

JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • April/May 2010

Juggle Jam 12 Checklist

Logistics enclosed for three-week countdown

The annual **Final Memo** for all JH families regarding JJ12 logistics and etiquette is enclosed with this *JUGHEADS Journal*. Four key dates that should be memorized: May 4 & 12; 14 & 15. Remember that student-created/acquired costumes will enhance all club routines. Every Jughead should know the contents of the Final Memo; this will prevent long meetings at rehearsals.

Specialty Acts, Skits & Seniors

Distinguished Jugheads of JJ12

JJ12 “specialty act” auditions (solo, duet, ensemble) were held on April 13 in the Wooddale-Edina gym. Eight acts were chosen: four solos, three duets, and a quintet (see our website for the line-up). We’re also working on a good line-up of comedic/theatrical transitional skits. Four Jugheads completing their senior year still active in the company will be featured on Saturday night’s show according to their seniority experience. These seniors will join the 23 graduates who preceded them: Advanced Jughead **Kellen Stempel**; Ultimate Jugheads **Amanda Richter, Stefan Brancel and Silas Wallen-Friedman**.

Senior Voice: Stefan Brancel

Here I am trying to sum up eight years of my life—innumerable invaluable experiences and friendships that I believe will last years to come. How I could possibly summarize all of this in a brief article seems daunting if not impossible. Keeping that in mind, please take this article as just a part of what I have taken from JH.

JH to me has an essence. The essential core of the program has allowed it to last for over a decade and have hundreds of participants. The essence is not Paul, or any of the kids that have been in the program from near the beginning, although what JH is today would have been impossible without both of these components. The true essence of JH is friendship. I am a four-time IJA Gold Medalist, three-time IJA Juniors Finalist, and a world record holder, but if I were given a choice between all of these things and the friendships that I have formed in JH, I would throw away all the recognition in a instant.

I love juggling; as any Jughead can probably tell you, I normally juggle constantly (every moment that I can). But that is not why I currently drive an hour four days a week.



If I just wanted to juggle I could juggle at a rec. center three blocks from my house. It’s the friendships that make it worth the drive, and then some. Let me explain what I mean by friendship. I don’t just mean with my peers in Ultimate Club or in my age range. I mean everybody, from Eli Kenyon in Monday Rec. to Juniors Bronze Medalist and Teams Gold Medalist Jack Levy in Ultimate & Elite to Kellen Stempel, a fellow Senior in Advanced, to Head Coach and Director Paul Arneberg. Over the years I have developed friendships with all of these people and many more. The shared experiences through juggling have brought about the many friendships I have. This is what I believe truly is the essence of JH, and I hope that you will find how rewarding the experience can truly be. —*Stefan Brancel: 8th year Jughead, Elite Assistant, Como H.S. Senior*

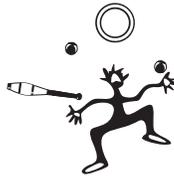
CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Ultimate

World champions focus on two-year rebuilding

Wow--“world champions.” Sounds awesome, doesn’t it? That’s just what this top-notch team of Jugheads achieved at last summer’s IJA Festival in Winston-Salem, NC. Now, I realize that five of those Teams Gold Medalists have graduated from H.S., and we have fully NINE (9) rookies on this year’s team, but regardless of WHO specifically earned the gold, it was a *team* effort, standing on the shoulders of U.C.’s first 11 years of existence (est. 1998-’99). As for THIS year’s team, we’re on a two-year build-up to compete again in the IJA in 2011 in—get this—Rochester, MN! The timing couldn’t be better, as we’re projecting another large graduating class of U.C. seniors in ‘11 (nine, as compared with eight in ‘09), making our team full of skill and maturity.

In addition to this being a rebuilding year, it’s been a year of discovery: **Billy’s** coaching style is very different from (but complementary to) **Jon’s** (who alone coached last year’s team); coaches appoint team captains (i.e., senior **Amanda Richter**), and captains often pay the price of being resented by their peers; the rookies have integrated into the team even though their very presence has been consistently resented by some veterans longing for the unity of last year; and dynamics are always changing among a group of any 20 teenagers, even (especially?) among those who have grown up together as Jugheads.

An added bonus for this rebuilding team is that the EYJA has commissioned Triple Espresso’s **Michael Pearce Donley** to compose an original work of music for use in JJ12, JJ13, and IJA 2011. Listen for his work as you watch the amazing (new) teamwork of U.C. in JJ12.



JUGHEADS Community News

—**ULTIMATES:** Lettering applications and \$20 to EPS is due 5/27; turn in to Paul. JH standards sheets must also be completely filled out, but you have until 7/31 to finish achieving them.

—**SENIOR JUGHEADS:** JJ12 program bios are due 5/10. The deadline to submit Senior Presentation photos is 4/30.

—**SUMMER JUGGLING CAMP** forms are available in our JH stairwell and on our website. Notes: 1) Coupons expire 4/30; 2) many Jugheads use punchcards, allowing them to come any time; 3) kids choosing to juggle in the morning and afternoon may bring a lunch and stay from Noon-1 p.m.; 4) we'll juggle for the 15th year in Edina's Parade on July THIRD (3rd) at 9 am.

—**THE FALL 2010 REGISTRATION FORM** and the post-JJ12/Summer 2010 newsletter will arrive at the homes of all current Jugheads on Wed., 5/26. Fall discount for returning members expires 6/12 (mail by 6/11)—that's just 2.5 weeks to decide about returning before club spots will be offered to new kids from summer camps starting on 6/14. See our website for club standards; Jugheads considering a higher-level club (Advanced, Elite, Ultimate) need to consult with Coaches Paul, Scott, or Billy.

—**MANNY?** Jughead grad **Brett Kissell** ('09) would like to "manny" this summer. If a family needs a friendly, musical, athletic young man to care for their kids, contact Brett via Paul.

—**ULTI-CLUB DRIVE-IN:** June 25 or 26. Email your choice.

Paul's Platform: "Right-Hand Men"

This year, I've frequently alluded to the fact that I have a strong staff of coaches on whom I significantly rely to help lead the rehearsal process, trips, and clubs. I'd like to focus now on my right-hand men, **Scott Richter** and **Billy Watson**. Both graduated from JH the same year ('07), and both are equally strong leaders with complementary areas of expertise: Scott is a master choreographer, character performer and creative juggler,

and Billy is a master technical juggler/coach and disciplinarian toward the goal of reaching new heights of juggling (and personal) excellence. Both go out of their way to develop meaningful relationships with as many of our students as possible. While I value their work here beyond words, they're proving to be more prototypical coaches than necessarily mainstays for the long haul: at present, Scott is also working in the Minnetonka School District as a paraprofessional focusing on children with special needs, with plans to discontinue regular JH coaching after this summer; Billy has already begun the process of applying to out-of-state law schools with a target admissions date of Sept. 2011.

What does that mean for JH's future? It means that we may experience a cycle of coaches moving through the college-age/career-development years, perhaps enjoying any given weekly coach no more than a handful of years each. With this reality, please remember to fully appreciate our young men who have dedicated themselves for the betterment of our youth and this company, and remember how Coaches Scott & Billy serve as role models for any and all coaches who may follow in their footsteps.

In 2007, Scott became my first-ever graduate-coach. My gratitude for him is reflected in this recent email: "Thank you, Scott, for all you've done...I believe you've laid up treasures in Heaven through your faithful service to the kids, the company, and Wendy & me, and I'll be eternally grateful for you stepping in the gap of my professional needs and being in the difficult position of being an authority source alongside (and in Elite's case, instead of) me. You're a pioneer, and I trust that God will pave the way for you to be a pioneer as a performer and a educator as well." JH is a special place; Coaches Scott Richter and Billy Watson are a huge part of that.

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