

FSU Gymnasts, Gymkana, Tallahassee Tumbling Tots, and Friends Newsletter, May 2010
(Fifty-Third Edition) jackmmiles@bellsouth.net

“Once teammates, always teammates” by Charlie Christian.

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

FSU Gymnastics Records (<http://www.nolefan.org/summary/index.html>) Robert Perrone, Webmaster

ANNIVERSARIES

Chick & Jennie Cicio	60 years, 61 in April, 11	Terri & Cheri Morris	43 years, in 2010
Don & Connie Holder	59 years, 60 in August 10	Bill & Carol Beavers	42 years, 43 in July, 10
Benny & Carolyn Wallace	57 years, 58 in May 11	Dick & Susie Gutting	41 years, 43 in June, 10
Ed & Jean Fernald	57 years, 58 in June 10	Wayne & Heather Thompson	40 years, 41 in January 11
Don & Patsy Rapp	56 years, 57 in May 11	Derek & Nancy Lawler	36 years, 37 in 2010
Carmine & Dancien Regna	55 years, 56 in August 10	Gail & Bill Whitney	37 years, 39 in August 10
Jim & Marlene Jackson	54 years, 54 in July, 10	Harmer & Magdalena Weichel	37 years, 38 in December 10
Sam & Topsi Bailie	53 years, 54 in June 10	Andy Anderson & Curtiss Long	35 years, 36 in December 10
Jon & Boots Culbertson	52 years, 53 in June 10	Joe & Dottie Taylor	32 years, 33 in September 10
Roger & Tamara Tucker Webb	52 years, 53 in November 10	Jimmy & Janie Hanks	31 years, 31 in November 10
Beverley & Bill Beaton	49 years, 50 in Sept. 10	Thom & Linda O'Conner	31 Years, 32 in May 11
Yoshi & Haruyo Hatano	45 Years, 46 in Oct. 10	Carrie Englert & Curtis Zimmermann	29 Years, 30 in 2010
Nancy Lamb & Bob Durocher	45 years, 45 in Dec. 10		
Jay (& Ellie) Schwarzman	Were married 50 years	Karsthin (& Lennart) Malmlin	Were married 47 years
Almira (& Jack) Sharp	Were married 48 years	Claire Essig (& Dick) Traynor	Were married 43 years

You know? I am so impressed by the love and dedication displayed above. I am proud to know you...jmm

Plan to attend the 2010 reunion – weeks away
Friday May 21, Saturday May 22 and Sunday May 23, 2010
At Barbara Withers' Alligator Point Beach Home

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | **57-67** | **The current reunion form**

“Folks -The current reunion form is on the web site at reunion information,

Registration Form

You can click it here or there to load it into MS Word, you can then use word to fill it in, and either save it and attach it to an E-mail to Barbara or it can be printed from there for snail mailing. Mike”

Amanda Dombrowski | **2010** | **2010 FSU Girls Gymnastics**

{From: Amanda Dombrowski <fsugymnastics@gmail.com>

To: Mike Mann.....jmm}”Hi Mike, I hope you are doing

well. I know a lot of the girls are graduating at the end of April so I am not sure who will be here for the annual reunion. I will ask all of the girls at practice and let them know. Thanks for inviting us! Just to let you know we competed in Texas two weeks ago for NAIGC nationals. We placed 11th as a team and Ashley Howser made vault finals. She got a 9.375 and placed 9th over all. We improved a lot from last year and we all had a great time. If you would like to see the rest of the scores they are posted”

Amanda Dombrowski | **2010** | **Re. email to FSU Women's Team from Mike**

“Amanda, I hope you will plan to load up and bring a carload or two of the gals down on Saturday the 22nd. All food and drinks during the day is "no charge" but we usually have a "pay your own" banquet Saturday night at one of the local seafood restaurants. It is about forty-five miles from the FSU campus, directions, etc. are here (<http://fsugymnastics.org/2010%20Reunion%20Info.htm>). Bring your bathing suits, Barbara's place is right on the beach. Sun bathe, swim or even work out a little on the beach.”

Don & Connie Holder | 51-57 | **George Nissen**

“Jack, Can't remember if I mentioned this story to you. Back in 1967, I was into my 40th year. Chick Cicio and I we're invited to George's factory in Cedar

Rapids, Iowa for the very first Professional Gymnastic meet. We had a chance to tour the factory and converse with all the employees. All we heard was praise for this icon of Gymnastics. What a great tribute to a great man. Incidentally, I took a second place on rings earning \$ 395 which I suppose made me a professional. I was topped by a youngster half my age. Chick did equally as well. I remember George saying he was very concerned over the many law suits filed against his company from Gymnasts who ran into the vaulting horse (their own fault) and charging Nissen with neglect. Utterly ridiculous. George will be missed. Don”

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | **Re. Bud Shapard in Last Newsletter**

“Jack - I guess Shapard was in New Mexico about the same time I was, wish I had known it then. Dooley has some Silver/Turquoise we traded an Apache for. When we were in Las Cruces I traded my little Sony like, Sharp Tummy TV for it. He wanted it for a relative that was in the VA hospital in Albuquerque. That was before the rooms all came with a TV already in them.

We heard of others that instead of having "Garage sales" would load everything in a pickup and head for a reservation to trade for jewelry, rugs or maybe fresh produce. Mike”

Beverley Cude & Bill Beaton | 55-59 | **Re. World record Rattlesnake photo sent to her**

“Dear Jack...and Larry, too, it seems: Jacksonville's rattlesnake: In a word,

"UGH!!" Has anyone wondered if it has a buddy or two somewhere???? Also, I hope this thing had died a natural death before he was stretched out for all to see! I can't imagine anyone deliberately trying to take him alive! At 15' and a bit, and over 100 lbs., I figure the outcome would be instantly gruesome should I get in its way. Safe in Montreal, Bev P.S. I'll see you soon at Alligator Point, anyway!:-)”

Benny & Carolyn Wallace | 51-55 | **The Travelers**

“All: We spent four days in Palm Springs and it went very well. We took a suite at Hampton Inn, our usual lodging. Because at our ages we need to

spend more time at the hotel resting and we like the extra space and all of the amenities: Hot breakfast, paper delivery. computers, spa, large rooms, fridge, couch, microwave and especially the spa for my leg/hip.

The distance is 400 miles with freeway all of the way. Palm Springs down town is a charming place with many patio restaurants, palms and snow capped mountains in the background. The whole area is a garden. The streets are lined with spectacular flowers and grass and tended by an army of workers; a terrible waste of water but it's where the money is. The beautiful homes are gated with elaborate entrances of flowers and fountains, even a few waterfalls!

We saw a great show, the famous "Follies", and took a spectacular ride in an aerial tram to the top of the mountains. It's very steep and the gondola rotates as it climbs! Wonderful views of the city as well as Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage and even Indio.

The weather was perfect and the entire 400 miles was lined with yellow wildflowers because of the unusually wet winter. Great trip. Cheers, Los ancianos {Ancient Gringos.....jmm} {Benny & Carole sent some of them with beautiful views from a mountain top in the background they look terrific for “ancianos”....jmm}

Jim & Marlene Jackson | 55-58 | **Vickie**

“In a very pleasant and funny phone conversation with Jim Jackson Jim told me that Vickie, his daughter, {former nationally ranked Gymnast and Saturday Night Live

comedian, is active in the Tea Party movement and has appeared with (R) Sarah Palin (sp?) at several rallies. Vickie lives in California near the entertainment industry and doing very well.” Jim sent me a DVD of Vickie interviewing him and asking about his life and the family history. It was very lighthearted and interesting. And in the recent past Stu Goldberg also sent a DVD of a surprise Party celebrating his birthday. It was fascinating and well done. If any of you would like to see Jim's or Stu's DVD let me know and I will send it to you. I can also bring it with me to the Reunion. Which makes me think that if you want to send a DVD and can't make the reunion. We could show it at the event.....What do you think?”.....jmm..

Bill & Carol Beavers | 57-61/69-70 | **Submarine training**

“Been working on the house on the river so much, I've not competed much. I have passed up 6 or 7 races in FL since last Fall.

I did a 8 mile race in SC a few weeks ago and just passed a 30 year old within 4 tenths of a mile from the finish line in Beaufort Harbor and flipped the boat. Had to be rescued by the safety boats. Just in time, a big barge went through just after. Not sure if they would have seen me in the water! How humiliating!

Did better in a 13 mile race in Rome, GA last Sat. However, I got so cramped in my hamstrings and glutes, that I couldn't get out of the boat easily. Time to start training again! Bill”

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye | **50-58** | **Tennis**

“Three cheers for our son Chad who has been accepted into your and my alma-mater FSU...and entering this fall {(International business.... he loves Economics). His grades the last two quarters were all A’s with a 5.00 GPA. Which is good as he was not able to get any scholarship money help from the FSU Tennis Coach. His low tennis ranking this year has not qualified him for consideration. Ranking is determined by how many total points you gain in USTA tournaments and being penny strapped we weren’t able to afford entry into the many tournaments, or pay for the hotels, over the week-ends. As you know the better you get in sports the more expensive it becomes. Not a total loss, he has won two State High School titles and that is wonderful.... {Excuse the pun, but that’s the way the ball bounces}.

As St. Thomas Aquinas’ assistant coach of the tennis team I have been with him all the way as we have played against some great young teams as South Florida is the nations tennis hot bed. . Chad lost after a long match -8/4- against the fourth ranked boy in the nation last week. We had a 10/3 team vs. team record and became runner-up in the District and Regional Championships. At one of the local courts in the area, I witnessed 40-50 kids taking tennis lessons early every morning one week. They are all home, (or privately) schooled and taking the very expensive early training camp classes every day (with tournaments on the week-ends) enroute to future tennis stardom. These tennis camps, and schools are all over South Florida’s West Palm Beach, Broward, and the Dade County and the Tampa bay area. I guess the rich prefer to send their kids to these camps then enter the very dangerous public schools system down here”jmm

Larry Bestmann | **55-58** | **Loud Demonstrations**

From: Hal Frey, volunteer and an attendee at the NCAA Championships
Re: Some final results and some comments on the meet

The meet was held at West Point, N.Y. A preliminary sessions was held on Thursday to accommodate all conferences and to eliminate many of the competing teams.

The final team and All-Around events were held on Friday evening session and it became a session that will not be forgotten for a long time. The favorites were Stanford, Oklahoma, Michigan, and Cal. I thought that the Cal bears had finally become healthy and had two strong performances late in the season. The team competitions are turning into a raucous and very loud demonstration by these teams and their supporters. The sound was near deafening and the atmosphere is almost parallel to that of college basketball.

The Cal bears are not into this type of display and it is something that they have to learn to deal with. Some of it is called team unity and hoping to move their gymnasts to a higher level of performance. The Cal bears generally are not accustomed to these axillary activities and at times I think it has a negative effect on some of the performers.”

Gail Sontgerath & Bill Whitney | **62-67** | **George Nissen and some Florida Gymnastics history**

“Dear Jack: I was saddened to hear of

George Nissen’s passing. I think he was a part of every gymnast’s life in one way or another back when I was young. I knew him when I was competing back in the late 50s early 60’s. I met him several times at different gymnastic meets. I was in school at FSU from 1962-1967 and taught at FSU in the Physical Education Department for 2 years after graduating. I left FSU and wanted to open a gymnastic school in Riviera Beach. Having no resources at the time I wrote to Mr. Nissen and asked if he could help me out with some equipment. I received mats, uneven bars, balance beam and a horse and board. We worked out an agreement that I would pay \$75.00 a month till I paid every thing off. He really barely knew me but trusted that I would keep my word. It took me quite awhile to pay the loan off but when I did I wrote him a very gracious letter thanking him because if I didn’t have the equipment I couldn’t open the school. I never once got a bill or statement from him-just kept sending my \$75.00 in each month. He was a very trusting, gracious and amicable person. He will be missed.

Jim’s comments on the trampoline openings brought back so many early memories in the late 50’s. There were only a few teams in the state that had gymnastic programs – some were from Recreation Departments like mine. The West Palm Beach Recreation Department sponsored the team along with the VFW Post 2007. My coach Budd Watson who worked for the Recreation Dept. convinced Ben York (swimming) who was the Recreation Head to start a gymnastics program (I don’t even think it was called a gymnastic program at that point). As most of you started all the equipment was homemade and we use to carry it out outside and set it up every evening and tear it down after practice. That’s where I met Wayne Thompson and a fellow named Chuck (which I never knew his last name) They use to come down to the park and work out. I can still see Wayne Thompson doing an Iron Cross on the rings. I’m sure he would remember his visits. To make a long story short (which the older I get the harder it is to do) we use to compete with 3 main teams: St. Petersburg (I can’t remember the coach’s name) had a team along with Pat Yeager in Naples and Joe in the Panhandle. I use to compete against Pat’s daughter (Cassie Collogn (?), and Judy Kowalski who were in my age group. It was at these meets that I met and saw Judy Wills. She was just a wisp of a thing with all this curly hair and a huge smile but boy could she tumble. I can still see her today in my mind flip flopping down that mat like it was so easy. It was the first time I had seen real tumbling. Lost track of all those people unfortunately. It was a great time in my life. Gail”

Thanks for listening-enough said. Love Gail {More than listening I have just received a real treasure in your writing. Thank you so much.....Nuff Sed, also....JMM}
at www.naicg.net We competed in Session 1. Talk to you soon, Amanda “

Bruce & Rita Davis | Coach & Writer | Responding to my request for Bruce Frederick's email address

“Jack, A. Bruce Frederick's E-mail

address is: gymroots@infionline.net If you have not heard A.B. Has been diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer. Rita and I do plan to attend the FSU reunion this year. Bruce” {Dr. Bruce Frederick, is the creator & author of the monumental works, “*Roots of American Gymnastics*” a genealogical history of Gymnastics complete with 1,500 names and sketches of the faces of many top coaches and gymnasts.....I am the proud owner of a copy of the works 3rd edition...jmm}

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye | 50-58 | Response from Bruce Frederick to my letter to him

“Jack - Thanks very much for your

thoughtful letter. I agree with you that other family trees for other sports could constitute data for other dissertations (genealogies). “Roots” was more than thirty years in production which would scare off most Ph.D. candidates. My “Roots” is the only volume treating a sport genealogically and is most liked by persons like you who lived through the sport's' history. I met you several times in Phila and at the Germantown “Y” where tumbling competitions were held. I tumbled against Billy Marcus and Bob Stout and was “Stoutly” beaten!

My health is not very good having survived pancreatic cancer. Weight loss etc. Lately my cancer has reappeared with a poor prognosis given. Only a miracle can cancel that dark prospect. Thanks again for sharing your thoughts about “Roots.” I will keep it in my most treasured files on my computer. God's blessings, Bruce” {We send all our prayers and wishes for recovery with God's blessings.....Send him an email if you can....I know it would be appreciated...jmm}

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye | 50-58 | Excerpts from a News Release to the parents of Saint Aquinas Thomas Tennis Players

“The boys played very hard and long with some matches going around three hours (Estabon & Chad) The STA Gonzalez brothers played beautifully and won over the Koretsky brothers from Stoneman Douglas High. STA's Estabon had lost to his opponent, Lee, the last time we played Stoneman but he in this return match played even better and in the final set pulled out a winner - the needed team winning point. Lee, from Stoneman, was shouting and threw his racket he was so upset. STA's Estabon calmly packed up his gear as he proudly, humbly left the court as the winner. {Love that boy..jmm}

Chad {Our son...jmm} was way behind and in real trouble by loosing the first set, of the possible three, because, for some reason he just couldn't make a serve to save his soul. In the second set he was still “double faulting” {hitting the net with his served ball...jmm} and loosing miserably. Chad was going down. It was in that second set that German, his teammate, told him, “Serve underhanded and forget the overhand serve, because once the ball is in play it is your ball”. Which at first seemed to be ridiculous, but serving underhanded seemed to be his only option.

Many of Chad's serves were killed and slammed right back at him, but whenever the ball was in play and when it was the other boys serve Chad got his racket on the ball and Wow!. After another hour, Chad won the second set. Now tied, the matches went on for almost three hours. The other boy even threw up and was exhausted and dripping with sweat because Chad ran him all over those courts. Chad won in one of the most amazing matches I have ever seen. It is my writers privilege to be very proud of our soon to be FSU freshman and grateful to German for his friendship and team spirit....His Dad, Jack – Note: two days later in the next tournament his serve was back as good as ever.”

Beverley Cude & Bill Beaton | 55-59 | Cirque du Soleil

“Jack, I had to tell someone, and why not you? You, who keeps tabs on all of us. I'm thoroughly excited that a friend gave us, only a few hours ago, a totally unexpected surprise. Two tickets to Cirque du Soleil's first performance tomorrow evening, April 23, of its new show for this year called “Totem”!!!

I don't know if you, or any of our friends, are aware that every year at this time, the Cirque uses its original site at the Old Port in Montreal to rehearse, over several weeks, the production that will then go on tour. The venue is especially meaningful because the show takes place in the Cirque's traditional blue and yellow striped tent. Inside, the stands almost totally encircle the stage, and the audience is small given the limited space. There is always something going on, on all sides, so my eyes are constantly on the move....I don't want to miss a thing. I am in awe, in a wonderland, for sure. Until this past Christmas, any show I've attended has been in that tent at the Old Port. But at Christmas, for the first time in Montreal, the Cirque performed a version of an earlier show, “Allegria”, in our Bell Center hockey arena. Of course I was drawn in and overwhelmed as usual by the talent, imagination and costuming of the various acts, but something seemed to be missing. Very simply, that was the circus atmosphere of the tent and the more personal proximity of the performers. By comparison, the arena is huge, the crowd in the thousands and for me, some magic was lost.

I've never seen, nor likely ever will, one of their productions in a place such as Las Vegas. I wonder if I would have the same feelings there in that kind of milieu.

Anyway, think of me tomorrow evening, at 7:00 PM, sitting on the edge of my seat wishing that I could be more a part of that than a mere spectator. If there are any glitches in this first performance, I'm sure they'll go totally unnoticed. Would it ever be fun if our Gymkana group could all be there! :-)))) Bev “ {Bev. I don't think you know that one of your old paramours, Bob Bollinger's son is one of the artistic directors of Cirque in Las Vegas.....Small world.....jmm}

Barbara Sheehan Withers | 54-62 | Response to above - Cirque du Soleil

“Bev, I saw the Cirque du Soleil performance of Mystique (spelling???) in Las Vegas when I was there for Jamile's Hall of Fame induction. Pierce and I went with Bruce & Rita Davis - it was truly awesome and it reminded me so much of our Gymkana days. We had purchased tickets at around \$100 each (I could not believe the cost) and then found out after buying them that Jamile was having a pizza party in his suite that evening. Having paid \$200 for Pierce and I, I did not want to miss the performance and had mixed emotions as I would have preferred to attend the party; however, it was an experience of a lifetime to see the Cirque du Soleil performance and it also gave me the opportunity to show my son what the FSU Gymkana was all about. We were, I believe, the original cast of the Cirque du Soleil, without the many props, costumes, etc., our gymnasts did just about everything imaginable that could be done in a performance in a Gym. Hope you have a great time tonight! Barbara

Jim & Arlene Fadigan | 52-56/58-62 | Cirque du Soleil

Bev: All of us, from the time when, remember or stories about Bob Bollinger. As a trampolinist (spell check doesn't recognize the spelling - see how special we are - or old) I can testify that Bob had a set of legs that could propel him like not other that I met. His son Rob Bollinger is one of the key people and a creative force with Cirque. He and his wife met during their performances with the troupe. Rob was, now get this, the creative producer and director of "O" one of the most creative versions of everything Cirque has done. It is, get this, a water and gymnastics combination of Clique.

I visited with Bob, Rob's father, with Larry Bestmann during his last day in a remote area of an remote state - Illinois. I would love to meet the minds that conceiver of Cicque. Jim F.

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye | 50-58 | A Floridian's life

{On April Fool's day I whispered to my wife “There is a medium sized alligator in the back yard next to the beach umbrella on the bank of the canal, come take a look”. Unruffled she calmly said, “Don't you hate it when that happens?..... Darn it, now I can't let Snowball (our small white poodle) out in the yard.” I whispered to her to follow me. So we tip toed out to the edge of the yard as she peaked around the corner and leaned out for a better look, I softly whispered in her ear..... “April Fool”.....she turned her head very slowly and faced me with that expressionless stare that speaks volumes...stood upright, turned around, and walked back into the house. Following right behind her, I chided, “Don't you hate it when that happens? No alarm, no big deal, just another alligator...Oh well..... seems like I married one of those fearless Georgia swamp girls?”.....

I learned later she played the same April Fool's joke on Chad.....same slow burn.....that same reaction a stalking hunter gets when he realizes he has just stepped into dinosaur droppings.”

{NUFF SED.....jmm}

We are going to start counting heads of attendees to the coming reunion. So let us know if we will be seeing you there. One of the most heart warming times of your life....It helps make sense of it all.....Love.....and look out for the Alligators.....and the dinosaurs.