

FSU Gymnasts, Gymkana, and Friends Newsletter September 2005 (Third Edition) 09/22/05

(09/11) From Jay Schwarzman

“I want to congratulate you on the September newsletter. It was very interesting to read everyone’s thoughts. I too was concerned about Hurricane Dennis’s visit to Barb’s beach house and I am glad to know that there was no damage. I too echo the fine job that Barb did in hosting the reunion. She was wonderful. On Monday, Ellie and I are taking a 10 day trip around Lake Michigan and visit a few old Scouting friends along the way. We have only been talking about doing this for the last 30 years. Nothing slow about us.”

(Jay was very active in the Boy Scouts of America Association. I too was a Scout Master. Scouting was a heck of a lot of fun. jmm)

(9/11) From Mike Mann (57-67)

“Fernando asked and you commented about FSU’s lack of interest in its former gymnastic glory. The answer is that it is a @#\$\$%^&* FOOTBALL school and that is all the hell they care about. Beavers and I were rooming together the year he graduated. It was a rougher than usual year for us because they took away his scholarship, along with others, the national champion Volley Ball team was also included so they could hand out more @#\$\$%^&* football scholarships. Pardon my French! The newsletter is great, even for a hanger-on like me.”

(Sounds like Mike has a colorful way of expressing himself when he’s angry, jmm)

(09/11) From Chad Miles

When I mentioned to my just 13 year old son that according to a questionnaire I had just completed I have twenty more years of life expectancy left and others have mentioned their thoughts and comments about their own future in the Newsletter he counseled, “Dad, that’s longer than I have lived. That’s twenty years more of good memories.”

(Love that young man) (Go make memories you guys & gals, jmm)

(09/11) From Dr. Charlie Christian (55-57)

“A fantastic job!!!! I realize how much time that involved. You are to be commended for what you have done to bring info. of former team mates to us. I don’t travel any more except locally so I’ll probably not see any of you again unless you by chance come to Atlanta but it is a big thrill to hear the news you have in your newsletter. Keep it up and many thanks!! As I mentioned to someone earlier, “Teammates are always teammates!” We may not be able to perform in gymnastics at our age but no one can erase the fond memories and what many of you have done for the younger generations. “

(Teammates are always Teammates, I love that thought, jmm)

(09/11) From Benny and Carolyn Wallace (51-55)

”I really enjoyed the newsletter though far removed from the gymnastics scene. It caught me up on years of news! Might as well enter the contest for who has been married the longest. I know Holders were already married when I arrived at FSU in 1951 and Carmine and Daneen married later, as did Carolyn and I in May of 1953 with Don as my best man. That makes 52, and counting, for us. Our son Steve was born 9 months and 1 day later; WHEW! We don’t make a big thing about celebrations and a good thing too. In our many travels we’ve been in some pretty exotic places during our anniversaries but our 50th caught us by surprise and also gave us a laugh. We were on a month long driving tour of New England and had paid little attention to the date but wound up in a pretty little town in Vermont on our 50th. We celebrated at the local Denny’s; only two people showed up! No matter, we were in the Galapagos on the next one.

Your comments about the medal they gave me were appreciated but mine isn’t to be confused with the DFC’s given to the WW 2 guys. There has been considerable inflation, I assure you. And anyway, doing what we were doing could sooner or later put you in a position where sheer panic could result in bizarre behavior that was often confused with lofty virtue; I gave the medal to my oldest grandson, who wanted to be a pilot. He became a carpenter instead, moved to Brisbane and married the only ugly Australian woman I’ve ever met. This is all true!” (Now I know why I enjoyed traveling in the car to meets with Benny jmm)

Years Married Contest (Recorded as of this date)

Don & Connie Holder	55 years (August)
Carmine & Daneen	53-54
Benny & Carolyn Wallace	52 years (May)
Jim & C Jackson	50 years (July)
Beverley & Bill Beaton	45 years

(I don't think I can qualify to enter this contest. My wife kept her former name and introduces me as her "present" husband jmm)

09/11/05 From Barbara Withers (54-62)

"Jack, you've done it again!!! Great newsletter. How do you find the time for all of this? It's great to hear responses from old friends like Merik Ceska (who was hoping to come but couldn't make it due to business commitments- I think he is planning to come to Tallahassee sometime this winter though, as his daughter lives here); also Benny (who had a great looking car and gave us rides to West Campus) & Carolyn Wallace, Boots (Nesselrod - who rode the bus for 3 days each way with Beverly Cude and I to the 1956 Olympic Trials at Penn State) and Jon Culbertson. Hopefully a lot of these old friends will be able to join our reunion next year. Thanks for all you do for FSU Gymnasts/Gymkana/& Friends. Love, Barbara"

(09/12) From Jay Ashmore

"Your newsletter is great and I assure you I will start sending you bits about my screwed up life."

(I assured him my screw ups are more than his, jmm) (What exactly are we talking about? jmm)

(09/13) From Carrie Englert Zimmerman

"Hey Jack. You did it again with another awesome correspondence. But, I don't want anyone to think I sent you that piece on myself to put in the newsletter. You got that over a year ago to help support your "recognize the FSU gymnast" cause. I looked like a crazed egomaniac...especially compared to people who have flown planes in the "war," saved the world, etc. Your humble student, Carrie" (Carrie's right. It appeared that I was quoting from a letter she had sent when in fact I was quoting from the aforementioned publication. My other goof made me laugh out loud when Carrie pointed it out. Many readers are from the 50's and out of habit I entered (51-57) behind her name. I was trying to ball-park when she was in TTT and competition. I was reaching/estimating for (71-77). So, Carrie, set me straight; when did you start in the Tallahassee Tumbling Tots and inclusive thru your national wins? (Tallahassee Tumbling Tots aka "Terrible Hassie Stumbling Snots" That's what my boys team used to call them, even though they were holding hands with half of them and wish they were dating the other half. jmm) (One of the blessings about being a coach is that sometimes you can see greatness in a student. Andy, your coach, saw it and so did I. jmm)

(09/15) From Ed Jonas

"Thanks Jack, It really was great to see everyone again (at the reunion, jmm) and thank-you for the work that you're doing with the newsletter. I really do miss a lot of those guys. So many years have gotten away and yet when we all get together it's really like a family---and one that you really get along with! Keep me in the loop and I hope we can find other lost souls." (I mentioned to him that I am searching for about 50 lost gymnastic souls. jmm)

(09/16) Quote from the Florida State Times, A newspaper for FSU alumni, friends, faculty & staff

"Statue honors tradition of sportsmanship" "Margaret Strum Allesee was sitting for her portrait as a founder of the Varsity Club when she noticed a small model tucked in the cluttered corner of (FSU gymnast) Edward Jonas' studio. It was a pet project that had intrigued Jonas for years. Two figures, both football players, faced each other. The man standing was shown extending his hand to a second man, on the ground, but still clutching the football."

"Maggie asked Jonas about the model, and the artist said, "I want to represent the spirit of sportsmanship", Maggie Strum Allesee knew instantly that she wanted the sculpture to honor her father, and she wanted it placed on the campus of her university." ("Sportsmanship" The life sized bronze "magnificent sculpture by Edward Jonas" was unveiled 5 P.M. Nov. 18, 2000 on Al Strum Plaza at University Center. Are we proud of this man, or what? Jmm)

(09/15) From Bill Beavers

"The newsletter was great! I will give you some updated addresses of people I have heard from soon. Been overwhelmed with a house renovation lately & trying to train for some races." (Kayak, jmm)

(09/16) From Beverley Cude Beaton

. “Hi Jack: (Make that one word and it becomes something I hope you never experience!)” (I always raise my hands up when someone calls, “Hijack” to me, jmm) “That reminds me of the fact that my mother really wanted to name me Barbara... (Can you imagine the confusion between my friend Barbara W. and me if she had?)....but truly, the reason I am not called Barbara is that Mum was quick enough to realize that that particular combination of my first and last names would not be a good idea. Try it out...saying it quickly.... .Barbara Cude.....So, I became Beverley instead. Thanks, dear Mum”..... “I thoroughly enjoyed your second newsletter. It feels as though I have come to "know" many of those whose names I had often heard but the owners of which I had never met. It's fascinating....and you have a great sense of humour --- the tidbits you insert make me, and I'm sure others, laugh.) (Bev, you being a Canadian, did you know that The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, all the way from Vancouver, British Columbia, showed up in New Orleans as part of the rescue effort **five days before** our federal government got into the act? Their prompt action should make all Canadians very proud. jmm)

True Story, jmm: I put my car in the shop to have the brakes checked out but when the mechanic came into the office both hands at face height, fingers fanned out and wearing surgical gloves then I knew I was in trouble. After hearing me softly laughing to myself my son asked, “What’s so funny? “I replied, I just told myself a joke that I have never heard before.” With a disgusted sigh he responded, “Dad, you are really weird.”

(09/17) From Mike Mann (57-67)

(Mike is a five year bladder cancer survivor and is very active in this program. In this website you can see Mike and his wife kayaking in beautiful kayaks that he built himself. jmm)

”I have just completed and we have published a new page for the Bladder Cancer (world wide) support group's web site. This to allow us to visualize faces for all those names on the ListServ's e-mails. This has just started and we'll be adding more photos as people become aware that it is possible. Take a look at (<http://blcwebcafe.org/faces/>). This was begun many years ago by Lea Malek on her own web site, Lea's Bladder Cancer Journal”.....” OBTW, the web server is located in Amsterdam; I do the work here and just upload to it. We are also republishing it and it can be viewed at (<http://blcwebcafe.org/faces/leaspage.htm>)”. (Maybe sometime in the future we can put small pictures in this newsletter..Yiks!.. On second thought maybe it might be better if we think of each other as we were. jmm)

(09/18) From Don and Connie Holder (51-57)

(In response to this query” Hey Don: How about several paragraphs about what you and Connie have been doing since FSU for the readers who don't know? The Leprechaun” jmm)

Don wrote:.....“Jack, At times I feel awkward writing about ourselves and feel that so much is redundant, but if you feel it's warranted, here goes. After FSU in '56 BS & 57 MS we ventured off to Ft Knox for the US Army. Retired nine years from the reserves as Capt. Along the way we birthed Tim in '56, Terry in '57 and Patrick in '60. Teaching and coaching Gymnastics for 34 years in Dade County Fl. was a blast, meeting and still retaining many great friends. I retired from the school system in '91. Connie and I just celebrated our 55th Anniversary, wow, how can one woman put up with me that long? Currently I am doing much work for son's Salt Water Fish Tank Products business, diving for invertebrates in the Florida Keys which we sell to wholesalers who in turn ship across the US and Europe. Sept. will turn me to 77 and Oct. will have Connie at 75. It was a privilege to attend the FSU reunion in May of '05. There cannot be enough words to extend to the hostess, how much she has done to gather all of us oldies. She is remark able. In addition I might say that to be with so many successful former Gymnasts was a delight. The memories we share are etched in our thoughts and are constantly being retrieved with much joy.”

(“Excellent Don, you get an A+. I'll make note in the newsletter that some people feel awkward writing about themselves. We are friends and what are friends for if we can't "crow" in front of them?)

Put humility aside - like Carmine, Jamile, Rafles, and I do - and tell us all, jmm.”

(09/14) From Dr. Frankie Hall

“Gail Sontgerath Whitney and I keep up with each other and I fondly remember many of the students who were going in and out of the gym and Hartley Price’s office across the hall from my office in Tully. Thanks to adding me to your mailing list. You last edition mentioned Jim Tanaka. Do you hear news of him?

(Frankie you asked.... see next page. jmm)

(08/30) From Dr. Jim Tanaka

“Good to hear from you. The Quarterly E-mail sounds like a great way to stay in touch. See below (he attached men & Women USAF team pictures with Jim as coach, jmm) See below the United States Air Force Academy’s “propaganda” method of keeping everyone posted as to our addressees, state of being, family, or personal experience, etc.” (He attached invitation to his next reunion jmm. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the 50 Years of Gymnastics Committee decided to use three of the pictures from our era (I even had black hair then -- “hair” for that matter) The web site is <www.airforcesports.com> Several of my gymnastics student/athletes made it to three/four star General rank, Astronauts, Chief of Staff of the USAF, etc. I am planning on attending this event in March (23rd, jmm) 2006. The one we attended 10 years ago was outstanding. Warmest regards, Jimmy Tanaka”

(12/20/04) From Larry & Karsthin Malmlin (51-55)

(From Larry & Karsthin’s Christmas letter jmm)

“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We wish you from our balcony next to the Mediterranean in Spain” (Picture attached on balcony with Med. In background, jmm) “All Is well with us and our little dog – 15 years! Larry is going on quite well even if he never will be his old “ego”. We have a wonderful life here in Spain and are enjoying the sun almost every day. We are in Sweden during the summertime – too warm here then. Our children and grand children (2 girls 9 and 5) visit us several times during the year. Hope you all are well and are looking forward to hearing from you soon. Love to all of you..Larry & Karsthin”

(Larry: Our last dog, also 15 years old, lost most of its’ hearing, eyesight, and would sometimes wet himself. My wife said when all these conditions exist that it’s time to be “Put to sleep”. In disbelief, I began to become misty eyed until she reassured me that she wasn’t talking about me. jmm)

(09/18) From Jack Miles

This is a perfect time to mention that in November, of last year I sent an article,

“FLORIDA STATE OLYMPIANS, FIRST FSU MEN, AND FIRST FSU WOMEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONS GATHER FOR A HALF CENTURY REUNION.”

To the: Florida State Times, FSU Alumni Association, FSU Varsity Club, US Gymnastics Association, USA Gymnastics Magazine, Tallahassee Democrat, and the Historian of USA Gymnastics. I received several Thank You notes. The warmest, dated December 5, 2004, was penned by Barry Adams, President, FSU Alumni Association, Quote: “Dear Jack. Thank you very much for forwarding to me the article and related information about the Gymnastics team at FSU. I found the story compelling and one we all should take great pride in knowing. I have forwarded your materials to our Associate VP for FSU Communications and asked him to consider including something in the *Florida State Times* in early 2005. I feel many alumni would find it of interest. Your involvement and commitment to FSU are sincerely appreciated. Best wishes for the holiday season. Barry Adams”

(So far so good, so far so good, so far so good, said the man as he fell past lower and lower windows in the skyscraper.....So far no print, so far no print. etc. etc.....If you have not received a copy of this article to keep for yourself and your family please advise and I will e-mail you a copy... I think it’ll make you very proud, jmm)

What happened to what’s-it-name? And who cares?

1. Dr. Wayne Thompson and Mike Mann both use wheelchairs on occasion. As competitive as these two guys are they’ll probably want to start racing each other.
2. Someone corrected me and said, “Bob Murray, the actor, didn’t really quote Shakespeare by shouting “Once more to the breaches men” He actually said, “Once more to the britches, men.” (That does sound more like Bob, jmm)
3. It is with great pleasure that I announce that Dr.Frankie Hall is now on our mailing list.
4. I get a lot of junk e-mail and I send it on. Nonetheless, if you do NOT want to receive this stuff please advise me. Two people have requested not to be forwarded to. No problem, just let me know. Thanks jmm
5. While they were playing tennis someone overheard Barbara ask Beverley, “Why don’t kids grunt and moan, like we do when they bend down and then straighten up after hitting the tennis ball?”
6. Hurricane Rita passed by my area the past two days with very little effect. Wow, let’s pray again for those in its path now.

