

**Description:** The Business option allows students the flexibility to prepare for work both with animals and agricultural economics/business. Classes focus on the business aspects of animal science, and it is easy to earn a minor in Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics. Upon graduation students are well equipped to manage the finances of a livestock operation.

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**Veterinary Animal Sciences**

**Career Focus:** In addition to fulfilling all of the requirements for applying to veterinary school, this option can open the door to careers in nutrition, animal health, and veterinary sciences.

**Description:** Classes in this option allow students to study nutrition as well as physiology and reproduction. Courses needed for applying to veterinary school are fulfilled, and students will also gain extensive background in the species of domestic animal that they are most interested in.

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**Production and Management**

**Career Focus:** After graduating in this option students will find abundant available jobs in extension education as well as hog, cattle, poultry, dairy and horse operations.

**Description:** This option gives students special experience in working hands on with livestock. Students will learn animal handling techniques, as well as the science involved with animal nutrition, reproduction, and marketing. The curriculum in this option will give students the necessary skills to work and manage a livestock operation of any size.
**Biology**

**Career Focus:** Biology option provides career opportunities in research, pharmaceutical production, and provides a great foundation for graduate school.

**Description:** This option has a heavy focus on biological sciences including microbiology and chemistry. The animal biology option helps prepare students for graduate and professional schools. There is a great deal of flexibility in this option which allows students to choose classes based on their area of interest and career goals.

**Equine**

**Career Focus:** Available careers can be found in all areas of the horse industry including genetics, nutrition, and breeding.

**Description:** Equine Science gives students a holistic background in the horse industry. Classes give students instruction in horsemanship, and there are also opportunities to take part in horse judging and competitive horse riding. Instruction at UNL also educates students about equine nutrition, genetics, and breeding. There are adequate opportunities for students to get hands-on experience both inside and outside the classroom.

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**Enriching Lives Through Discovery**

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

**Animal Science Department**
My Most Rewarding UNL Experience: I am in the Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars program. It has been a terrific way to network with industry leaders and more importantly form relationships with my peers who share the same drive and passion as I do for the beef industry.

My Favorite Part of UNL Animal Science: My favorite aspect of the department is the way professors teach classes. Each professor, while an expert in his/her field, takes us on a journey from the foundations of animal science to several advanced perspectives. Pairing lecture with lab, the blend of material is optimal for my learning style.

Why I enjoy UNL: I have gained so much from my experience at UNL. Interacting with people from all over the country and all over the world has broadened my horizons. The UNL Faculty have directed me to some really exciting internship and research opportunities, and I cannot wait to see where my animal science career takes me.

Why I chose UNL: One of the reasons I chose the animal science major is because of all the opportunities. An Animal Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will help to place you in this rapidly growing industry, with the possibility to choose a path of your choice of animal interaction.
“I really enjoy helping students be more successful,” Barnes said. “I can help them in class, out of class, discover extracurriculars, develop their values and strengths, and identify what they hope to accomplish.”

Brink and Seth Barnes are promoting the Hub under the tagline “Discover your PICS.” The Hub is designed to give students the necessary connections to realize and pursue their full potential. Four main aspects of the Hub are crucial to finding that potential: Possibilities, Identity, Connections, and Success.

**Possibilities**
Most students are not aware of the opportunities available in careers, internships and campus groups. The Hub is designed to give students the knowledge of opportunities in animal science and throughout UNL. Brink and Barnes work to match students with organizations that fit their interests. There are also internship and work opportunities listed in the Hub to help students further their education with hands-on experience.

**Identity**
Seth Barnes had little to no idea what he wanted to do with his career when he first came to UNL. After finding his passion, Seth realized that he really enjoyed helping other students find what they were passionate about. Seth uses his career search experience to help students in animal science find their interests and how they want to impact the world.

**Connections**
Using faculty resources and networking, the Hub aims to make the transition from high school to college easier for students. The one-on-one advising sessions featured in the Department of Animal Science match students with professors who know how to develop students’ interests and skills. Brink and Barnes use their networking relationships to point students in the right direction, and help them make decisions about their education.

**Success**
The Hub encourages students to find a desire to succeed in their classes and in their student organizations. Finding a home in college gives many students a chance to make a difference on campus. Using the resources of the Hub, students can build the right habits to bring out a positive change in their world after college.

Barnes and Brink are working on future promotional activities to make students more familiar with the Hub and all it has to offer. During Finals Week, Lisa Karr-Lilienthal, UNL Assistant Professor of Practice and Extension Companion Animal Specialist, plans to bring in dogs to give students the chance to reduce their stress before their final exams. Karr-Lilienthal wants to see if the dogs will improve student test scores, especially if they pet the dogs in the thirty minutes before the test. There will also be food available for students, and the event will build student awareness of the Hub.

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**Upcoming Events**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 6th</td>
<td>Block and Bridle Club Meeting 7:30 pm- Animal Science Complex</td>
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<td>Nov. 9-10th</td>
<td>Animal Science Equestrian Team Show</td>
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<td>Nov. 15th</td>
<td>Husker Beef Nutrition Conference 8:15 am-Mead Research Center</td>
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<td>Nov. 16th</td>
<td>Little AkSarBen- Animal Science Complex</td>
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<td>Nov. 19th</td>
<td>NBIS Summit- Animal Science Complex B101</td>
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<td>Nov. 20th</td>
<td>Block and Bridle Meeting 7:30pm Animal Science Complex</td>
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<td>Nov. 22-24th</td>
<td>Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium (NYBLS)- Animal Science Complex</td>
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<td>Nov. 27-29th</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>Dec. 4th</td>
<td>Companion Animal &amp; Wildlife Career Day- Animal Science Complex</td>
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**Animal Science Department**

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Want to have a more meaningful college experience? We know how to make that happen.

Need a place to relax between classes or do a little social studying? The Hub is the place to be!

Is the weight of college bringing you down? Swing by, we’re always here to talk and can help you find ways to balance your life.

Want help with your school work, find a study group, get involved on campus, or serve in the community? Tell us what you want to do, and we’ll point you in the right direction.

Find your way. Want to have a more meaningful college experience? We know how to make that happen.

Hang out. Need a place to relax between classes or do a little social studying? The Hub is the place to be!