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The Beacon Staff

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Resident assistants in the time of COVID

ADJUSTMENTS IN THE DORMS

SCHUYLER STERK
ENGLISH TEACHING

As we all learn what safety, education and community look like in the midst of a global pandemic, resident assistants and resident directors have been tasked with finding ways to adapt and create spaces of belonging for all their students.

RAs from all residence halls said that one of the biggest challenges produced by the pandemic is the increased amount of separation between residents.

“The fear surrounding COVID has caused people to be more secluded even when they are not in isolation,” said Shonna Ritz, Stegenga Hall RA.

Because of the virus and new hall safety procedures like mask-wearing and room capacities, more people are leaving their doors shut. As many students try to limit their exposure to others, meeting new peo-

ple and connecting with wingmates and dormmates is more difficult.

“The mask requirement isn’t encouraging new students to get out of their shell,” said Michael Simmelink, Hospers Hall RD. “It’s just been slower making connections with everyone.”

The room capacity is an especially difficult obstacle for creating an inclusive environment in the dorms. This is one way Hospers RA Josh Fischer’s job has changed a lot from last year.

“Before, I was able to facilitate large group gatherings and let the community sort of build itself,” he said. “This year, I have had to do more one-on-one relationship building.”

In addition to coming up with new ways to create community, the residence life team grapples with feeling like the campus safety police.

“One huge challenge this year has been trying not to come off like an absolute jerk when being on top of our COVID protocols,” Colenbrander Hall RA Kirby Willats said.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ

Fern RAs pose for a group photo in, the resident director, Natalie Wheeler’s apartment.

Other RAs agreed that, while calling people out — even for something as simple as an incorrectly worn mask — is never fun, it’s a necessary part of their job this year.

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Unsung Heroes: Marlon Haverdink

A HEART FOR GOD AND NORTHWESTERN

MADELYNN HARRE
ENGLISH TEACHING

Marlon, the man, the myth, the legend.

That’s how students have come to know the dean of residence life.

Marlon Haverdink coordinates and oversees the good, the bad and the ugly. This includes hiring new resident directors, organizing and training new resident assistants and dealing with any major infractions in the dorms.

Now, he’s responsible for enforcing the COVID-19 guidelines across campus.

In addition to his usual duties, Haverdink is a part of the COVID Recovery Team, which handles everything COVID-19 related on campus.

The President’s Cabinet and the Pandemic Response Team are responsible for recommending pandemic response and recovery poli-

cies and procedures.

Before students arrived on campus, the team needed to create COVID-19 response tools for virus surveillance, campus health and mitigation. This included developing an on-campus and off-campus event risk calculator, a student pre-arrival health screening survey, a campus visitor health screening survey and the Raider Check student health monitoring app.

Ongoing responsibilities include making policy decisions related to the pandemic response, planning for pandemic emergency management activities and overseeing pandemic mitigation activities. The team is also coordinating with Sioux County Community Health Partners and Orange City Area Health System.

Much of his time has gone into making preparations for this school year. He gave up most, if not all, of his summer vacation working out the logistics around what COVID-19 guidelines would be, not only for the dorms, but for

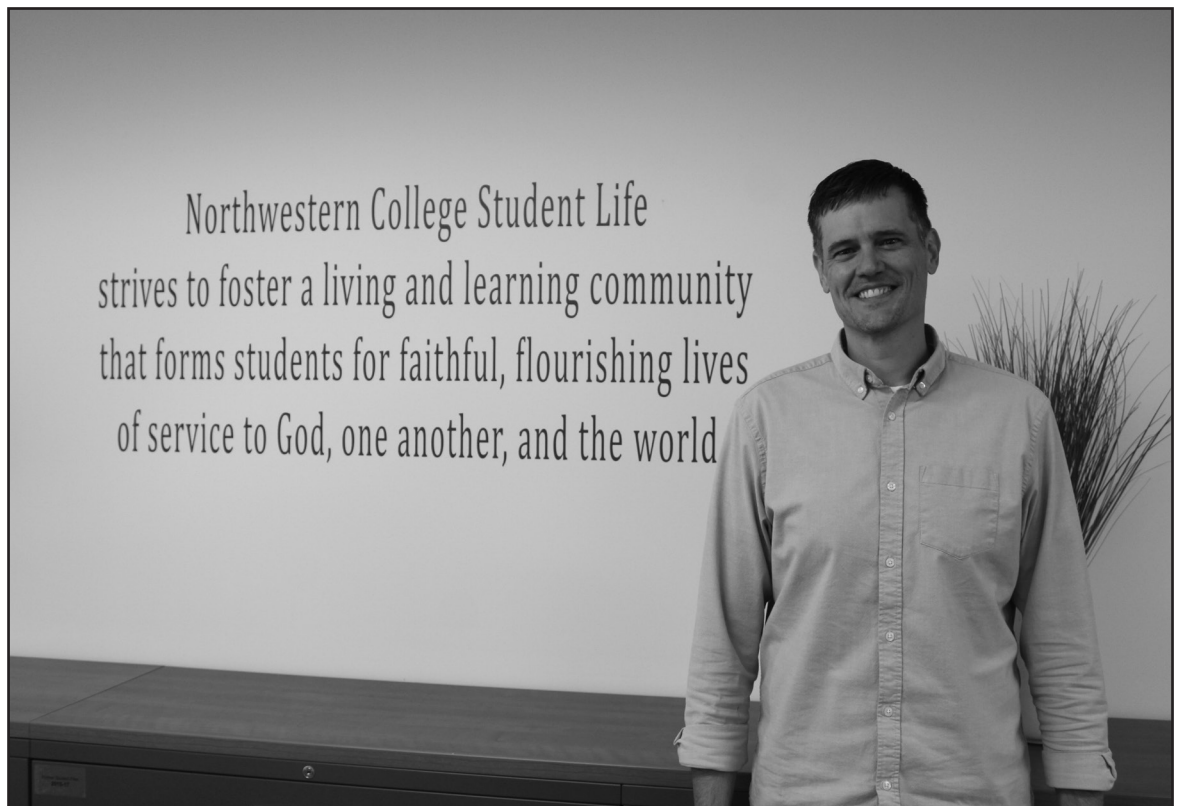


PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MOODY

Marlon Haverdink stands in front of the Student Life Office mission statement in Ramaker.

classes and every other building on campus, too. Through these times of intense uncertainty and a heavier workload, Haverdink has remained true to himself.

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 Northwestern College - Beacon

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Nolan continues mind-bending story streak

TV SHOW REVIEW

ENTHRALLING VIEWERS

MORIAH WITTENBERG
NURSING

Following in the footsteps of the iconic and mind-bending movies like “Interstellar” and “Inception” comes the highly anticipated film “Tenet.” The viewer is kept engaged throughout the whole movie as they try to wrap their minds around the idea of time – time that moves both forward and backward.

Featuring renowned actors such as Michael Caine, Robert Pattinson, Kenneth Branagh and John David Washington, “Tenet” explores the idea of inverted time.

The movie depicts the characters racing against the clock – both the linear and inverted clock – to prevent the birth of World War III. The characters discover that those in the future who invented inverted time are attempting to attack them in the present day.

Through a series of complex

events, the characters struggle to decipher the mechanism through which this attack is possible and how one is able to stop it. With this talented cast in tow, these complex ideas are portrayed masterfully, and viewers are drawn in and engulfed by this new world.

The audience must also acknowledge the diversity seen in the cast and in the filming locations. This movie is made more engaging and beautiful due to the different strengths of the cast: the actors encompass a large age range, some with fresh talent and ideas, others with decades of skill and experience. Further, many of these actors come from different countries and cultures, including India, the United Kingdom and the United States.

“Tenet” was filmed in seven countries: the United States, India, the United Kingdom, Italy, Norway, Estonia and Denmark. With all these differences in mind, “Tenet” weaves together a beautiful image of diversity and paints a more vibrant story for the audience.

In this film, director and producer Christopher Nolan again presents his viewers with a puzzle to decipher, and the viewers must acknowledge the genius and originality of this puzzle. Through this creativity, the film requires the viewers’ complete attention and full mental capacity.

The music is another key component to the film. While Nolan paints a visual picture for the viewers, composer Ludwig Göransson paints a vivid soundtrack for his listeners. His music reflects the themes of moving both forward and backward in time.

In order to portray this, Göransson uses drums that build in tempo and sound to indicate forward motion in time, and then he suddenly switches to a slow, mechanical, uneven rhythm to signify backward motion in time. In addition, Göransson also used technological sound effects to add to the futuristic theme of the movie. The effects of the music are that the viewers are able to feel what

the movie is portraying.

The one downfall with this film is that the dialogue is not clear. The actors wear oxygen masks for a large part of the film and some of the actors have accents, overall making the dialogue challenging to understand. These factors make it difficult to catch odd names and phrases that are important, which can make it more difficult for the viewer to follow along. If you intend to watch this movie, I highly recommend watching it with closed captioning.

Overall, I would rate “Tenet” 4 out of 5 stars. This film does a great job enthralling the viewers. It requires persistent focus, and its intensity and originality keep the audience guessing as to what comes next.

With a movie like this, with every run-through, more details will emerge, and a more complete picture will be formed, especially when considering the fuzziness of the dialogue. If you are looking for a

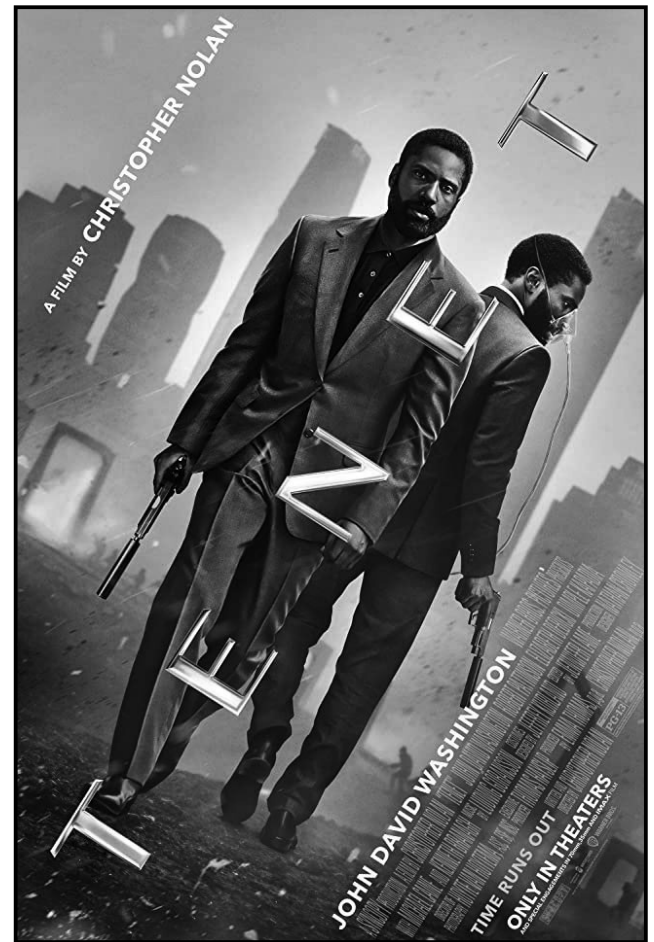


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

movie to challenge the way you understand the world around you, “Tenet” will certainly push the limits of how you perceive time and the future.



Katy Perry teaches us how to “Smile” again

MUSIC REVIEW

FUN AND UPBEAT

ALLISON WHEELER
GRAPHIC DESIGN

Katy Perry’s voice and musical style may have matured a bit as she has gotten older, but the singer still has some spunk in her, and it shows in the songs released on her new album, “Smile.”

The album was released on Aug. 28 and when listening to it, I had moments when I smiled.

There are 12 songs featured on the album, but six of them stood out to me as songs I will be adding to my playlist.

The first song on the album is titled “Never Really Over,” and I had heard this song before listening to the album. My brother had shared the song with me, and it captured my attention right away.

The chorus is catchy and a fun one to sing along to. Perry’s vocals are strong, and her range is showcased throughout. The digitalized percussion and synthesizer instrumentation add a cool and youthful feel to the song. There is also tempo change in the middle that is nicely done.

“Daisies” has an empowering and positive message in

the lyrics. The guitar part in the instrumentation adds a raw and vulnerable feel and it is a strong element within the song. The switch from guitar to digital instrumentation and piano creates a cool effect. Once again, Perry exhibits an incredible vocal range and the tempo transitions are well executed. This song is a fun one to listen and daydream to.

Another empowering and strong song is “Resilient.” This song has a different vibe from the other songs, and it was a refreshing change. There is a strong beat throughout the song, and it made me want to stomp and clap along.

It sounds like there is a violin featured in the instrumentation and I always love a good violin part.

The lyrics are inspiring and create nice visuals when listening to them. There were some similarities to Perry’s “Roar” in this song which shows that she has consistency as an artist.

Another song that caught my attention and held it throughout was “End of the World.” This is definitely a power song and has an uplifting message. It features a sample of “Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye” by Steam, but with an added twist.

The lyrics of the song also

have some nice rhyming moments. I picked up vibes from some of Perry’s previous songs while listening to this song, mostly “Dark Horse” and “Rise.” I would love to choreograph a dance to this song.

The title song of the album, “Smile,” is another song that I had previously heard in a commercial, and I liked it because it’s upbeat and fun. The chorus is catchy, and it makes me want to sing along.

The lyrics showcase a humble side of Perry and they have a positive message. The rhyming of the lyrics makes it easy to learn the lyrics and join in.

The brass featured in the instrumentation has a digital element that adds a cool effect. This song just makes me feel happy.

“Champagne Problems” grabbed my attention from the second it started playing with the instrumentation featured at the beginning. The rhythm guitar has some cool riffs, and the bass guitar is strong throughout. There is a descending effect used in the instrumentation which is ear catching, and it kept my attention. Perry also uses an echo effect with her vocals which puts a modern twist on the song. This would be a fun song



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATYPERRY.COM

to listen to in the car.

Perry did not disappoint with the songs featured on this album. Overall, I enjoyed listening to the songs and hearing what new elements she

brought to the table. Perry’s style was evident throughout the album, but she threw in some twists for fun. There were some songs that got lost amongst the stronger songs,

but I would recommend this album to my friends who are looking for some fun and upbeat music to dance and sing along to.



“Love’s Labour’s Lost” comes to downtown OC

THEATER IN WINDMILL PARK

BAILEY BANWART
SOCIAL WORK

Some comedic relief is coming to campus.

Northwestern’s theatre department will be producing “Love’s Labour’s Lost” in the coming weeks.

The Shakespearean play features four men who swear off women to focus on their studies, only to all fall in love a day later.

“In many ways, it’s a play about trying to live in balance between the pressures of academics and the need to maintain a good healthy social life. This is something every college student must learn to negotiate,” Director Dr. Robert Hubbard said.

Show times are scheduled for Oct. 3, 5, and 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Windmill Park downtown Orange City.

A special invitation is extended to Northwestern College students to attend the preview show at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 1.

Hubbard said the audience can expect lots of joy and laughs, and as he put it, “We could all use a good laugh right now.”

The audience should also be on the lookout for several references to life in Orange City, including costume jokes and script alterations.

Junior Rachel Smart has enjoyed the challenge that Shakespeare provides.

“It’s like a puzzle, and slowly everything clicks into place,” she said.

The production was halted last year when students were sent home due to the pandemic, but the theatre department has taken this in stride and is ready to present the show with a few modifications.

“I was in the cast last semester when we tried to produce it for the first time, so I have enjoyed seeing two different casts take on these iconic characters,” junior Sierra Tumbleson said.

The show is set outdoors to provide the audience with adequate space to socially distance from one another.

Hubbard encouraged all those who attend to bring along lawn chairs, blankets and an adventurous spirit.

Not only has COVID-19 affected the casting of the play, but the cast will be wearing clear masks during their performance in order for the audience to see their expressions.

“COVID can’t stop the theatre department,” cast member Kitrick Fynaardt said.

With the performance being outdoors in downtown Orange City, Town Square Coffeehouse will be selling walking tacos before the show to create a festival-like atmosphere.

Although the production process is not without its hardships this year, the



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MOODY
Students rehearse “Love’s Labour’s Lost” at the band shell.

cast members and director have all thoroughly enjoyed the time they have spent together producing it.

“It’s such a good feeling to work on a show that’s harder and to take ownership of that hard work,” Smart said.

Smart also recalls a time in rehearsal when several cast members were on the floor laughing. Fynaardt is excited

to share the real-life lessons he believes are embedded in this production as well as a couple laughs along the way. Tumbleson fondly recalls her experience and relationship with her other female cast members.

“These three girls (Tumbleson’s fellow female cast members) have become like older sisters to me, the four of us

hang out all the time outside of rehearsals and I have loved getting to know them on a deeper level because of this show,” Tumbleson said.

Hubbard has enjoyed collaborating as a cast again.

“Everyone has missed this in-person collaboration these past several months,” Hubbard said.

Art department adjusts to COVID-19

DEPT. LOOKS
DIFFERENT IN 2020

ANGELA WINTERING
THEATRE

Mo Willems, the author of the famous children’s book series “Pigeon Presents,” was the original quoter of the phrase that practically became a proverb for artists in COVID-19 quarantine everywhere: “Science will get us out of this, but art will get us through this.”

Upon returning to campus with many unknowns, students involved in the college’s art department and program were some who had the most doubts that anything would be like it used to be. Among the changes, however, there remains pleasant surprises and the overall effectiveness of the program.

As artists find solace in their creations, art instructors are getting creative about how they teach.

Before COVID-19, students would gather in one of the workshops or classrooms with about 10 to 15 students. With everyone there, it was easy to view projects and offer critiques.

In lieu of COVID-19, everything has shifted.

Art classes have adapted a hybrid learning approach

where not everyone is in the room at one time. Instead, half of the class is in the designated classroom space while the other half is in a different room attending class over Zoom.

This allows for social distancing and as close to an in-class learning experience as possible.

For critique days, the students split into two groups. One group attends and critiques in the first half of class. The other attends the second half to offer their opinions on projects.

“This is the biggest downside of COVID-19 because I feel like I do not know who half of my classmates are,” Camryn Cleveringa, a junior art major, said.

Another adjustment that has been made includes the Te Peske Gallery being converted into a classroom to accommodate the need for more distanced learning.

In the past, the Te Peske Gallery would showcase student works and pieces from professional artists, providing a free avenue to experience arts and culture in the community.

In spaces with set workstations, such as the ceramics lab, the stations have been spread out or marked to be unused in order to maintain distance.

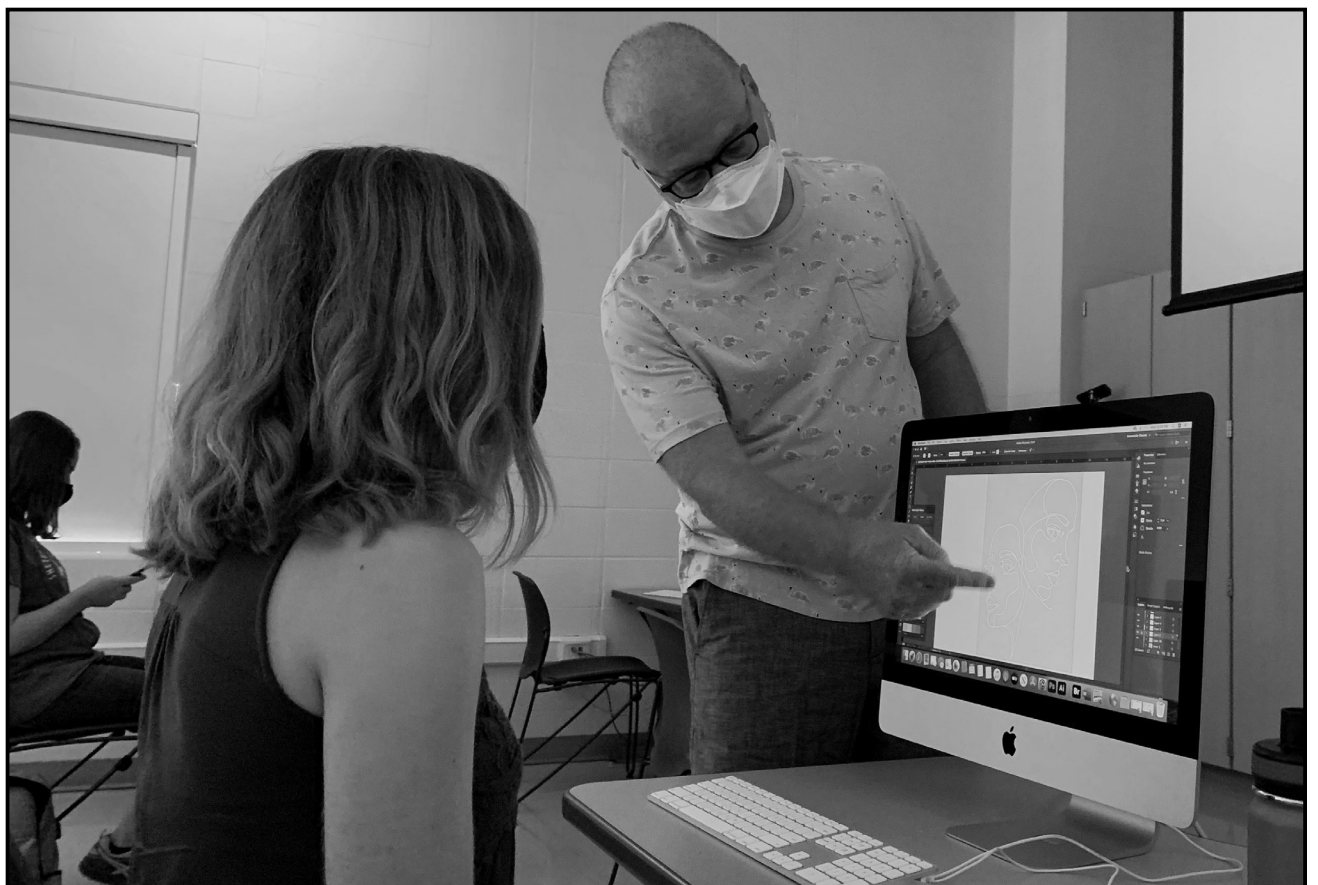


PHOTO BY AMELIA HOLT
Professor Scorza helps sophomore Faith Tyrrell during Photography I.

Students taking art classes are encouraged to think creatively, not just about what kind of art they are making but also how and where they make it.

Ali Almail, a senior double major in art and cell biology, is taking this as an opportunity to explore new mediums.

“I generally enjoy very

bulky and hard to work with media,” he said. “On the bright side, I get to learn new skills in my painting class while working on watercolor as opposed to my preferred medium of oil paint.”

The one thing that has remained constant in this time filled with uncertainty is the dedication of the

department’s professors.

They have stayed committed to providing a safe space for students to work in, having disinfectants and other cleaning supplies in many parts of the building in order to encourage and keep cleanliness an ultimate priority.

Despite all of the changes, they have continued to strive to

provide a productive work environment for students to continue to build on their talents and improve their craft.

“While the classroom experience has been greatly altered, our professors have been doing a great job keeping the atmosphere positive and easy to work in,” Faith Tyrrell, a sophomore Art major, said.

The benefits of time outdoors

SUNLIGHT AND STUDY BREAKS

VANESSA STOKES
WRITING AND RHETORIC

After six months of spending time cooped up in our homes, we all got a bit restless. Some people took up new hobbies like knitting, bread making, scrapbooking or origami. Others chose to finally binge-watch all of the shows in their Netflix queues. And then there are the ones who answered the call of the wild.

According to the RV Industry Association, RV sales this summer hit a record high with over 37,000 sold in the month of June. People wanted to explore the world from the comfort of their own home, a mobile home. Most spent their time touring national parks and natural wonders while soaking in the summer sun.

What many travelers may not have realized was how beneficial this was for their health.

Harvard Health has been touting the benefits of spending time outdoors since 2010. In their yearly newsletter, they included an article on the prescription for better health. The one medicine: step outside for five minutes each day.

Sun helps boost your Vitamin D levels, which has been shown to fight disease. Infection studies suggested that Vitamin D may have protective effects against everything from osteoporosis to cancer to depression to heart attacks and stroke.

Not only does physical health improve, mental health does as well. Sunlight elevates people's moods. Researchers at the University of Essex in England reported results showing that just five minutes of green exercise resulted in improvements in self-esteem and mood.

By green exercise, they do not mean staring at a fake landscape on a treadmill while you run.

People respond to the natural world. Some even heal faster. University of Pittsburgh researchers reported in 2005 that spinal surgery patients experienced less pain and stress and took fewer pain medications during their recoveries if they were exposed to natural light.

Even though just a few minutes outside can impact a person's whole day, the average American still spends 90% of their life indoors, according to an Environmental Protection Agency report.

So, how can college students break this trend and start reaping the benefits



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ

While it's still nice weather outside, it's important to spend time outdoors, as it can benefit both health and attitude.

of sunlight?

Some students may try to convince their professors to have class outside. And if that doesn't work, they always have the option to study outside the Learning Commons or in the new outdoor science plaza that has been equipped with plug-ins.

When you're done with homework or need a study break, take a friend or significant other on an outdoor walk either around Orange City or on the Puddle

Jumper Trail only a block from campus.

At mealtimes, the Caf and Hub now always offer to-go options that can be used for picnicking or hammocking with friends.

If you have a set of golf clubs, you're set for the campus game of gennis, a combination of tennis and golf. But if you don't have a set, then grab a frisbee and a friend.

For more intense outdoor options, there's always sand volleyball, going for a run or

signing up for Northwestern's new Adventure Club.

The Adventure Club was founded this year by Sierra Tumbleson and Azaraiah Schaefer with the intent of spending time with God and creation while in community with others.

"People should join the adventure club if you want to meet other people on campus who love the outdoors and growing closer to God by being in nature," Tumbleson, who is club president, said.

The club plans on hosting an event each month that corresponds with the season. During each event, they will also have a message that correlates with the activity to connect people to God.

The first event is a simple, get-to-know-you walk at the Puddle Jumper Trail Sunday, Sept. 27, at 1 p.m. For anyone wanting to join in the adventures, contact Tumbleson or follow the Adventure club on Instagram @nwcadventureclub.

Unsung Heroes: Marlon Haverdink

FROM PAGE 1

He is always present with whoever needs him and does not let his dizzying workload distract him.

Caylan DeLucia, RD of Stegenga Hall, said that he is like a boss and a friend. He not only takes care of business issues at meetings and through email, he also fosters authentic personal relationships with all of his colleagues. He supports his colleagues with care and full trust.

Marlon trusts his RDs to make good decisions on their own without checking in with him first for every little thing, according to DeLucia. And when they do make a mistake, he responds with grace.

Their faculty mantra is "ministry of presence," which she believes Haverdink embodies with humility and wisdom. She said that no matter when

she would call Haverdink about something, whether it was a big or small question, he would answer with a listening ear and careful wisdom.

Natalie Wheeler, the new RD of Fern Smith Hall, echoed DeLucia.

"He is one who, no matter how he is feeling or what he is going through, makes you feel like you matter," Wheeler said.

Haverdink serves the campus with a heart for God, humility, bravery and strength in the face of the exponential unknowns wrapped around this new school year.

He deals with questions from all directions, putting in countless hours to make sure everyone is heard and cared for.

He is "the man, the myth, the legend," our unsung hero: Marlon Haverdink.



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MOODY

Marlon juggles many responsibilities on campus, from overseeing residence life to working with NW's Pandemic Response Team.

New activities at homecoming

CELEBRATING
COMMUNITY

RACHEL SMART
THEATRE

Homecoming weekend looked a little different this year, but through safety precautions, students were still able to celebrate Northwest and its community.

All of the student events for homecoming weekend were brand new additions, specially devised around COVID-19.

On Friday, Lucas Heiberger, the admissions marketing and event strategist, scheduled Northwest Fest, an outdoor music festival with food and games on the green. Heiberger explains that outdoor festivals like LifeLight, previously held near Sioux Falls, South Dakota, were an inspiration for the event.

To create this ambiance, Heiberger pulled many bands from the community as well as student and faculty bands. A crowd favorite was Simm and the Ridgelines, led by Hoppers Hall resident director Michael Simmelink. To get the outdoor festival food truck feel, Creative

Dining hosted three different tents which allowed students to browse through different options.

"I'd love for this to become an annual tradition on Friday before Homecoming," Heiberger said. "We'll see what next year brings."

Following Northwest Fest, the Student Activities Council hosted another new event: The Masked Singer, a singing competition between faculty members based on the reality TV show of the same name.

The premise of The Masked Singer is that each of the contestants is fully costumed with a mask, which conceals their identity, and the contestants' voices are also disguised when they are not singing. Each of the judges must guess who the masked singers are based on clues, and at the end, the audience votes on their favorite musical performance.

Six faculty and staff competed Friday night, and Dr. Angela Holt, assistant professor of music and director of NW's Symphonic Band, took home the trophy with an energetic performance of "Do You Love Me" by the Contours

while dressed as a bear.

"I like much of the oldie songs, and it involved references to dances from that time period, which I was able to incorporate," she said.

Another standout performance was theatre professor Drew Schmidt dressed as "No Face."

"Having Drew Schmidt go so early was a big thing for the competitors," said Simmelink, who performed at the event as a T-Rex. "We saw him going for it, and I think it [made us feel as though] we could let our hair down, too."

Admissions counselor Sarah Pemberton, who performed as a bunny, said, "Northwestern should make this an annual event in my opinion. This was a blast and a half to be a part of."

But the event wasn't just popular with the faculty and staff.

As senior Kittrick Fynaardt pointed out, "It was a good reminder that the faculty are just as fun and engaged as the students."

NW prides itself in community, and it's clear that events like The Masked Singer really bring students



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM

Homecoming weekend consisted of new activities, including a music festival, Masked Singer, and a Latin Dance.

and faculty together.

The final student event for homecoming weekend was a Latin American dance night, which was hosted by SAC, Campus Ministry Team and LaMosaic. At the event, students were given the opportunity to learn some popular Latin American dances, listen to pop and traditional Latin American music and try some

tasty Latin American treats.

Martha Draayer, Hispanic community liaison, said that the event was created as a way to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month since dance is an incredibly important art in Latin American culture. Draayer added that NW should continue to invest in events like this since Sioux County has a growing Latin American population.

"It's important to learn to live in community and to love our nuance," she said.

Next year she hopes to host an even larger event like a fiesta or a food fest.

Overall, homecoming, while different than years past, was still filled with joy and spirit in these newly pioneered student events.

RAs in COVID

FROM PAGE 1

Willats said that it's been a struggle to balance the value of community with the health of students and the people they interact with.

Dorm events and activities, normally a staple of residence life, have also been limited. There are more considerations as RAs and RDs analyze the cost-benefit ratio of every group gathering.

If dorm or wing events happen at all, they are encouraged to take place outside. RAs must have their

event assessed by NW's Pandemic Response Team, and they must consider a variety of safety precautions, such as hand washing, sanitization of common objects, masks, number of attendees and more.

But this doesn't take away from the core mission of residence life team members.

"I look forward to helping people figure out who they are and what they believe in," Fischer said. "I love being a facilitator of growth."

Although a lot looks dif-

ferent in the dorms this year, there are still ample opportunities to find a place of belonging; the RAs and RDs are eager to continue building their dorms' community and getting to know the men and women in their halls.

"The conversations and people are worth the extra effort and slight inconvenience at times," Willats said.

RAs are indeed in a unique position as they work to draw people in during a season that calls for distance.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ

RDs and RAs still try to provide Northwestern's valued community, even in the midst of a pandemic.



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WOULD YOU RATHER?

(As voted on by you, the students)

Would you rather attend...

Hospers Coffee House

53%

OR

Coly Christmas

47%

Would you rather eat for a month...

Casey's Pizza

49%

OR

Pizza Ranch Pizza

51%

Would you rather get coffee with...

President Christy

30%

OR

Mark DeYounge

70%

Be sure to follow the Beacon on Instagram to vote for next week's Would You Rather?

Unity in the global church



Rachel Smart
Theatre

Like many of my peers, I spent my quarantine wasting hours upon hours scrolling through the soul-sucking app TikTok.

The thing about TikTok is that it's For You page algorithm is genius. When they say, "for you" they mean "for you."

As a result, my For You page wound up aligning itself really well to my political opinions and my faith. I am a very politically liberal person, but also a very faithful and dedicated Christian, so I frequently got recommended videos by "progressive Christians."

While I wouldn't necessarily consider myself a full-blown progressive Christian, I really enjoyed the content. It made me think about my faith in new perspectives.

However, when I scrolled through the comments, there would always be Christians who yelled at the creator, telling them that there was no way they could be a Christian and believe what they do.

Christianity is a religion with

incredible diversity. There are thousands of denominations all with their own interpretations of scripture. Opinions on theological issues like baptism, sacraments, tradition, spiritual gifts and more vary from individual to individual, and we as a global church recognize that despite these differences, we all belong to one body.

Yet for some reason, liberal and progressive Christians seem to be the exception to this. Apparently, it's fine to disagree on transubstantiation, but if one believes homosexuality isn't a sin, then their faith isn't real.

I find this mentality so incredibly dangerous because it is rooted in legalism, which we know has always been Satan's way of attacking the church and undermining its work. To claim that Christianity is simply a set of rules or theological opinions negates the Gospel itself.

We are called Christians. Christ-ian. The only requirement for being a Christian is to believe in Christ's redeeming sacrifice for us and to follow him.

Historically we can see the great harm that has come to the church when we try to exclude our brothers and sisters. For centuries Protestants and Catholics battled bitterly, going so far as killing each other over what we now consider to be small theological differences in the grand scheme of God's plan.

Our current cultural climate is just as divisive in many ways. With the United States split angrily between party lines and

with all of the suffering and pain in this world, the church simply cannot afford to gatekeep and exclude its own members, and honestly, we were never called to do so in the first place.

Instead, we must take wisdom from our brother Paul before us.

For example, hear his rebuke of the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17. In this passage, Paul addresses growing disagreements among the Christians in Corinth, who were apparently dividing into factions based on who had baptized them. Paul begs them in verse 10 to instead stay unified stating, "I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."

In Ephesians 4:1-3, Paul also encourages unity, asking that the Ephesians "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called... eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Once more, the global church must find unity and reconciliation of theological differences. I'm not saying we should never discuss or debate theology or even attempt to sway our brothers and sisters to what we feel the Holy Spirit is telling us about Scripture. Those are good practices to uphold.

Rather, we must cast away the notion that some believers are not "true" believers because their theology is different than

What is up with the Hub?



Schuyler Sterk
English

Every year, the Hub goes through a couple weeks of stunted hours while they hire their new work study students and adjust to a new school year. That's normal, and that's to be expected.

What was not expected was to reach the end of the fifth week of school and still be finding the Hub doors locked and the lights off when I show up for a late lunch.

Isn't the purpose of the Hub to have a campus dining location that is open throughout the entire day, so no matter what our class, practice or rehearsal schedule looks like, we can still eat lunch and dinner?

What about people who have class from straight through the day until after 2 p.m., or those who have an evening full of music rehearsals until 7 p.m.? What are they to do for their meals?

I have friends who have had to run

to Subway or Taco John's for lunch many times because couldn't get lunch on campus after their classes got done.

Aside from taking more time, this is also frustrating because we've paid (an exorbitant amount, might I add) for a meal plan as part of our room and board costs, and now we can't even use all the meals we're paying for. And really, how are we to spend all the flex money we've already paid for by the end of the semester if we don't have the opportunity to splurge on cheeseballs and smoothies?

Accessible meal times aside, another frustration of the minimal Hub hours is that the prime late-night study break is no longer an option. Five weeks into the semester, we still haven't had the chance to meet up with friends after a long night of homework, meetings, rehearsals and other activities, to grab some greasy burgers and cheeseballs.

My friends and I call this late-night meal Pizza Time, and we have sorely missed it this year. And what about the ever-popular post Praise and Worship Hub run? You'd think having P&W in the RSC would make those Hub runs even easier, but we still have yet to satisfy our post-worship cravings.

I've wondered if they've focused so much on staffing the Cafeteria, since that's where most people eat and that's where the longest lines are, that they've

forgotten about the Hub. The reason most people eat at the Caf and the reason the lines are so long is because the Hub is not the accessible, convenient option it normally is.

New freshmen and transfers don't yet know the magnificent convenience of the Hub as all they've experienced are strange, disappointing hours that mean they may or may not eat lunch that day.

At the very least, I wish there was someone who could run an Instagram page again to publicize the Hub's odd hours, like last year's "Is the Hub Open" page. That way, we wouldn't have to trek all the way to the Student Center, hoping that the Hub is open so we can eat a late lunch after the Caf is closed, only to get there and realize it's closed in the middle of the day again.

Creative Dining and our wonderful dining staff have done a great job at adjusting their serving lines, expanding their cleaning procedures and wearing their masks. I really appreciate everything they're doing to keep us safe and help us stay on campus, and I know I'm not alone.

Though we are grateful for our wonderful dining staff and I'm sure they're doing their best, I just want to eat a burger at 10 p.m. on a Sunday night again.

When will the Hub be open?

Editor's Note

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NW Football dominates in home-opener

HOME-OPENER
SUCCESSFUL WIN

TREY HARMS
SPANISH

The Red Raider football team played at De Valois in Stadium in orange city last Saturday against Dakota Wesleyan. The home-opener doubled as Senior Day; the 15 seniors chose to support the Doon, an Iowa-based non-profit S.A.L.U.T.E. on the day as well. Last year's matchup in Mitchell, SD saw Northwestern come home with a 52-7 victory, and the scoreboard was once again well used by the Raiders in this year's meeting.

Freshman Eli Stader kicked off the scoring on the Raiders' opening drive of the windy autumn day, knocking through a 37-yard field goal to end a short six-play drive.

While the Tigers of DWU came hoping to put up a fight, it wasn't long before they began to look harmlessly tamed. Three of the next four NW drives lasted only two plays, resulting in touchdowns of 73, 70 and 91 yards as senior Tyson Kooima racked up an absurd 272 passing yards on just eight completions during his half of play. The Raiders defense held tight as well, holding DWU to four punts and a turnover on downs during their first half possessions. head coach Matt McCarty said, "Our players responded well from a tough setback in week one. They put a great week of work in and really controlled the game from the start. It was great to see several different players step up and make big plays for us."

Holding a comfortable 29-0 halftime lead, the

second half saw some fresh faces on the field for the Raiders. Freshman Logan Meyer took advantage in the third quarter as he cruised 73 yards to the house on his first touch of the game. NW's final two touchdowns came in the fourth quarter, with redshirt sophomore Blake Fryar finding senior Canon Flores for a 32-yard score and senior Drake Brezina punching in his first rushing TD of the season.

The Red Raider defense was led by linebackers Trevor Rozeboom (senior) and Tanner Oleson (junior) as they both recorded career-highs of 10 tackles. Sophomore Jady Williams recorded his first career interception as well.

"The defense played well overall", said Oleson. "We continued to put pressure on their offense to throw



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Raiders football take home the win for senior day and home-opener.

the ball more. They were run heavy the entire game. We have aspects to work on such as tackling in run heavy games, but we were happy with the

performance." It's safe to say Raider Nation was happy with the performance as well.

The Raiders find themselves with an extra

bye week as this Saturday's game in Jamestown was postponed. NW will be back in action on Oct. 3 in Sioux Center against Dordt next week.

Athletics adjust to new COVID protocols

NEW RULES CREATES
A NEW MINDSET

NAOMI LIEF
ART

From the stage to the court, extracurriculars and athletics here at Northwestern have changed drastically since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Coaches are determined to keep the events in March of 2020 in the past. Carrie Krohn, assistant manager of the cross country and track and field teams, explains that it was difficult to lose last year's season.

"Thankfully, the teams used it as fuel over the summer to prepare well for our current season," Krohn says.

There are many new rules and protocols that athletes have to adhere to in order to continue to participate in their particular sport. For Esports, changes have been

fairly low impact.

"Our current protocols include pre-practice temperature screenings, daily cleaning of all equipment, and mask wearing throughout the entirety of practice," says Cole Prescott, director of Esports.

Andrea Freeman, a junior on the Overwatch team, explains that it's fairly easy to get used to wearing a mask while playing, along with adhering to other new regulations. "Something that's great about Esports as opposed to regular athletics is that you can keep playing from your dorm, even if you get quarantined and the dedication my teammates put towards getting better at the games we play is inspiring. We are all trying our best to follow the guidelines and stay healthy," she says.

Each program experiences its own difficulties when it comes to gathering together safely. "The biggest adjustment and

challenges for our [football] program has been finding meeting spaces big enough for our team and groups," said Matt McCarthy, NW head football coach. He explains how the team was divided into two separate groups to social distance while in the locker room, and many games have been postponed this season because of athletes in quarantine. McCarthy states that the team is continuously reminded to have a positive attitude and to focus on what they can control, as opposed to what they can't.

"Our coaches and student athletes continue to do whatever we asked of them so they can have their seasons," says Micah Parker, vice president of athletics and a member of the COVID Task Force.

Noah Kullmann, a sophomore participating in football, says he loves the game,



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM
Raider athletes take on a new experience with new COVID protocols.

and will do what it takes to continue playing. "I never know if a certain practice or game will be my last, so I choose to enjoy every second I have on the field with my brothers," Kullmann says. Players of all

different sports, athletics and extracurriculars have showed that no matter what happens, they are ready to take on the challenges of being a part of a team in the midst of a pandemic.

Life on campus for fifth-year seniors

THE REALITY OF BEING A
FIFTH-YEAR SENIOR

BREANNA CARR
ENGLISH TEACHING

Many times in college, someone only play a sport for one to four years. However there are some who have the opportunity to play for five years if they redshirt at anytime in their collegiate career. The students are known as fifth-year seniors. Typically, fifth-year students don't have very many classes. Since they don't have many classes and are in athletics, some may wonder what it is like on campus for those students.

I had the opportunity to talk to a fifth-year senior on the Northwestern volleyball team. Redshirt senior representing number 15, Anna Wedel, had a lot to say about what this semester looks like for her.

Wedel says, she is only enrolled in one 4-credit class this semester. Not only does she have her psychology research lab, she also works at MOC-FV High School as a teacher's aide. With her job, Wedel works from eight a.m. to three p.m. and when she is done with work, she goes straight to practice.

"It is a bit chaotic at times, going from class to work to practice day in

and day out," Wedel said. Though it is a bit turbulent, Wedel said she wouldn't change a thing. She is also thankful for all the opportunities she has been given throughout the years. Wedel is currently embracing the craziness that 2020 continues to bring.

NW sports have a few fifth-year seniors, all taking in as much of their season as possible. These fifth-year seniors have worked hard to get to where they are. I wish each and every senior and fifth-year senior the best of luck this year in their studies and athletics.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Anna Wedel shares campus life for her as a fifth-year senior.

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Wildfires devastate the West Coast

WEST COAST FILLED WITH FIRE, SMOKE AND PLEAS FOR HELP

CAMBER HERRIG
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Since August, the West Coast has been experiencing record-breaking wildfires.

Currently, there are over 28 major fires in California, devastating more than 3.2 million acres. The death toll has reached 24 people in California, and entire towns in California, Oregon and Washington have been overtaken by the flames. And this is just the beginning of wildfire season.

Besides the desolated towns and acres of land, another consequence of these fires is the air quality. Iowans have been seeing hazy skies and a reddish sun as smoke makes its way to the Midwest.

There are students from the West Coast like Luke Dykstra, a sophomore mathematics major, of Sunnyside, Washington, with families back home who have been directly affected by the smoldering states.

"All the schools that are not online cancelled for two days last week because of the air quality," Dykstra said. "The air quality is in the hazardous range, and the smog just sits in the air. Some areas even had ash falling."

For Californian Jessica Rogers, a senior psychology major, her family and church had to worry about the fire.

"A few weeks ago, my church had a campus that was in danger from the fires, but they are safe now. The pollution is rather bad in California where I'm from, but also in Oregon where my brother goes to college," Rogers said. "They actually had to stay inside and do classes online for a few days because the air quality was so bad from the ash and smoke."

The raging wildfires has made the air quality in California the dirtiest in the world, outranking cities in China and India who traditionally have the worst air quality, resulting in scale-breaking air quality ratings. The air quality is so poor that health warnings have been issued for those exposed to the air. California recommends the population to wear P100 masks and N95 respirators if they must go outside.

Air quality has become so severe that many colleges closed campus buildings, asking students and staff to



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM
California's battle against three of the state's largest fires in history has proved to be no easy task.

work remotely. The College of Marin, a community college in Kentfield, California, was closed Sept. 11-14. Various K-12 schools, colleges and universities in Oregon have also cancelled in-person classes, either due to the air quality or power outages.

At this time, the air pollution in Oregon and Washington is improving, but California is still fighting to extinguish some of the major fires.

But how did these damaging wildfires start? People.

It's come to light that a gender reveal party in California is partly to blame. A family used a "pyrotechnic device" to reveal their baby's sex. Four-foot-tall grass at the El Dorado Ranch Park was ignited, leading to 20,000 acres burned

A fire in Oregon was due to falling trees knocking down

power lines. Dry lightning is another cause, igniting the dry lands of California. The state has also been experiencing fierce winds, driving the fires to spread faster.

Finally, climate change is an active participant in the fires' rapid spread. A combination of this year's record-breaking heat wave, drought and dry soil have all led to California being a breeding ground for wildfires.

But how does California move forward and try to prevent future wildfires?

One way is to allow for controlled burns, an intentional fire used to manage the land, restore ecosystem health, recycle nutrients and prepare the land for new vegetation. Without controlled burning, a build-up of overgrowth and dead vegetation create a tinderbox environment.

Intramurals kick off this week on the green

A FUN WAY TO GET INVOLVED

AARON ECKMANN
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Northwestern's intramural leagues started this week.

Walking out to the green on Tuesday night, you could not miss the crowds surrounding the sand volleyball pit and bean bag boards by the Science Building.

Friends and other competitors sat on the grass and enjoyed watching the competition and being in the company of one another in the beautiful fall weather.

While other school sporting events are being canceled due to COVID-19, intramurals are just starting off allowing students to watch the competition and cheer on their friends.

NW boasts of 20 intramurals, but the fall season and COVID-related restrictions have only allowed for two sports so far.

The fact that intramurals are still happening despite many other activities getting canceled on campus and in the community has been a draw for some.

Sydney Mouw, a sophomore business major, said she decided to do intramurals because "it was something to do... and I

want a T-shirt," after her team, the "Holy Baggers," started the season with two wins and eyes on the season champion T-shirt. However, this is just one of the many reasons people decided to participate.

Even student-athletes have been enjoying participating in intramural sports.

Azariah Schaefer, a sophomore psychology major and decathlete for the NW track team, said he joined intramurals because he loves the fun of sports.

"It's nice to get a break from super competitive interactions," he said. "It's nice to have fun and not worry about being the best."

While some take intramu-

urals seriously, many participate more casually.

There have even been efforts with the volleyball league to have two divisions, separating the more casual players from the serious ones. But there are bigger issues brewing.

COVID-19 and the regulations that have come with it have caused quite a stir. Intramurals are no exception.

With the implementation of the event risk calculator and restrictions in the Rowenhorst Student Center, many intramurals we have seen in the past aren't taking place this semester.

However, this all could change with time. Intramural sports such as basketball have been put on hold due to the four-court area being filled with chairs and used for chapel.

Since the equipment has been rearranged in the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center, the pool table has been moved out, taking that off the list of possibilities temporarily. Once the virus spread slows and the four-court area is cleared, there should be a lot more opportunity for different sports to be offered.

The first set of intramural sports offered this semester are sand volleyball and bean bag toss.

While the season has started and team signups have closed,

there are still plenty of ways to get involved. One thing you can do is talk to one of the sand volleyball teams about joining for the rest of the season. You could also wait for signups for later intramurals sports.

Even if you don't want to play, you can simply go join

everyone else on the green every Tuesday and Thursday nights cheering on their friends. Whether you love competition, want to find a fun way to stay active or simply enjoy meeting new people, intramurals provide a way to get involved on campus.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Students enjoying the competition of a sand volleyball match for their intramural league.

"A Night at the Movies!"
NWC SYMPHONIC BAND

Saturday, September 27 | 6:00pm
Christy Cross (in front of Zwemer)
and Christ Chapel if it rains

Movie soundtrack favorites including:
Robin Hood, Schindler's List (featuring our
Ritsema scholarship winner, Ashley Van
Ravenswaay), How to Train Your Dragon, Wizard
of Oz, & The Lion King

*Free outdoor concert; bring a friend plus a
chair or blanket

*Movie trivia and prizes as well!

NORTHWESTERN | StandOut
COLLEGE