Mark Volkers is a man with many hats: professor, Orange City community member, missionary, award-winning filmmaker and most recently, a workshop leader at the OrangeRind Film Festival. The festival, now in its third year, began this past Saturday, Sept. 7. Traditionally, it has been a competitive event for which amateur filmmakers square off for cash prizes. This year, although there will still be cash prizes, there has been a change in the festival’s focus — education rather than competition.

“We wanted to be unique,” said Janine Calsbeek, director of the Orange City Arts Council and coordinator of the OrangeRind Film Festival. “It’s great to get people involved who just want to learn.”

Participants in the festival are taking part in a series of workshops on the making of documentaries. The workshops will be led by Volkers, a professor of digital media production at Dordt College.

“(Documentary filmmaking) is no longer limited to those with access to huge budgets and super-expensive equipment,” he said. “We’re limited primarily by our own creativity and storytelling prowess.”

The final two workshops will take place Oct. 17 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Fruited Plain in Sioux Center and Thursday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Vogel Community Room of the Learning Commons on Northwestern’s campus. Participants will work through the essential questions of documentary filmmaking: How do I choose a subject? How do you shoot an interview? How do I create a story in my film? They will explore the basics of composition, space, music, sound, camera angle, story and a plethora of other parts of filmmaking.

As undergraduate students,” Hurley said. “We would talk with the patients and take a medical history, and then we would debrief the doctor on what was going on, and they would actually see the patient.”

Although unable to do many medical tasks, Hurley was nonetheless affected by her experience in Nicaragua.

“It was huge for me to be able to go and help people,” Hurley said. “I wanted to do the trip to see what it was like since I was pretty sure I wanted to go into medicine, and this trip solidified it for me. It was awesome.”

For Hurley, the work done in the clinics, although worthwhile, brought feelings of inadequacy at times.

“It was like, ‘We can help you to a point,’” Hurley said. “How do you feel like you’re helping someone if it’s only helping for a short time?”

Regardless, the people aspect of the trip to Nicaragua was important to travelers such as Hurley so was the community. For the week and a half Hurley was in Nicaragua, the clinic was held in the fellowship building of the village’s church.

“We had been using the sanctuary area of the church to take vitals and hold the people as well as using the community that they actually canceled mass for the church,” Hurley said. “So we were working in association with the priest of the church and the church elders.”

Unfortunately, the last day of the clinic was Sunday mass for the church.

“We were thinking, ‘We don’t know what we’re going to do, we’re going to have to find another space,’” said Hurley. “But the clinic was so important to the priest and the community that they actually canceled mass because they wanted people to have access to it. The clinics were a huge deal to them.”

This act, as well as the experience in general, challenged Hurley’s faith.

“The trip made me look at myself and question, ‘Am I trying to do too much on my own?’” Hurley said. “Especially going to a place where I’m suddenly dependent on other people (to communicate). I’m not in my own comfortable realm anymore. Then I realized, ‘I’ve been trying to do it all on my own for too long.’

Just putting my faith back in God and depending on him is important.”

Hurley said she hopes to join Global Brigades and the Mayo Clinic again next year on a similar trip.

Sophomore Laura Hurley went on a medical mission trip to Nicaragua with the Mayo Clinic this summer.

Sophomore serves in Nicaragua

**BY PRIYANKA FERNANDO**

At the beginning of fall semester, students often get asked the same unoriginal question: “What did you do this summer?” Typically the resulting responses are equally lack-luster. For sophomore Laura Hurley, she is one of the few whose answer isn’t as generic as the rest.

This summer Hurley went on a medical mission trip to Nicaragua with the Mayo Clinic. Hurley, a pre-med student at Northwestern, heard about the trip through her sister, a medical student at Mayo. Through the organization Global Brigades, Hurley and a group of 30 others traveled to San Marcos, a village of approximately 2,500 people. The group was composed of a few doctors, five undergraduate students (including Hurley) and several were first-and second-year medical students.

From July 1 to July 10, Hurley and the group organized and facilitated medical clinics for the residents. The clinics were set up into stations at which basic information, vitals, medical history and a small pharmacy were available.

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OrangeRind Film Festival includes documentary workshops

FROM PAGE 1

Between workshops, students will be working on creating their own short documentary films. “Doing is the best possible way to get started on your own path of filmmaking,” Volkers said.

The final showing of these documentaries will be in the Vogel Community Center at the DeWitt Learning Commons this Thursday, Nov. 7th at 7 p.m. Students and community members are encouraged to come and view the final products.

“I think people will really be inspired by the films presented,” Calsbeek said. “There are 16 participants in the workshops, four of whom attend Northwestern. Hana Spangler, a sophomore double-major in theater and history, is one of those four.

“Documentaries are important for us,” she said. “They’re a slice of human life.”

Spangler also believes that the experience will be good for her education, given her choice of majors.

(“Documentaries are really just compilations of personal testimonies — a great way for us to understand each other,” she said.

Matt Latchaw, a senior computer information systems major, is also a student of the Festival.

“I’m excited to learn how to share stories,” he said.

Volkers recent award winning film, “The Fourth World,” was shown at Northwestern last month as a part of the festival. To film it, Volkers and his students visited the Philippines, Kenya and Guatemala interviewing and doing pro-bono work for the poor and marginalized in those countries.

Although it’s safe to say the short documentaries produced during the OrangeRind Film Festival won’t require that same amount of work, Volkers is hopeful that these workshops will encourage participants and community members to share their stories.

“It’s critical that well-trained Christians get into this culture-shaping arena,” he said. “This is something people can do, and the next big, important film could come right out of Northwestern.”

Riddick proves ridiculous

MOVIE REVIEW

BY JACKSON NICKOLAY

A bright yellow desert sun blazes across an arid landscape as Vin Diesel’s signature mumble fills the theater. “There are bad days, and there are legendary bad days. This was one of those.”

That pretty much sums up the entire movie.

In “Riddick,” Vin Diesel reprises his title role as the predatory killer and anti-hero Riddick. The movie opens with Riddick pitting himself against the harsh natural elements of a planet he has been marooned on. Stumbling through a new and unknown terrain he comes up against packs of jackals, predatory-like buzzards and water-dwelling scorpions. Eventually, Riddick moves on to a more inhabited part of the planet and finds a number of new foes to face, including but not limited to teams of bounty hunters, the parents of old adversaries and a storm that heralds a migrating herd of deadly creatures.

If combined correctly these elements could have produced a decent action film. However, there is just enough filth in this film to tip the scales from what is anti-hero film to what is not.

There is a gratuitous amount of swearing throughout “Riddick.” It is used frequently and without any attempt at control. There is also a significant amount of both male and female nudity that is shamelessly shown for shock effect. None of it advances the plot, and there is not even a vague attempt at trying to make any of it artistic. Viewers are simply presented with naked humans for a few frames, and then the story moves on.

A blatant level of disbelief is shown toward the women in this film. The only woman with a substantial role in the movie is subjected to constant sexual slurs by the men in the film, is nearly raped and in the end succumbs to Riddick basically due to his sheer masculinity. In short, neither sex is portrayed very favorably in this film.

And of course, what anti-hero film is complete without the token cowardly-Christian, whose constant mutterings eventually lead Riddick to mutter: “Kid, leave God out of it. He wants no part of what happens next.”

“Riddick” certainly delivers the promised amount of action from a movie starring Vin Diesel. There are lots of slow-motion scenes, epic poses and more than enough blood and gore. Many of Riddick’s “kills” are so improbably executed that the only reaction for the viewer is to laugh at the incredulity of it all.

If viewers are able to look past all of the above, “Riddick” does have some impressive computer-generated landscapes and characters. Most of the planet is computer-generated, and there are a number of alien creatures that are interesting to watch. Sadly, even this is not enough to redeem the whole film.

“Riddick” succumbs to the same format that every movie of its genre is prey to. It brings you violence, sex, vulgarity and hubris all in a nice two-hour package and leaves you with nothing substantial at the end.

Rating: ★★

Key Tracks: “Somewhere in My Gar.” “Little Bit of Everything.”
Students use creative gifts during summer months

BY THERESA LARABEE

Anyone who spends much time at Northwestern soon realizes the school is very passionate about community and student involvement during the school year. During any given week one only needs to glance around campus to find an activity to get involved in. Many creative students have found ways to put their passions and skills into action over the summer months as well. Several NW students were willing to share the stories of how they used their fine arts gifts to get involved this past summer.

NAME: ANN CALSBEEK
YEAR: SENIOR
HOMETOWN: ORANGE CITY, IA

Over the summer, Ann Calisbeek was asked to paint a mural at a popular local coffeeshop, the Old Factory. The mural, painted on the wall just around the corner from the entrance, depicts a tree with drooping limbs. Because it is in a coffeeshop, there are mugs dangling from a few of the branches with coffee dripping from their rims. A few familiar symbols can be found within the mural. The Old Factory asked that two former campus buildings, Heemstra Hall and Granberg Cottage, be represented in the painting. So, the hometown symbol of Heemstra and the popular Granberg Hall mug design are hanging from two of the branches.

Calsbeek learned that painting a mural in a public place can be a bit stressful. “It was a lot of pressure because it was out in public,” Calsbeek said. “It’s not like you can say, ‘this sucks’ and hide it.”

This was Calisbeek’s first mural, but it was a good experience for her. Her next big project is her senior art show next semester; until then, feel free to check out the beautiful new addition to the Old Factory.

NAME: MICHAEL SIMMELINK
YEAR: SENIOR
HOMETOWN: ORANGE CITY, IA

In the online version of Relevant Magazine, a popular Christian culture magazine, there is an article titled “How to Make Missions More Effective.” It’s written by none other than Northwestern’s very own Michael Simmelink. While perusing the site, he found a tab for submissions and decided to take a chance and send in a paper he had written for one of Professor Lundberg’s classes. Although the site was only looking for a pitch, he got an email a few days later saying they liked his piece and then another saying that they were going to publish it on their website.

Simmelink had an internship with a local paper over the summer and has written for the Beacon, but this publication was a big step forward in his writing career. His article has been shared on Facebook almost 1,000 times along with numerous tweets and Tumblr postings. His advice to other writers aspiring to be published is this: “I say the biggest thing is probably to have people read through your writing and get it critiqued and torn apart before you turn it in. Don’t be afraid to have four or five people just tear it apart. I think that’s really what helped me the most.”

NAME: TIFFANY HACH
YEAR: SENIOR
HOMETOWN: DYSART, IA

Tiffany Hach spent the entirety of her summer in Milford, IA working at Treasure Village Children’s Theatre and Mini-golf. Although she did get to scoop some ice cream and do a bit of putting, her real reason for being there was to perform in children’s shows.

During the four months she was there, Hach performed in three shows: “Pinocchio,” “Peter Pan” and “Sleeping Beauty.”

In addition to acting, Tiffany had the opportunity to work with the costumes — sewing and learning how to grommet (not that anyone actually knows what a “grommet” is). Although acting and sewing are fun, Hach found that the most rewarding part of her summer was meeting her little fans. “After the shows we would take pictures with the kids,” Hach said. “My favorite part was when they would run up to you and hug you and want to take a picture with you. Since I got the parts of the fairy and princess, they thought I was the coolest person ever.” Now that she’s back on campus, Hach will be acting in the upcoming production of “Antigone.”

NAME: SARAH STOFER
YEAR: SENIOR
HOMETOWN: ORANGE CITY, IA

As she has done each summer since her freshman year at Northwestern, Sarah Stofer, commonly known as “Cricket,” spent six weeks of her summer playing in the pit orchestra on a showboat. Although Clinton Area Showboat Theatre is technically grounded, it still sits on the water of the Mississippi River in eastern Iowa. Jonathan Sabo, professor of theater at Northwestern and freshman Carolyn Hopkins also worked on the showboat over the summer.

On the showboat, Stofer played her bass and double bass for the “blue haired crowd” in the musicals “Godspell,” “Forever Plaid” and “She Loves Me.” She also played in the community band in Sterling, Illinois. After graduation, Stofer plans to continue performing, auditioning for a military band and possibly even returning to the showboat.

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to the Beacon’s Facebook page or via Twitter by tagging @NWC_Beacon.

“If you watch it in French it’s adorable.”
- Sophomore Brianne Hausman on “Bambi.” Submitted via Twitter by @meganagold

“There was a placenta of Jesus.”
- Professor Michael Andres on Christ being human.

“I can walk right up to the squirrels in my yard; they love me. Just call me Squirrel Man.”
- Professor Phil Scorza during Graphic Design.
New faces in the NW theater department

By Liz Kottich

Freshmen are not the only new faces on campus this year. The theater and speech department welcomes two new faculty members this year, Professor April Hubbard and Professor Drew Schmidt.

Professor Hubbard, the wife of Dr. Bob Hubbard, who also works in the theater department, has many years of experience at institutions such as Dordt College, Calvin College and Grace Bible College. She has joined the theater department this year as an Assistant Professor of Theatre. She has also directed, acted in or written several productions, some of which are “Macbeth,” “Long Day’s Journey into Night” and “Some Five Women.” Professor Hubbard is also involved with theater beyond an educational standpoint. She actively participates in community theater classes and with the School House Theatre Company.

“I have been warmly welcomed here at Northwestern and appreciate the supportive and close community here among faculty, staff, administration and students,” Hubbard said.

Professor Schmidt, an alumnus of Northwestern, has made his way back to Orange City to take on the position of Assistant Professor of Theatre in the technical side of theater, working with sound systems, lights and videos. He has served as lighting and sound designer for many productions at schools including events such as the Minnesota Fringe Festival, the School House Theatre Company, Illinois State University, Northwestern, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and the Orange City Tulip Festival.

Students often make the assumption that all professors had a deep desire to teach when they were in school and have been professors ever since. For Professor Schmidt, the journey to Northwestern started when he was working as a hotel desk clerk and realized that his passion was in theater and teaching for the glory of God. Professor Schmidt felt God calling him to Northwestern where he would be able to combine his passions.

“I love Northwestern. Did you know it is an adjustment for us too? I’m finding my rhythm. But every aspect, even the days where it’s hard, brings joy and satisfaction. That’s how I know I belong. And it’s made possible in part because of you guys. So thanks,” Hubbard said.

The addition of two experienced faculty to the theater department will only serve to better Northwestern. With the new wealth of knowledge and experience, the productions this year are sure to be well-written and well-performed for the enjoyment of campus and the community.

Brother-sister wing events build community

By Jordan Dykstra

Male and female interaction at Northwestern is not always an easy process with certain days deemed off limits for dorm visitation. For some, developing friendships with members of the opposite sex can be difficult, and icebreakers designed to build relationships between genders are few and far between. Not even ring-before-spring romantic relationships, but real solid friendships between the two sexes.

Brother-sister wings throughout campus are the perfect remedy for this co-ed social inadequacy. Sophomore R.A. Jake Vermeer of 2nd East Colenbrander Hall is one of the several R.A.’s who participates in a brother-sister wing.

“It’s our job as R.A.’s to connect students with the web of Northwestern and one of those things could be a sister wing event. These activities help build relationship and not just romantic ones,” Vermeer said.

At the other end of this brother-sister wing is junior R.A. Mica Graves of 3rd East Fern Smith Hall. Graves, like Vermeer, believes in the importance of community at Northwestern, and that it should not be limited to just romantic connectivity.

“It is definitely hard to just be friends with guys without people thinking something more is going on,” Graves said. “That is why a brother sister wing event is a great opportunity for people to get to know each other on a friendship level.”

Between the two of them, ideas are shared, and events are planned. Ideas range from group bowling nights, outdoor games, restaurant outings and much more.

“Last weekend we had root beer floats and a movie in Colenbrander, and I felt like it went over really well,” Vermeer said. “We had it in the basement where there was a wide variety of games and activities.”

For Graves, a fresh outlook on some aspects of college life is refreshing. “Guys bring a new perspective to things. Branching out is good for you. There are so many stereotypes on this campus so to be able to truly get to know the guys on campus is a rewarding experience,” Graves said.

While male and female interaction is not allowed within dormitories on Monday and Tuesday nights at Northwestern, co-ed events such as brother and sister wing activities are available for those that would like to socialize with members of the opposite sex in a comfortable, relaxed and casual setting.

“I really love people and getting to know them. I just felt like this is a great opportunity to get to know people that I didn’t know before,” Graves said.
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The unexplored unknowns of Northwestern

BY GILLIAN ANDERSON

Orange City, Iowa - most students have heard legends about the tunnels from Van Peursem Hall to the chapel. And who hasn’t wondered about the history of some Northwestern buildings? Or hasn’t wished someone would have told them about a helpful resource before finding out the hard way.

We’ve taken student questions, researched and compiled our findings into a single article to help students get to know campus better and be privy to some of its secrets. It’s time to reveal some of Northwestern College’s best mysteries.

Admissions

ID’s are confusing. Two students in the same class year can have ID numbers that are farther apart than the number of students that attend NW. For instance, two students might have applied at the same time, but one could have a six-digit ID number that starts with a three while the other student’s ID number starts with a one.

“If you are the child of an alumnus then the college is notified of your birth, and you get an ID number,” said Jeff Guthmiller, associate director of admissions. “So my children could get an ID number at 3 months, and the people in their grade who apply for college when they are 17 will have an ID number that is larger.”

Once students get an ID number, they will be in Northwestern’s system forever. Children of alumni who chose to go to a college other than NW will still be in the system.

Van Peursem Hall (VPH)

Van Peursem Hall is home to many mysterious areas. There are several seemingly random signs and a basement that few students are aware of.

A sign by room 313 in VPH reads “Area of Refuge.” This might seem strange to students and staff members who walk by because when most of us think of refuge, we picture a basement or a room with no windows.

“It is for people who are handicapped so the fire department or the emergency personnel know where to find them,” said Arlo Van Beek, the housekeeping supervisor.

Few students go into the basement of VPH. There are signs that say “Communications Department,” and it was here that the communication department used to reside before being moved to the third floor of VPH. The basement is now home to the translation and interpretation lab. It also houses some relics of the communication department.

“Northwestern used to have a radio station, but it was not broadcast,” Van Beek said. “They used to tape segments and play the tapes on different channels. They also edited tapes and video.”

Van Peursem Hall is home to many mysterious areas. There are several seemingly random signs and a basement that few students are aware of.

Students every four years.

Most students on campus have heard the rumor of a tunnel leading from VPH to the chapel. Otherwise how would professors get to chapel so fast? Sadly, according to maintenance, there is no tunnel from VPH to the chapel. In fact, there is only one tunnel on campus that connects buildings.

“Stengenga Hall is the only dorm with a basement that isn’t used for anything special,” senior Mackenzie Larin said. “Coly and Hospers basements have living areas in them, and the North Suites has classrooms.”

History

Some of the history of NW is not well known by the student body. This might have something to do with the fact that historical knowledge is lost with turnover of students every four years.

Arlo Van Beek said an interesting piece of history is that some of the dorms that now house men used to have women living in them. West Hall, the basement of Colenbrander Hall and the now retired Heemstra Hall all housed women at one point. In the 2010-2011 school year, Stengenga Hall had one wing that housed boys while the college built the North Suites. At various times, cafeterias were in the basements of Heemstra and Colenbrander Halls.

Heemstra is now gone, but its legacy continues on the third floor of Colenbrander Hall. It was the first building torn down on NWC’s campus.

“Zwemer was the first building on campus,” Van Beek said. “It housed classes, the library was where admissions now is, and a professor even lived in the basement at one time because he had to keep the furnace going.”

Other departments have moved to new buildings since the founding of the college. “The chapel used to be where the Learning Resource Center is now,” Van Beek said. “The theater building is where the old gym used to be. The maintenance building was owned by Rural Electric before we moved in, and the maintenance department was located in an old roller skating rink. The old art building is in the parking lot known as ‘hell’, and it was originally donated by Dr. Bushmer. Before it was an art building, it was a creamery. It has since been made into the wood shop.”

Students looking for more information on the history of NWC’s campus can check out the book “From Strength to Strength” in the Dutch Heritage room of Ramaker Library. It tells about the founding of NW through 1982.
Cyrus spins out of control

BY MOLLIE FERGUSON

Giant teddy bears, “twerking,” butt grabbing and a foam finger. We all know what I’m talking about, and if not go join 4.2 million others on YouTube who have viewed Miley Cyrus’ performance at the Video Music Awards (VMAs) this year.

Viewer discretion is advised, and I’m not joking. I can guarantee you won’t be thinking about li’l’ ol’ Hannah Montana.

Every child star once on Disney has the trouble of losing their Disney character in order to achieve a more adult career. This is something that Miley has experienced.

Miley left Disney in 2010. I can’t help but think those young girls who were so bummed about losing Hannah Montana followed Miley into her next endeavors. These girls are extremely impressionable and are going to follow her lead. Why wouldn’t you try to be a role model for millions of young people?

Now, I can’t put all my focus on Miley Cyrus. What about Robin Thicke? And by the way, the inventor of the foam finger is very upset about how Miley used his “life-changing” invention.

As Miley says in her new song, “It’s our party; we can say what we want to.” So agree or disagree, Miley Cyrus has successfully lost her Hannah Montana character, but not for the benefit of her career, the fans or the foam finger.

Cheesy price hikes

BY JOSH HOLLINGER

Nothing incites outrage within my bosom like longingly approaching the counter at the Hub for my first cheese balls of the year only to find the price raised to an outlandish $4.25.

Many of my fellow Raiders share the fond memories of frequenting the Hub for its cheese balls at the price but understandable price of $3.19. For the North Suites Residence Life staff, cheese balls became such a common purchase for us during our Monday night meetings that Vanessa, the nice lady at the counter on Monday nights, pretty much just rang us up for cheese balls before we could even pretend to contemplate other options.

Understandably, our discovery of the price jump, maybe like yours, left the bitter taste of trauma and injustice in our mouths, mouths that wished to be filled with cheese balls for $3.19.

In case you haven’t done the math, the cheeseball price increase from last spring to this fall was 33.2 percent. That’s not the only item that went up in price; onion rings and other appetizers also increased.

But let’s be honest: Cheese balls are the only thing I really care about. Why the 33.2 percent price increase? The Hub manager, Wanda Pauling, graciously offered the following explanation: “Last spring the price of cheese went sky high, and we felt at the time it would not be good to add that cost on to you in case it would come down again. And then, of course, the shipping fees and the price of fuel kept increasing also. Over the summer the price did not come down, so we had to up the price to cover our costs.”

I’m not sure how much more cheese balls now cost the Hub, but I have no reason to doubt that the prices were justifiably increased.

OK, so now what? Is that the end of my grievance? Is there no remedy? Nay, I tell you. Because the real problem here is decreased purchasing power. My $37.50 of flex money can now only buy me eight servings of cheese balls when I used to be able to buy 11.

I understand prices sometimes have to go up, but shouldn’t that increase be reflected in the amount of flex money we get?

Thus, here’s my solution: The Hub Price Index (HPI). The basic idea is that when Hub prices increase, flex dollars increase proportionally. It would work analogously to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and would be a means by which the purchasing power of our flex dollars would be protected.

Instead of the Hub being able to raise prices on powerless students who have to spend their flex money there, the HPI would make the Hub accountable to Northwestern College since the college would foot the bill for Hub price increases. Not to mention, overseeing and calculating the HPI would be a great educational project for Dr. Elder’s Principles of Macroeconomics class. I rest my case.

Have an opinion and want to share it with campus? Contact Kaitlin Floerchinger at kaitlin.floerchinger@nwciowa.edu

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Two shutouts give NW two wins

BY JERIAH DUNK

The Northwestern women's soccer team won two consecutive games this week. They defeated Jamestown College University 4-0 on Saturday and clinched a 2-0 win at Mount Mercy on Tuesday. The victories bring their preseason record to 3-2-1.

In Saturday's match against Jamestown, senior midfielder Alyssa Duren scored the first goal of the game, which put the Raiders on track for their second home-field win.

Freshman forward Jahdai Dunk scored three goals in the second half and secured the Raiders' second win of the season. Dunk is the current leader in goals scored for the squad.

Dunk's three goals were off of combination plays with sophomore forward Tyler Farr.

"With our dynamic up top, we're starting to figure things out," Farr said. "(Coach Karnish) believes in us. He has high hopes for us with our team goals and what we want to accomplish this year."

Saturday's win catapulted NW into 16th place after recording her career best, an 83.
**News**

**Around Campus**

**Syrian crisis strikes home**

BY ALYSSA CURRIER  
NEWS EDITOR

In President Barack Obama’s address to the nation on Wednesday, Sept. 10, he reiterated what has become his mantra concerning U.S. involvement in the Syrian crisis: “No boots on the ground.”

To junior Joleen Wilhelm, whose second cousin Sean was recently deployed to Syria, the president seemed to be sending mixed signals.

“One minute he says, ‘No boots on the ground,’ but the next he says, we’re going to keep forces where they are,” Wilhelm said.

According to Wilhelm, 18-year-old Sean found out that he would be going to Syria a few months ago. He received the news prior to Syrian president Bashar al-Assad’s use of chemical weapons on Aug. 21. The event which sparked outrage among the international community, as well as controversial threats of a military action from Obama.

Wilhelm said she doesn’t think Obama intends to have ground troops take action but that Sean’s deployment seems to indicate a strengthening U.S. presence in Syria.

Senior Gretchen Sutherland, whose brother, Brian, is a second lieutenant in the Army infantry, has also been following the developing Syrian conflict.

“Brian doesn’t think he’ll have to go to Syria, but it’s a possibility,” Sutherland said. “He thinks it’s more likely that we will use air strikes.”

A recent Gallup poll has shown that the majority of Americans are against any type of military involvement in Syria. The past couple weeks, this tension between Obama and public opinion has been felt in Congress.

“I would like (our representatives) to act as trustees more than delegates,” said political science professor Jeff VanDerkWerff. “We have to trust them, knowing they’ll be privy to certain things.”

Capitol Hill isn’t the only place where people are wrestling with the question of what should be done about a regime that used Sarin to poison men, women and children in rebel controlled neighborhoods. Students across campus have also struggled to form an opinion on the complex issue.

“It’s definitely a very hostile situation, and I think it’s really complicated to say either way—whether we should get involved or not,” Wilhelm said. “I think we should get involved in some sense, whether that means military strike or not; I don’t know if that’s necessarily the right answer.”

A congressional vote on the strike in Syria is currently on hold. Obama explained that Russia, one of Syria’s closest allies, is attempting to persuade Syria to destroy its chemical weapons under international supervision. If diplomacy proves successful, it could obviate the need for military action.

To join in the Syrian crisis discussion, submit your questions or opinions to the Beacon.

**Two NW staff members resign on short notice**

**By David Li**

Over the past couple of years Northwestern has been renovated and upgraded over and over again. Although trading in old buildings and technology are usually welcome changes, losing well-liked staff members is a different story.

During the summer, two faculty members left their jobs at NW on short notice. One of the two faculty members was Blake Wieking, the former head of campus security and women’s soccer coach.

Barry Brandt, the director of athletics, shared his thoughts on that matter and shed some light on Wieking’s reason for the resignation of both his positions at NW.

“Blake Wieking was a valued employee of the athletic department, and we were very sorry to see him leave,” Brandt said. “I am very happy for Blake in that he was awarded the position to teach history at MOC-Floyd Valley, which he has always felt called to do. Blake will also serve as the girls’ Soccer coach at MOC-FV so he will be able to continue with his passion for coaching soccer as well as fulfill his calling to teach. We wish him God’s blessing and are thankful for open doors of opportunity.”

Junior Kari Hilbrands, co-captain of the women’s soccer team, expressed similar bittersweet feelings.

Blake was a good coach, Hilbrands said. “He absolutely loved the game and provided lots of insight on how to improve. He wanted us to be the best and showed us where hard work and determination could get us. He definitely put a lot of work into the team and genuinely cared for each and every one of us. I am very thankful to have had as a coach for two years.”

Hilbrands also said she appreciated NW allowing the soccer team to be part of the interviewing process for their new coach.

“We now have Ben Karnish, who last year was the boys JV coach here at NWC,” Hilbrands said. “He is doing a great job at coaching us.”

This summer, NW also said an abrupt goodbye to Seth Currier, former head of service-learning in Campus Ministry and a previous RD of West Hall.

Senior Bradley Smith, an RA in West Hall, discussed how Currier started out as his RD but later became his mentor.

“Seth was my RD (freshman) year,” Smith said. “Our freshman year was his last year. I didn’t have a really strong relationship with him that year. I found out later that he had somewhat separated himself from that year’s freshmen intentionally. I actually admire Seth a lot for that now because I’m sure that played a role in my strong relationship with Corey Kudert (West RD now).”

Smith went on to explain the development of their relationship.

“I got to know Seth a lot better last year because he was in charge of Service-Learning in Campus Ministry and I was the leader of Justice Matters International,” Smith said. “He was my direct supervisor. I had one-on-ones with him so I spent a lot of time with Seth. Over time he had definitely become a mentor for me.”

According to Smith, Currier left simply because it was time for him to move on. He is now living in an intentional community in Duluth, Minn., with his wife, Erin, another married couple and two other people.

**Chapel**

**Monday**  
• Summer of Service

**Tuesday**  
• Michelle Christy

**Wednesday**  
• Chris Yaw, athletics

**Friday**  
• Carpenter’s Tools International

#NWCBeacon
Keep up with social media? So do we. If you have photos, comments, breaking news, story ideas or campus quotes, let us know! Follow us on Twitter @NWC_Beacon or like Northwestern College Beacon on Facebook.

**Volleyball**

The Northwestern volleyball team will take on Mount Marty at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 17, in the Bultman Center gym.

**Resume Workshop**

The Career Learning Center will put on a resume workshop from 8 until 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 18, in room 115 of the Commons.

**Job Workshop**

The Career Learning Center will put on a job workshop on from 9 until 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 18, in room 115 of the Learning Commons.

**I-Club Ice Cream**

The I-Club will have an ice cream social at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 18, in room 115 of the Commons.

**I-Club Ice Cream**

The I-Club will have an ice cream social at 10 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20, in DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.

**Concert**

Internationally acclaimed musicians Wolfgang David and David Gompper will present a program of 19th and 20th Century violin and piano music in a recital at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13, at Christ Chapel.

**By DAVID LI**