

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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Benny & Carolyn Wallace | **51-55** | **Rickshaw ride**

“Jack, I recently came across this letter that I wrote to a friend who had asked me why we spend so much time and money on travel. This was my answer:

Sometimes a single event can profoundly alter the course of one's life. It happened to me and my wife, Carolyn, one night in Singapore more than thirty years ago.

We were there on leave from my base in southern Japan. With us outside our hotel were our two teenagers and a fellow fighter pilot and his wife. Our plan was to hire rickshaws to the famous Raffles Hotel for dinner. I did the mandatory good-natured bargaining for my little group and we prepared to depart. For some reason our friends didn't like the price, or the process in general, and decided not to go. So Carolyn and I piled into one rickshaw and our son and daughter into another and off we went, laughing into the night. We had a fine dinner in the wonderful old hotel and returned the same way. It was a magic night; the shadows cast by the full moon, the exotic smells of the tropics and the four of us healthy, happy and together in such a lovely setting was to become one of our most treasured memories, but for a different reason than we knew at the time.

Soon after our return to Japan our friend was killed when he crashed on takeoff. He left his wife and two young children. Of course they had no way of knowing what fate had in store for them just days after they passed up that rickshaw ride, but the lesson was not lost on me and my wife. Now, after all of the years and hundreds of "rickshaw rides", we often think of that night and what we learned.

Anytime we hesitate and think that something is too expensive, daring or different, one of us will ask the other if we should do it. The answer always comes quickly: "Yes, always take the rickshaw ride!" Now in our seventies, we don't know how many "rickshaw rides" we have left but we don't intend to miss a single one. Benny C. Wallace I”

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	51 years, 52 in July, 07
Don & Patsy Rapp	51 years, 52 in November 07
Sam & Topsi 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 Malmlin	47 years of marriage
Beverley & Bill Beaton	45 years
Claire Essig & Dick Traynor	43 years of marriage
Nancy Lamb & 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	28 years, 29 in November 07

Harmer & Magdalena Maggie Weichel | **48-53/59-61**

“Jack, thanks for the meeting photo. I would not have recognized anyone w/o the name list. 50 years! Holy (@#\$%&&) but time flies and screws all of us. I'm sure I would be a mystery person in a photo also. I'm trying to get the second part of my bio ready but I'm a lazy rascal and I'm pissed off at my pc. Harmer”

{Harmer: Get your finger out of your..... ear canal and start hunting and pecking on the bio... I laughed out loud at your email. I have the advantage of watching most of us wither away and my eyes are weaker anyway. So they all look the same to me. – which can be read both ways). When you are in their company the years apart disappear in a flash. Get your famous discipline together. The PC is just a machine, get pissed off at yourself. (The truth be known I'm really pissed off at myself for not getting this cottage of mine back together after "Wilma") Be comforted with the encouraging news that some parts of you are still younger than other parts...jmm}

Howard “Beans” Stephens | **Early 50’s** | **Re: Finding our “lost” Teammate 24th Newsletter**

“Jack, I really appreciate your response to my email. It was good to hear what has been going on with the gymnastic group from FSU. I also thank you for your kind remarks about staying at my Mother's home and enjoying her cooking. She was a jewel. Thanks again, Howard Stephens”

Jack Miles | 50-58 | Getting ready for Halloween

{ True story } Yesterday, I dragged myself exhausted into the house after helping a friend put up sixty feet of chain link fencing in 90 degree weather and I really needed a bath. I still had on the ragged straw hat that I wear when I work in the burning Florida sun. I took off one work shoe and sock before I struggled through the process of getting out of my sweaty dirty & soiled clothes without realizing I had not taken off the other shoe yet. So I sat down half naked and began to untangle myself. Put my hat back on to carry it to the closet in the other room

Then the phone rang in another part of the house. I always feel weird talking to someone on the phone when naked (besides it might have been Jamile) so I grabbed and wrapped myself in my house robe (the drapes were open) I couldn't find the belt for the robe so I strapped myself in the big leather work belt I had just taken off. Rushing to catch the call, I hobbled past the window to the phone with one clumping boot trapped in my underwear and Levi's. I couldn't find my glasses to read the caller ID notice to see if it was a sales pitch or a friend. So I picked up the phone, and asked cautiously, "Hello?", as I continued past a full length wall mirror.

What I saw staring back at me was this very sad sight indeed. A weathered half-naked 77 year, soiled, old man in a battered and torn straw hat, one sock and work shoe off, his pants and underpants down around one ankle, dressed in a house coat wrapped with a well worn leather carpenters belt - complete with a hammer loop, squinting into the mirror because he couldn't find his glasses.

This image scared the hell out of me. Oh my God, I thought, I have become one of **them**.... Those "old geezers who live next door where kids are afraid to stop on Halloween".....So, unlike, one of my Latino teammates, I decided to close the drapes.. FYI -. (It was a wrong number).

Howard "Beans" Stephens | 50 | Re: Finding our "lost" Teammate 24th Newsletter

"Jack, I really appreciate your response to my email. It was good to hear what has been going on with the gymnastic group from FSU. I also thank you for your kind remarks about staying at my Mother's home and enjoying her cooking. She was a jewel. Thanks again, Howard Stephens"

Barbara Sheehan Withers | 54-62 | "Reunion" accident

{ I was very surprised when I learned of an accident at one of our reunions that I missed. Where several gymnasts were hurt...So I asked Barbara to tell me about it...jmm }

"Well, as I recall, Bev was taking a picture of everyone and they were lined up in front of a built-in deck bench I used to have, with a wooden back to it. Some of the guys in the back row fell backwards when it gave way - and crashed down from the deck to the ground - it was so frightening, as they didn't move for a while, we didn't know how serious it was. I called Life Flite and the first responders arrived and then a helicopter soon came, landed where the little shotgun house is now (used to be my driveway) and took them to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. We drove in and went from room to room in the Emergency Room - as I recall, it was Don and Joe (and my friend Dick) who were hospitalized but I think they were all discharged and made it to the dinner at the Brown Derby - we ended up staying in town at the Executive Suites after dinner - I am sure Don and Joe can give you more details. I felt so badly since it was my bench that gave way - afterwards I had the benches removed and a new deck built. Don's back was really hurt, I feel terrible about that!"..... "There were some injuries from the deck accident, actually it was a bench built into the deck that gave way during a picture taking session...had to call Life Flight - Don Holder, Joe Gusic, my friend Dick, were all airlifted to the E.R. at TMH - later we all went to the banquet at Brown Derby"

Beverly Cude & Bill Beaton | 55-59 | "Reunion" accident

"And I have something to add to this...I am the guilty party who set up this terrible accident. I was the one to ask all friends nearby to sit on the bench and/or perch on the railing for a group picture. At the very instant that they were asked to "smile", the railing collapsed and these very special people fell backwards and down from that height, along with the wood, to the unforgiving ground below! We were horrified, and frightened for the fallen fellows. Waiting for help was agonizing. When the helicopters took off, we followed by car for the long, tense trip to the hospital to learn more about their conditions. To find that our friends, while very sore, had been given a favourable prognosis was a relief, to say the least. Don has even managed to add an element of humour to his helicopter trip. I leave it to him, for those who have not yet heard his tale, to ask him to recount it at the next reunion! I have regretted ever since having asked for that photograph. Future requests will be carefully evaluated! Bev" {Fortunately, Bev and Barbara, gymnasts have all learned to drop like floating leaves from a tree in fall landing gently on the grass excuse the Wallace type "fall" pun.....actually I cringed when I thought of Holder hitting the sand on his ever painful back.....jmm }

Don & Connie Holder | 51-57 | Re. email to Bill Beavers' "Wakulla"

"Bill, Great letter concerning Wakulla. I enjoyed reading it. Reminds me of the many days Scotty and I dove together. As a neophyte, I was enthralled with the springs. We dove through the hole at 33ft to show off for the on lookers. Not long after, Jack and I watched as Scotty was pulled up to the surface feet first. Still have that picture, a sad loss of life at an early age. Best to Carol, Don"

Bill & Carole Beavers | 57-58/60-61 | Response to "Wakulla" above

"Don, I remember so well going through that hole! When I got my first UW camera, I took some photos of Raphael & Mike Mann and others going through it. I remember going to 75 ft on a free dive near at that ledge and feeling that was my absolute limit & feeling lucky to have made it especially having heard of Scotty and others pushing their limits.

He was a legend (through Jack and others) as a adventuresome individual and a great person even to us "newcomers" in later years. I was always proud to have made the list of the Scott Stanton Award. Bill"

Beverley Cude & Bill Beaton | 55-59 | **"Reunion" accident** | "...same old problem, Jack. I can't open your 24th (or some previous ones) newsletter on either Bill's laptop or his old clunky IBM. He even has Microsoft Word installed. It seems that the problem is with those that arrive as attachments. They get past the download option only to fail at the "Open" command. {This has happened with other Newsletter Recipients...jmm} would you mind sending it to me as an ordinary file, along with the new address list, please...but only when and if you have the time. {Done...jmm}

I was delighted to see that you have found Jan *Eberly* Anastasado. In August of the year I was to start at FSU, I received an advance "welcome" letter. It was from Jan. It was a wonderful gesture which provided this apprehensive Canadian (recognized only as an 'alien' by the US Customs service) with a sense of actually "knowing" someone in this unknown environment for which I was bound. It'll be a real treat to see her again. Have a good weekend. Bev" {Wasn't that nice of Jan to send that letter?...jmm}

Barbara Sheehan Withers | 54-62 | **Newsletter Barbara to Jan..... From an old friend from FSU Gymnastics** | "Dear Jan, I have been hoping to see you again at the reunions we have had since Ft. Lauderdale, and now that we have found you again, please plan to come to our next one which will be at my beach house at Alligator Point (40 miles south of Tallahassee) - plan to stay with me, I have plenty of room...put the dates on your calendar - next Memorial Day weekend - May 25-26-27-28, 2007. You would remember me as Barbara Murray, but I use Barbara Withers now - we did drill team & other stuff together in the Gymkana shows, and I tried out for the 1956 Olympics with Bev Cude and Boots Nesselrod - I have some pictures of all of us together on the drill team! Hope to see you soon. Barbara"

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | **Re. Email to Bill Beavers** | "Jack - In looking around at some things tonight I finally realized that the "1950 Moonlight Bay" Gymkana Program you sent me actually had a photo of the 1949 Varsity Team. So I now have photos of all the teams, now if I can just fill in the names. I believe I can recognize the Regna twins can either of you fill in the blanks or if you can't but agree on the Regnas, contact them to see if they can supply the names.

OBTW, none of the Tally Ho's that I picked up from Don and Patsy Rapp (1952-1955) have a single photo of Dick Gutting in Sammy Seminole getup. Nor have the Gutting's contacted me from your e-mail so I am still without in that area. Mike"

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | 57-67 | **Re. Email to Bill Beavers** | "..... the annuals that I picked up from Don and Patsy Rapp today. Check out the "court member" on page two that indicated she had an interest in Drama by the name of Faye Dunaway. Mike

Bill & Carole Beavers | 57-58/60-61 | **Response to "Wakulla" above** | "There are several pics of Faye in one of the yearbooks I loaned you. I remember Joe Gusic was madly in love with her. Bb"

{Ed. note: Faye Dunaway is my ex wife Bess' only cousin and was from Greenwood, Florida out in the booney's of the Florida Pan-Handle near Two Egg where Bess's family lived. Now that is the real "Country"....jmm}

Beverley Cude & Bill Beaton | 55-59 | | "Good Morning Jack, Over the weekend I meant to drop you this note, but it seems something always got in the way....it was pretty busy around here. I did take your advice and check you out on the FSU site....there it all was, and easy to open. {I told her that was the best way to get copies of the past Newsletters and that copies could be made from that site...jmm} Thank you for sending the personal copies, though....having seen that you get 80 e-mails a day, I appreciate that you took the time (let alone find the time to do so)! Said web site is growing by leaps and bounds and is fascinating...I get "lost" in it, literally, for over an hour when I get into it....what a feat Mike has accomplished...as have you compiling all the information you send in the ever-welcome newsletters. Even not knowing many of the people who write makes for interesting reading, knowing that there is a connection, albeit intangible, there.

I must add that I get many giggles from your own 'jmm' comments at the end of some of them....you are funny (and I mean that as a compliment, not in any other way the word 'funny' could be interpreted). I, and I'm sure many, enjoy your comments...

Talk to you again soon, Your Canadian friend (this one anyway), Bev " {Bev. I know what you mean about "funny". I am funny Ha! Ha! and some say that Larry Bestmann is.....well....."Funny".jmm}

Bill & Carole Beavers | 57-58/60-61 | **Response to pictures I forwarded of a huge moose which crashed through a cars windows** | "Jack. I will always remember the sound of the impact, and damage done by the cow (bull) to your car somewhere along the West Coast (Fla. that is) when You, Muriel, Nancy and I went to Sanibel in the late '50's. If your car could have gone faster & you weren't such a good and alert driver, we would not be here to remember! Bb"{Muriel is Muriel Davis Grossfeld - Bruce's sister, Nancy is Nancy Harrison Troutman.....The bull was a Brahma and when down on his haunches it's horns were higher than the car roof - it was huge. It had to be killed by a Highway Patrol Deputy. The country road ran through a farmer's fenced land which was over a mile on each side of the road. The Officer at the scene talked to the side of the road to the owner of a pick-up who had driven up to the crash scene and then informed me that no one knew who owned the unlawfully loose bull so I would have to pay for my own repair to the car. The Sheriffs Department got an anonymous load of steaks for that favor that's a safe bet....jmm}

Bill & Carole Beavers | 57-58/60-61 | **Re. News Release about Wakulla Springs -**

Please Review in accompanying email letter {Re: Springs being replumbed! Separate emailing this date...jmm}

"Mike, This incident is interesting but not surprising to me based upon the circumstances surrounding the body recovery in the '60's that You Jack and I participated in. (See Jack's account in the Argosy article).

As I recall, Little Dismal Sink (now renamed) was only approx. 400 ft. from the mouth to the "dead end" which was a pile of sand, dirt

and limestone with a tiny opening at the top that was too small to get through with SCUBA gear. I remember this as we were trying to map the springs we had visited during that time period, and when we arrived to do the body recovery, Jack and I talked about how easy it would be since the victims should be in a very confined area. To our surprise, the "sink, spring" or whatever, was now opened up and much different than we remembered from our last dive (which was during the previous Summer). Incidentally, there were very heavy rains that winter (even for Tallahassee), so, as I recall after talking to Bill Reeves and other geologist, the theory then was that the aquifer expanded and contracted depending upon erosion, dilution of the limestone and other minerals, and traumatic events like quickly forming sink holes that left the tell -tale "mounds" in the aquifer and springs we explored. Enough of this historical and theoretical stuff! Thanks for the news Mike! May the new scientist find rewards and publications in trying to figure out this new mystery! Bill"

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you sent me actually had a photo of the 1949 Varsity Team. So I now have photos of all the teams, now if I can just fill in the names. I believe I can recognize the Regna twins can either of you fill in the blanks or if you can't but agree on the Regnas, contact them to see if they can supply the names.

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Harmer & Magdalena Maggie Weichel | 48-53/59-61 | **The Amish**

"Jack, since you sent me the Amish article which I forwarded to several friends. , I thought you might find this article also inspiring. Peace, Harmer" {See attachment..."What the Amish are teaching America"...jmm}

Beverly Cude & Bill Beaton | 55-59 | **Statue story**

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 MacDonalds "flair" bronzes that presumably belongs to Bill R.

Go to www.richardmacdonald.com and review his site. I believe him to be a modern day Michallangelo! 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

Bill & Carole Beavers | **57-58/60-61** | **Lost Gymnast Don Hervig Found** “ Jack, I finally found Don Hervig’s phone number and address. I will call him this weekend and send you his e-mail address, and also get him in touch with Mike for any photo’s he may have of himself as Sammy Seminole. His address is 154 Bell Memorial Dr., Estill Springs, TN 37330”

{ Wonderful news, 10/29, “Don has been in Texas for a week, so am just getting in touch with him. His e-mail is don@hervig.com.

Ph is 931 967-7935. He will look for old Sammy Seminole photos for you Mike. He will be in Atlanta for Christmas. He has not been in touch with any of the team members of his era, so no new contacts for the list.

Going to Beaufort, SC for the weekend and a race & some R&R for Carol. later. bb” {Have a successful trip, Bucky....jmm}

Jack Miles | **50-58** | **Ed Jonas Web-site** If you want to see some great works of art then pull up (www.info@edwardjonas.com)

On your computer. If you didn’t already know Ed, our FSU teammate, is a world renown sculpter.... You will be proud....jmm