



JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • April/May 2016

Juggle Jam 18 Final (Hard Copy) Memo

Logistics enclosed for four-week countdown

The annual **Final Memo and Checklist** for all JH families regarding JJ18 logistics and etiquette is enclosed with this *Journal*. Four key dates should be memorized: May 11, 16, 20 & 21. Remember that student-created/borrowed/purchased costumes enhance all routines. Every Jughead should know the basic contents of the Final Memo to minimize long meetings at rehearsals.

JJ18 Specialty Acts, Skits & Seniors

Distinguished Jugheads of JJ18: “Specialty act” auditions were held on 4/12 in the gym of Wooddale Church-Edina. Four solos, three duets and a trio will supplement our club routines with specialized talents. We’re also working on a variety of skits. Eight Jugheads completing their senior year active in the company will be featured according to their seniority/club/leadership roles (four each night), joining the 71 grads since ‘06. Congrats!

Officer Voice: Riga M.

“Si pudiera vivir nuevamente mi vida, en la próxima trataría de cometer más errores.” (“If I could live my life again, next time I would try to make more mistakes.”) —“Instantes” by poet Jorge Luis Borge

I believe this quote is something that everyone, myself included, should try to live by, as mistakes and “failures” are far too underrated. In our society, mistakes are often frowned upon and ridiculed, to be avoided at all costs. Yet, mistakes always result in learning, and one should never hesitate or fear to learn. I can recall several mistakes I have made in JH over the years. Whether missing an emcee bit in 4th grade or having to enter from the wrong side of the stage while competing with U.C. at IJA-Quebec, I did not feel good about it afterward. Yet, as I look back, I see not events I should feel ashamed of, but events that taught me something and made me a better juggler and performer.

Despite mistakes’ inevitability, the innate desire to avoid them can cause people to not try new things or to give up when at first they don’t succeed. This should never be the case, as mistakes simply mean that you are learning and improving. So, make that routine, try out for that sport, sign up for that new activity, or take that harder class, because the experience will always be worth the potential of failure.

Over-concern and fear of mistakes and failure will decrease enjoyment of life. Every summer I sign up for house league

soccer, which I love. On my team, the idea that one must play to win is not there; instead, I am with a bunch of people who have fun regardless of our success. To me, taking away the pressure to perform only at a high level makes the game more enjoyable. Instead of concerning yourself only with who wins or loses, simply trying your best and making sure to enjoy the experience regardless of the outcome results in a more pleasurable experience from which you still learn and improve.

Mistakes help us and are necessary to learn and grow as people. Although perfection may seem idealistic and appealing, it is truly overrated. Despite what many believe, mistakes do not impede success, but rather, help lead to success. So, enjoy life, enjoy yourself, and enjoy your activities, regardless of the success of the outcome, making sure to continue trying new things, learning, and improving. And never hesitate to make more mistakes.

—**Riga M.:** *Deca Jughead (10 years!), Officer, Monday Rec. Assistant, Elite Member, Ultimate Club Co-Captain, H.S. Senior*

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Ultimate

Traditions both old and new in varsity-level club

After seven straight years of having **Jon O’Connor** as a dedicated weekly coach (and joined by a JH grad coach for *six* of those years), U.C. has returned to its roots, taking a decidedly student-led approach to the club’s culture, goals, and routine. Far from a blind experiment, the club was run this way for its first 10 years (most notably by **Billy Watson & Kelvin Ying** from ‘01-‘07), with driven student leaders setting the tone and hired specialists catalyzing and guiding the club toward JJ. Special credit is due to this year’s co-captains, **Cole D. & Riga M.**, for anchoring U.C.’s leadership in this year’s renewed tradition.

Whereas the annual U.C. roster used to top out at 20, lack of interest and/or the daunting standards have caused it to dip to





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an average of 15 members since 2011—further confirming the timeliness of structural leadership change. U.C. tradition continues to favor “all club passing, all the time,” mostly set to epic/upbeat music such as adventure movies, big band, and Cirque du Soleil. Whether for just one or all four years of high school, U.C. is our pinnacle juggling challenge enjoyed by many Jugheads past & present, with several kids vying to join each year. And where else in the world can one actually earn a *letter* in juggling?

Look forward to seeing the reigning IJA Teams Silver Medalists in JJ18!

JUGHEADS Community News

—**SENIORS:** Submit Sr. Presentation photos (20–30) by 5/8. JJ18 program bios are due 5/13 (see email for details).

—**SUMMER JUGGLING CAMP FORMS** were sent home and posted online in early March. **Reminders:** 1) Coupons expire 4/30; 2) punchcards are a popular option; 3) kids can bag-lunch-it if juggling all day; 4) note special events: Edina Art Fair, family picnic, parades.

—**THE FALL 2016 REG. FORM** and the Summer newsletter will arrive at current Jugheads’ homes on 5/27, with fall reg open for current members (with Paul’s approval for Adv., Elite, U.C.) and new rookies (pending camp experience). Early discounts valid thru 6/10; our base rate will run from 6/11-9/5. Whether to secure a roster spot or simply save money, plan to register for fall from 5/27-6/10!

—**O’CONNOR MEMORIAL FUND:** 11-year U.C. Specialist **Jon O’Connor** lost his beloved wife of 20 years, **Stephanie**, on 2/27/16. Stephanie attended chef school mid-career and died with a large student loan. If any JH family would like to help Jon retire this debt, please go to youcaring.com/StephanieOConnor. Thank you.

Paul’s Platform: “American Ideals and JUGHEADS, Part 4: The Balance of Power”

The Universe is hierarchical; that’s both factual and faith-based. Any authority is either benevolent or dictatorial. It’s possible to have a benevolent dictatorship, but not on this side of Heaven.

“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely” (Lord Acton, 1887). Although written a century after

our Founding Fathers framed the U.S. Constitution, I believe this principle guided our country’s establishment of our three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. Otherwise known as checks and balances, our American ideal is that we remain a representative republic. We’re not a true democracy with mob rule; rather, we elect our leaders who then appoint cabinets, administrations, Supreme Court justices, and other ways to exercise the will of “We the People.”

Here at JH, our “three branches of government” could also be described as executive (Paul & Wendy), legislative (the SLT & adult staff), and judicial (parents). Of course, this analogy breaks down in that our “judiciary” funds our company, and the “executive” approves expenditures. (Gov’t legislatures control the purse.)

Having said that, consider the “legislative” SLT. I appoint 16 members to serve through volunteering, assisting, and Officers’ Meetings, truly enriching how we balance JH policies, traditions, and decisions. This tuition-based, entrepreneurial endeavor would dry up quickly if I (the director) didn’t have a way to formally tap into and empower a representation of our members. At the same time, the company would become chaotic if every decision had to be run through a committee, let alone the entire company population. Get counsel and make informed decisions.

As for the judiciary, I’ve had wise parents over these 22 years who have given me timely advice and “judgments,” both solicited and unsolicited. Taken together, this balance of power sharpens my wits and strengthens my resolve to lead well and develop youth wholly. And almost daily, I remember that I will ultimately answer to a Judge to Whom I will give an account for how I’ve stewarded this company. That’s a sober reality for any earthly power with any level of authority.

Paul Arneberg, JUGHEADS Founder, Director & Head Coach
cell: 612.978.9707 • jugheads@comcast.net

Wendy Arneberg, JUGHEADS Office/Operations Manager
cell: 612.229.3348 • wendy@jugheads.com

U.S. Mail: 5905 Concord Ave., Edina, MN 55424 • **Web:** jugheads.com

JUGHEADS Location: St. Stephen’s Church • 4439 W. 50th St. • Edina • 55424

Tom Gaasedelen, Elite Club Coach & Sub
cell: 952.358.1023 • thomas_gaasedelen@mcad.edu

Betsy Gaasedelen, Advanced & Friday Movement/Choreography Specialist
bgaasedelen@gmail.com

Jon O’Connor, Ultimate Club Specialist and Specialty Act Consultant
cell: 612.839.2572 • coachjon@jugheads.com