

SUMMER is just life between two SEMESTERS

While the slower pace of summer carries most teachers' and students' thoughts far, far from the walls of a classroom, others continue their educational experiences throughout the sunny, heat-soaked days of June and July.

Band director **Hank Carter** spent a week on staff at McNeese State University's student band leadership program in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

"The camp," **Carter** said, "is intended to train high school band members preparing to serve as student leaders in their own band programs back home."

Whether through twirling a flag, aiming for a target, or delivering a daunting debate, students and teachers alike kept their brains and bodies in gear, setting a pattern for life-long learning.



Hank Carter, band director

Photo by K. Farrell

JUNE & JULY

GET YOUR FLAG ON

Reconnecting with an old-but-not-forgotten tradition provides an invigorating break during long hot days of band camp. **Lamya Jackson (10), Laney Walker (11), Ashley Ragsdale (10), Jacara Smith (12), Cymone Pauley (12), Erika Cannon (10), and Madi Herzog (11)** (left to right) circled up for a stress-relieving game of Big Booty on the first day of band camp, and suddenly the tradition was reinstated. New colorguard coach **Lyndsey Hyslop** passed on the favorite game from her own previous flag-twirling years. **Ashley Ragsdale (10)** explained that the term "booty" refers to the person whose turn it is at the moment — not the name of a body part. A numbers game requiring rhythm and a good memory, Big Booty can get really loud with laughter. "It's just funny when people mess up but don't realize it and keep on going." **Ragsdale** called her summer band camp days "forever long" and really hot, but also admitted that once her year began, starting off the school year with colorguard was "so much fun and really worth it," partially because of what they had accomplished during band camp.



TRIM LINE

TRIM LINE

PUT on the SPOT

What would cause students, who have yearningly waited nine months for summer vacation, to willingly forfeit some of their lazy hazy days of summer, all for the sake of a school-based club or organization?



Taylor Bates (9)

"I decided to do colorguard even though [practice] was during the summer. I didn't find it to be school-related because I wasn't learning about math or science, and I got to make amazing friends in the process."

- Taylor Bates (9)

"I gave up some of my summertime to wrestle because it helped me meet an important goal - to get better. To me, it was worth it."

- Jonah Anderson (12)



Jonah Anderson (12)

DRESS REHEARSAL: GETTING READY FOR THE BIG SHOW/june, july montage

graphic design: K. Farrell/ reporters: K. Farrell, B. Wilson, T. Bischoff/Put on the Spot photos by journalism staff

HOT SPOTS ON CAMPUS

July 30

The Panoptic staff members build a red-cup sign promoting their school news website, even though it means several hours under a broiling sun.

Taylor Bischoff (11), Kyle Farrell (12), Julia Biery (11), Kaitlyn Turner (10), Ella Alivio (10), and other staffers used 1800 red cups to create the sign in front of the school.



Photo by C. Grebel



ROTC GETS POLITICAL

Jamal Washington (12) is one of five ROTC members who attended the annual Boys' State political event in Atlanta June 14-20. He was accompanied by **Mike**

Roberts (12), Nick Rockland (12), Charlie Letlow (12), and Trotter Brown (12). Participants served as pseudo-legislators, proposing and passing bills in their own teen state legislature. **Roberts** said he learned to "keep an open mind" and to "keep in mind everyone's perspective." He says he would absolutely recommend the experience to others.

June/July AT ee

- Yearbook staff goes to camp
- Debaters go national
- Band learns routines
- Wrestlers compete
- Sports hold youth camps
- Summer school starts
- Churches host mission trips
- Teachers attend pre-planning
- ROTC delegates go to Boys' State, Girls' State
- Families take vacations
- Students hang out at home
- AP students procrastinate summer work



Photo by L. Hyslop

NO DEBATE ABOUT IT

Senior **Yugansh Malik** was honest about his willingness to travel and compete with the debate team during the summer months. He pointed out that those who compete in the summer do so on the national level – an honor for which they had to qualify during the school year.

"It's such a prestigious opportunity," **Malik** said. "We get to meet some of the smartest and most competitive students from all across the nation."

But debate trips are not all work, and they certainly are not boring. "We always get to have fun," he continued. "Summer tournaments are usually in the nicest hotels in the city. And our schedule allows for fun for one or two days before we compete, and sometimes even a dance or other events after competitions are over."

For **Malik** and his teammates, the trade-off between lazy days at home and a chance to debate again is not even a hard choice; the competition wins every time.

There is simply no debating that.



Submitted photo



Submitted photo

1 Summer never means stop to members of the debate team. **Yugansh Malik (12), Eli Lamb (12), Chandler Bowman (10), Elisabeth Bennet (12), Samuel Gyorfi (11), and Liam Lower (11)** competed in a national tournament sponsored by the National Speech and Debate Association in Dallas, TX in July. **Malik** called the Dallas event "the most competitive" event of their debate year.

2 Taking time out from a heavy competition schedule, **Izzy Sauls (10), Malik, Coach Sherri Constable and Gyorfi** take advantage of a view of the entire city from the hotel tunnel in Fort Lauderdale. The team competed there at the National Catholic Forensic League's national tournament in June.

3 But even the most brilliantly superior, eloquently prepared public speakers know when it is time for fun. **Lamb, Sauls, Malik and Gyorfi** join one of their national judges for a romp in the ocean. Reflecting on a summer of competing, **Lamb** said, "We saw some good team efforts. And even without any stellar performances, the trips were really fun." **Lamb** and his teammates had to finish high in statewide events during the year in order to be invited to attend nationals in the summer.



Submitted photo

"Honestly, I didn't know there was going to be colorguard camp in the summer until after I made the team. Once I found out, I stayed on the team because I wanted an activity that would give me life-long friends, even if it took away from my summer break."

- **Hannah McLeod (9)**



Hannah McLeod (9)

"**W**hy do I do summer AP work? Because it's just gotta get done. A little work during the summer means I can have the academic challenge of AP Language all year long." - **Kianna Benton (11)**