

FSU Gymnasts, Gymkana, and Friends Newsletter November 2005 (Sixth Edition) 11/13/05
(After Hurricane Wilma)

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) lines

Each Edition of the Newsletter = Four pages, 6.5 KB

(10/23) From Jay & Eleanor Schwartzman

"I just finished reading the latest newsletter and, as usual, enjoyed reading it. You are doing a wonderful job. I hope you do not receive a blow from Wilma but I know you are an old hurricane survivor. You requested and are receiving some interesting information about what we have done since leaving FSU so I thought I would add my bit.

After I left FSU ('51 - '55) I worked briefly in community recreation and was not satisfied. I worked in a retail business for several years until I decided to work for the Boy Scouts of America. For 36 years I worked for the BSA in councils headquartered in Newark, NJ, New York City (twice), Chicago, IL and Hartford, CT. I started as a District Executive and retired as Director of Financial Development and Communications. When I retired, we moved back to Chicago where our children and grandsons live. They are 13 and 15 years of age and are superior in school, swimming and piano. While working in Chicago in fundraising, I belonged to the Chicago Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives and subsequently became certified. Also, in Chicago, I was a member of Kiwanis International before I entered NSFRE and again after I retired. When I worked in Hartford, I was elected the Secretary of the Connecticut Chapter of NSFRE.

I retired in 1993 and have been involved in volunteer work Kiwanis, where I have held every elected office up to Lt. Governor and for one year was also a District Chairman. Also, for the last 11 years, I have been a volunteer in a small general hospital in my area. For 10 of those years, I have chaired an Internship Program Committee composed of 2 doctors, a pharmacist, a nurse and the Volunteer and Senior Services Director. We provide a summer shadowing internship to several just graduated high school students who are registered in a college for the fall to begin a career in health care. At the completion, we send their school a significant scholarship to help them in their first year. It is very rewarding. Best wishes, Jay"

(10/23) From Fernando & Linda Lecuona (56-57)

"October 8th, 9th, and 10th, my wife Linda and I made a trip to Tampa, Florida where we reunited with members of my Family. The morning of the 9th, myself, my son-in-law and my nephew went to play golf at an exclusive golf course in Lutz. Even though they outdrew me, I outscored them, so once again, age triumphs over youth - Ya Hoo! To be fair, I was teaching them and it was a learning experience. On the evening of the 9th my wife Linda and the family went to the Performing Arts Center, Downtown Tampa, to see Tom Tirino pay homage to my late Uncle "Ernesto Lecuona" and hear his music played. As Rafael has already expounded, it was magnificent and the audience exploded with applause. Afterwards our Family along with Tirino and the Conductor of the Orchestra went down to Ybor City to the Columbia Restaurant for a late dinner and more celebrations. The next day Linda and I went to "Busch Gardens" to celebrate our wedding anniversary (18 years) and spent the entire day. It was a Great Anniversary weekend and just being together and sharing it together was the best present of all. So now we sit waiting for Hurricane Wilma to come in to greet us tomorrow October 24th, and we will greet her with all the respect she deserves. We are as ready for her, as she is for us. My brother Rafael and I went through many of these in Cuba and we greatly admire and respect their beauty and don't hate them as many do."

(10/24) From Marlene & Jim Jackson

"Those newsletters were wonderful so interesting and fun to read. Jim said tell Jack he is a talented comedian and should write comedy for Vicki. Thank you for going to all that trouble to mail the newsletters. We appreciate it so much. Well we are weary of hurricane Wilma aren't we and finally soon we will know what we are in for in mess and or damage. We have been fortunate in the past only bothersome thing is electricity out last time four days. There is a lot of mess as we have a lot of big trees. Also thanks for the wonderful email things you have sent. We have a printer so I copy. Hope you and family get through Wilma with no problems. Marlene"

(10/26) From Thom & Linda O'Conner

"Nice surprise to hear from you. I've wondered for many years what ever happened to all those folks and just the other day said to Linda that it would be great to try and find friends from those years. I've lived so long in New York and Finland that I lost touch with all. Now we are still in New York State but spend the cold months in Lake Wales near where Linda grew up. We will be down in a few weeks and will be in touch. Best Regards, Thom" {Wow, we found Thom the man by regular mail – he responded. Welcome back to our world Thom. It brought a smile to my face to hear from you. jmm}

(10/24) From Hurricane Wilma

"I'm out to get your Irish ass and all your friends, take cover you Suckers"

These Newsletter Members were directly in the path, and on the mean side, of Hurricane Wilma

Don & Connie Holder, Carmine & Daneen Regna , Chick & Jennie Cicio, Jim & Marlene Jackson, Dick & Susie Gutting, Jack Miles & Nancy Dye, Derek & Nancy Lawler

(11/05) From Don & Connie Holder (51-57)

“Thought I had sent you Chick's mail describing his plight. Any way, Chick was preparing for the hurricanes and during the course he had shutters fall on him, breaking his foot gouging his neck and knee. Give him a call and I'm sure he will explain it in detail. Sorry to hear your Wilma story. I'm frankly getting tired of all the clean up. Lost all of our pool screening, fences, trees to the tune of over \$6,000 - of which \$3200 is deductible. Most of the clean up, which is still ongoing, is debris from neighbors who don't trim and prepare. Oh well.

Sons Tim and Terry have lost much since they cannot launch the boat any place in the Keys due to dock damage. Wholesalers are crying for the invertebrates and we cannot supply. Along with that Terry just had a second hip transplant, and is in much pain.

Got to go back to visit Terry. Talk to you later... Don”

(11/10) From Don Holder –follow up

“Thanks for your concern regarding Terry. He is one tough kid and seems to be doing well after his second hip replacement. The first was quite painful. This one was much easier at first due to a morphine drip via an epidural, until his first therapy session. After walking the parallel bars rig back and forth and about to sit in the wheel chair, a helper lifted his leg higher than the 90 degrees, which is a no-no with hip replacements causing great pain, which has subsided somewhat, but still prevails. Could not attend the therapy session for two days due to pain. Now that he is home with us, therapy so far is not an option due to all the insurance problems (Blue Cross Blue Shield). He is however walking gingerly and will improve. Don”

(11/08) From Chick & Jennie Cicio (54-59)

“Hi Jack...I pulled out 2 panels {from a stack like a deck of cards. jmm}and that must have caused a vacuum as they all came forward and I tried to push them back (16 steel 8 foot panels) I could not , I held them all for a moment and knew I had to move quickly. I jumped to the side and let them drop, BUT, they caught me on the right side and took me down. I must have been out for a minute as I found myself on the garage floor. I awoke and saw blood and yelled for Jennie. She called 911 and they took care of me. I was sort of dazed as I lost a lot of blood and could hear them talking...”.blood pressure 90 Over 60” etc. They said "This guy was pretty lucky" If he had been right in front of them he would have been bye bye. “GOD IS GOOD.” It wasn't my time. Jennie is great and sure is doing a yeoman's job taking care of me. Doc says recovery is 4, 5 or 6 weeks depending on how fast I heal before getting back to normal....what ever normal is. Can't drive, bowl, golf, theatre, church, my other singing group etc that's the bummer of it all. We are going to get accordion shutters for the two sliding doors and the large kitchen windows as soon as possible and then next year get the rest of the small window panels....They are VERY expensive, something like \$9,000.00 so it has to be done in parts. That's the "HOLE" story. Results: three bones broken in the instep of the foot, 4 inch gash on the knee cut to the patella bone and a pretty bad gouge on the right shoulder again right to the end of the collar bone (you could see the bone). Beside my dilemma, we had two trees cut in half in our back, a couple of smaller bushes etc. in the front. Pretty lucky in this respect. My sister lost all her roof tiles, my nephew had his tree fall on his house etc., and my brother (lives alone in a trailer, lost his porch. Has no electricity as yet. That's my family hurts.”

(11/08) From Chick Cicio – Follow up

“It's been two weeks already and the foot is still double the size, black, blue, red, yellow and a few other shades. The knee is coming along, got the stitches and staples out Thursday. The shoulder, well, it will be a little longer. I used a hand mirror to check it out....real ugly but, that too will heal. The medics were talking as they worked on me as I lie on the garage cement floor and as I lie there dazed I heard them say "This guy was pretty lucky, if he didn't jump quickly, he would not be alive" Guess it was not my time. Yes Jack.... As I said, "GOD IS GOOD" Chick”

(11/08) From Daneen and Carmine Regna

“Our neighbor's ficus tree fell on all of our power lines, electric, cable and phone. FPL came and cut all the branches that were in their way, but there is still plenty of tree left and we're wondering what to do with it. Carmine and our son Don cut up the branches and drug them out to the pile by the street. I pulled all the branches out of the swimming pool and dipped and dipped to get all the debris out. Finally today it looks pretty good. At first our next door neighbor had electricity so we had extension cords draped over the fence and we used her electricity to run the refrigerator, TV, and two lamps. Every morning the coffee pot, then the toaster sat on the floor and got plugged in one at a time to the electric strip. Two days before our power was restored her power went off, so we revved up the generator and draped extension cords over the fence and she used our electricity. Fortunately the whole neighborhood got their power back last Wednesday evening, thanks to the guys from South Carolina. The Asplundh tree trimmers had come from Imperial, California. My daughter who delivers mail said that on her route there were extension cords strung from house to house over yards and fences and across the streets - Looked like someone dropped spaghetti on the place. We believe that the tree did not damage our roof, but it hasn't rained hard enough yet to know for sure. When you live in Florida you do not grow old, because you need to keep up your strength to clean up after hurricanes. However, we didn't sit in the house for this one we went up to Salt Springs

where we have just purchased a place on Lake Kerr. Went up Sunday and came back Tuesday. There were lines at least 5 miles long on the turnpike at every plaza starting in Ft. Pierce waiting to buy gas. I also came home from work yesterday on Biscayne BLVD and Brickell AV. What a mistake, Brickell has debris everywhere with some lanes closed to traffic because of shattered glass from those high rise windows still in the street. This storm was almost as bad as Andrew in its own way. We sat in this same house for 3 ½ hours in the north eyewall during Andrew and that was truly terrible. This storm covered a much larger area, and that will make it very costly. Hope everyone is all right. Damage can be repaired.”

(11/10) From Dick & Susie Gutting (50-55)

{In a phone conversation tonight with Dick in Atlanta as he visited his children and grandkids, I learned that Dick and Susie are fine and his house in North Miami was not damaged by the storm. However, all their shrubbery and small trees are down or gone - The big ones were taken by former hurricanes. One of their pride and joys is their seven or eight multi colored Japanese Koi fish and pond in a beautiful tropical setting with bubbling fountain covered by a trellis in their yard. When the electricity went off the water circulation pumps shut off. The fish had to fend for themselves. Being air breathers they simply huddled on the, then dirty, bottom and only came up when they had to gulp their needed air. Happily, they all survived. } {Dick told me that Koi are loved and raised in Japan with their varied color patterns. In Japan One Koi was four feet long, pure white, had a perfectly round red spot on its forehead. It sold for one million dollars in an auction to collectors }

(11-11) From Marlene & Jim Jackson

A category one storm seems impossible there was so much damage. This is the first hurricane that we have experienced after living in Florida 50years that has ever done so much damage to our area. We are so thankful for how little damage we had to person or home but the neighborhood, no streetlights, no food in Publix, streets covered with debris, fallen trees etc. I woke up at 6 a.m. on Monday the 24th with very loud howling winds. I sat in living room looking out windows seeing the trees bending and bowing, leaves and twigs blowing about, watching a huge palm tree on our front patio splitting and I was praying please God do not let tree fall on neighbors or our house. (It just toppled yesterday unto our patio, no damage; we are waiting for a professional tree cutter) Then at 6:45 a.m. power went out and a branch broke off of our huge ficus in front and pierced window and the special screen for alarm system was bulging. I woke Jim up and he walked out into storm to pull the branch away so we could make a temporary repair of 6 broken jalousie panes. That is the only damage to our home. We do still have a tree lying on the back of our house on roof. It was a huge beautiful sapodilla tree and it broke in half, on its way to the roof it hit a Norfolk pine and a palm tree which broke the crash to the roof. The top branches are lying on roof. It is impossible to get any tree people now. I left message at favorite tree cutters and they have never returned call. They are swamped I am sure. There is an employee of the shores that is coming after work today to cut the things we could not handle. Jim had a chain saw small new one that he used to cut many of the branches too large to handle that had broken. We have a lot of trees so we had an enormous pile to be picked up. The shores do a great job on pick up and everything we put out was picked up quickly. Now we can clearly see all the dead branches dangling down that hopefully our tree man will remove. The winds stopped at about 1 p.m. and people wondered out of their homes to see the damage. Our street was covered with branches, neighbor branch on roof of car. We were fortunate neither car had any tree damage. We were without power for 12 days which was a major nuisance, we are all so spoiled. The weather was cool which was a blessing when no air conditioning. We have gas stove and heater so hot showers and hot foods were a blessing. The darkness and quiet and beauty of the sky was really nice but the horrendous noise of the neighbor's generator ruined the quiet part. On the 12th day Jim went out to try to get batteries. Our lamp oil gone, batteries etc. and of course none at stores. Vicki gave us a battery TV. which was so nice. Jim came home with a downcast look after shopping for battery and I pointed to the TV. in living color in kitchen and he smiled huge and gave me a huge kiss. He was so happy to have power. We still do not have cable and promised by the 15th but our experience with Comcast, not reliable. How quickly we humans forget that no power was dreadful and now we complain about no cable so we are trying to be patient. We had some interesting experiences with no power. Our church service was so beautiful first Sunday after storm. There was a large audience and all had no power. Our "opera" soloist sang from the balcony. The person that played Jesus in our Living Cross last Easter dressed in costume walked to the table on stage decorated like antiquity and said perfect words. It was all so touching.

Jack, this might be more words than you wanted just edit if you like. Jim wants to know the name of the movie that had a diving horse in it. He wants to watch it again. His gymnast younger friends don't believe there is such a thing as a diving horse. Thank you for your emails. Love, Marlene {No editing necessary. I love the woman's first person descriptions by you and Daneen, jmm }

(11/06) From Jack Miles (50-59)

“Thanks to each of you, who emailed me, so much for wishing us well before and after the storm. Health wise we are fine. The house and property is a real mess. I'll enlarge on that later - the good and the bad. I was home alone waiting for the eye of the storm - which never passed over me instead I got the mean side of the storm the whole time - and at the height of the storm I wanted to go out to fix a broken banging gate. I pushed like hell with all my might against the door and peaked out and I can tell you now that there was no way in hell I would have gone out there. Visually I could not see my sidewalk fifteen feet away. The rain was coming by with such horizontal force and density that it looked exactly like I was actually underwater in a raging grey dirty river. The best analogy I can give you is for you to imagine standing on a curb when a car passes by.... one foot in front of you and that car is traveling at 125 miles an hour. Multiply that by a thousand cars and you get the idea. My love and gratitude for your best wishes. Jack”

(11/08) Down Side: Four cracked house windows; Drivers car window smashed under Beaver Dam of limbs; Five large trees down; Fences on both side of house down; Air conditioner, washing machine and bath room lights shorted out when the power surged back on; 2/3 roof shingles and underlying tar paper gone; Niagara falls inside half the house; Satellite Dish down, Ceiling, walls, and insulation in living and dining rooms soaked. Our 80' Norfolk pine out front is totally stripped of 70' of its' limbs and is now topped with a 10' Christmas Tree. It really looks stupid.

Up Side: Immediately after the storm passed and since, the weather has been gorgeous, 7 AM to 7 PM Curfew therefore no "Boom Boxes" and loud car muffles driving by at night, No lights anywhere therefore Chad and I would lay up on the roof nightly and watch for shooting stars without the glare of city, or any, lights. Like gophers all the neighbors came out to marvel at the destruction in such a short period of time. Some I had never met before. You could hear the underlying exclamation, "Ooooh, My God" No car, bus, or truck sounds - streets all blocked with downed trees and power lines. Found a Bulgarian Pizza Parlor a block away which made the best Pizza ever and noodles stuffed with Manicotti in a gas oven. Found a beautiful five foot Iguana in our yard and a three inch newborn Iguana with an attitude. We learned to play Monopoly again under candle light. {My son and wife cheat how else I could lose so many times} Cooked, camp out style, over hot coals, Worked side by with my son for three days on the roof laying down temporary covering and crawled side by side in the yard picking up thousands of pieces of roofing. We slept very well at night with the breezes blowing in the windows. We were very tired and every muscle and bone ached and when a neighbor brought us three bags of ice we drank ice water like it was the elixir of the Gods. Happily, I found fifty-six emails from friends when we got our phones and electricity restored. The Ft. Lauderdale area is recovering very fast, curfew lifted, streets cleared, all businesses are open, and most of the Gophers have gone back down in their hiding places. Tree leaves browned and died when the wind sucked the water out of them. Now, new buds are now sprouting. It's a time for renewal and a keeper for the memory books.

(10/28) From Barbara Sheehan Withers (54-62)

"I can so appreciate your experience as it is almost exactly what my son Pierce and I experienced on July 10th at Alligator Point with Hurricane Dennis - we were on that really bad side of the storm and were looking at 20 ft. waves in the front yard!! Not to mention the wind and sheets of rain...but we and the houses survived without much damage - so sorry to hear that your home is damaged. Let me know the details when you are able to deal with it and let me know if we can help in any way. Love, Barbara" {It's an interesting revelation that there is some wonder and intrigue in being involved together in such a monumental and awesome event of nature jam}

(10/08) From Jamile & Barbara Ashmore

"As always you keep a smile on my face with your Mail. Barbara and I are in Italy for a few days on business but we have had a great week in Greece and then Rome and now Florence. Two day in Paris and then.... were I belong..... in Texas. Love You, Jamile"

(10/22) From Jimmy Hanks

"I really enjoyed the newsletters! Believe it or not I now can put names with, don't know about those now, older faces. TEE HEE!! I still look the same. Why I never aged is beyond me! OK....Maybe a little....Jim" {Jimmy, one nice thing about aging is that when your wife starts to get age lines on her face, your eyes get weaker and you can't see them. jmm} oops! {I accidentally hit the wrong keys when I wrote the last sentence. It came out as, "when you wife A tart to get age lines, etc. The spell check told me to the make the A in small case and never mentioned your wife's virtues - but I finally caught it in the proofing stage - hope she has your sense of humor, jmm}

(11/08) From Jimmy Hanks

"I'm sorta out of it right now and won't be doing a lot of email. Viet Nam has come back to haunt me. I'm down big time in my back. (OLD COMPRESSION FRACTURES FROM EJECTION) Hope to be on my feet shortly!jim" {although from different injury sources Jimmy and Don Holder can trade "back" stories. Don from extensive gymnasts injuries and hard landings, Jimmy from riding on the end of a bomb shell shot out into space. jmm}

(11/09) Response from Jack Miles

"Hey man. I feel deeply for you. Hope the pain subsides soon. Look at the trees, the clouds, the birds, the waters. There is no hell out there... only within us. Physical and mental pain demands our attention and clouds our hopes for better times. My deceased very best friend for 55 years, Jack Sharp, always said, "You can borrow confidence" So we took turns using each others shoulder to lean on. Somehow if possible, with your permission, I'll take some of that pain. I'm not a dreamer, but maybe it'll help to know someone gives a dam. I do. Speedy recovery. Jack"

(11/10 am) Reply from Jimmy Hanks

Thanks Jack. Wonderful thoughts your sharing must have helped. I have these bouts occasionally and just live with them. I didn't mean to sound an alarm. Our maker has really been good to me in spite of a few trials in life.

(11/10 pm) From Jimmy Hanks - follow up

"OK....I'm back. Lot's better - not well, but able to get around pretty good now. I did not mean to sound a big alarm to all of you but thanks for all the emails and PHONE calls. I'm used to my problem and was having troubles getting to the computer to answer emails etc. I should not have even mentioned it. My fault! But again thanks for caring. It's so nice to have so many good friends. It makes me very humble. (OK, I loved it)"

I'll never forget:

With Thanksgiving soon upon us I would be remiss if I didn't wish you the greatest of holidays ever, as well as to tell you that, at this holiday time, I am always reminded of a funny Thanksgiving happening. One year sweet Pam, an ex-wife #4, fixed the best Thanksgiving dinner. It was great. She confessed that she was worried because it was her first time cooking a turkey. I congratulated her on a great job. She smiled and responded, "Thank you. I'm really glad it came out all right, but it sure was hard stuffing that turkey. Confused, I asked, "What do you mean?".... She explained, "Getting it all shoved down and in that small neck was really tough." Bless her soul. jmm.

(11/06) From Charlie Christian (55-57)

Excerpts from his email to Sam & Topsy Bailie

"I met a gentleman at Lockerly Arboretum in Milledgeville, GA. recently with an interesting accent and found he was from Rumania. Well, you guessed it, I asked him about gymnastics and Nadia and Bart, etc. The more names I mentioned like yours, Jack Miles, Don Holder, Bill Roetzheim, Chic etc., the more excited he was and the better friends we became. He knows everyone. In fact he said he was once the Olympic Gymnastics Coach. I'm curious who he was??? I'm trying to find out that from the Arboretum. Sorry for my poor memory for names. I think he name is Martini. Does that ring a bell? Such a small world striking up a conversation over an accent and find he knows most Olympic gymnasts in the sport worldwide. When and if I find his name and address I'll send it to you unless you already know. I gave him a card to email me but have yet to hear from him. I finally thought of looking for a Nadia website and low and behold!!! From cute to beautiful and a good looking couple! Would I love to have an 8X10 carrying the 2002 torch autographed. I'd even take a 5x7! That is definitely a "classic" pic! {The **Mystery Man**, Charlie discovered, through good detective work, was Dr. Geza Martiny, Former Coach of the United States Gymnastics and Fencing teams. My reason for submitting this story to you is to show by Charlie's research and a few emails to Newsletter recipients he was able to solve the mystery. Now use your detective abilities and help us find some lost gymnasts. I know someone knows how to get in touch with Joe Gusic, Rick Miller, and Terry Morris. jmm}

(11/11) From Ron & Loree Galimore

"All is well. Have been on the road a lot lately and I leave on Wednesday for Melbourne and the World Championships. If you need t get to me immediately shot me a quick email on my work address <rgal@usa-gymnastics.org.> I hope all is well and hope that you are doing ok with all the bad weather that has passed through there recently. Ron" {Boy, I can see that you recipients are a bunch of globe trotting fools jmm} {I went to the Mall yesterday, does that count? jmm}

HOAX

If you are someone to whom I relayed the claim that the use of a cleaning fluid called Swifter Wet Jet poses a harmful effect on animals - a potential poison of pets and children. I learned from Gail *Sonterath* Whitney and Bob and Nancy Troutman that the alarm was a hoax {that's actually very good news to me jmm}

Years (Continuously) Married Contest (Recorded as of this date)

Chick & Jennie Cicio	55 years, 56 in April, 06
Don & Connie Holder	55 years, 56 in August, 06
Benny & Carolyn Wallace	52 years, 53 in May, 06
Carmine & Daneen Regna	51 years
Jim & Marlene Jackson	50 years, 51 in July, 06
Jay & Ellie Schwarzman	48 years this past September 1st
Beverley & Bill Beaton	45 years
Bill & Carole Beavers	37 years (for good behavior)
Dick & Susie Gutting	37 years, 38 in June, 06
Derek & Nancy Lawler	35 years

IMPORTANT

I have a small pleasant chore for each and every one of you. I want every one of you to email me a One, Two. Or Three Line Christmas, Hanukah, Holidays, New Years message to all the other recipients of our Newsletter. I will include all of them in the December 2005 Holidays Newsletter complete with an updated mailing list. Look at all the stamps and envelope licking I will have saved you. P.S. Please include the years you attended FSU or become involved with the group. Some of you already submitted me that information and I thank you.

To you all: I try to keep the Newsletter light. The Hurricane prevailed. We will capture that feeling again. Already there are new green shoots busting out of all the branches of the bushes and trees. That's nice, Jack

