

# Ambassador Spotlight

CALS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM DEVELOPS EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS  
THROUGH UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES.



## Sam Peters

**Junior: Major –AVS Pre-Vet  
Minor-Spanish**

**Describe why you like being part of the CALS Ambassador Program:** I truly enjoy making a difference in someone's life. There are so many high school kids who have never even thought of going to college but after visiting a high school class you can tell you had an impact. They ask questions, email you & will often thank you. It makes me feel good to know that because I joined ambassadors I had a major impact on someone's life.

### Internship experience:

Last summer I wanted to gain more experience in the Veterinary field so I decided I wanted to apply for internships in Germany. I got a 2-week internship at a mixed animal clinic, the largest in Germany. As an added bonus they happened to work on zoo animals. I was hoping to be able to work on an exotic animal & I had my chance to work with a lion. The lion had a brain tumor & had been there for months. I couldn't work on the animal but the fact that I got to see them work on such an animal made it worth the trip. The internship was very hands-on & I got to experience/learn a lot. This internship allowed me to practice my German & experience other veterinary practices that I would not have had any other way. It was the experience of a lifetime.



**Best memory from college thus far?** I had just switched my major from Ag Engineering to Pre-vet & so I didn't know any of the students or professors. In AVS 109 we are asked to write an essay about where we come from & who we want to be, for Dr. Hunt. There are over 90 students in the class. One day I was working at Subway over Thanksgiving & Dr. Hunt came in. I introduced myself & stated that I was in his 109. After I told him he asked "Why aren't you in Sandpoint for Thanksgiving?" I was blown away. I told him my name & he instantly knew something about me! It really showed me I had made the right choice for a department.

## Drew Cruickshank

**Senior:  
Major—Agricultural Business**

**What do you like best about the University of Idaho?** I like the atmosphere here at the University of Idaho. Everyone is really laid back, easy going & fun to be around. Also the campus is beautiful year round & having the rolling hills of the Palouse is a picturesque scene that changes on a daily basis.

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?** I see myself in five years back home farming full time on my own while also helping my dad with his farming operation.



I am hoping to find that special girl & settle down in a cozy little home & start a family.

**Interaction with Faculty & Staff:** My interactions with the staff & faculty have been amazing. I have enjoyed going to classes & learning what they have to offer. I think its great how personal they can be, you can just start

talking about one thing & 45 minutes later your still talking like your good friends. It's great to have that kind of experience with the faculty & staff because it makes you more willing to learn & try harder than you normally would have if you thought they didn't care.

**One word that best describes you.:** If I had to choose one word to describe me it would be determined. I think this word describes me well because I am determined to do my best at everything I do. I am determined to become a successful farmer & the drive to succeed at it. I am scared of failure so that's why I'm determined to work hard at everything I do, to be the best I can be, so that's why I think if you had to pick a word to describe me it is determined.

## Nicola Elliott Sophomore: Major—Animal & Veterinary Science-Pre-Vet

“Giving up doesn’t always mean that you are weak; sometimes it means that you are strong enough to let go.” (Anonymous)



### What factors influenced your decision to attend UI?

I liked the feel of the campus when I came up for Vandal Friday. The student body & the faculty were very friendly & made the whole experience very fun & relaxing. I decided to choose animal science as my major because I

enjoy working with animals, & it allows me to take an assortment of different science classes that will enable me to enroll in veterinary or medical school following the completion of my undergraduate degree.

**Student organization & activities:** I am a current member of the Pre-Vet Club & I plan to join the Dairy Club this year. This last year, I was also involved in Paint the Palouse, Saturday of Service, Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, & Earth Day. I also play intramural volleyball, softball, & basketball on a regular basis.

**One word that best describes you:** I think that the word compassionate best fits me. I am constantly trying to help people around me & look for the best in others no matter the situation. It is very hard for me to ignore people or their present needs, which has allowed me to develop very strong & meaningful friendships.

**What are your career goals?** I would love to work as a physician’s assistant for a pediatrician because I really love children. I would also enjoy working as a PA for an orthopedic in surgery. I would also like to become a mom someday, which I consider to be a full time job as well.

**Most positive experience at the UI:** My most positive experience has been living in the dorms my freshman year. I became friends with so many different people on a close basis because we were involved in several different campus activities & service projects as a hall.

**Favorite thing about the UI:** My favorite thing here at the U of I is Joe Vandal.

## Erica Louder Senior: Major—Animal & Veterinary Science-Business

"Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom; & in all thy getting get understanding." *Proverbs 4:7*

**Why serving as a CALS Ambassador is important to you:** Serving as a CALS ambassador has provided me with the opportunity to do a few things that I truly love. I have loved being able to visit high schools across our state to encourage students to further their education through a university experience. My experience at the UI has been a highlight of my life I want to share that with others. Being a CALS Ambassador has also allowed me to establish some very close friendships with my fellow ambassadors who come from all walks of life and are studying a variety of subjects. These friendships & networks will resonate throughout my life & career. The CALS Ambassador program also allows me to be a face to the university & college that have impacted my life in a very positive way. This is just one way I can give back to a program that has given me so much.

**Best memory from college thus far?** My favorite memory from college so far is not really a memory it was more a feeling that was associated with hundreds of memories. Last semester I needed to take 20 credits to stay on the correct graduation date. With work, ambassadors, & my ample amount of school work I was not quite sure how to do it all. However, as the semester unfolded I found myself doing quite well with all I had committed to.

With every A on exams & every paycheck from work I realized that I was doing quite well, actually better than I had any previous semester. When I received the letter & email that I had made the dean’s list with a 4.0 I felt an overwhelming sense of accomplishment & pride in my ability to “do hard things.” It made me understand the capacity we have to excel.

**Favorite place on campus?** The library may not exactly be my favorite place on campus but it is definitely the place I spend the most time at. The library is a perfect environment for me to study, work on group projects, send emails, or even to check my Facebook. It has four floors, two computer labs, several helpful librarians, hundreds of desks, & thousands of books; if you know me, I LOVE books.

