

Club welcomes jugglers of all levels of expertise



Practicing in the gym, Jugglers Club founder Britt Tyler juggles with another member.

Jugglers gather weekly to explore techniques, learn new tricks, hone talents

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While most students spend time juggling classes, relationships and work, the students of the Jugglers Club add to the act with clubs, balls and anything else they can get their hands on.

"I enjoy juggling with other people," said Britt Tyler, founder of the Jugglers Club. "It's kind of like playing music because you discover rhythms with other people that you wouldn't find by yourself."

Tyler started the club last semester. They meet every Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Justice Center, and every Monday at 4 p.m. in Highsmith.

The constant number of members is around four or five, although almost 15 people, students and nonstudents, came to juggle two Sundays ago. The club is open to jugglers and those learning to juggle, according to Tyler.

"I'm not much of a solo juggler. There are also lots of patterns that you can do with other people that are lots of fun," Tyler said.

Tyler brings in professional jugglers like Kevin Bradley to teach students more techniques. Bradley

has been juggling for 28 years and learned to juggle at age 9. Ingrid Johnson is another juggler Tyler works with in a troupe outside of the school.

"The club here doesn't perform yet," Tyler said. "The other group I work with has done other events at Biltmore."

The club has few members in the school, but more students are finding out about it every day. Daniel Larsson, a transfer student from Sweden, recently discovered the club when he went to the gym to play soccer.

"I saw this guy juggling, and I went to see what that was all about, and I got hooked," Larsson said.

Larsson stayed for the entire session of the club on Sunday, practicing with clubs and balls. He plans to come back again to learn more.

"I do perform a little bit with clubs, torches and knives," Larsson said. "The most I can juggle with confidence is three balls, but I can juggle four for about 15 seconds before I mess up. And I can juggle five balls because that is a different system but only for about 10 or 15 seconds as well before I mess up."

Larsson, like others in the club, started juggling randomly by playing with objects in his house and teaching himself. Johnson also started juggling in a

similar way by tossing around fruit in the kitchen. Tyler, in fact, is one of the few who started out with someone teaching him.

"When I was 13, my house was kind of crazy because my family always took on different people to live with us," Tyler said. "A family friend lived with us, and she taught me to juggle tennis balls."

He didn't start practicing until later, though.

"When I was around 17 I realized you could do tricks with juggling," Tyler said. "Then when I was 18 my parents got me clubs, and I joined a juggling club at N.C. State, where I started passing with other people."

Many of the members in the club bring their own juggling tools with them, from clubs to balls to hoops, and even a toy flying monkey. Other items include clear acrylic balls used for contact juggling, like in the movie *Labyrinth*, and a rolla bolla, used in balancing acts, which consists of a board placed on a round tube. Bradley brings in a unicycle for balancing acts as well.

"There had been groups of us meeting in groups around town," Johnson said. "Most of us are here through Britt."

The troupe in Asheville is starting a circus in town,

which will consist of not only jugglers but acrobats and other performers as well.

"Juggling to me has the perfect mix of challenge, coordination and art," Johnson said. "It's so good and so fun. My favorite part about juggling is juggling with other folks."

The troupe continues to practice often by teaching others, and none of them claim to have mastered the art of juggling. Larsson said he loves juggling for just that reason.

"It's relaxing. When you're juggling, you can't think at the same time," Larsson said. "Also, there is always a way to make it harder."

You can add another ball, learn another trick, and if you learn one trick, you can always reverse it and try it another way. There are always fields of advancement."

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What recent movies made impressions on you?



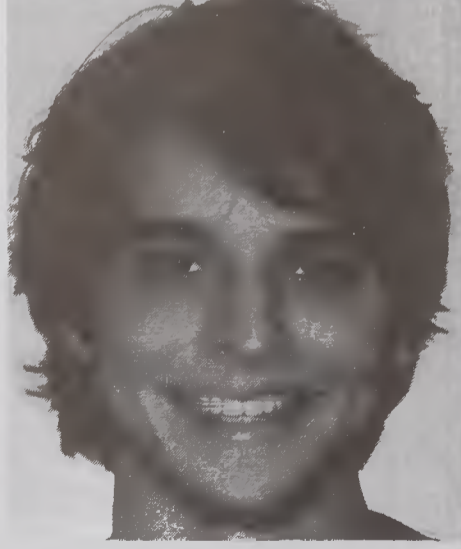
AUSTON PISANI
FRESHMAN STUDENT



CHRISTINE VISPOLI
FRESHMAN STUDENT



FORREST MCCULLER
JUNIOR STUDENT



JOHN BUSCARINO
JUNIOR STUDENT

PHOTOS BY HANNAH DOYLE

National Treasure II didn't take itself too seriously. It wasn't one of those movies where you take something away from it; I just liked it.

Juno appealed to my sense of humor. The dialogue flowed realistically, and Ellen Page interjected sarcasm and spoke dryly, which I do, too.

Juno was funny, but I don't feel that strongly about it. The plot was kind of thrown together. I think the movie was too short for everything they wanted to say.

There Will Be Blood is my favorite movie of this past year. Daniel Day-Lewis was so engaging. There wasn't much dialogue, but I hung on every word.