

FSU- Gymnastics Statue (A collective thought)

From 23rd Newsletter:

Ed & Christine Jonas | 69-71 | **Email to Mike Mann, Web master**

“Mike, Just a note to say I really enjoy visiting the site as a past team member and Tumbling Tots' coach, [I was Ron Galimore's first teacher!] Those days spent in Tully and on the road with the FSU team were certainly "golden." Thank you so much for doing this for all of Doc's kids. It seems as though that some sort of marker or permanent remembrance of those days and the programs accomplishment should be on campus! Let's think about this! It's been too long since I was chalked-up. Ed Jonas, team of '69-' 71. {How about a statue of a gymnast {Ed himself} spotting a kid (Ron)

Barbara Withers: Another great newsletter! I love that idea of a gymnast statue at FSU- How about it Ed? You would make a great model (and sculptor) - a self-portrait, as it were. It will be the most incredible of all your fantastic statues. Can we commission Ed to do this? We can take up a collection at our next reunion...Love to all, Barbara

Jack Miles: Barb: Taking from Ed's cue I was dead serious about the creation and character of a statue, especially in that we have collectively coached over 100 thousand young people in gymnastics. Ed and Ron are perfect for the subjects. Their reputation, talent, gymnastics experience and connections are unsurpassed. There are too many gymnasts to choose from and too many Tots coaches. This is a great. It could be a wonderful collective effort for our group. It's really what we are all about - A rallying point of the greatest magnitude. Love, Jack

Ed Jonas: Hey guys, nothing would please me more than to do such a project though I would not insist on being the model when we have had such a great history. However, bronze foundry casting is quite pricey, simply to casts a life-size bronze figure with mold cost included will run around 18 to 20 thousand! Ouch! And this does not include the base or artist time. Commercially a life-size bronze with a simple base would fall between 60 to 75 thousand. However, I think that if I reduce my normal fee to just cover costs then we should be able to do something on that scale it for around \$45,000. to \$50,000.

Still, to me and probably you guys, it is a tremendous amount. We can be creative though and design to the resources. Such as a granite obelisk where teams members and years could be inscribed and then on top could be a half-life size bronze. Or a relief which could also greatly reduce the casting costs.

I'm quite open to doing anything you think is possible. It would be great if each donor received a smaller version of whatever is created. Possibilities abound we just have to be creative. Ed Jonas.

Barbara Withers: I'm really excited about the prospect of having a gymnast's statue at FSU. We could also have a champions' plaque with your names & accomplishments, championships, etc. Next to it so everyone would know. Ed is so talented, and I totally agree would be perfect. We need to find out what we need to do to get this done! I'll be glad to spearhead it from this end.

Perhaps we could get FSU to underwrite part of the cost? Payback for the lost trophies? Let's look into this. As for the cost, it is rather high, but hey, our gymnasts are worth it, and we have one of the most talented sculptors in the world in our midst...why not take advantage of it? I like the idea of the miniature copies as well. Let's roll!!!! Love to all, Barbara

Jack Miles: Hi Folks, I too have been very stimulated by this whole concept. I am waiting for more response from others - one/two days. My preliminary thought was Ed kneeling and spotting Ron about to do a back handspring. The money is a huge challenge, but that should not stop us going for the dream. By combining Tots with gymnasts maybe we can get some \$ from the city - even though we would want the statue on FSU campus. There is a natural here with PE and Education when you think of collectively how many kids the Tots and we gymnasts have coached. I know for sure my total is around 3000 gymnasts. Imagine the others we have impacted. Isn't that what education is all about? More later....Jack P.S. After a few weeks I will also contact Carrie Zimmerman soliciting her advice. Jack

Raphael Lecuona: Hi Jack! Wondering what is this about. Perhaps I missed the original reference to it. Please explain. Hope to see you one of these days...Abrazos, Rafles {Sent Raphael a copy of this collection of emails.....jmm}

Larry Bestman: Jack, A noble thought. Where are you going to find the sculptor and the feloose to pay him/her? Larry

Jack Miles: Ed Jonas is a former FSU Gymnast and has sculpted all the bronze statues throughout FSU including bronze busts of the Footballers in the FSU Hall of Fame. He also paints all the reigning Governors of Florida for the Capital. The money is another story - and it's a bundle. More later. Jack

Larry Bestman: Sounding better, Jack. All we need now is feloose/geld/dinero/rupia/yen/gold. Larry

Ed Jonas: Dear Jack and Barbara, I'm glad that there is some excitement about the project, let's gather ideas and think this over. One thing we shouldn't do is to settle on single design concept too soon. A gestation period for different ideas never hurt and we don't want to overlook anyone's input. Basic to the whole effort will be, "what story will this project tell to those viewing it in the future?" We were teachers, performers and athletes in a sport which embraced beauty and aesthetics. By any account, gymnastics is and has always been about dynamic movement! What an opportunity we have here for that statement. Ed

Barbara Withers: Dear Ed, you are so right; there are so many ways to express the beauty of gymnastics, the strength, the coordination, the skills...I know all of our great minds will come up with the perfect way to depict this magic we all possessed so long ago, and to leave an awesome legacy at FSU. Jack, maybe in the next newsletter you could ask for input from all of our gymnasts...Take care, and have a great weekend! Barbara

Jack Miles: Ed, I bow to your artistic brilliancy and Barbara, to your youthful wisdom. I will definitely include in the next Newsletter. Jack.

Mike Mann, Jack -The more I think about it the better I like the idea of a statue of Ed spotting Ron. The first coach of the first black Olympic team member, I think it says a great deal about the program, and the accomplishments of many of our members as former coaches. It also shows that we went just interested in teaching white males the finer points. I will be getting into the Tots archives when I get back and I will pay particular attention to looking for early pictures of Ron that Ed might be able to use.

We have a hell of a lot of talent in this group but unfortunately I don't think we have a single political fund raiser. However, if we could get a mention in the Florida State Times we might be able to attract contributions of folks with fond memories of gymnastics and Gymkana that may not have ever been members. Who knows, we might even turn up a political fund raiser that would lend their talents. Mike

Ed Jonas, Dear Jack, Since we set on this path to establish a permanent marker, of sorts, on campus. It seems to me that the FSU Gymnastic alumni should send an official request to Athletics Director Dave Hart and President T.K. Wetherall to begin an official thorough search for the "lost trophies". If they uncover them - GREAT! But if not, then at least they would have to admit their irresponsible stewardship. If they were discarded, which is such a betrayal of the programs accomplishments, and then we should have it officially confirmed. {I have tried not to disparage the football heads in all of this!}Edward Jonas info@edwardjonas.com