

“Once teammates, always teammates” by Charlie Christian.

Visit your Web-Sites <fsugymnastics.org><tallahassee tumblingtots.org> Mike Mann, Webmaster
(Which also includes all back copies of the FSU Gymnastics Newsletters)

FSU Gymnastics Records (http://www.geocities.com/nolefan_fsu/summary/) Robert Perrone, Webmaster

2009 REUNION MAY 28-30, Alligator Point
(Thursday, Friday, & Saturday after Memorial Day)

ANNIVERSARIES

Chick & Jennie Cicio	58 years, 59 in April, 09	Claire Essig (& Dick) Traynor	43 years of marriage
Don & Connie Holder	59 years, 60 in August, 09	Yoshi & Haruyo Hatano	44 years, 45 in Oct. 09
Benny & Carolyn Wallace	56 years, 57 in May, 10	Nancy Lamb & Bob Durocher	44 years, 45 in Dec. 09
Carmine & Daneen Regna	54 years, 54 in August 09	Dick & Susie Gutting	41 years, 42 in June, 09
Jim & Marlene Jackson	53 years, 54 in July, 09	Bill & Carol Beavers	41 years, 42 in July, 09
Don & Patsy Rapp	55 years, 56 in May 10	Terri & Cheri Morris	39 years, 40 in 09
Sam & Topsy Bailie	52 years, 53 in June 09	Wayne & Heather Thompson	39 years, 40 in January 10
Jon & Boots Culbertson	51 years, 52 in June 09	Derek & Nancy Lawler	36 years
Jay (& Ellie) Schwarzman	50 years of marriage	Gail & Bill Whitney	37 years, 38 in August 09
Roger & Tamara TuckerWebb	51 years, 52 in November 09	Harmer & Magdalena Weichel	37 years, 38 in December
(Jack &) Almira Sharp	48 years of marriage, October	Andy Anderson & Curtiss Long	33 years in 09
(Lennart &) Karsthin Malmlin	47 years of marriage	Jimmy & Janie Hanks	30 years, 31 in November 09
Beverly & Bill Beaton	48 years, 49 in Sept. 09		

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye | 50-58 | Openers

{Someone said, “Anticipation of a goal; is more pleasurable than actually achieving it”....Translation: Anticipation of a Newsletter is more pleasurable than actually receiving it

-----Well folks it is about 90 days from our Annual Reunion and there a ton that are planning on attending. It promises to be the best ever with many new faces. Including several of our very beautiful girl gymnasts from the present FSU Girls team and several of our “Younger-olders” from the 60’s teams recruited to attend by Grandpa Bill (Beavers)...

-----Which reminds me, have you sent in your donation to help the girls in their travels and uniform? I did...and damned proud of them. **Support those who love you and are proud to walk in your footsteps. Send them some money. You needed it the 50-60’s, they need it now. We had no one to turn to....they do. Send to their team treasurer, Ashley Howser...1702 West Call Street, Apt. 208, Tallahassee, Florida 32304..If any questions contact Jessica Widerman. jhw06@fsu.edu Barbara Withers attended the “Florida State Gymkana Classic”.....but more on that later in this your Newsletter**

----- Did you notice that our 44th Newsletter came out the same time as our 44th President was inaugurated?

-----Most of this edition will be highlighting the FSU Gymkana Classic

----- During a heated argument with my wife I was putting on my new Christmas dark grey “Hoodie” (Sweat shirt with hood). Jamming my arms in the sleeves one at a time I then pulled the Hoodie over my head.....(pregnant pause).....there I stood frozen with the hood on backwards like a KKK cracker with no eye holes.....I lost my machismo image and the argument as she walked away laughing.

Bruce & Rita Davis | Coach | First

“Thanks for the picture article.” (I emailed him a picture from the Jan. 1959 Modern Gymnasts Magazine (\$1.35) which was sent to me by a former acrobat friend of

Stu Goldberg named Stanley Levin showing Bruce’s sister and me receiving All-Around trophies at an awards presentation....jmm)..

“Jack. Rita and I are going to the NCAA April 15th at the University of Minnesota. I am being recognized as the first community college coach to become a member of the National Coaches Association. Hope it is not snowing! Sincerely, Bruce & Rita Davis”

Barbara Sheehan Withers | 54-62 | Florida State Gymkana Classic – Karl Bishop Coach

“Karl, it was so nice to meet you Sunday and I thought the “meet” was so well

organized...thank you for coming over to say hello - and I do hope you will make it to our reunion at Alligator Point this spring - put it on your calendar, May 28-30, 2009. I am very impressed with your concept of a traveling gym - some of the smaller counties around here could really use a mobile gymnastics facility! I’d love to hear more about it. Hope to see you soon, and thanks for sending the results. Barbara”

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | Florida State Gymkana Classic

“Fran and I drove in to the gym meet at FSU around ten this morning and Barbara came in a little after we did. They

introduced me as an “An alumni MEMBER of those championship teams from the fifties and sixties.” At first I was a little embarrassed but then figured what the hell, no one knew any different except Barbara and Fran and no one knew then or now from Adam. About an hour into the meet Karl Bishop who was running the show came over and introduced himself, we chatted and invited me over to sit at the main table. I decided to stay where I was since I thought I was in a better location to be able to photograph all the events. Later Karl came back over and sat and talked with Barbara and Fran who where sitting fifteen or twenty feet from where I was on my small scooter.

Speaking of photos, they turned out remarkably well, much better than I had expected. I was shooting in available light since I did not want a flash distracting a performer. I also knew that it would not reach far enough to do any good. I used the “Spot meter” for the first time and although some photos were marred by movement the exposure was great on all of them.

Both Barbara and I were amazed at what has happened with the "unevens," the bars are much further apart and the upper is much higher than in our days. When I first caught some movement out of the corner of my eye and looked I would have sworn the gal was doing giants on the high bar. I did not even spot the lower bar till later. Most of the gals did at least one giant in their routines and it must be much more difficult and dangerous than for the men on HB. At least the HB is a small enough diameter for them to be able to completely encircle with their grip but not that upper uneven. I saw one gal miss a re-grasp to the top bar and go straight into the mat, body flat and face down. The trooper got right back up and went back to it. One of the FSU girls twisted or sprained an ankle and seemed to be in a great deal of pain at first. At first I thought it was Jessica but am not sure who it was.

As a team FSU missed first place by three tenths of point, U of Michigan beat them by two tenths of a point. The other teams were the U of F, third and Tulane, fourth. They were calling the rankings too fast for my pencil but Jessica is supposed to e-mail me the official tallies later. I do know that Jessica Wideman took first in Floor, and third in Beam. I believe but would not swear that Ashley Howser took first and Amanda Dombrowski took second in Vault and I believe they placed 5th and 4th in the All Around.

I hope to post a page to the web site with the photos and official standings when Jessica sends them to me but that may be tomorrow or even later. Look for the links near the bottom of the current teams page (<http://fsugymnastics.org/Current-Team/FSU%20Current%20Team.html>). Their 2008 record is at (<http://fsugymnastics.org/Current-Team/FSU%20Current%20Team-2.html>).">{See the Great Team Pictures on the Web-site.....jmm}

Karl Bishop | **Florida State Gymkana Classic**

"Greetings Fellow Seminoles – I have followed Jack’s newsletter quietly from the side all this time, but Mike “outed” me. After stumbling into Tully with no experience in the sport, I have spent about 40 years now coaching, judging and owning a gymnastics school that I sold last June. I now am partners in a mobile gymnastics business that stretches over a three county area and reaches about 40 – 45 preschools and recreational programs. I run competitions for folks that I like, and that is what brings me to Tallahassee each year for the Gym Force Classic.

Just about three years ago, a former athlete’s father asked if I had ever considered using my engineering degree (actually, he asked if I had ever considered changing careers and for those of you who have ever owned a gymnastics school, you will realize just how funny that question was). For about two years I did double duty working at the office during the day and at the gym in the evenings. Last June I sold my gym to a former athlete and his fiancé.

Along with all of that, I have worked in drug and alcohol addiction services (good training at FSU), played music, traveled on my motorcycle (a BMW, of course), almost killed myself on the BMW (landing on my feet on the other side of the car I hit) and created a few grey hairs along the way. {Gads, He has to talk with Bill Beavers who dropped his BiMW on the Autobahn in Germany doing over 100 MPH....jmm}

I tell people that gymnastics is one of the three best things to ever happen to me. One day I’ll fill you in on the other two, but for now use your imagination.

I do plan on coming to the reunion this year, as I have each year. This year I think I’ll make it.

Really, the purpose of the e-mail was just to send the meet results but seeing your names just got me going. If you have trouble opening the attachments, just let me know. I am going to post them on the internet also. Karl Bishop”

Jane Fortenbery Baesman | **64-69** | **Newsletter**

“Jack, Sent info you requested ages ago, but haven’t heard anything more from you! Think you could start sending it? Also do you have details about the reunion this year? Still Memorial Day weekend? Tally? Etc Thanks, Jane”

. (Jane is so right on. Not only did I have her email address entered wrong but I have been so very very busy as assistant coach of my son’s St. Thomas Aquinas Tennis Team. We run School vs. School matches every Tuesday & Thursday.... practice every Monday & Wednesday afternoons and we fully expect to win the High School State Championships in Mid-May..... There is also pro practice & lessons early every evening. And Chad enters USTA Tournaments almost every week-end....With my regular job and need for a half hour afternoon seniors citizen nap (which is more often than not in a parked car under a tree.) Dear Jane, This explains why the Newsletters don’t come out as often as they did in the past. If you pull up Our Web-site, (FSU Gymnastics.org) by Web master Mike Mann you can always find all issues there for your review. The last Newsletter (44th) Edition was back in December. Very sorry for the delay and for sure the Reunion is a go...more on that later....jmm}

Claire Essig (Mrs. Dick) Traynor | **59-62** | **To: Mirek and Ann Ceska & us all**

“Hello My Friends! Sorry I did not get my Christmas and New Year greetings out to you. I have been very

busy, indeed.

My Mother is living with me now. She moved out of the Retirement Home December 1st. She is spending (alternating) three months with me and three months with my sister in Navarre (near Pensacola) over the next few years. She is unable to care for herself as she is on a walker and "sometimes" a wheelchair. She has Congestive Heart Failure, Kidney, internal bleeding, Neuropathy in her legs and other problems. Surgery she cannot have as her heart is only pumping at 30%. She is too weak to do much except stay in my home. Luckily, she is not bed-ridden yet.

I am back to cooking three meals a day for her, doing her laundry, doctor appointments, etc. She really keeps me on my toes. Whew! She teases me and says it is "Payback time".

I did not get my Christmas tree up until December 22nd!! She was in the hospital with water retention in her stomach for 6 days the first week in December. It took us one week to move her out in January. My garage is still full of her things and I am trying to find a place for her belongings. It is quite tiresome, but I am happy she is with me. She will be 88 years young March 2nd and looks quite well for her age. Thank God, she still has her right mind. No Dementia, for sure..... She still does her income tax herself! We hope to keep her out of an Assisting Living Home.

I am just now finding time for my e-mails. I should have more time in March when she goes to stay with my sister, Liz for a few months. Please pray that she can make the 3 hour trip by car.

Hope all is well with you..... Even when you do not hear from me, I want you to know that I think of you often. Warm Regards, Claire”

Bruce & Rita Davis | **Coach** | **Past Miami Dade Reunion**

“Dear Jack Several Miami Dade gymnasts will be meeting at the home of Christian and Bethany Ibarra on Saturday November 22nd between the hours of 12 noon and five PM. I hope you can attend as well as you know and helped coached some of these people as well. Sincerely, Bruce and Rita Davis”

I am so sorry I missed it, but it is heartwarming to be recognized by your students who value you lifelong....nice work, Bruce.....jmm}

Bill & Carol Beavers | **57-61/69-70** | **Email to FSU Gymnast Jessika from Bill**

“Jessika, please put me on your mailing list for any Atlanta meets. I will make every effort to attend, and

perhaps we can all get together after the meets. Bill Beavers”

Jesika Widerman | **FSU Gymnastics Club** | **Response, To Bill & Mike**

“The first meet we will have in Atlanta is Feb 8th. Some of us will be coming Friday night and others Saturday Morning.

The meet doesn't have all details yet such as time but it will be held at the Atlanta school of gymnastics. As details come I will send them! Jessika”

Bill & Carol Beavers | **57-61/69-70** | **Mike to FSU Gymnast Jessika**

Jessika, As Mike indicated, I plan to be in a Kayak race on the Wakulla River on Sunday Feb. 8th & I will have to travel to Tallahassee on Sat.

8th. However, if some of the team plans to arrive in Atlanta at a reasonable hour Friday night, Carol and I would love to have you all come to our home for a very informal dinner (high carb of course). When I say reasonable hour, I mean even a 9PM meal is a possibility as we often eat late. If the Atlanta Friday evening traffic or your hour of arrival makes this difficult, perhaps we can meet for dinner or breakfast near wherever the team is staying. We are located in Buckhead and not far off GA 400, and Close to I-285, N.

Let me know as your travel plans develop. I know how it is to travel with a team on limited resources, and we would be delighted to have you all as our guests. Bill Beavers

Bill & Carol Beavers | **57-61/69-70** | **FSU Woman's Club**

“Jack, Carol and had the FSU Women's Gymnastics Club out for dinner of Feb.

6th. They were in town for a meet. They are really a wonderful group and a delight to be around. Didn't get a chance to see them compete as I had to leave the next day for a kayak/canoe race on the Wakulla. They will be back for a big meet in April. Bill” {Might be a good way to meet the girls if you are in the area....contact Bill.....jmm}

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | **57-67** | **Relaying message from Jessika to Mike to Bill re. Rankings**

Bill -Looks as if the girls will be headed your way in

March and April. Mike, We will not be going to Emory but Georgia Tech in Atlanta is holding a meet in March and our NAIGC Nationals are in Atlanta this year in April so I will definitely give you more details as they come!!!! Can't wait to see ya! Jessika”

Gail Sontgerath & Bill Whitney | **62-67** | **Repeat of much value**

“Hi Jack: I had a letter from Frankie Hall concerning a program at FSU to recognize past and present organizations and/or groups which

were a significant part of the history and heritage of the University. There will be stained glass pieces fabricated and installed at Werkmeister Room of Dodd Hall (former library).

I wasn't sure if you were aware of this and were interested in doing this. Maybe you have already and I missed it somewhere (highly likely). Anyway Frankie Hall probably has more information (you have her e-mail) I will put a copy of the letter she sent to me in the mail but wanted to e-mail you, also. Hope all is well with you and your family. It was so much fun to be with everyone at FSU. Love Gail”

Bill & Carol Beavers | **57-61/69-70** | **Wakulla Race & Reunion attendees**

“Jack, I don't think I sent you anything on the race on the Wakulla. I did send you something on the Women's Gymnastics team

coming out for dinner when they competed here in Atlanta if you need that, I can re-send something.

Seems like you said Mike sent some comments on the race....? He and Fran watched from their dock and then came down for the finish at ST. Marks. I can give you the results: & etc, if you want. I was the 12th boat out of 22 in the 13 mile race, and sixth out of all kayaks. Others were two person canoes or kayaks. Of the 5 kayaks that beat me, all were current or past National champs in Marathon Kayaking, so I felt pretty good about my effort. The Wakulla River is still beautiful in spite of all the waterfront development. One of the reasons I do these races in Fla. is to paddle on beautiful rivers. Will do races soon on the Hillsboro, Rainbow, Santa Fe, Suwannee, and at Tarpon Springs.

Was going through some old stuff and found results from many of the old SIGL's. Will bring to the reunion so everyone can see.

I think Karl Bishop and Terry Morris (and Sheri) will be at the reunion. Am trying to get others from the team of that era which includes Ed Jonas, Bob White, Vince Treacey, Steve Musielak, and Don Hervig (FSU's last SIGL Champion and NCAA qualifier)

Also found a letter from Billie Price with the program when Hartley was inducted into the FSU Hall of Fame. Will bring that as well.

Carol & I will become grandparents in May. Michael (oldest son) and wife Ady who live in Calif. are the guilty parties.

Now I am beginning to feel old! (As a wise woman once said, "I don't care who feels it.....just feel it".....Groan.....jmm)

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | **57-67** | **GYM College**

“Jack -I am passing this on to you and you can forward it to the others if you would like and/or save for the next newsletter. I was looking up a couple TCM up

coming shorts on the imdb and they was there with a pretty complete description. I decided to put in "Gym College" and low and behold it was there too.

Main entry (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0217528/>)

Plot Summary: (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0217528/plotsummary>)

Viewer Comment: (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0217528/usercomments>), only one.

Viewer Ratings: (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0217528/ratings>), sixteen.

I don't know why I had not tried that before after all these years of trying to get a copy..... Mike”

3/4

Beverly Cude & Bill Beaton | **55-59** | **The USA Inaugural & Another topic**

“Dear Jack, What a day this January 20, 2009 has been! I was lucky enough to be substituting at my

former school. At precisely 11:30 AM, all staff and our 300+ girls gathered in the gymnasium to watch in awe, this day's Inaugural Ceremony. As the cameras panned the incredible hordes of people who thronged to Washington to be a part of the momentous event, the students' excitement was palpable. Whenever the crowd chanted "O-bam-a", our girls joined in. They became respectfully silent as the dignitaries filed in, and clapped joyously as Barack Obama took his place on the podium. While he took his oath of office, and delivered his powerful speech, only one voice could be heard. It was that of President Barack Obama reaching out to all, as only he can. Many eyes, mine included, were blurred with tears of emotion. At the end, as the Star-Spangled Banner rang out, about 15 or so of our girls who are students from the United States, stood with hand on heart and sang along with their compatriots not so far away. In my head I did the same, having spent 4 happy years at FSU and at our reunions with my very

special American friends. Whether you are Republican or Democrat, may President Obama's hopes for the United States of America all be realized.

To cap it off, Jack, when I got home and checked the mail, there was an envelope from Sunrise, Florida addressed to me. It felt soft, and I wondered what could be inside as I made my way upstairs. When I tore open the edge of the envelope, a short note from you, and a delightful little crest emerged: a black Canadian beaver whose chubby middle sported a red banner displaying Olympic rings. Tell me, does he date back to the '76 Montreal Olympic Games, or perhaps the later Calgary Winter Games? No matter what, he will soon be stitched to a t-shirt of mine. Should anyone ask, I'll proudly tell this tale. Thank you for thinking of me when you discovered him in the re-organization of your files, and then for taking the time to send him on to me. Hugs, and how I envy your warm climes! Bev" {The emblem/patch that Bev refers to came from a Canadian Gymnast I exchanged emblems with in an international meet. Knowing what a champ is I thought it should go to her, our "Canadian Star".....jmm}

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | Re: Carl Farrell connection with Mike

"Carl & Marilyn in case you did not also get a copy. Carl also recently responded to one of my e-mails so

I guess they are just running late this year. I did know that they tended to spend almost a month on the mainland around Christmas-New Years. In case you need or would like to have it; Home e-mail: (cfarrell@hawaii.rr.com) Home Phone: (808) 955-6714 Work e-mail: (cfarrell@hpu.edu) Mike {We were getting returned mail from Carl and glad it was only temporary.....lucky bums living in Hawaii.....Drop them a line.....jmm}

Ed & Christine Jonas | 69-71 | Bill et al

"After talking with the AD and his suggestion to perhaps work with the Boosters, Joel Padgett, who is Director of Gift Giving for the Boosters and the key person that worked to make the

Sportsmanship Statue a reality, walked into the Varsity Club so I talked with him briefly about our project. Joel said that he would help us and suggested that I call him in October when there are some away games and we could then get together. Joel and I have a very good relationship and have been friends for several years so this is a very good turn of events.

This is definitely the way to go, we have the administration's support through Donna McHugh and now the athletic department will be informed if not involved" {Re.Ed Fernald.....jmm},. "If I have it correct, it was because of his efforts that this past weekends events and honors occurred.

We haven't been keeping this to ourselves with the newsletter and Mike's great work on the web site so was I was surprised that he acted as though we had blind-sided him.

To all of you, I was very pleased that the University finally recognized your contributions, and the deafening applause from the stands must have been "

Bruce & Rita Davis | Coach | The wonder of the internet

{This shows youHere is a friend I knew est. 45 years ago... Via Bruce.....jmm} "Dear Jack, I am forwarding this e-mail to you because it is important. The internet

opens up the world. Give me the details and feedback when you can.

By the way, visit www.worldcacro.com and go to the News page and take a look at the Summer 2008 Newsletter.

(I enjoyed breaking in across the street with you as my mentor in Panacea. I appreciate all you have taught me!! Sincerely, Bruce Davis

{Bruce refers to how someone had locked the doors to one of Barbara's guest houses after the last Reunion then drove away leaving Barbara no way to get back in the house which overhung the bay. Bruce looked like the best partner for a second story job so we worked together several hours taking out window screening and taking a door off its hinges to gain entrance.....All the time chanting insults to Bill Beavers who we thought was the culprit....we learned later that it was one of Barbara's many boyfriends.. Naturally we were victorious and gained entry.....jmm}

{Oh yes, here is the letter Bruce relayed to me....jmm}

" Hi, Bruce...My name is Gabriel. I met Jack Miles back in the 60's in Atlantic City, NJ. The girl, Annie Eastham, also an ex-gymnast at FSU, was the rider of the famous Steel Pier Diving Horse act. Jack married her.

We became close friends for the duration until, as it goes, we drifted in different direction by the nature of life's waves and currents. I was a photographer at the time and took many pictures of both, Jack, and Annie.

His name just popped up in my mind and I got on my Internet Explorer. I typed in his name and halleluia, there he was. Then, I found your website and your e-mail address that may open the back door to the past. What I mean is that should you have any info how to get in touch with Jack, I'd appreciate it. Having friends like him is one of the treasures in our personal life and a rediscovery is like found gold again.

So, please, let me know. I'd appreciate just a word if you don't have any info on him, just the same. Sincerely, Gabriel E. Gyorffy

P.S. Jack was the best 'Jesus Christ' on the rings." { I like this guy and his remembrances of me...Are you ready for this...He lives here in my city of Ft. Lauderdale and I pass his house two times a day taking Chad to school. I gave him a call...We will get together in a public place because I am not sure of his judgment...."Treasures".... "Found Gold"? ...that's not what my ex's call me.....jmm}

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye | 50-58 | Closers

---- YIKS! The electric power to the whole neighborhood shut off right in the middle of this Newsletter. Oh!*(S#%\$%^&*). When it came back on I was able to retrieve it all to the accompaniment of my pounding heart. There is a loving God.....and he has a computer.

---- Nature: Contact Mike Mann for beautiful shots of thousands in a Stingray migration off Mexico & the Sandhill Crane introduction to Leon County, St Marks Wildlife Reserve via ultralite cross country.

---- Just took the stems off a bunch black grapes and put them in a bowl in the refrigerator and for fun I put in one black olive for excitement.....Can't wait to see who springs the trap.

---- Newsletter bore you? Remember "Nothing in – Nothing out"

---- Last but not least, email for the delicious Southern Onion Soup recipe created by our Charlie Christian

NUFF SED.....JMM