



ABOVE | (Left) Senior Garret Jansen blocking Oskaloosa opponent during a regular season game, September 12. (Right) Junior Sarah Peterson taking a break to speak with fellow actor about the scene of a film being shot.

Jansen, Peterson Identify the Future *Senior Garret Jansen, and junior Sarah Peterson spend the summer chasing and achieving dreams.*



ABOVE | Sophomore Bellara Huang shows off her diploma for the "First-year Russian" college intensive class at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. "I felt very accomplished in that I received a grade I was happy with along with learning how to be independent and social with new friends," said Huang.

The 80 day break from school, which is usually filled with socializing, traveling, and relaxing, was spent much differently for senior Garret Jansen and junior Sarah Peterson. Jansen spent the summer on blistering hot football fields while Peterson traveled to Florida for a week long prestigious acting camp.

"This summer I committed a lot of my time and energy in order to get more exposure at college football camps around the Midwest. I did this because I wanted to have the opportunity to play the game I love after high school," said Jansen.

Jansen verbally committed to play for the Cincinnati Bearcats on June 13th. He plans to play defensive end and will major in special education.

"To have already committed to Cincy is just a big weight off of my shoulders. It is nice to know that I don't have to go through making a college decision and can just focus on my senior year. It is also nice knowing that I don't need to worry about my future from a financial standpoint either. Having a full-ride scholarship is a blessing to me and to my family. I am very grateful for the opportunity," said Jansen.

Junior Sarah Peterson plunged into her passion of acting and film in Orlando, Florida for a week long acting camp. This camp was hosted by the New York Film Academy.

"The acting camp I attended in Florida by the New York Film Academy was beyond my expectations. My teachers were very talented, really knew the art of acting for film and helped me better my technique. The films we made were so much fun and turned out really cool! It was fun to see my face on the 'big screen' on the screening day, and realizing that this is what I really love and want to do! My time there was very well spent, plus you're at the happiest place on earth [Disney World], so that made it even more fun," said Peterson.

Students at the NYFA camp spent time in workshops, then applied their training to digital projects, followed by group critique from a class, and ending with feedback from experienced staff. Students also learned how to adjust a performance in accordance with the type of shot the director described, to shoot out of sequential sequence and to function in a high intensity film set.

"Over Spring Break, I am actually going out and looking at colleges and starting to figure out what I want to do with acting," said Peterson.

Peterson has signed with acting labels AriesWorks Entertainment and The Peak Agency, both located in Des Moines. She plans to eventually earn a college degree in acting for Film/Stage and the business side of the film industry.

IDENTIFYING... Bellara Huang

Sophomore Bellara Huang spent the summer in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania studying in a first-year intensive Russian language course. The Russian courses at Bryn Mawr are the third best in the nation. Huang received a scholarship from the college to study for the summer. Every day she would take classes from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. She had an average of 27 pages of homework every day, not counting the weekly tests to prepare for. After class got out, Huang would spend an afternoon of studying. On weekends, Huang would go out with friends into Philadelphia, New York City or Washington D.C.

"I went to Brighton Beach in New York City; it was an amazing experience because it was the first time I was surrounded by fluent Russian speakers who lived in a community full of Russian culture, and it felt great that I could communicate with them," said Huang.

Students from all over the world come to study at this program. This program was brought to Huang's attention by her parents. At the end of 10 weeks Huang had earned her diploma.

"I have friends from Pennsylvania, Florida, Utah, Kansas and the Ukraine. I learned a lot about myself in both academic and social aspects. I look forward to continuing my studies in Russian language and culture," added Huang.