



JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • April/May 2018

Juggle Jam 20 Final Checklist

Logistics enclosed for four-week countdown

The annual **Final Memo and Checklist** for all JH families regarding JJ20 logistics and etiquette is enclosed with this *Journal*. Four key dates should be memorized: **May 9, 15, 18 & 19**. Family-created/borrowed/purchased **costumes enhance all routines**. Every Jughead should know the basic Memo info.

Distinguished Jugheads of JJ20

Specialty act auditions were held on 4/17 at Emmaus Church. Three duets, a solo, a trio and a quintet will supplement our club routines with specialized talents. We'll also have a variety of skits, grad cameos, and extended club routines. Eight Jughead seniors will be featured according to their seniority/clubs/leadership roles (4 each night), joining 88 other grads. Congratulations!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Ultimate

Chemistry and skill in rare team experience

U.C. is not only a varsity juggling team, it offers a truly top-notch experience on par with most any other top juggling group in the world. The majority of our 88 grads (72%) have come through the U.C. ranks, and while several have kept juggling since graduation, many attest to not finding anything quite like U.C. again.

An unofficial but member-driven tradition is to compete for the IJA Championships about every other year. U.C. has auditioned eight times since 2002 (seven finalists; three bronze, a silver and a gold), and while this isn't a competition year, the quality continues nonetheless, fueled by 10 veterans returning from IJA '17 and a class of seven stellar rookies who have brought fresh chemistry, work ethic and passion to the team. **Capt. Laura** and **Coach Tom** steward well this 20th U.C. team and all its strengths.

U.C. will be featured in JJ20 in Act Two just before the Slide Show, and this year they're *also* putting together a Tribute featuring music from eight past UC Teams and several grads juggling along with them.

Captain's Corner: Laura Schroeder

Life is fast and ever-changing, and moments become memories before you know it. This truth has been made evident to me, particularly now that I'm a senior and I'm preparing



for an entirely new chapter of my life. And, of course, it's hard to see that the nine whole years of my childhood that I spent in this company will soon make the transition from moment to memory. It's a strange feeling, knowing that before I know it I'll stand on that stage during the end of the Senior Presentation, I'll throw my last high throw in my last Saturday night Reach, and then I'll graduate and seemingly vanish into the post-secondary abyss like so many Jugheads grads before me. JH has been a constant in my life, and at this point I have no way of discerning what effects its absence will have on me.

Although my future is full of the unknown, I know this: my JH experiences will continue to resonate throughout my life. I have watched many seniors before me graduate and move on with their lives, teaching me how to maintain ties with my past while embracing the forthcoming. I've encountered so many people, some very similar and some very different from myself, showing me the love, wisdom, and laughter that can come from the unlikelyst of characters. I've made friends that tease me relentlessly like siblings, assuring me that no matter where I go from here, strangers I meet can become the most important people in my life. The memories I've made with the members of this company have proven to me that we all have the power to connect with just about anyone, sometimes over something as unconventional as juggling.

But now, JJ20 is coming up. We've got to get our heads out of the clouds of reminiscence, because it's time to make some memories! So I encourage you all: look at the person to your left and your right in your Rock This Town line. Observe all the company's members, from the smallest Rec. kids to the U.C. seniors, scurrying together through the halls behind the Hopkins H.S. Auditorium. Laugh (quietly!) backstage with your friends. Feel every prop hitting your hands. It's happening now, and it will never be quite the same again. —**Laura Schroeder**: 9th Year Jughead, Ultimate Club Captain, EHS Senior

JUGHEADS Community News

—**SENIORS**: Submit 10-20 Sr. Presentation photos by 5/6. JJ20 program bios are due 5/11. See email for more details.

—**20 Day Countdown to JJ20!** From 4/28-5/17, our website will feature daily videos from 19 past JJs + greetings from grads!

—**Bring a Friend to JUGHEADS, Part 2!** 5/29-6/1

is the middle week between JJ20 and our summer camps. Look for an email to sign up a friend to experience a day in a Jughead's life!



—**SUMMER JUGGLING CAMP FORMS** were sent home and posted online in March. **Reminders:** 1) Discounts expire 4/30; 2) punchcards are a popular option; 3) kids can bag-lunch-it if juggling all day; 4) Parades: 6/16 & 7/4; IJA Team Send-Off: 7/11.

—**WELCOME** to Rookie Jughead **Benjamin S.** Thurs. Rec. 7th grader! Ben lives in India but is stateside this school year.

—**The Fall 2018 Reg. Form & Summer newsletter** should arrive at current Jugheads' homes on 6/1, with 1st Sem. reg. open for current members (with Paul's approval for non-Rec. Clubs) and new rookies (with camp exp.). Secure a roster spot and receive **earlybird discounts** by registering for next year's 1st Sem. **by 6/30!**

A preview of schedule changes for the '18-'19 School Year:

- **ADVANCED will move to MONDAYS.** This is due to Monday Rec.'s demise and for mutual convenience to St. Stephen's Church and our many members with Wednesday night church activities.
- **Clubs' end time EXTENDS to 6:30 p.m.** This *optional* extra half hour aims to accommodate those who can't arrive until 4 or later (esp. Edina's middle schoolers). The core club time will be 4-6 p.m., with the 3 pm hour and the 1/2 hour extension for snack, extra juggling, specialty act work, and games.

Paul's Platform: "Reflecting on 20 JJams"

This column series celebrates our double-deca *Juggle Jam* milestone. The highs & lows of success were themes of our 3rd quarter history.

Part 4: "Coaches & Champions: Juggle Jams 11-15"

Our 2nd half of our 1st 20 JJs started with a bang, with JJ11 swelling to 140 members, including 12 seniors! With the addition of weekly paid coaches from among my ranks of Jughead grads starting with multi-club coaches **Scott Richter** and **Billy Watson** (with subsequent grad-coaches **Ricky Harr**, **Ben Hestness**, **Stefan Brancel**, **Kelvin Ying**, **Chris Lovdal** & **Tom Gaasedelen**), our coming of age was made complete in many ways. I received much-needed help to run this company as I entered my 40s, and the coaches brought fresh energy, superior skills, and first-hand company experience (as children/adolescents) to each club they helped lead.

Starting in '05-'06, I brought in 25-year pro juggler **Jon O'Connor** as an U.C. specialist for a few nights a year. In sum-

mer '08, Jon had a vision while watching the Olympics: take advantage of the amazing talent he'd seen in his three years with U.C. and lead them to an IJA Teams bid for the first time since '04. I agreed to make him a weekly coach, and he started implementing his goal right away. U.C. had made a serious tradition of the warm-ups regimen introduced by **Capt. Billy** in 2004-2005, so the ramped-up discipline of the team was second nature by '08-'09, superbly led by three-time IJA Teams medalist and Deca-Jughead **Capt. Brett Kissell**. Ironically, Brett opted to not compete with the team he led in '09, but its deep bench was proven when 15 of 19 members from JJ11 competed and won the **IJA Teams Gold**. The Jugheads were world champions!

As can be guessed, our goal medal led to even more interest in U.C. and achieving our higher standards in general. 2009-'10 was very tension-filled among the top members, with the veterans basking in their world class victory while the new wave of rookies sought to fit in and gain peer respect. The still-new coaching phenomenon from the Rec. Clubs through U.C. also saw challenges in finding new ways to balance the adults' vision with the input and leadership of our SLT and general membership. Since JJ11, we've had a dichotomy of opportunity vs. excellence, and our happy medium (as honed in JJs 11-15) solicits much input from the kids at every level but reserves the right to make executive decisions so the various groups are all headed in the same direction come choreography & show time!

Apart from the nuances of balancing pro leadership with student input, JJs 11-15 increased a rich tradition of innovative club routines and skits. For my part, I continued my first love of theatre and character performing with five more director's openers: the Oz Gatekeeper; Johnny Cash; "The Juggle Jam Can" song/monologue; Steve Martin (w/banjo); and a Rock This Town barbershop quartet.

Column constraints can't do more than an iota of justice to these JJ years where coaches became a mainstay, rosters had waiting lists, and U.C. achieved the highest possible level. Behind all those stats, former Jughead mom **Sarah Rose (Danny Rose**, '09) nominated Wendy & me for an award which we received just before JJ15: the **Edina Mayor's Commendation for Connecting With Kids**. Even with our various group, individual, and directorial awards received since 1997, that award perhaps best summarizes the heart of this company, whether we have 10 kids or 140, whether we win many more medals or avoid competing. Youth development remains the life-giving heart and mission for all we try to do on stage and off.

Developing Youth Through *Juggle Jams* Since 1999,

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