# Teens Sample College Life On Customized Tours

Friez appeared the consummate pro as she confidently grasped a skittish calf and quickly slid a halter around its head. Friez was one of two dozen students working with the College of Agricultural Sciences' beef cattle one windy autumn afternoon at the Webb Farm on the University of Delaware campus.

As they marshalled the calves through a head gate and sprayed them for pests, the students tried to recall all that their professor, Dr. Lesa Griffiths, had told them about safely handling cattle, such as paying close attention to the animal's personal space requirements.

No doubt about it, ANSC 111, the lab component of the college's

NEWARK, Del. — Marianne introductory animal science course, is one challenging class. But Friez clearly was in her element — even though on a typical weekday you'll find her at Henderson High School in West Chester.

> Dressed in faded jeans and an oversized t-shirt, the 18-year-old looked like any of the first-year animal science students. However, she's actually a high school senior who has applied for admission to the University of Delaware 1996 freshman class. Her afternoon at the animal science lab was just one of the more than 60 customized tours arranged each year by Karen Roth Aniunas, assistant dean for student services in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Marianne wants to work with

animals and possibly become a veterinarian, so attending an animal science lab was a good way for her to further explore her interests," says Aniunas. "After the lab, Marianne concluded her visit with an informal, half-hour chat with Dr. Griffiths.

"We create personalized, oneon-one tours that allow prospective students to learn more about our college while they learn more about possible fields of study, notes Aniunas. "For example, a student considering a major in horticulture could visit the Fischer Greenhouse, followed by a walk through the UD Botanical Gardens and a question-and-answer session with horticultural professor Dr. David Frey. A high-schooler intrigued by economics might spend the morning with Drs. Bobby Gempesaw and Carl Toensmeyer, learning about the department of food and resource economics."

Developing a half dozen customized tours each month is a time-consuming task for Aniunas, and for the countless faculty members who participate despite their busy schedules of research and teaching. But such emphasis on

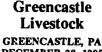
personal attention is a hallmark of the College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Our interest and involvement in students' academic careers extends well beyond that initial campus visit," notes Aniunas. "We let the parents know that in survey after survey of alumni, the ag college faculty are consistently given high marks for the advisement they offer."

Friez, who appreciated that Dr. Griffiths took time out of her day to talk with her, reports she learned a lot from attending the animal science professor's class. But Friez also picked up invaluable information from the ANSC 111 students, who were quick to chat with her and share their "college survival tips" as they all worked together in a cavernous barn.

After haltering her spirited calf and leading it to a holding pen, Friez leaned up against a gate and took a well-deserved break. Brushing her shoulder-length, chestnutcolored hair back from her face, Friez surveyed the bustling scene around her and broke into a satisfied grin.

"I'm really impressed with the college and with the animal science program," said Friez. "As a result of this tour, I know I definitely want to come here next



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