

FSU- Gymnastics Statue (A collective thought)

From 23rd Newsletter: (IN THE BEGINNING) 10/04/2006

Ed & Christine Jonas | 69-71 | **Email to Mike Mann, Web master**

"Mike, Just a note to say I really enjoy visiting the site as a past team member and Tumbling Tots' coach, [I was Ron Galimore's first teacher!] Those days spent in Tully and on the road with the FSU team were certainly "golden." Thank you so much for doing this for all of Doc's kids. It seems as though that some sort of marker or permanent remembrance of those days and the programs accomplishment should be on campus! Let's think about this! It's been too long since I was chalked-up. Ed Jonas, team of '69-' 71. {How about a statue of a gymnast -Ed himself - spotting a kid (Ron).....jmm}

Barbara Withers: Another great newsletter! I love that idea of a gymnast statue at FSU- How about it Ed? You would make a great model (and sculptor) - a self-portrait, as it were. It will be the most incredible of all your fantastic statues. Can we commission Ed to do this? We can take up a collection at our next reunion...Love to all, Barbara

Jack Miles: Barb: Taking from Ed's cue I was dead serious about the creation and character of a statue, especially in that we have collectively coached over 100 thousand young people in gymnastics. Ed and Ron are perfect for the subjects. Their reputation, talent, gymnastics experience and connections are unsurpassed. There are too many gymnasts to choose from and too many Tots coaches. This is a great. It could be a wonderful collective effort for our group. It's really what we are all about - A rallying point of the greatest magnitude. Love, Jack

Ed Jonas: Hey guys, nothing would please me more than to do such a project though I would not insist on being the model when we have had such a great history. However, bronze foundry casting is quite pricey, simply to casts a life-size bronze figure with mold cost included will run around 18 to 20 thousand! Ouch! And this does not include the base or artist time. Commercially a life-size bronze with a simple base would fall between 60 to 75 thousand. However, I think that if I reduce my normal fee to just cover costs then we should be able to do something on that scale it for around \$45,000. to \$50,000.

Still, to me and probably you guys, it is a tremendous amount. We can be creative though and design to the resources. Such as a granite obelisk where teams members and years could be inscribed and then on top could be a half-life size bronze. Or a relief which could also greatly reduce the casting costs.

I'm quite open to doing anything you think is possible. It would be great if each donor received a smaller version of whatever is created. Possibilities abound we just have to be creative. Ed Jonas.

Barbara Withers: I'm really excited about the prospect of having a gymnast's statue at FSU. We could also have a champions' plaque with your names & accomplishments, championships, etc. Next to it so everyone would know. Ed is so talented, and I totally agree would be perfect. We need to find out what we need to do to get this done! I'll be glad to spearhead it from this end.

Perhaps we could get FSU to underwrite part of the cost? Payback for the lost trophies? Let's look into this. As for the cost, it is rather high, but hey, our gymnasts are worth it, and we have one of the most talented sculptors in the world in our midst...why not take advantage of it? I like the idea of the miniature copies as well. Let's roll!!!! Love to all, Barbara

Jack Miles: Hi Folks, I too have been very stimulated by this whole concept. I am waiting for more response from others - one/two days. My preliminary thought was Ed kneeling and spotting Ron about to do a back handspring. The money is a huge challenge, but that should not stop us going for the dream. By combining Tots with gymnasts maybe we can get some \$ from the city - even though we would want the statue on FSU campus. There is a natural here with PE and Education when you think of collectively how many kids the Tots and we gymnasts have coached. I know for sure my total is around 3000 gymnasts. Imagine the others we have impacted. Isn't that what education is all about? More later....Jack P.S. After a few weeks I will also contact Carrie Zimmerman soliciting her advice. Jack

Raphael Lecuona: Hi Jack! Wondering what is this about. Perhaps I missed the original reference to it. Please explain. Hope to see you one of these days...Abrazos, Rafles {Sent Raphael a copy of this collection of emails.....jmm}

Larry Bestman: Jack, A noble thought. Where are you going to find the sculptor and the feloose to pay him/her? Larry

Jack Miles: Ed Jonas is a former FSU Gymnast and has sculpted all the bronze statues throughout FSU including bronze busts of the Footballers in the FSU Hall of Fame. He also paints all the reigning Governors of Florida for the Capital. The money is another story - and it's a bundle. More later. Jack

Larry Bestman: Sounding better, Jack. All we need now is feloose/geld/dinero/rupia/yen/gold. Larry

Ed Jonas: Dear Jack and Barbara, I'm glad that there is some excitement about the project, let's gather ideas and think this over. One thing we shouldn't do is to settle on single design concept too soon. A gestation period for different ideas never hurt and we don't want to overlook anyone's input. Basic to the whole effort will be, "what story will this project tell to those viewing it in the future?" We were teachers, performers and athletes in a sport which embraced beauty and aesthetics. By any account, gymnastics is and has always been about dynamic movement! What an opportunity we have here for that statement. Ed

Barbara Withers: Dear Ed, you are so right; there are so many ways to express the beauty of gymnastics, the strength, the coordination, the skills...I know all of our great minds will come up with the perfect way to depict this magic we all possessed so long ago, and to leave an awesome legacy at FSU. Jack, maybe in the next newsletter you could ask for input from all of our gymnasts...Take care, and have a great weekend! Barbara

Jack Miles: Ed, I bow to your artistic brilliancy and Barbara, to your youthful wisdom. I will definitely include in the next Newsletter. Jack.

Mike Mann, Jack -The more I think about it the better I like the idea of a statue of Ed spotting Ron. The first coach of the first black Olympic team member, I think it says a great deal about the program, and the accomplishments of many of our members as former coaches. It also shows that we went just interested in teaching white males the finer points. I will be getting into the Tots archives when I get back and I will pay particular attention to looking for early pictures of Ron that Ed might be able to use.

We have a hell of a lot of talent in this group but unfortunately I don't think we have a single political fund raiser. However, if we could get a mention in the Florida State Times we might be able to attract contributions of folks with fond memories of gymnastics and Gymkana that may not have ever been members. Who knows, we might even turn up a political fund raiser that would lend their talents. Mike

Ed Jonas, Dear Jack, Since we set on this path to establish a permanent marker, of sorts, on campus. It seems to me that the FSU Gymnastic alumni should send an official request to Athletics Director Dave Hart and President T.K. Wetherall to begin an official thorough search for the "lost trophies". If they uncover them - GREAT! But if not, then at least they would have to admit their irresponsible stewardship. If they were discarded, which is such a betrayal of the programs accomplishments, and then we should have it officially confirmed. {I have tried not to disparage the football heads in all of this!}Edward Jonas info@edwardjonas.com

Bill Beavers to Jack Miles: Friday, October 20, 2006, 07:42 PM Jack, the attached photo is from circa 1984. It was Christmas morning and Carol surprised me with this bronze statue by Richard Macdonald. The reason I am sending it is three- fold, 1.It is beautiful and was a hell of a gift from my true love;
2.there is an interesting story behind the gift that related to the reunion in Plant City and the talk of a statue for the FSU team (which is a great idea) I will relay in a future communication with more photos; and
3. The shelf system in the background I made in Tallahassee with the framework being the aluminum from the Fla. Tourism display you drove all around the country. I still have the aluminum which now serves as a framework for some of my power tools in my shop. I never throw anything away! You have been sent 1 picture. Scan196.jpg

Mike Mann to Statue Team, Sunday, October 22, 2006 8:58 PM

OK folks, it is time we got this show on the road! Ed says it is going to cost from \$40,000 to \$80,000 to do a statue, subject and models to be determined at a later time. I have just cleaned out my Money Market account buying my new scooter lift and it may take me six months to restore it but I am going to pledge \$1,000.00 to the FSU Statue Fund. We have about eighty people on just the e-mailing list alone not counting the snail mails and other friends and supporters. If everyone will match my pledge then the thing is paid for and then we only have to worry about the politics of getting it done. If I can come up with \$1,000.00 some of you can come up with \$2,000.00 or more. Let's just do it, damn it! Mike

Bill Beavers to Mike Mann, Sunday, October 22, 2006 9:46 PM Giving credit where it is due! Mike, Re: the photo of Richard MacDonalds bronze "flair"....Good idea to give him credit. He may or may not ever see it, although after writing the little blurb to Jack, I was inspired to make contact with him as Carol & I want to do a California trip, & perhaps we would stop by and see his studio. The other problem that could come up is the International Olympic Federation (for using the 5 rings), but we can worry about that later. Bb

Mike Mann to Statue Team, Sunday, October 22, 2006 9:47 PM I would like to propose, if she will accept, that our Hostess with the Mostess and Accountant Barbara Withers be the collector of funds for the FSU Gymnastics/Gymkana Statue. She can open an interest earning account at a local bank so maybe we might even make a nickel or two on any early deposits. Times a wasting, we are not getting any younger! Mike

Bill Beavers to Mike Mann, Sunday, October 22, 2006 9:59 PM Mike, Your offer is generous and inspirational, but I doubt if many will feel comfortable contributing that amount or more. There may be other ways to approach the funding of such a project. We need to brainstorm! One way may be to get the Alumni Assn to create a mailing list of all Gymkana participants (that are still living) & solicit contributions from a larger group than the gymnasts. We could provide a list of names from the old programs. You never know, there may be some wealthy folks out there. Of course the eventual product would have to perhaps be more inclusive than a focus of the varsity team. Worst case scenario would be to have to name the project for someone (or worse yet a corp.) who pays a big, or the total chunk. Perhaps we would have to set our sights lower, and settle for a bronze plaque or something. Just some thoughts to get the conversation going.....bill

Beverly Cude & Bill Beaton	55-59	Statue story Repeat from 25th Newsletter	10-20-06 (10:51 PM) Statue - 5 Pictures for you – “Jack; Hope these photographs do not bring your computer to its knees! The story about the bronze Carol gave me in the 80's from my previous e-mail was prompted by the collage of the Plant City reunion (which I regrettably did not attend) where I saw what I believe to be one of Richard MacDonald's "flair" bronzes that presumably belongs to Bill R.
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Go to www.richardmacdonald.com and review his site. I believe him to be a modern day Michelangelo! Besides the big bronze of the flair in the introductory portion, go to "Illustrations" where #2 the painting of the "flair" which was commissioned by the L.A. Olympic Committee is shown and #38, which was I believe is Kurt Thomas. Also the bronze for the US Open and Nureyev are interesting.

THE STORY

Around 1982 or 3 when I was coaching the gym team at GA. Tech, I got a call from Richard MacDonald. Said he was an illustrator/painter commissioned to do a gymnastics painting for Pauley Pavilion at UCLA for the upcoming Olympic Games Gymnastics Competition. Richard MacDonald then had a studio near Ga. Tech in Atlanta (Now he is in Monterey). Someone on the Olympic or Host Committee recommended me as a consultant for the work since MacDonald indicated he knew nothing about gymnastics. After we talked, I went to his studio, we talked about the sport and I invited him to our workouts to learn more about gymnastics. From a tour of his studio, it was obvious he was already a very gifted and established artist in illustration, but not other media. What amazed me about Richard was his dedication to learning about the movements, the physics, the strength and grace involved in our sport. He was like a Divinci in his curiosity and research. He attended several workouts. He watched our gymnasts, and I demonstrated some moves to him, especially on the horse, as I was still in some sort of condition then. (Hard to believe now) I believe he also attended some meets! He even studied the FIG rule book and the stick figure illustrations!!!! I was so impressed! I gave him films and videos, which I believe he studied extensively. I'm sure he also studied out of my realm of influence since the eventual subject was the FLAIR, ala Kurt Thomas & I know none of my gymnasts nor I did the flair with any respectability.

He began with charcoal sketches of the flair (see photo of one of the sketches he gave me that hangs in my home), eventually the painting emerged. He also decided to do a clay mock -up of the flair. I went to his studio many times to critique this phase of his work. (I am not responsible for the technical errors, as I was in awe of his work and did not offer much criticism) Eventually he did a bronze casting in a limited edition. I have one of the few (thanks to Carol). We were poor at the time and the purchase was quite a sacrifice. Carol has a great talent for figuring out what I really want out of life, and then she makes it happen! Note the original was on the 5 Olympic Rings. Later, he was not allowed to use the Olympic Rings by the International Olympic Committee, and he used only one ring to mount the "flair" statue in the '90's editions.

I saw Richard once or twice after he moved to Monterey. Once during an exhibit at an Atlanta Studio, and then I was invited to the final stop at a local "exclusive" art gallery reception for the final stop of the "Flair Across America " tour of his 22 foot high sculpture before it was placed at the front entrance to the Georgia Dome where the 1996 Olympic Gymnastics competition was held. It still is there today to greet all the events of the Ga Dome including NFL football games and the upcoming final four in basketball. (See my pics of the statue as it arrived and my statue on the buffet table under the painting for the '84 games.) At the studio celebration Richard indicated my statue had appreciated to around 12-15 k. Carol paid him \$100 a week (all she made at a part time job then) for a total of \$1,500. I do not know what it is worth now, but I imagine it has appreciated, but not as much as my love for Carol.

If I were a wealthy guy that had a terminal illness, I would dedicate the statue to FSU along with all of my original sketches by Richard MacDonald to the FSU Gymnastics Memorial and we would not have to raise any funds. However, I plan to live a few more years, and my heirs may have to hock the beautiful bronze.

Of course that would leave out an equally talented artist, Ed Jonas who I am proud to have briefly coached, and whose work is so outstanding as to be on a par with R.M.

I will never forget when Ed came up to Atlanta a few years ago to do a lecture to the Portrait Painters group. He asked If I would be a model, which (always yearning for recognition) I gleefully accepted. He lectured to the group for more than an hour on techniques for portrait painting without looking at me for more than 5 minutes, and produced a preliminary painting of me that is a great likeness (whether you consider this good or bad is your decision) that I treasure to this day.

So, if we can make this memorial happen, at least I will donate some or all of my original MacDonald sketches to a display at FSU in memory of the great FSU gymnasts. I may have to get permission from RM on this.....more later, bb

You have been sent 5 pictures....P1010436.JPG.....Scan197.JPG.....P1010432.JPG.....Scan198.JPG.....Scan199.JPG

Mike Mann to Statue Team, Sunday, October 22, 2006 11:09 PM., All - My main purpose was, and is, to just things moving and I did mention "friends and other supporters." My \$1,000.00 is still in the bucket and I hope some others will join me but however we do it,I think it is time we get started. It isn't going to happen of it's own accord without some folks out there pushing things up the hill. I don't have enough wind for that type activity but will be happy to supply any web support that I can, we could even set up an additional web site just for the purpose of soliciting a bunch of \$5 and \$10 contributions. We have plenty of disk space and band width as we are and could probably set up a new domain name say "fsu_statue.org" with in the same space provided the Web Hosting service will let us. Maybe folks would be willing to take a year off from their contributions to NPR, Public Broadcasting, and the United Way which, I believe, is cranking up again and put those funds toward the statue whatever the amount. Mike

Ed Jonas to Bill Beavers, Monday, October 23, 2006 10:25 AM, Dear Bill, I really enjoyed your comments and appreciate being compared to Richard McDonald. I do think that he is without doubt one of the leading sculptors working today. If I have any criticism of his work is that we do not get to see enough of it. His knowledge of anatomy is flawless and the side-horse piece is beautiful. As I told you in Atlanta, Carol has one sharp eye for buying art and you are fortunate to have acquired the smaller work.

I am very energized by the excitement I see building and think that with the exceptions of our guys who have been placed in the FSU Hall of Fame, any evidence that Gymnastics and Gymkana ever existed will fade. I do not see any indication that there is interest in restarting a program, which is a national problem on the college level, but if we could be successful with this project at least it would be a constant reminder that it did exist once and was VERY SUCCESSFUL and very little money from the university. It may not restart the program but at least it will not be forgotten and solidifying the idea with a monument would at least keep the idea in

front of them. I get so tired of explaining that I wasn't part of the circus! The "maquette" {term referred to by sculptors as the model for a larger sculpture} that you have is a part of the process and there should be a similar work for our project which could be distributed among our group. Hi to Carol, Ed.

Mike Mann: Monday, October 23, 2006 11:40 AM, Bill & Ed -To add insult to injury, I stumbled across this web site looking for something else (<http://www.gatorzone.com/gymnastics/>) the Gators are touting their women's team and FSU can not field any kind of team. Mike

Barbara Withers, Monday, October 23, 2006 2:59 PM, Mike, I will match your contribution pledge of \$1,000. I can't afford to do it all at once but between now and the time we need to pay for the statue I will have paid in this amount - I like the idea of getting a larger group involved with smaller contributions, i.e., \$5 or \$10 each, and perhaps I should talk to someone at FSU to see if they would send out a mailing for us, or include it in the Florida State Times, also we need to know where the statue could be located on campus, what options we have, etc. and whether or not FSU or the Varsity Club or Alumni office/foundation/boosters would assist with the cost. I will be happy to receive the contributions and set up the account; it occurred to me that if FSU would accept them we and other donors could take a charitable contribution for these funds. Perhaps at the time payment is due we could contribute it to FSU and then they could pay for the statue, thereby accomplishing the contribution deduction for the donors. This is why we probably need to coordinate with FSU: location, approval, mass mailing, status of donation, etc. Y'all let me know who we should contact at FSU? Thanks, Barb

Barbara Murray to Ed Jonas & Bill Beavers, Monday, October 23, 2006 3:11 PM, Now we are getting somewhere. Why not push for the re-establishment of the FSU Gymnastics program????? The statue will be part of the movement...also in looking at the pictures Bev took at the 2002 Plant City reunion(on the web page), I saw the incredible statue Bill Roetzheim had I think called "Flair" - I think he was given it by the International Gymnastics Federation when he retired as a Judge or official, I don't recall exactly. I am so excited about this. Ed, should we get together and figure out WHERE you think it would best be placed on campus? Then we need to approach FSU and get their permission & cooperation in raising the funds and developing the idea, including resurrecting the sport (they are filthy rich with all that football money). Love & hugs to all, Barbara

Mike Mann to Barbara Withers, Monday, October 23, 2006 7:51 PM, OK, the ball is rolling. Now we only need \$38,000 to \$78,000 more, depending on the final price. If you are old and somewhat ill like me you can't take it with you, if you are not ill yet, then it probably won't be too much longer before you are. I am sure your kids, grand kids, and great, great, great grand kids would prefer to see your name on the monument as a contributor when they walked onto the FSU campus fifty or a hundred years from now than to have whatever would be left from what a few hundred dollars would be able to buy. Mike

Jack Miles to Statue Team. Monday, October 23, 2006 9:11 PM, You teammates, Howdy Doody: "Statue Team" communications are increasing. I thank you for keeping me informed. At first I wasn't sure how to handle it..... Include in Newsletter, make comments in the Newsletter.... whatever. I now think it best that I copy and list the communications as I did in the last newsletter. I will keep a running collective dialogue of your communications related to the "statue" and include it as an attachment to the Newsletters. I will also make a collection of all emails/attachments until the team selects a secretary (If need be). This way we will have an email history. Ideas requested, Jack

Jim Fadigan. Monday, October 23, 2006 10:07 PM, Mike: We are so focused on how much we accomplished in one area of our lives - gymnastics and how many people we influenced with our gymnastics. And that we did! But you make it so clear to me that gymnastics was just the tip of the ice burg of the spirit or whatever that fueled all of us. Your "doing" for all of us has humbled me. Your continuing to dedicate yourself to all of us in spite of your illness is so special. I hope Don Holder shares with all of us the same 'whatever' that Jack Sharp shared with him when Don visited with him during his illness. Thanks Mike. Jim

Jim Fadigan, Monday, October 23, 2006 10:21 PM, Mike: We can add the Tots to the group. Many have been quite successful and really know what we are trying to memorialize. Jim

Jim Fadigan to Mike Mann, "Tuesday, October 24, 2006 12:29 AM Mike: The Tots, like my FSU times, extend over a long period. Is there a source of 'all' of the names of the Tots that we can forward to all of us. This might get more of us to contact the Tots we knew and get their support. Jim"

Ed Jonas to Barbara Withers, Tuesday, October 24, 2006 02:24 PM, Dear Barbara, As a follow up to yesterdays caution message, I have been on campus all morning and had a talk with several people most important being Asst. Vice President of Community Relations; Donna McHugh. Donna was very interested in the project and thought that the University will certainly work with us. This would give us our charitable donation tax benefit. And I spoke with her about placing it on the Legacy Walk that TK has been building for the Campus. This is a really fortunate response. So I urge everyone not to contact any other group on campus, at this point, until I have further discussion with Donna. We really do want to come in from the top.

We will also have the assistance of the Master-craftsmanship Program, which is a new concept on campus, in our planning and installation of the base and sculptural elements as well as inscriptions on the base. This unit is a advanced study program directed by a

former classmate [71] and friend Bob Bishoff who has an extensive professional background in architectural ornamentation, and mold making. They are a residency program for post-graduate artists in preparation for the REAL world. A great program and they will be valuable in keeping down our costs.

At this point we need to contact, inform and collect pledges towards our goal. Even corporate sponsorship should be welcome, haven't the manufactures of equipment, clothing etc. benefited from the growth of gymnastics' popularity because of FSU's past teams and Gymkana? If anything Hart was a promoter! And not only we benefited from his efforts. **I'm excited!!!!** Ed Jonas

From Ed Jonas To Barbara Withers , Tuesday, October 24, 2006, 02:27 PM, Barb, Our quick movement on this, I think, just reflects our pride and enthusiasm in being associated with the program. But, I wouldn't wish anyone to feel rushed. At this point I think we should only gather "pledges" of financial support and make sure we contact all who would want to support. Let's see where this takes us, we are off to a good start though. Its very sad to me to walk into the back of Tully Gym and see only the bracket that used to hold the still-rings as the only visual reminder of those days and forget Montgomery Gym as it has been totally renovated into a dance studio. Ed.

From Bill Beavers to Ed Jonas, Tuesday, October 24, 2006 3:05 PM, Ed, Great work... I doubt if any of the old equip. manufacturers are still in business (Nissen & AMF, or if any of he present honchos of whatever corporate entity that took them over would remember us, or could benefit from such an endorsement. I am going to casually mention this project to Terry Morris, who is in charge of entire national real estate program for GMAC. Although the parent company is tanking, this branch is doing well & it would be good PR for them. Also Home Depot may be approachable as they do so much for Olympic bound athletes in terms of employment and time off for practice and competition & etc. Just some thoughts....bill

Barbara Withers to Ed Jonas, Tuesday, October 24, 2006 3:57 PM –“ Dear Ed, this is wonderful news. It certainly would be easier to get sponsors with the university's involvement for the charitable donation and I really like your approach with the Legacy Walk and the Master-craftsmanship program. It is in your hands (no pun intended) for now...Thanks so much, we are all excited!! Barbara”

Jack Miles, Tuesday, October24, 2006, 07:46 PM, Howdy: FYI: As of this date I have twenty-one intercommunicating emails between you guys and gals relating to the statue. Great stuff...Jack

Mike Mann, Tuesday, October 24, 2006 8:18 PM I just got a promise of a contribution from some I use to work with that also happens to be a friend of Ed's. I passed on a couple of the e-mails and she is excited about seeing an idea come to life and take wings! The FSU Charitable contribution will be a big help for maybe a bigger contributions. It can be done! Mike