

FSU Gymnasts, Gymkana, Tallahassee Tumbling Tots, and Friends Newsletter June 2006 (Eighteenth Edition) 07/16/06

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Within reason the Newsletter follows this word content per single entry (Times New Roman, 10 font sizes)

New entry: Resumes/history since FSU = Twenty-two (22) words per line, Twenty two (22) lines

Second, third etc. entry..... = Twenty-two (22) words per line, Eleven (11

once teammates, always teammates by Charlie Christian.

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Jack Miles
50-58

Newsletter Heading Changes

{Please note that our Newsletter has two new additions to the heading, Tallahassee Tumbling Tots and once teammates, always teammates by Charlie Christian.jmm }

Don & Connie Holder
51-57

Reunion Review

I'm still awed at the talent inherent within our Gymnastic community. The more we gather together and observe, the more I feel we could still do a Gymkhana show, of course with moderation, and the audience would have to be close to our age to appreciate what talent there is left. Don Rapp would be the headliner, Raphael can still do his one arm lever, and I could be spotting the Cuban. I think I can still hold Jamile in an L position. Jay Schwartzman will manage the troupe. Look alike contests featuring Jack and Don, who has the most scars, along with Barbara and Bev. All the tumbling snots, I mean Tots, will parade by for a Mrs. Gymkhana contest. Other featured acts will include Log Rolling and the most amount of forward rolls before passing out. Who knows, we might even entice Benny Wallace to attend. - Don . {VERY clever for an ole gymnastAlso,Our Group was called Gymkana.. a Gymkhana is a horse show.true..Gotchajmm }

Larry Bestmann
55-58

Reunion Review

Wow!! This is the first reunion I have ever been to in my life! Im sorry I just came off the lost and found list, I would have liked to have been present at some of the earlier ones when we could still do forward rolls and had more hair. Now, Im anxious to get back to the next one and hope were still ambulatory. Larry {Thats OK Larry Ill give your wheelchair a pushinto the Gulf.jmm }

Bill & Carole Beavers
57-58/60-61

Reunion Review

It was a terrific experience seeing everyone again, I had a great time. Learned some new (old) jokes, great food, great companions, and best of all, I had my failing memory refreshed about some of the events and adventures I had forgotten. I felt so good I didn't have to take my medicine for a week!! I immediately followed the FSU reunion with my 50th high school reunion....not near as much fun....too many old people! - Bill

Raphael & Diana Lecuona
52-56

Reunion Review

The main thing I can think about the reunion of us "Teammates" is that it was probably one of the most friendly, peaceful (no pressure on anyone to do anything, no matter how Jim and Don wanted to), and a lovely weather...even Gusic caught a couple of fish and did not grumped too much...Barbara, as always, most agreeable hostess to all of us, as well as Pierce ...and why not, the rest of the participants, each contributing --man sounds like the communist creed: from each according to his/her capabilities, to each according to his/her needs!! But don't let that scare you...there was always some capitalism involved...that is, the profit made by all of us from the very insignificant contribution we all made....with the largest contributor, of course, being Barbara and family...as to "equality," well, thank God we are not all

equal...Certainly I have more hair than some, and most are taller than I...so, there you have it: a great reunion of great friends who seem to enjoy each other's company...and even have a drink or two to it. Congratulations to all of the Advance Party guys, to you Jack for your constant reminding us what's up and how things are...and to Barbara, our greatest Hostess!, - Rafael

Mike Mann & Fran Millians
57-67

Reunion Review

The reunion was fantastic, great meeting old friends and making some new ones, I had never met Bruce, Gail, Jay, or Pat, before. The food was great both at Posey's in Panacea for the main get together and the several cooperative servings at Barbara's. We are already looking forward to next year's Memorial Day weekend. Mike {He thought he had met Bill Roetzheim, but later discovered he was talking to Larry Bestmann what a bummer.jmm}

Gail Sontgerath & Bill Whitney
62-67

Reunion Review

Bill and I had a wonderful time at the reunion. It was a fun and relaxing time to re-unite and catch up with friends past and to meet some new friends. I felt like I was back in my leotard again in Tully Gym practicing for the Gymkana. I was always so at home in the gym training. I guess because we all grew up and spent most of our youth in some type of facility our bodies and minds just feel like there is something missing if we are not around that atmosphere and the friends that accompany it. The reunion brought back that "something missing" in my life. Thank you to all the people that worked so hard so we could all get together again. Gail

{Gail, you reminded me when you said at home in the gym training. That no matter how troubling life was whenever I got into the gym and watched the chalk floating down over my face from my hands when I grabbed the rings or high bar all my troubles vanished completely. Then it was just me in the gym world playing with the laws of physics. It was glorious, wasn't it?.jmm}

Mike Mann & Fran Millians
57-67

A word to the wise from the wise

{Re: After we ALL missed a reunion picture with the wrong persons name under it Mike wrote..jmm} I guess the moral is that not only is a picture worth a thousand words but a picture will ensure that folks ignore at least a thousand words".Mikejmm}

Nancy Lamb & Bob Durocher
TTT (50s)

New Newsletter recipient from former Tallahassee Tumbling Tot

I would love to receive the newsletter but it would probably be better to wait since we are leaving for the NC mountains in a few days and won't be back until August. gosh, this is fun!! I'm sure most of the people on the list don't have a "clue" who I am...but, what the heck, right? How about Brent Pichard? thanks again, Nancy

Nancy Lamb & Bob Durocher
TTT (50s)

Re. Nancy responding to email from Benny Wallace

Hey Benny....what fun this is! thanks for the email.... those times were such fun! The only person that I keep in touch with is Carole (Laing) Terry who I graduated from high school with. there are four of "us gals" that have a little YaYa weekend every May at her condo in Destin..... life is too short and too fragile to NOT grab those good times. Bob & I are on Lake Talquin (near Quincy) after living in Keystone Heights, Fl. (near Gainesville) for over 31 years. we decided it was time to get back to T.Town so we can enjoy our Noles..... what fun it is going to football, basketball, baseball, swim meets, etc.....guess I have rambled on long enough.... thanks for the "visit." not sure if we will still be on AOL.... bob switched to TDS this week but we are hanging on to AOL for a little while..... if we stay on it I will do the "wallet thing" didn't even know there was such a thing...DUH! Wake up, Nancy...take care, Nancy

Oscar Bob Brock

58-61

Re: Bill Curry Dedication

Jack, Thank you for the email info on Bill Curry and the testimonials from his students: Bailie, Christian and Wallace, whose lives were positively influenced by this mentor. My connection with any of this is slim but my family also lived in College Park, GA, until 1942, and like Charlie Christian, we were but a few blocks from Georgia Military Academy (GMA) where Bill Curry reigned. In fact My older brother, Ken, BS, FSU, 1960, and Charlie Christian had some of the same playmates. Dad was Physical Director of the YMCA on Lucky Street until 1942, and may well have known Bill Curry. Ken and Charlie were later friends at FSU. By the way, while I'm rambling, Ken, like our Dad, went into YMCA work: Phys Director and later Executive Director and National Y Scuba Director. Ken and Bill Beavers worked together at the Jacksonville, Fla Y in the late 60's. In the 70's and maybe 80's Ken climbed to the top of the SCUBA world as National Director of National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI). So there's another FSU success story. I thank you for inviting stories about Bill Curry Oscar Brock, Lake Helen, FL

Ken Brock

53-54/ 56-59

Reconnecting

Doubt Jack will remember, but he and I had some phys. ed. classes together in Tully gym back in the 50's. I entered FSU in 1953 and after one year went into the US Army to get the GI Bill. I returned to campus in 1956. Yes, Charlie Christian and I roomed together in 56/57. Charlie is one great guy and I am glad to be reconnected with him via e-mail. Best wishes, Ken Brock {One of the greatest parts of the Newsletter is communicating with lost friends..jmm}

Mike Mann & Fran Millians

57-67

Reunion Review Photos & Videos for CD

I am going to hit this again, although everyone probably knows by now, we have two projects going to collect and distribute photos, videos, articles and clippings. First is for the reunion which we would like to get ASAP, I will collect these, edit onto a CD that we will produce and send to everyone. Please send the photos full strength/resolution. If you use photo organizers such as Picasa or Kodak EasyShare Gallery DO NOT E-MAIL from these packages. They are very smart packages and automatically reduce the resolution on anything that is going out onto the Internet. However, you can burn a CD from these packages and those photos will be full resolution and those are the ones I would like to get. I also have one video that was shot by Frank Dennard. I have a software package that lets me convert from the Camcorder format into a WMV (Windows Media Video) file that can be read by everyone except the Apple computer users. So if you happen to have a video from this year's reunion then we would also be interested in getting a copy to be included in the distribution.

Mike Mann & Fran Millians

57-67

Historical Review for CD

A longer term project is to collect everyone's historical photos, articles and clippings to be included in additional CDs to be sent out later. If you do not have these items in a digital format and no way to get them into one just send them to me. I will scan them in and then return them along with the CD for you to keep that I will produce from the process. I can read diskettes, CDs, DVDs and most cameras flash memory cards and have a good scanner for the hard copy only items. Send the photos and materials to:

Mike Mann, 91 Doe Run, Crawfordville, Fl 32327-1427

Jim & Arlene Fadigan

52-56/58-62

FSUs Nancy Smith, Dancer

Hi Gang: Two floors above the gym at the old FSU women's gym was a dance studio. Nellie Bond Dickerson, the director, like many of us, wanted to make her mark on life. She had as her graduate assistant, a dancer from the University of Texas, Nancy Smith. A number of gymnast joined the originally all women's program; hoping to acquire the grace and form so needed in the then, gymnastics world. Nancy and I did a 22 minute dance to the dual piano, modern version of "Lost Eden", the seminal work of the FSU department at that time. By then was, Carlisle Floyd, a then struggling graduate student at FSU, wrote the musical score for this number. For those who have not heard of Carlisle, he is one of America's

leading composers and has put several shows on Broadway. I was doing a search today and ran across the following - <http://dance.fsu.edu/facilities.html> Ain't it amazin how so many little people ;can make such big marks. Jim Fadigan

Gene Abrahamson

51-53

July 4th Phone Call

{ Got a enjoyable phone call from Gene Abrahamson. He was taking his 97 year old mother to see an Independence Day Parade in another nearby town. I held my phone outside my door so he could hear a Jamaican Steel Drum Band play America as the annual parade passed by my house. I told him how I marveled that there are still Caucasians living out his way in Nevada. We see one every so often in my community as they pass by. Seriously, I really like Jamaican people. joyful, hard working family people that dont make you feel whitenuff sed Also, my sweet and wonderful granddaughter, Julia, is part of a (Chromed) Steel Drum Band in Tallahassee...jmm }

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Don & Connie Holder

51-57

FSU Gymnastics History

Jack, It was just last night that I mentioned to Connie that I should call Jack concerning FSU's Gymnastic history. This is after I had viewed the CD we purchased from FSU with all the past history, graduates etc. The only part covered for all of us was the Hall of Fame. My thoughts were along the same lines (the scary part) as to no mention of how many championships were won or who participated. Wouldn't it be great to have a CD with all the team pics, names etc? This could be forwarded to FSU and possible forced into the history part, then again I'm with you as to who would really care except all of us old timers. Let me know your thoughts. Between all of us and the deep talent it would be a valuable prize for us and our families. ...{Don: We will be doing just that with everyone feeding info into Mike, the central source. He is so computer literate, and dedicated that he is a God send. I will be putting a bit in the Newsletter and soliciting the names of those who would like to volunteer for the committees. It took me over a year to get all the information needed for the original 2004 reunion article and email address list (with your help) - and it was worth it. We can anticipate that in one year we should be able to have a complete DVD and CD. My first challenge is to list and identify who were the team members on the different teams in the fifties & sixties. This will also be addressed in the Newsletter. I feel we should bombard FSU in any and every way we can.jmm }

Mike Mann & Fran Millians

57-67

New Newsletter Receptient

This guy {Carl Farrelljmm} and I have also spent much time in canoes together and he has dived many of the oceans of the world. Just one of our kind of guys. Also, great Mathematician (memorized Pi to over one hundred and thirty places) and Computer Scientist, teaches at the University of Hawaii, ABD doctorate from Stanford. Took his wife to Hawaii, as promised, his last year and just never returned to finish the degree. <cfarrell@hawaii.rr.com> He worked for me, and co-wrote the football scouting programs, at the FSU Computing Center. He and another student, George Miller, were primarily FSU Circus. In the 15X15 office they shared with six other guys with little student Carrels they use to practice their juggling with real (heavy as hell) bowling pins instead of Indian Clubs. When the other guys heard a "F--," "Damn" or "Oh shit," a clue that one of them had just missed, they dove under their carrels for fear of being crowned by one of those pins.

Carl Farrell

From: "Carl Farrell" to Mike Mann

Hi Mike, It is fun to find out the memories we have left with others yeah, the bowling pins were pretty extreme! Just for the record, whereas George was exclusively with the Circus, I was in Gymkana for 3 years (mostly adagio, and later I did some juggling under black lights). Since the coaches of the two organizations hated each other and blacklisted anyone that had ever been in the other group, I didnt do anything with the Circus until after my last Gymkana show in the Fall of my senior year. That was actually

the reason why I went out and got the bowling pins: I wanted to learn to juggle clubs and I wasn't able to use or practice with the real juggling clubs at the Circus lot!

{Second email.jmm} Thanks, Mike! I remember Gail (awesome technique), Bill (great all around), Jack (unbelievable, eye-popping, lighter-than-air tumbling), and Frank (handstands anywhere, including on a slack wire!). I've gotten to know Glenn Sundby and George Nissen from the years I competed in acrobatics did you see the picture of George doing a yoga headstand at age 92 in the latest June, 2006 issue of IG (p. 10)? Into his 80s, he used to always press handstands on tables at most gatherings! Aloha to all, Carl

Don & Connie Holder
51-57

Don response to Jimmy Hanks Tribute to America

Hi Jimmy, Just received your Tribute to America from Jack. What a great show for this great country of ours. You bring back so many good memories of our days together at FSU. Our elongated bus rides could not have been tolerated without your Uke. We all certainly missed you at our recent reunion. Hope you can make the next one. Our best to your family, Connie & Don Holder

Jimmy & Sanjuanita Janie Hanks
52-56

Jimmys reply

Thanks Don, It is such a pleasure to hear from you after all these years. Jack had mentioned I should email you but I was a little concerned you'd even remember who I was. I hadn't been in touch with any of the old team since FSU. I now think back and we did have the best of times way back then, didn't we! Old arthritis is playing bad tricks on me playing the uke much anymore but I still try occasionally instead of reading on the bathroom john, I tinker...no not tinkle, tinker. TEE HEE!!! Boy do I make a sound. {lets presume hes talking about the ukulele.jmm} I think I'm the only one that can stand it. Thanks again for your contact. It's such a nice feeling to have. It seems to warm my soul with a tingly feeling behind my ears. I can't figure it out! I'll sure try to make the next reunion. Feel free to email me anytime. Jack will tell you my emails are over volume sometimes, but I do try to be selective. I really applaud Jack for his efforts. (He makes me say that....It's a private joke between us) I'm sure he'll explain it, if asked. I'll send him a copy of this so he'll know I gave him his credit.

Best to Connie also. Would she remember me too?...Jim & Janie

{I told Jim I expect applause & credit for my great gymnastics prowess in and out of the bed..jmm}

Jack Miles
50-58

{Got a fancy electric shaver for fathers day.tried to change the TV channels two times with it already..It didnt workwouldnt open my car doors either.bummer.jmm}

Mike Mann & Fran Millians
57-67

The first

{You'll be hearing a lot from Mike Mann. But did you know that Mike became the **first** undergraduate employee of the FSU Computing Center and adding to his honors he co-taught, the **first class of computer programming taught to High School students in the State of Florida** - (Tallahassee's Leon High School to honors mathematics students). . There is a great documented report about this entire history. In Mike personal family web-site Go to <http://home.comcast.net/~jmikemann/>)

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Then click on (**Mirror Site: For Richard Ragan's IBM 709 Memorial and Archive with additional FSU Computing Center memories**)

There is other stuff there too like Fran's write up and photos of her trip to China and our photos plus others from Christmas 2004 when my whole family was here (including ex wife) and 2005 at my daughter's in St. Pete

{Gads, dont even suggest having get togethers with ex wives. I dont think I could handle that..or survive.jmm}

Jack Miles
50-58

International Gymnast Magazine & Florida State Times News

[The following is an article I wrote for the above periodicals. For those of you who do not receive these publications here it is. Jamile Ashmore suggested and spearheaded it through IG Magazine along with Mike Mann & Larry Bestmann. Mike also took all my past communications with FSU reopened the door and wisely worked it thru the FSU chambers. He and Larry Bestmann communicated back and forth extensively and submitted a group picture which they had decided was the best representation of the event.

Although many shots were taken, I believe it was the picture by Don Holder that was finally chosen..jmm}

FSU GYMNASTICS REUNION

United by over fifty years of friendship, a tightly bonded group of seventy former Florida State University gymnasts and their spouses, a healthy bunch of white haired guys and gals, met for their annual Reunion at Alligator Point, Florida at the beach front home of Barbara Murray Withers..

A gymnastics dynasty in the 1950s, the five times Mens National Championship Team (2 NCAAs, 3 AAUs) and the Womans National AAU Team Drill Champions can boast of having: Six USA Olympians, (Gail Songerath Whitney, Bill Roetzheim, Don Holder, Jamile Ashmore, Jon Culbertson, Jack Miles), two from Cuba (Raphael & Fernando Lecuona), one from Sweden (Lennart Malmlin), and one National Team member from Czechoslovakia (Merik Ceska) - which includes twenty-one All-America Team inductees, and thirty-nine individual National and Pan-American Olympic Gold Medals shared between them. Historically, this FSU team was the first collegiate team to win a national championship in any sport from any college or university in the State of Florida, the FSU team even traveled to win over the Cuban Olympic Team in Havana in 1955 and triumphed over the Swedish Olympic team twice in the FSU gymnasium.

Two members of FIG (International Federation of Gymnastics), Bill Roetzheim of the Mens Technical Committee and Jamile Ashmore of the Executive Committee are in the group as well as national USA Judge, Jon Culbertson. This FSU Alumni group now contains thirteen Doctors (M.Ds, Ph.Ds, and Ed.Ds), Three military colonels, and one Lt. colonel, plus dozens of retired university educators, coaches, government employees, actors and a renowned artist (Ed Jonas) to identify but a few of its membership. This FSU group shares their life experiences in a bi-weekly emailed newsletter and meets annually to share stories over the chalk box.

- or while tipping a beer or two.

{Mike also had this added to the end of the article: "The groups keeps in touch via a free bi-weekly Newsletter and any former FSU Gymnast, FSU Gymkana show members or Tallahassee Tumbling Tots that would like to be included in the mailing list should contact Jack Miles (jackmmiles@bellsouth.net) or 2030 Sunset Strip, Sunrise, FL 31313."}.jmm

Jack Miles
50-58

AwesomeTribute to Charlie Christian from his son

{Let me suggest you read the Charlie Christian attachment first and then reflect back to what Charlie wrote below..jmm}

Jack, I was totally unaware Alan felt that way and felt so humble reading it. As I am getting older I think he felt it was time to voice his feelings. You couldn't put all his accolades on a tombstone. Like I have always felt, "Send flowers while your parents are still alive. They can't see them from a casket". .I sent Alan's message to his Mother and she cried through every line. My best, Charlie

{Charlie, you just received an Olympic medal, a world title, reached the summit of the highest mountain, ran the fastest mile.

Later on in life I had it pointed out to me that the only thing all living things have in common beside life and death is that they all strive to create more of their own kind. It appears that you have done just that a tribute to you both..My deepest heart felt admiration and congratulations. Jack }

Mike Mann & Fran Millians

57-67

OUR NEW WEBSITE <<http://fsugymnastics.org>>

OK the new web site can now be reached via (<http://fsugymnastics.org>) and Jack when you put that into the Newsletter you can send it anytime you want. Please be sure that you remind the folks this is a rough draft, work-in-progress and in no way a finished product.

I have also added a new link on the "Photo Gallery" page "Photos from the 2006 Reunion." If you click that link it will take you to a new page that has a link for each of the people that I have received photos from so far. Click on each of those links and it will take you to the person's "Photo Gallery" where you can see all their photos.

Jack, it also just occurred to me that we could convert all the Newsletters that you did as Word documents to PDF files and also have a Newsletter archive section. I think you did two or three as straight e-mails and you could cut and paste those into Word documents and they could be converted too. {Its a done deal..jmm}

I think we are in business! Mike

CONGRATULATIONS TO MIKE FOR HIS EXPERTISE AND HARD WORK