

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)

“Once teammates, always teammates” by Charlie Christian.
2007 REUNION - May 25-26-27-28 2007.

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Jim & Arlene Fadigan | 52-56/58-62 | Our Gymnastic family

“Jack: Amazing spirit that still binds all of us. We write and talk about it but experiencing it again is like a visit from an old friend who has shared special moments in your life. The same stuff that drove all of us to push ourselves to achieve is still alive and starting to kick again; the kick of rebirth. The newsletter and Barbara's tenacity on getting us all back to the Tallahassee area have been the catalysts. Once you got this group of 'hams' back in touch those special things that drive all of us just got back in gear.

Larry M was one of my special people that naturally lived so many of the things I wanted to emulate. Someone captured it by pointing out that gymnastics was only one of his many contributions to all of us. Special people always have a special place in your memories and he certainly achieved and earned that special place in all our hearts.

Thanks again for your efforts and talents Jack, we all appreciate and benefit from them. Jim”

Beverly Cude & Bill Beaton | 55-59

“This is yet another great effort and publication of yours, Jack. I was stunned to read about Bob Bollinger's terrible illness. God bless him. I didn't know you were going to add my "history" also.....and that's OK....except that I had a date wrong (which I did send to Mike for correction...should have sent you a copy too.) The Chicago NAAU referred to was NOT 1959....it was 1957, confirmed by an old program I unearthed. Perhaps you might want to correct that. I had left FSU before the Spring session in 1959, not having the funds to continue. After all, I have 3 brothers who were next in line for university and it was their turn for some support from our parents. I graduated from FSU by completing my last 2 courses by correspondence from my home in Noranda. I was also immediately hired as a teacher in my former high school (a weird feeling), so had an "instant" job and source of income.

What year was that Fort Lauderdale Reunion? It was the first one I attended. I thought it was 1980, but on the Web site, Don's pictures say 1981.I ask this because, guess what? This very morning, while re-arranging a bookcase, I stumbled across what I had long ago sadly decided was a lost photo album of that very reunion. Talk about excited! ...some great pictures, and told Mike about it. He suggests sending him the whole album to deal with, which may be best. He's bound to do a better job of the pictures than I.

However; I'm going to keep it until Monday. We celebrate my son Neil's 40th on Sunday, the 27th, even though his birthday is the 28th. If you remember, I had brought all 3 of my children with me to that '80s reunion. I want to take the album to the party on Sunday to show the kids and, an aside: that brings up another "spooky" similarity pertaining to Barbara and me. Besides the fact that we were born in the same year (although I arrived in April and she in November), there is also this tidbit. As mentioned above, my son Neil was born on Aug. 28th, 1966. Well, Barbara's twins were born August 27th, 1966. The boys were the last offspring for both of us. At that time, we knew nothing of the coincidence as we had not yet renewed our FSU friendship. It took Fort Lauderdale to do that.

Thanks for organizing it, and thanks to my family for insisting that I attend. I admit to having been a bit leery about doing so and came close to not attending. Deep within I had the silly sense that while I had become older, everyone else must somehow be as they were in the '50's. Dumb, eh? Mind you, everyone still was very much as I had remembered. My three children were so impressed and have never forgotten the experience. They know exactly the fun I'm anticipating each time I head south once more. Keep us smiling, :-)Bev” {Thanks Bev for the pictures. They really shook the cobwebs from this old brain.. I was pretty wasn't I?...jmm}

Benny & Carolyn Wallace | 51-55 | Embarrassing Moments

“Jack: I've never forgotten this and it still gives me a chuckle. We were at the NCAA Championships at the University of Illinois and I was competing in the Rope Climb. The world record was an incredible 3.1 seconds to climb 20 ft. of rope, hands only from a sitting position and was held by a guy named Don Perry (I think I have all of this right but it was over 50 years ago)! This guy had very long arms and fairly flew up the rope in around seven pulls. On this night he went for a new world's record and did it in 2.9 seconds! The crowd went wild; cameras flashed, handshakes, hugs, his team hoisting him aloft. etc. You've guessed the rest. Yes, I was next! The crowd milled about, gathered around Perry for autographs or took off for refreshments leaving the judges and me in lonely splendor. I did a reasonable climb and scored a point or two for the team but It was a humbling experience and the longest, slowest 20 ft. that I ever traveled in my life. I went on to fly jets at more than twice the speed of sound” but that was an experience I can not forget. Benny

Jack Miles | 50-58 | I'll never forget

{True story-Bev...,jmm} “Girl's what would you do? In downtown Philadelphia, Christmas shopping during a snow storm a crowd of us shoppers were stopped at the corner for a street light change. As we crammed together on the curb a flash of light at ankle level caught my eye. I looked down and saw that the white panties of the attractive girl standing next to me had fallen down from under her bulky winter coat and over her ankles. I quickly looked up in pretence that I hadn't noticed. Then I started to worry that when this girl tries to take a step forward she is definitely going to trip. However, unfazed, and never looking down, the girl cleverly stepped out of them and kicked them aside Then after giving me a quick “We have our own little secret don't we?” smile” she crossed the street with the crowd.”

{You have nooo idea what affect that little event had on the imagination of that one time very impressionable teenager...jmm}

Jay & Eleanor Schwarzman | 51-55 | **“Our love goes out to Jay & Eleanor”** “Jack, I never seem to be amazed at the great job you are doing with "your baby" our FSU Gymnastic/Gymkana newsletter. Each edition is a joy to read. Keep up the good work.

I apologize for being remiss in writing this which I should have done shortly after I returned from the reunion. However, when I returned home all sorts of challenges and opportunities occurred mostly in my various volunteer responsibilities. I want to take this opportunity to thank Jim and Arlene Fadigan, Don and Connie Holder and Bev Beaton for the great job of putting the reunion together so well that we all had a great time. Also, I thank Barbara Withers who was again the most wonderful hostess with her ever present smile. She is a very giving person to whom we are all indebted once again. Thanks Barb.

The event that occurred during this period that really "hit" us was the untimely loss of our oldest son, Sanford L. Schwarzman (Sandy) who had just turned 48. Sandy passed away on July 10th of metastatic pancreatic cancer. Needless to say, we were in absolute shock! We are now getting back to normal after a long and difficult period. This, of course, is not the natural order of life. No parent should have to watch their child die. We should come first and when their time comes they should follow.

I just wanted to get you up to speed on us before it got completely away from me.” {With God’s love, blessing, and understanding we pray that you will find solace in believing that you and Sandy will all be together again at another time..... jmm}

Jimmy & Sanjuanita Janie Hanks | 52-56 | **Guitar & Ukulele team extraordinaire** “Oh, for those who don't know, Charlie and I had an act and performed all over etc. when TV was just coming into the world. I like to think we were the Smothers Brothers about 7 years before the Smothers Brothers and continue to wonder if our performance wasn't copied and improved upon greatly by them. They were so good. I played a uke and a fool while Charlie, (who had all the talent) played straight and played the guitar.

What a wonderful time I had with Charlie doing our thing. Knowing him and his family helped make me the person I am today. I was such a bashful shy little boy. Almost afraid of my shadow and most everything else. I'll always be grateful!.....Jim

Jack Miles | 50-58 | **I asked Jim, “Who is this Charlie you keep mentioning?”** “His name was Charles Singer. He played the guitar and played straight man. I haven't seen him for 40 years when his wife contacted me through others. We've now made contact although we haven't met. He just sent this comment to me. I even shed a tear or two just hearing from him: "Thank you Jimmy for your thoughts. I am really the grateful one just to be associated with you, enjoying those wonderful times. God Bless...Charlie".

Here's some attached pictures {see attachments...jmm} in our freshman year at college but scan 0016 is from high school as seniors. We were very popular and in demand all over even before college. We won talent night at FSU as freshman and represented FSU all over the South letting High Schools know about FSU. We made the Author Godfrey TV talent show but due to a death in Charlie's family, had to cancel and never got another booking. We did audition for Ed Sullivan but didn't make that show although he wished us back, it never occurred.

Charlie left school to find a girl he was in love with and joined the Marines. I was crushed! That was the last I actually seen him. I got married, gave up the uke, quit the FSU Circus, and became an FSU rope climber. I graduated, joined the navy as enlisted to prevent my draft in the army. Managed to get an appointment to OCS and became an officer, then to flight school and became a naval aviator. The rest is history. Viet Nam, shot down, wounded, highly decorated, retired and got old. I've rambled on enough. I am extremely happy with my marriage and my life. I've been a very lucky man!!!!!!!!!!!!.....Jim”

Jack Miles | 50-58 | **I'll never forget** “One more for you, Benny. Maybe some of you might remember when I was emceeing a Gymkana Show. I wanted to thank Dr. Danforth for his support of our Gymnastics program. I went on and on about this wonderful person and then I wanted the audience to recognize him so I pointed to him and said, “Dr. Danforth will you please stick up in front.”.... (The drummer hit a rim roll of his snare drum...berrattt, boom) The audience laughed a long time. After the show, I was dying as Dr. Danforth, with his wife on his arm, walked up to me and said, ”Thanks for the kind words. Jack. I didn’t know exactly what you wanted me to do. So I just stood up, was that O.K.?”....I died.

My mouth went south that night as I made a big long emotional pitch for the Olympic Associations Fund Drive. I finished with these immortal words, “I know funds are short but anything you can give is very much appreciated. Please give at the door to the young ladies with little boxes.....(There went that dam drummer again...berrrrattt, boom).....Geez. We received a huge collection that night for the Olympic Association...Nevertheless, the “young ladies” at the door wanted to kill me for all the teasing they received.”

TID-BIT OF USELESS INFORMATION My son counted fifty aluminum ladders leaning up against homes on a half mile stretch of street leading up to our house. You see, we are now in this years hurricane season and there were so many houses with their roofing stripped off by last years hurricane that the roofers’ opted to nail on the tar paper, seal the roof with tar, then move on to fix the next home, and then the next, leaving the jobs half done but at least rain proof. They can add the top layer of shingles, or tiles, at a later date. It is at this half stage that the city inspectors must check and sign off on the quality of the work and they are so backed up it'll take another year just for the inspections in my city alone. Home owners are asked to leave a ladder leaning up against the house so the inspectors can inspect the roofs quicker. Anybody want some to buy some used ladders? I understand the go for good money in the islands and South America....jmm

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | **Bob May, discussed by Frank Dennard & Mike** “Jack - Frank told me today he was in contact with Bob and had passed the contact info on to you. If you haven't talked to him yet, or if you do again, be sure to pass on a big hello and welcome to the group from me. I always liked Bob a great deal although I did not have a whole lot of contact with him. He also lent me some great photos which I have scanned for use on the Tot's page. One of them I will definitely find a spot for it is an 8 X 10 color of Thomasville Rose Parade float from Tallahassee with Bob, Frank and Lulu Dann doing their Ted Mack routine on the float.

Did I tell you, Frank had worked with/for Rick & Christine Lutz at HRS? later Rick was my boss at DOE's Office of Student Financial Assistance. Christine (Sullivan) soon came on board as Rick's administrative assistant and we became good friends over the years. They were big soccer players and Frank also played on their Soccer Team. About the second year they were at OSFA Rick's wife died suddenly.. A couple of years after that Rick and Christine married. Both are retired now and living on Cape San Blas when they aren't running from hurricanes. Mike" {I sure will, I am using Frank as the contact address (frankdannard@aol.com)at this time. Bob seems to be moving around a lot and hard to reach.....jmm }

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | Mike's entry which was published in the latest issue of the *International Gymnast Magazine*



FLORIDA STATE REUNION

"A loyal group of former Florida State University gymnasts gathered recently at the home of Barbara Murray Withers in Alligator Point, Fla., for their annual reunion. FSU won five men's national championships in the 1950s (2 NCAA, 3 AAU), and the women were National AAU Drill champions. Among those in attendance were (alphabetically) Barbara Ashmore, Jamile Ashmore, Beverly Cude Beaton, Bill Beavers, Carol Beavers, Larry Bestmann, Bruce Davis, Rita Davis, Francis Dennard, Frank Dennard, Arlene Fadigan, Jim Fadigan, Joe Greene, Mimi Griffin, Joe Gusic, Connie Holder, Don Holder, Raphael Lecuona, Mike Mann, Chad Miles, Jack Miles, Evelyn Miller, Rick Miller, Don Rapp, Patsy Rapp, Jay Schwarzman, Pat Signorelli, Joe Taylor, Clare Essig Traynor, Dick Traynor, Barbara Murray Withers, Bill Whitney, Gail Sontgerath Whitney, Pierce Withers."

Beverly Cude & Bill Beaton | 55-59 | RE: Email I passed along to all – subject, "The 50's"

"Take me back to the fifties! Thank you so much for sending that - it's priceless...and those songs have always been my favourites; but, I guess that goes with the times. So true, though, that being a teen in those days was enormously less threatening and next to harmless compared to what our face today. Home and school discipline reigned supreme! I have three younger brothers. My Mother armed herself with a wooden spoon which she used without compunction whenever a situation warranted it.

I picked up on that strategy very quickly since I was often left "in charge" of the mob.....some great chases and fierce encounters with said spoon was not uncommon! Foremost in my mind is the time I banned brothers to their bedroom, above the dining room where I was dutifully doing my homework. Some giggling and muffled directives right above the dining room window led me there to peer outside, just in time to see my beloved gray cat, Smoky, descend at a great rate attached to a parachute! Cat survived one of its 9 lives.....three brothers nearly lost their only one!

My biggest fear was to be late for school....never, but never, from Grade 1 through Grade 12 was I late arriving. For that, in Gr. 10, 11 and 12 I was awarded (?) the dubious "honour" of handing out late slips to those guilty parties who dared to commit that major offense. My position earned me immortality in the school year book.

I haven't come any where close to perusing all of the links, but fully intend to do so when I feel nostalgic, or have to entertain teen grandchildren. They'll probably explode with laughter! Poodle skirts? Saddle shoes? Loved them! Marbles?...great fun on the carpet, or outside in the spring snow where you could make the brightly coloured object splash through puddles to knock an opponent out of the way. The objective was to be the first to sink as many marbles, deemed to be the winning amount, into a small scooped out hole--- (frozen fingers were ignored!) Slinkies drove my cat crazy. Even I teased him with those. I'm with Bob Hope and "Thanks for the Memories"! I look forward to taking the time to look at those '50s carefully. Thanks, Jack (and whoever sent it to you!)... Bev"

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | Referring to an email to Mike from Patsy & Don Rapp

"Jack -Are you familiar with the term Q.E.D.? It is well known to the ones of

us that major in or took a lot of mathematics. Anyway, a definition from Wikipedia - *Q.E.D.* is an abbreviation of the [Latin phrase "quod erat demonstrandum"](#) (literally, "which was to be demonstrated"). In simple terms, its use is to indicate that something has been definitively proven.*Q.E.D.* may be written at the end of [mathematical proofs](#) to show that the result required for the proof to be complete has been obtained. It is not seen as frequently now as it once was, since formal geometry is less commonly taught as a

separate subject. The term is also used both formally and informally in a wide variety of disciplines, as well as in everyday conversation in many parts of the English-speaking world.

How many times have you plugged the web site in the Newsletter and how big was that opening banner in the last one? See below the message that I just got from Don Rapp.

Don & Patsy Rapp | 53-55/58-60 | **Re: Above**

“Hi Mike -- Barbara Withers and Jack Sissons are visiting at the Chautauqua Institution this week (ciweb.org in case you aren't familiar with it) and they told us

(Don and Patsy Rapp -- we were at the last reunion in May) about the website you have put together.

Last night we visited and want to thank you for all your work. You have truly done an amazing job. I was going to say to you that "you ruined our day" but what that means is that it was so much fun looking through the different parts of the site you have compiled that we had a hard time getting to other things we should do. Thanks again for all your work. We truly enjoyed it!! Patsy and Don {"Clap, Clap, Clap" OK! Everybody up. Are you 70+ year olds finally waking up? Patsy even told me that Don woke up one morning while he was practicing his juggling routine - never dropped a ball. Then asked, "Where did the audience go?" And have the rest of you readers awakened yet to the existence of the Web-site.?jmm}

VISIT YOUR WEBSITE...(fsugymnastics.org)
Enjoy and help Webmaster Mike Mann fill in the blanks

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | **Response to Don & Patsy Above**

“Thanks for the compliments; it is always nice to know that your work is appreciated. However, what I need right now is more active participants, work on the site is pretty well suspended right now because I have run out of material. Bill Beavers, Don Holder, and Jack Miles were great with supplying materials from their scrapbooks photo albums and old Tally Ho's that were the basis for what you currently see.

Now, what I need is for you and others to chip in and lend your old photo albums or scrapbooks to supply the second wave of material. What we have out there right now has only used about three percent of our disk space on the web hosting server so there is room for plenty more. I will take good care of any materials offered, scan them if necessary and return them ASAP along with a CD of any scanned items. I believe you are in Tallahassee, Fran and I live near Wakulla Springs and will meet you about anywhere to make an exchange of material. You can verify the care of materials and swift return with Bill, Don and Jack.” {This need applies to every one of you. This is the greatest chance in your lifetime to leave a legacy for your children, family, and friends.....jmm}

Chick & Jennie Cicio	56 years, 57 in April, 07
Don & Connie Holder	56 years, 57 in August, 07
Benny & Carolyn Wallace	53 years, 54 in May, 07
Carmine & Daneen Regna	51 years,
Jim & Marlene Jackson	50 years, 51 in July, 06
Don & Patsy Rapp	50 years, 51 in November 06
Sam & Tpsi Bailie	50 years, 51 in June 07
Jon & Boots Culbertson	49 years, 50 in June 07
Jay & Ellie Schwarzman	48 years, 49 in September
Jack & Almira Sharp	47 years of marriage
Lennart & Karsthin Malmelin	47 years of marriage
Beverley & Bill Beaton	45 years
Claire <i>Essig</i> & Dick Traynor	44 years of marriage
Nancy <i>Lamb</i> & Bob Durocher	42 years, 43 in Dec. 06
Bill & Carole Beavers	39 years, 40 in July, 07
Dick & Susie Gutting	38 years, 39 in June, 07
Wayne & Heather Thompson	36 years, 37 in January 07
Derek & Nancy Lawler	35 years
Harmer & Magdalena Weichel	34 years
Jimmy & Janie Hanks	27 years, 28 in November 06

From Jack: An Open letter to you or ya'all: Your Newsletter's biggest challenge has always been to stimulate you to send me interesting email when I know full well that many of you don't even connect with your own families and even less with us over the past 50 years.. I keep entering as many stimulating ideas as possible: "I'll never forget", "Tid-Bits", "What are they doing now", "Year's Married", "Emails between friends", "Present Hobbies or Activities", "Bad back Boys", "Human Interest" "A Collective Christmas Card", "Lost Gymnast found", "Immediate Death Notice", "current News Releases", "Interjections of humor, updating mailing lists, Trying not to get too wordy, ANYTHING to stimulate response. And finally, in a way, I can be like a newspaper boy and throw the news onto your doorstep (of course with your permission to use your address). It has been GREAT. Thank you, Jack