

FSU Gymnasts, Gymkana, and Friends Newsletter September 2005 (First Edition)

From Barbara Murray Withers

"For those of you, who attended the reunion at my beach house, just wanted you to know that luckily we came through Hurricane Dennis with very little damage. The beach and the sand dunes took a beating but by next year when reunion time rolls around again (next year, jmm) they should be nourished and recovered. Everyone is invited to come back, and hopefully Angelo's Restaurant (which was demolished in the storm) will be rebuilt by then." (Angelo's was where we all dined together and where I met everyone for the first time that week-end. jmm)

From Evelyn Laing Borschel (Tallahassee Tumbling Tot 1950's)

"I enjoyed so much seeing friends after all these years. It brought back so many wonderful memories. Even though we were just "kids in the gym," I will always treasure those memories. Thanks for including the "tots" for your reunions, and I thank you for making me feel so welcome. What a wonderful group of men and women you are! Evelyn Laing Borschel" (There are three Laing "Tots", Evelyn, Carole, and Kay from the early fifties. jmm.)

From Gail Sontgerath Whitney

"I have a new Granddaughter, Grace Leland Whitney born December 8th, 2004. Ralph (husband) Grace and April will be moving to Jacksonville the beginning of August which I am so delighted. They were in Chicago before. My husband and Bill have taken over a company that Bill's father and he started 30 years ago concerning the veterinary business. Mail order catalog for horse dentistry and horses stomach tubes and some other items also. We have a web site at www.jupitervetproducts.com if anyone is interested. The word Jupiter came from the town where we started it. His father is retired and we are running it now. We are happy here in Rosewood (a town about 11 miles from Cedar Key) and 50 miles from Gainesville. Very rural like Fl use to be but still very nice. Bought some acreage many years ago and decided to retire here. Thanks, all for now. Take care and all my love. Gail" (She was only the farmers' daughter but all the horse men knew her. jmm)

From Rafael Lecuona

"I found the reunion an outstanding event...great moments with great friends...would like it more often if possible...Barbara ought to be given some reunion appreciation gift from all present there. Abrazos, Raffles"

From Barbara Cude Beaton:

"Barbara deserves accolades for providing a wonderful location for a unique group with common ties to celebrate! Her homes are located in a place we are all familiar with and were given free license to do whatever appealed at the time. Barbara is one of the most hard-working, thoughtful, generous, active, caring (always puts everyone else ahead of herself) people I know. She outdid herself making all feel welcome: organizing the dinners at the Stadium and Angelo's, providing activities at Alligator Point and saw to it that the whole group was comfortable, well fed and happy. Barbara is my very best friend - it's easy to see why..... Beverly" (The reunion was fantastic jmm)

From Carmine & Daneen Regna

Quote Daneen, "I did attend the reunion in Alligator point in May. The weather was perfect and so was the location. I would like to thank Beverly for offering her beach house for this event. It was great to see people that I hadn't seen in a long time and share the news about each other; seems like we were just in college and here it is 50 years later. Thanks to Beverly for offering to be our hostess again next year, and I hope to see everyone there."

From Mike Mann (Re.The aftermath of the Gulf after the Hurricane jmm)

"We took the kayaks yesterday and drove over to Cape San Blas" The ride was pretty much uneventful and unspectacular until we reached the point where US 319 & US 98 rejoins just west of the FSU Marine Lab. From there on it seemed like total devastation, most ground level homes were gone and the lots were already cleared, several were down/collapsed but not yet cleared, much debris in piles along side the road; refrigerators, stoves, washer & dryers, couches, chairs, etc. All the businesses that had been along there motels, restaurants, most convenience stores, were boarded up and closed.

From Beverly Cude Beaton

"Hi Jack, Thank YOU so much for putting yourself through all this work of collecting information and for using it, to boot! I appreciate it a great deal from my home in the "far" north - it could be worse, such as where I came from when at FSU - Noranda, 500 miles north of Montreal. I was back there in 1990 for a high school reunion for anyone who had attended the school at any time, and that included former staff! It was the school's 50th birthday and people came from all over everywhere (how about 2000 of us?) - Today the town is almost totally French and posted all over the place were signs proclaiming: "The English are coming.....the English are coming!" We certainly booked all hotels, motels and got billeted in private homes - even to sleeping under crowded conditions on the floor! Fun -- lots of it!"

RE: Jim and Marlene Jackson's 50th Wedding Anniversary Party:

From Don & Connie Holder

Attending the 50th Anniversary for The Great Story Teller and the Nurse was very heartwarming. Not too many of us get this far in the marriage field, (Connie and I will be celebrating our 55th this month) Marlene and Jim should be showered with congratulations. We enjoyed the many great friends and all the accolades given to this outstanding couple.

(Jim and Arlene Jackson's Daughter, Victoria {Formerly of Saturday Night Live and a real charmer} hosted a huge surprise fiftieth wedding Anniversary Gala for her parent's at Dan Marino's Restaurant in North Miami. The Holder's, The Cicio's, Dick Gutting, and I with my son, Chad, represented some of his old gymnastic buddies, jmm)

From Beverly Cude Beaton

I wasn't there, but I would like to extend my congratulations to Jim and Marlene on so many years together. May there be many more, and a big hello to both of you! All the way from Canada

“What are they doing now?” (And who cares?)

- **Ron Galimore**, formerly of the Tallahassee Tumbling Tots, and Miles Gymnastics was the Director of the Men's Program for the United States Gymnastics Federation and has been promoted to USGF Vice Presidents of Events, Olympic Relations/Men's Program. (The blood of kings flows through his veins, jmm)
- **Dick Gutting**, although retired, subs occasionally with the Dade County Miami School District and is an officer in the World Acrobatic Society. (Dick is also an avid collector of Native American pottery and has an impressive collection. You really should get in touch with Dick and learn about the acrobatic society. via <suzannegutting@comcast.net> jmm)
- **Chick Cicio** is fulfilling his life long ambition and is very busy acting and singing in various shows throughout South Florida. He sang also at the Jackson's Anniversary party and he was great.
- **Don Holder** dives with his sons, in their business, as they gather sea life from the beautiful waters of the Dry Tortugas for Salt Water Aquarium Dealers.
- **Jamile Ashmore** is still traveling world wide with American Athletic Company, mainly to the Orient and is still a high ranking official in the International Gymnastics Association.
- **Bill Beavers** Competes in Kayaks races all over the USA However he missed the last month due to a hand injury -Infected puncture wound from a nail. (Carol his wife is glad he races for it keeps him out of town a lot, jmm) (Yes, he broke his famous cool and calm composure and cursed out loud like we uncool people would, jmm)
- **Bob Murray** is a Shakespearian Actor -has been since FSU - and is presently in Hong Kong doing a one man show.
- **Carmine and Daneen Regna** celebrated their 56th Wedding Anniversary. (I couldn't add up all of my last wives and come up with that number, jmm)
- **Karl Bishop** is coaching in the Clearwater area and owns the Apollo School of Gymnastics - one of the states oldest private clubs - so he gets all the fun stuff associated with running a small business. He is also an active Certified International Judge as well.
- **Bruce Davis**, Professor Emeritus at Miami Dade College has his own successful Gym "Flip Flop & Fitness" in Apollo Beach, Florida. He is also a contributing writer in a local Florida Magazine, "*Your Neighborhood*".
- **Bill Roetzheim, Jon Culbertson, Jamile Ashmore, and Karl Bishop** is active Certified International Judges.
- **Joe Greene** drove his motorcycle (Hog) from Gainesville to the reunion in Alligator Point and survived.
- **Raphael Lecuona**, The Cuban, Retired as a Professor at Texas A & M. Laredo Texas Campus and has moved to Houston, Texas. (He still smokes cigars, smelly El Ropos, with Ashmore, much to my chagrin, jmm)
- **Jack Miles**, as of August 8th is now wearing a hearing aide in his right ear and has now heard some of the things you have been saying about him and plans to get even. (He has been reading lips to a minor degree since he was hit by a car at five years old. Warning. In conversation with him if he sticks his finger in his ear. He just turned you off)
- **Don Rapp** entertained all of those who attended the reunion with his fabulous and charming juggling expertise. He seems to have discovered the Fountain of Youth. He looks the same as when we left him by the side of the road. (But of course my eyes are going bad too. Jmm)
- **Pat Signorelli's** son is one of the top ranking gymnasts in the United States and trains at the USGF National Training Academy in Colorado Springs. (Holder tells me he looks like Pat's better looking twin, jmm)
- **Rick Miller** (The last time I heard from Rick, in 2000, he had been collecting Antique Spanish Knives made in Toledo, Spain for the past 35 years. He retired ten years ago after thirty years with the Public Health Service, He and his wife Evelyn, from Puerto Rico, travel extensively. jmm)
- **Fernando Lecuona** became a PGA golf pro four years after he completed my master degree at F.S.U. in 1967. Then, he competed weekly in the Florida Winter Tour for 10 years while he was working at his job. He has been composing music for Latin America and has made 7 CD's, but "not making any money because his songs and lyrics are melodic and the kids (who are the "market") don't buy them". (Fernando also wrote a No.#1 hit song in Cuba back in the forties, jmm)

From Almira Sharp (Jack Sharp's widow)

"How great to hear from you and the idea of the newsletter is wonderful. Would love to get it at <ajsharp@starlinx.com> (Daughter) Diane got married in June to a wonderful man, Ray Romano, and extremely happy. Grandson, Stuart (In the USAF) is flying C130's and will be heading back to Iraq this fall for his second tour. He is now the father of 2 little boys, so I am a great-grandmother and love it. Hope all is well with you....Love, peace and joy....Almira" (In full dress uniform Colonel Jack Sharp, Stuart's grandfather, had the honor of pinning on Stuart's Wings when he graduated from the Air Force Academy....and ... Stuart married a gymnast jmm).....(Jack shaped my life more than any other person jmm)

From Mike Mann (with 30 plus years of computer expertise, jmm)

"This is from Google, it is free, and great for just about everything photographic, download at (<http://www.picasa.com>). It will search your hard driveS, find all your photos, display thumbnails of them, and eliminate duplicates if you like. It will display a tree structure of where they are stored so you can actually find them. Good for importing or exporting and e-mailing if you use the right e-mail packages or just generally organizing your collection. 'Edit photo directory names/titles, descriptions and photo names and descriptions. Give it a try; I think you will like it. Mike"

Excerpts Gleaned from Bruce Davis' article, *Legacy Walk at Florida State University, in Your Neighborhood, Apollo Beach, Florida* on Ed. Jonas, Artist

"On Heritage Day 2005, Florida State University celebrated the second phase of a planned four phase Legacy Walk, a historical tour of campus that focuses on its architecture, sculpture and green spaces, by unveiling the Landis Green Legacy Fountain Sculptures created by the renowned sculptor and FSU alumnus Edward Jonas." "Seminole students, alumnae and all Floridians should be proud of Legacy Walk." "Sculptor Edward Jonas found his way from Cocoa Beach in Brevard County to Tallahassee in the late sixties because of his desire to train with FSU's championship gymnastics program" "Other Jonas work includes the one and a third life football figures called *Sportmanship* in front of Campbell Stadium, consignment work for some of the PGA's greatest golfers, portrait work of various State political leaders and the creation of the *Portrait Society of America's Gold Medal*. Ed resides in Tallahassee with his wife and three children. His work can be seen at www.edwardjonas.com" or info@edwardjonas.com.

A copy of the total article can be obtained by contacting Bruce, <brucedavis56@verizon.net>

From Bruce Davis

There have been many articles on the "Seminole" mascot debate with the NCAA at FSU, at least six. For October I would like to do Gutting and Cicio as Sammie Seminoles. Perhaps your newsletter could draw comments for that debate?

September's article will be out soon on Roetzheim. (He recently did an article on a great subject, me, and my enviable humbleness, jmm) Re: this subject. Quote the August 2005, *Florida State Times, A newspaper for FSU alumni, friends, faculty & staff* "Seminoles' now and forever. FSU President T.K. Wetherell received a resolution this past June supporting the university's use of the "Seminole" name when he became the first FSU president to be invited to a meeting of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Council, the tribe's governing body. "..... "And the Seminole Tribe of Florida wishes to go on record that it has not opposed, and, in fact, supports the continued use of the name "Seminole".... "That they chose to go on record and formally reaffirm that they trust us to be good stewards of their name is humbling" Wetherell said."

(The NCAA agreed jmm)

From Fernando Lecuona

"High Jack: I'm glad that you made contact with me. I miss our time at the F.S.U. Gym while we were practicing for the GYMKANA Show. But must of all, of course, I miss you and your family. Those years will never come back in reality, only in our memories. But, as they say, "the Show must go on." As you can guess by my address, I'm married to Linda, (my second marriage.) I divorced Margarita in 1967 while I was studying for my Master. My daughter Laura lives in Decatur, Alabama, married and with two sons and one daughter, and three grandchildren.(Laura has her own Realtor Company) My other daughter Patty, lives in Columbiana, Alabama, married and has one daughter and grand daughter, and one son. Both son and daughter have Master degrees. Patty has her own Master degree and is a Counselor at Auburn University. My wife Linda, was born in Bristol, Virginia. I met her 22 years ago playing golf in Daytona Beach where I was single at the time for eighteen years. I have been working for the Department of Education, Washington. D.C. for 36 years and my office is located at Bethune-Cookman College, 141 South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Daytona Beach, Florida, 32114, Phone-386-481-2480, I have working for me several counselors that go to Middle Schools and High Schools looking for low-income, first-generation students with potential to go to post-secondary education and my counselors motivate them not to dropout, but to continue their education and graduate from High School, and then we send them free to any college or university in U.S.A. of their choice. Well, now you know something about me and my family. Give my love to your family, and to you my best wishes in everything you do. Love, Fernando"

From J. Brent Pichard (Tallahassee Tumbling Tot 1950's)

"Jack: Good to hear from you. Hope you are well. Here's my info: I've got three adult children (all business owners here in Tallahassee) and five grandchildren. I've been married to Ley Hulsey, my F.S.U. KD sweetheart, for 41 years. Although my roundoff, flip-flop full-twisting back somersault isn't quite what it used to be, life is, otherwise, very good. Brent"

From Me (Jack Miles)

Now you have a general idea of what the *Newsletter* will be like. Please fill free to email information about your life. I "cut" and "copy" and place it in the newsletter when it arrives. At the end of the quarter I sum it up and it's ready to go out to you. The e-mailing list is growing. Again, if you have any contact numbers, we need them. So as not to crowd your mail box I will send the address list in about a week you will see all those we have to find. I date the top of the address so when you receive an update your better off throwing away the old one. I receive about twenty emails a day. Comments always welcome. Please keep the article you send in about two paragraphs long.

Thank God for our good fortune by escaping the Hurricane that hit New Orleans, and pray for the welfare of those who suffered from the storm. Love, Jack

Coming in the next Newsletter in December

- Mind blowing successes of nationally acclaimed business woman. Carrie *Englert* Zimmerman, former Tallahassee Tumbling Tot and National Gold Medalist.
- More on Bruce Davis' writing on FSU gymnastics
- All I know about Stu Goldberg. Dick Gutting gave me his contact numbers in Sacramento, Cal.
- Some great information about the life and travels of Jimmy Tanaka
- Articles about you, by you, to pass along to all