

**FSU Gymnasts, Gymkana, and Friends Newsletter April 2006 (Fourteenth Edition) /06**

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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

**NOTICE:** This is the Fourteenth Edition if you have missed any of the editions please advise and I will email or mail them to you.

**Barbara Sheehan Withers | 54-62 | 2006 REUNION SCHEDULED FOR TALLAHASSEE & ALIGATOR POINT**

“The dates we selected were **May 26-29, the same Memorial Day Weekend (Friday to Monday) as last year.**”

{Well, Biddies and Buddies start making some plans. The time for your salvation is near.....jmm }

**Beverly Cude & Bill Beaton | 55-59 | Re: BB&BB Horse episode 13<sup>th</sup> Edition**

“.....thank you for comments re my story, but it is a tale I never forgot, (guess I learned a lesson).... and tell it often for its humorous side.....also for the fact that I have never since been on a horse.....and it amazes me that I have 2 granddaughters who excel at show jumping.....the 16 yr. old hoping to be a Nationals champion one day, and is aiming for the Olympics.....on a new young horse from Holland, she is now jumping over 4'9" rails on courses that are usually anywhere from 12 to 18 jumps....hopes to do 5' this summer.....loves the event called "Power and Speed".....goes for clear rounds as fast as possible against the clock.....I love to watch her.....at the same time, wondering why as I agonize all the way through with heart in mouth until she makes it over the last obstacle.....didn't get that talent from my genes, for sure....

.....she also works very hard to help pay her way.....every weekend she shovels you know what from about 25 stalls at a stable, feeds, puts out and brings in about half the number of horses there, rides those who need exercise, and helps with the instruction of younger riders.....she works from 7 AM to 7 PM.....also grooms and cares for her own horse entirely....(unlike some pampered kids whose parents pay grooms for them)....sometimes she's even the one who grooms another's horse while competing on the same day.....am proud of the little...(???) 5'11" ....gunner....(again, stature most definitely is unrelated to me...)

.....looking back at the above, I realize I have carried on a bit much about the skilled riders I live with.....but am sure you relate well to that pride given your talented tennis playing son who sounds as though he's going places in his own right.....I wish him many outstanding winning matches!.....am truly sorry about the way your friendly tussling ended up and that your sore shoulder sounds like it must have been dreadfully painful..... but hope it has improved by now and is on the way to complete recovery.....I do admire your penchant for repairing damaged homes.....you must be very good at it....Will be in touch, my friend”

**Larry Bestmann | 55-58 | Larry and his “T” trouble**

”Thank you for another stellar newsletter. I particularly like the part where Marlene Jackson remembers a handsome Larry Bestmann and his beautiful wife (former). Jim Jackson is partially to blame for my meeting her at Montrose Beach in Chicago. She (Jeraldine) was sitting on a blanket in the sand and I asked Bob Bollinger to throw me onto her blanket (I think it was uchi mata, Tanakasan). When I landed, I said casually, "How would you like to meet a movie star?" "Who, you?" she said sarcastically. "No, see my friend, Jim Jackson over there? He was just in the movie, 'Creature from the Black Lagoon.' She was so impressed, she married me “

**Mike Mann & Fran Millian | 57-67 | Wakulla Springs**

“Tallahassee Democrat reporter Diane Roberts states that in 1835 a visitor to the springs wrote of it's clarity and sky blue waters. It was still mostly clear when I left in March 1967 for New Mexico. It was still in good shape when I returned about ten years later to see the airliner shell, for Airport 77 filming, hanging over the spring. Hell bent development, damn the environmental costs growth and making wads of money for developers and politicians has reaped it's reward in less than forty years. Nitrate levels have increased geometrically and the Apple Snail has been killed off and hence there have been no Limpkins spotted since 2000. The Bass are disappearing from the river and I can tell you from personal observation that the general fish population is about a quarter of what it was in the fifties and sixties and they don't allow fishing in there an never have so that isn't where they have gone. I sent out a DVD recently with old Travelogs and historical footage from the spring. I will swear that in one scene there are more Alligator Gar than there are fish in the whole place these days. The swimming area a spring basin need constant attention by the park rangers to keep the Hydrilla from choking everything out and making it unfit for swimming and snorkeling.

.....A beautiful and pristine place for over 250 years overrun with fish and other wildlife and we have managed to screw it up in less than forty years. Please folks, try to find some candidates that care about these issues and not just lining their pockets with the developer's cash. If you find them then get out there an campaign and vote for them. When all the wildlife are gone we will not be far behind.

.....F.Y. I. - If you are interested in the DVD, "Wakulla Springs A History in Film" it can be ordered from the Tallahassee Film Society ( <http://tallahasseeifilms.com/> ) that produced it for just \$12. Tomorrow night they are sponsoring a "Return of Tarzan" night showing two of the old Johnny Weismiller, Maureen O'Sullivan Tarzan movies that were filmed at the springs. In November they have a "Creature from the Black Lagoon" (also filmed at the spring and the swimmers are in one of the DVD clips) night. Bring you blanket, snacks, and an FM radio for the movie sound and watch it on the lawn. ‘

**Jon & Boots Culbertson | 64-66 | Re: Jerry Signorelli**

“**Jack et al:** Reading Holder's note about Pat Signorelli's son, George, made me have to write and say that I have been judging Jerry since he was a junior gymnast up thru Championships of USA and Winter Cup this past February, and touching base with Pat numerous times over the past decade. **Jon**”

<b>Raphael &amp; Diana Lecuona</b>	<b>52-56</b>	The velly nice Cha-Cha-Cha Cubano
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'Hi Jack...just wrote a note to Lennart Malmelin and Cristina...wishing them both the best and reminding Larry how much we all enjoyed his wonderful and always happy personality in and out of the gym...and how he and I laughed while he learned from me...who else?... a few cha-cha-cha steps at the gym one time...which reminds me of another set of students I had at another and previous time (1952 Olympics, at the headquarters of the Japanese team)...including such great cha-cha dancers as Masao Takemoto and Aihara...who. with the other three team members, I had lined up in front of me in their room... (as per their request) and forming a line, made them take a short step forward with the right foot...(while I would say "one") then ...telling them to use their left foot, had they step on the spot while I would go on saying "two"...then, dropping the right foot, and moving slightly to their right, I would say: "cha, cha, cha" while making them move on to the right, stepping right, left, right...at which point, their respective left foot would step forward a little bit...while I would repeat "1", then...stepping with right foot back at my saying "two", I would have them move to the left...stepping "left, right, left" following my "cha,cha,cha" saying again... Well, sounds ridiculous, but I thought it was an incredible sight for me to watch these great international, Japanese gymnasts learning how to dance the Cuban Cha-cha-cha as good or even better than you ever did...Now, and for an incredible follow up...45 years later, in 1997, in Switzerland, during the World Gymnastics championship, while talking to the Ashmores at the lobby of the hotel where we were staying, respectively, Endo (I think that was his name) who was representing Japan as a member of the IGF, saw me...and widely smiling, in front of everyone gathered there, saying something that sounded like "Lecuona" while moving to his right as if dancing, while kind of pointing at me, asked me, as if to confirm something: "cha,cha,cha?" Of course, a warm and most friendly embrace followed...while everyone laughed and enjoyed the occurrence. Now, as for Doris Gregory, Jim Fadigan and I putting on a great dancing routine...well, I better ask Gusic about that one... Take care Jacko"

<b>Merik &amp; Anna Ceska</b>	<b>55-57</b>	The Ceska travels
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"Thank you for your e-mail. During our recent trip to US we met in Texas Jamile and Barbara Ashmore. They came all the way down from Plano to Ft. Worth and invited me and my wife for a wonderful lunch. We had a great time remembering "good all days "at FSU. I met Jay and Barbara at several occasions previously: in 1978 I met Jay and Frank Bare in Strasbourg during the European Championship in Gymnastics, then in 1981 in Atlanta where I was judging the "Mini World Championship in Gymnastics" and then about 10 years ago when I was invited by Barbara and Jay to spend a couple days in their home in Dallas. On this trip in the beginning of March we visited then my son Patrick and his family. They live in Gainesville/Georgia. Thereafter we came to Tallahassee to visit my daughter Michele and Barbara Sheehan Withers. What a wonderful "reunion" with Barbara! I did not see Barbara for 50 years! Thank you Barbara for all you had done for us in Tallahassee. Kind regards"

<b>Raphael &amp; Diana Lecuona</b>	<b>52-56</b>	The Cuban returns
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"Jack, back from Spain, after 15 days searching for the Great Lecuona...besides me, of course...read your always welcome and most functional Newsletter and noticed Brock asking about George (Jorge) Gomez...great friend of mine from Cuba BC (Before Castro) and of course during the FSU times...very unfortunately, Jackie, Jorge died a few years ago, in Tampa, I believe...perhaps you might want to pass this on to Brock...and sorry to say, he died out of diabetes...I talked to him over the phone a week prior to his going. Of course, I don't think this is for public concerns. I just wanted to Brock to know about George. On a different and hopefully more lighted way: Congrats, again, about your great job Love"

<b>Oscar "Bob" Brock</b>	<b>58-61</b>	Re:email to Oscar "Bob" Brock from Raphael Jorge Gomez
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"Jack...Rafael, Thanks for the Jorge Gomez update...Indeed sad....his passing a few years ago. Jorge was politically savvy and friendly too. Once, about 1959, he invited Derek Lawler and me to some political fund raiser party on the lawn of a wealthy Betton Hills, Tallahassee, owner. I can't recall the issues or political ties or why Derek and I, of all people, were even invited, but we were and chowed down on some pretty good barbeque as I recall. Jorge had an old Chevy as I remember. A good man."

<b>Oscar "Bob" Brock</b>	<b>58-61</b>	Re: My request for his history
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"Hi Jack, Yes, Rafael did write and sent an attached old photo of the late Jorge Gomez. Sad, his passing from diabetes in recent years. I felt honored to hear from Rafael. He was a bit before my time at FSU. OK, I promised (threatened?) to tell more about myself. My older brother, Ken and I grew up in Pensacola. He started FSU in '53 and me in '57. Our YMCA parents moved to Orlando in '56. I had no prior gymnastics experience so learned what I did in the four FSU years, '57-61. As I earlier alluded, I was a shy sort and never competed although I devised a competent floor exercise routine outside on the lawn. Pretty basic stuff but well executed I think: rows of back handsprings, back layout-full twist, straight arm straight leg press, high front handsprings, etc. By my senior year I realized I must improve my mediocre grade point average so I spent more time on academics and less time at Tully Gym. I knew my best chance of avoiding the draft was to get into graduate school. I spent my senior year at Canterbury House on Jefferson St next to Ruge Hall, the Episcopal chapel. On March 12, 1960, Derek Lawler and I were among the FSU and FAMU students arrested at a sit-in at Woolworth's on Monroe St in Tallahassee. That was an expensive cup of coffee! The trial is a matter of record and I won't go into it now. The Episcopal Church, the Chapel of the Resurrection, aka, "Chapel of the Insurrection" took me and another agitator in so I finished my senior year there. After graduation in '61, I took an archaeology field and lab assistantship at the University of Alabama. A good half dozen of us FSU anthropology students went to Bama for MA degrees in the sixties. OK, Jack, if there are no major protests, I will continue my story later.

.....Any word from Wayne Thompson? You did a BOYS LIFE feature on him in about 1962. I read it. What happened to Pat Van Hynning from Clearwater? She was an English major, BA '59."

**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
Don & Patsy Rapp	50 years, 51 in November 06
Sam & Tosi Bailie	49 years, 50 in June 06
Jon & Boots Culbertson	48 years, 49 in June, 06
Jay & Ellie Schwarzman	48 years, 49 in September
Jack & Almira Sharp	47 years
Beverley & Bill Beaton	45 years
Claire & Dick Traynor	44 years, 45 in February 07
Lennart & Karsthin Malmlin	43 years, 44 in May, 06
Bill & Carole Beavers	37 years (for good behavior)
Dick & Susie Gutting	37 years, 38 in June, 06
<b>Wayne &amp; Heather Thompson</b>	<b>36 years</b>
Derek & Nancy Lawler	35 years
Harmer & Magdalena Weichel	34 years
Jimmy & Janie Hanks	27 years
Fernando & Linda Lecuona	18 years