

FSU Gymnasts, Gymkana, Tallahassee Tumbling Tots, and Friends Newsletter, April 2010
(Fifty-Second Edition) jackmmiles@bellsouth.net

“Once teammates, always teammates” by Charlie Christian.

Visit your Web-Sites <fsugymnastics.org><tallahassee tumblingtots.org> Mike Mann, Webmaster
 (Which also includes all back copies of the FSU Gymnastics Newsletters)

FSU Gymnastics Records (<http://www.nolefan.org/summary/index.html>) Robert Perrone, Webmaster

ANNIVERSARIES

Chick & Jennie Cicio	60 years, 61 in April, 11	Claire Essig (& Dick) Traynor	43 years of marriage
Don & Connie Holder	59 years, 60 in August 10	Nancy Lamb & Bob Durocher	45 years, 45 in Dec. 10
Benny & Carolyn Wallace	56 years, 57 in May 10	Dick & Susie Gutting	41 years, 43 in June, 10
Carmine & Daneen Regna	55 years, 56 in August 10	Bill & Carol Beavers	42 years, 43 in July, 10
Jim & Marlene Jackson	54 years, 54 in July, 10	Terri & Cheri Morris	43 years, in 2010
Don & Patsy Rapp	55 years, 56 in May 10	Wayne & Heather Thompson	40 years, 41 in January 11
Sam & Topsy Bailie	53 years, 54 in June 10	Derek & Nancy Lawler	36 years, 37 in 2010
Jon & Boots Culbertson	52 years, 53 in June 10	Gail & Bill Whitney	37 years, 39 in August 10
Jay (& Ellie) Schwarzman	50 years of marriage	Harmer & Magdalena Weichel	37 years, 38 in December 10
Roger & Tamara Tucker Webb	52 years, 53 in November 10	Andy Anderson & Curtiss Long	35 years, 36 in December 10
Almira (& Jack) Sharp	48 years of marriage, October	Joe & Dottie Taylor	32 years, 33 in September 10
Karsthin (& Lennart) Malmlin	47 years of marriage	Jimmy & Janie Hanks	31 years, 31 in November 10
Beverley & Bill Beaton	49 years, 50 in Sept. 10	Thom & Linda O'Conner	30 Years, 31 in May 10
Yoshi & Haruyo Hatano	45 Years, 46 in Oct. 10	Carrie Englert & Curtis Zimmermann	29 Years, 30 in 2010

Plan to attend the 2010 reunion – Five - Six weeks away
Friday May 21, Saturday May 22 and Sunday May 23, 2010
At Barbara Withers' Alligator Point Beach Home

{Sorry about the long delay getting the Newsletter out again. Computer crash, (826 messages) phone out, mind spacing, operatin, duplicator down and recession spin-out caused delay.....jmm}

Don & Connie Holder | 51-57 | Very Sad News

“Just received a call from Rafael Lecuona that Juanito Lopez has died, don't know much more, Don” ..{At the 2002 Reunion in the Tampa, Clearwater area,

Juanito hosted all of us at his house, boarding some of us in his elaborate home and in an adjoining home and then wined and dined forty or so of us at a waterfront Dining Hall. It was an enormous gesture for the love and caring he felt when he first came to FSU.

His life story would make a great book & movie. A Readers Digest version would read that as a young college student in Cuba he was arrested for protests against Batista's government and thrown into and tortured in prison. After his release he fled Cuba by Tanker Ship to Mexico where he hitchhiked alone over land all the way to Tallahassee arriving broke and searching for his gymnastic friends, the Lecuona brothers. Sleeping here and there on couches and on the floor in the homes of the gymnasts who shared their food with him, he entered FSU in the pursuit of a Medical degree. He got work in the medical labs and worked out with the team. He always had a love for Bull Fighting and taught several of the guys how to twirl and use the bull fighters' cape. He performed his skills with the cape in front of the audience in one of the Gymkana shows. He also competed for FSU and when we and he graduated and moved on. He continued his studies in England eventually receiving his Doctors Degree in Medicine. He set up his own business and resided in Switzerland where he followed his passion and became the President of the International Bullfighting Association. Just prior to the Reunion he sailed his new Sailboat from the Mediterranean across the Atlantic to Tampa Bay. He then settled down with his wife and retired but later he moved and we lost track of him...until now. My Son Chad has hanging in his room - and cherishes - a large stuffed Barracuda that Juanito caught on his journey across the Atlantic and later presented to Chad.

There are many of you with more and better stories about Juanito. Please feel free to send them to me for your Newsletter for publication.....With God's blessings, we love you, Juanito.

Joe Greene | 59-61 | From California

"Jack, I am still in CA and just talked to Rick Miller. He is doing fine and hoping that both of us can make it to Barbs for the up coming reunion. I will be going back to Gainesville at the end of April, and back here in early June. Can't take the heat in FL any more. Joe Greene"

Bill & Carol Beavers | **57-61/69-70** | **Re. Nature pictures he sent to me**

“Jack, Thought you would enjoy some of these photos. Terry Morris is a big supporter of the Nature

Conservancy and he got us involved, so we are on their list. I hope you are all doing great. I really enjoyed hearing from Chad around the holidays. I am still working on our new river retreat...{Bill is building a beautiful cabin on the clear Wacissa River....jmm}and trying to get back in shape for kayak competition. I last raced in October and the weather has kept me from training since. May go to the Wakulla race in two weeks. Love, Bill” {Gads! I wish I had some shoulders left to join him Kayaking but I left them on the rings in some Gym someplace....jmm}

Stan Levin & Irv Rudley | **Stu Goldbergs childhood friend from Philly – avid Acrobats and balancers**

“Hi gang ...haven't spoken to you for a

while ...had a brief phone conversation with our man stu this morning ... even got a few words in edgewise if you can believe it ...today he did not sound like a sick man he was very upbeat and positive ...there is an ongoing problem with his infected right leg and he continues to deal with treating that with various medications ...his friends have been fantastic ... he is eating well from a full refrigerator ...I appreciate all you are doing to help him along ...write you again if I have any news ...blue skies to you all Stan”
{Latest from Stu.....jmm}Not a good day for me otherwise, am heading back to New Haven, Conn. Monday night or Tuesday AM. My niece Terri, my sister's daughter and my last close living relative, just committed suicide. She was 50, a nurse now teaching at Yale U., doing very well, recently bought her own home, married to a great guy, Brian, a doctor, and they were getting back together after a brief separation. They have two wonderful kids, about 21, 22 or 23, both paired off and excelling, travelling the world and getting ahead. Very well educated. I almost dropped the phone when Brian called me a few hours ago. He has a lot of air miles, so is arranging a ticket for me. Stu”

Barbara Sheehan Withers | **54-62** | **Re. WWII, Pacific Theater war photos emailed to her**

“This really tears me up - my Dad was a Marine and I'm sure he had

similar thoughts on Iwo Jima which is why I have never bought a Japanese car. I just finished reading a book about this area of the world (Three Cups of Tea) and it is unbelievable the conditions to which our military forces are subjected - for what? These people don't like us, don't want us, don't ever plan to stop fighting each other. Thanks for sharing this very informative message. Barbara”

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

“Mr. Miles: A friend from Curlew Job Corps Center Therrelly Worsley

& I were using Google on different web sites when we happened to read some of your articles (See Attached, Pg. 3/4 & 4/4) and recognized the name of one of my instructors/teachers from Curlew Job Corps Center, Mr. Harmer Weichel. Excellent teacher, remarkable human being, excellent friend, is how I describe Mr. Harmer Weichel.1966 Curlew Job Corps Center, I was at the time 17 years old trying to find my way & place in life when I decided to sign up in the job corps to get my GED and a vocational trade which I did both. Graduated with a Heavy Equipment Repair and Diesel Mechanic Certification & my GED. I would like to thank Mr. Harmer Weichel for his teaching, advice, guidance and patience which helped me find my way in life and become a productive member of society. I wanted to share my thoughts and memories with you and if you can relay this e-mail and pictures to Mr. Harmer Weichel, I will appreciate it. This is to let him know that he did a lot of good things in life. I thank you Mr. Harmer Weichel for all your teaching, help and support..... Kindly my Best Regards. Carlos P. Tejada 10000 Richmond carlos.tejada@sbcglobal.net Houston, Tex. 77043 Office: 713-346-7145 Home 281-579-0377 Fax: 713-935-8044 e-mail: carlos.tejada@nov.com”

Harmer & Magdalena Maggie Weichel | **48-53/59-61** | **4/15/10 email response to above**

“Jack, this is a real surprise and joy to find out one is remembered for being

a positive influence on some one's life. It has been 45 years and I don't remember Carlos and I don't know what I did or said that stuck with him. The photo was taken during a mountain hike on which I took several students. A lot of those kids had never been hiking and it was one way to broaden their life experiences. So my life hasn't been one of complete nerdiness, dumb stuff and poor judgments. I have emailed Carlos and thanked him for his kind thoughts.. And thank you!”

Joe Greene | **59-61** | **From California**

" Jack, I am still in CA and just talked to Rick Miller. He is doing fine and hoping that both of us can make it to Barbs for the up coming reunion. I will be going back to Gainesville at the end of April, and back here in early June. Can't take the heat in FL any more. Joe Greene”

Beverley Cude & Bill Beaton | **55-59** | **Getting ready for the Reunion**

“Welcome back, Jack! Having heard from Mike a short while ago that you could receive but not send, I had

intended to write to say hi and that I speak for many that you have been missed. Did I do that? No, so I must plead guilty. I can say that your 51st newsletter and your determination to keep it going is appreciated. As always, thank you! Next month is another reunion. See you then, eh? Big hug from one of your northern neighbours,Bev :-)”

Ron Munn | **Former World Class Trampolinist and Team member on 1955 Pan-Am Team** | **Re. George Nissen's Death**

"On 4/8/10 1:45 PM, Ronmunn102@aol.com wrote: "Hello Everyone...We are saddened to report that George Nissen passed away Wednesday, April 7th at 7:10 pm here in San Diego (The cause was complications related to pneumonia). It was a peaceful passing and the entire family was in attendance at his bedside. We know all of you send your thoughts and prayers to his wife Annie and daughters Dagmar and Dian. No plans have been made yet for any memorial or services, but we will let you know if any such arrangements are made. Many of you may wish to call or respond to this news, but it would be appreciated if you would wait until after the weekend is over, to allow the immediate family to have personal time. Thank you, Ron & Dagmar Munn"

Abraham I. Grossfeld | **Olympian and legendary & famous Gymnast** | **Re. George Nissen's Death**

[<grossfelda1@southernct.edu>](mailto:grossfelda1@southernct.edu)

Abie also passed along the news about George's death and for those who would like Abie's email address I have included it here {George Nissen was a gentle soft spoken man who has done so much for gymnastics and Trampolining. I can see him now, very late in life, pressing up into a handstand on the speakers table at a convention. He inspired us all and left our world a better place due to his dedication and inspiration and love of gymnastics and acrobatics.....jmm}.

Jim & Arlene Fadigan | **52-56/58-62** | **Re. Email from Mike** | **George Nissen**

"Way back in the summer of '59, I was doing an internship at the V. A. Hospital in Gulfport, Miss.

George came to open one of those 'pit trampoline centers' he was heavily promoting at the time. We had dinner and he arranged for me to meet with Judy Wills and her mother (stage Mom). The rest was magic. Judy was the cutest, little bundle of acrobatic talent I had ever met. The rest of the summer was filled with opening additional, centers, doing numerous exhibitions at the centers with Judy and on occasion George. Lots of fun, meals on George, and so many just plain special moments to share, laugh, eat and perform.

What great memories we all have due to gymnastics giving us the chance to meet and share with so many special 'characters' and George was one of the most special of the special. Jim Fadigan"

Bill & Carol Beavers | **57-61/69-70** | **Re. Email from Mike** | **George Nissen**

"The thing I remember most about George was at the NCAA coaches banquet at each years

championships during the 70's and 80's. Of course he was always there to give out the Nissen Award for the year's outstanding male Gymnast, and he would always press a handstand before the award. He must not have piged out on the banquet meal like I always did, and he must not have had acid reflux either! Bill"

Carrie Englert & Curtis Zimmerman | **TTT** | **Re. Email from Mike** | **George Nissen**

"Hey Mike. I appreciate you informing all of us of Mr. Nissan's passing. During

the 2008 Summer Olympics in China, trampoline was an exhibition sport. Mr. Nissen was in attendance and able to see his "invention" validated as an Olympic activity.

The man was as sharp as a tack. I introduced myself to him as Carrie Englert who trained with Dick Mulvihill (a dear friend, and often times, business partner of his). He looked me in the eyes and said, "You're the lassie from Tallahassee." He then laughed. I was amazed. I hadn't competed in gymnastics since 1977 and had only met the man once in my life in Eugene, Oregon. We could all only be so lucky. I did tell Mr. Nissen that Coach Mulvihill had me test his new concept for rubber uneven parallel bars back in the early '70s. They were wonderful until I did a double full hecht (spelling?) dismount and the bar filleted my thighs. I literally had all of the skin removed on the front of my legs. He laughed once again, and noted that Dick had mailed him a picture of my bloody legs with a note that said, "this may not be a good idea."

Anyway. Ya'll are an amazing group of people to always share such a vibrant past...so many years later. CarrieEnglert Zimmerman"

Jim & Arlene Fadigan | **52-56/58-62** | **George Nissen**

"Hi All: Talk about coincidence (read Roots of Coincidence by Koestler); Trampoline took me from a confused kid in H. S. to FSU to

meeting George to a couple of advance degrees to an assumed 'expert' in (get this for a kid who couldn't spell) Psychometrics to Washington & writing guidelines for testing to **Eugene Oregon** to meet and work with a couple of the leading Psychometricians - the Meekers (Structure of Intellect, the SOI people).

Isn't it interesting how some people just coalesce things - like George! In his death he's given a little life fire back to all of us. Without him I wouldn't be back in touch with all of us responding. Jim F"

Terry & Cheri Morris | **66-70** | **Re. Email from Mike**

“Thanks for passing this on, Mike. I did not know George Nissan personally as many of you surely did. I recall jumping at trampoline parks when I was a kid in Jacksonville, FL. The park eventually went out of business after a couple of years. The trampolines were mounted at ground level over holes in the ground and were lined up in rows. We loved riding our bikes to the park when we could raise enough money, something we never seemed to have much of, to actually jump.

Trampoline competition was eliminated from college competition, at least at FSU, around 1970 or a little earlier, as I recall. Steve and Vince Tracy both competed on the trampoline at FSU while it was still a competitive sport. Performers from the FSU Flying High Circus were periodic users of the Tully Gym trampoline during our gymnastics workouts, typically working on stunts for transfer to the trapeze. Hope you are doing OK. Best regards to all, Terry {Morris}

Yoshiro & Haruyo Hatano | **60-61** | **Professor Emeritus**

“Dear Jack: I want to tell you how much I appreciate your sending the FSU Gymnastics website information to me, as I lost the FSU Gymnastics contact e-mail address when I retired from the last teaching position 2 years ago. I am glad that you are within my reach via e-mail address, though I do not think I can come to Florida for this year's FSU Gymnastics Reunion occasion in May. Please keep contacting my e-mail address. Yoshiro Hatano, Ph. D.(FSU graduate student 1960-1961 from Japan) 4-37-24 Fujimidai, Kunitachi City, Tokyo, JAPAN 186-0003 Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Gakugei University”

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | **57-67** | **Where is Yoshi?**

“Jack -There was no address, is it still? (yhatano@phoenix.ac.jp) {NO see correct email address next email below...jmm} since he said he has retired? The reason I ask is that I have sent several E-mails, some with attachments to that address and had no reply or other indication of having received my messages. Would love to see him again, sorry he can't make the reunion. He was one hell of a guy. We made at least two trips to Georgia Southern together.

One of my dad's favorite sayings was that "You need to eat lot's of rice like the Japanese, you never heard of them getting heart attacks!" When we stopped by our house in Monticello on the way back from one of those trips my dad said that to Yoshie. Yoshie said, "Oh not true, they are dropping like flies in Japan from heart attacks." (Oh course, you didn't hear about that in Monticello.)
Mike

Yoshiro & Haruyo Hatano | **60-61** | **Response to Mike from Yoshi**

”Mike Greetings. I thank you for your contacting me, nevertheless my laziness in communicating with you and all the FSU gymnasts in the recent days. My only correct current e-mail address yhatano@mist.ocn.ne.jp and my only correct current postal address is:4-37-24 Fujimidai, Kunitachi City, Tokyo, JAPAN 186-0003. Please throw away all other old addresses.

You are so kind in inviting me to stay at your home whenever I can be in your area. I can't discuss about the possibility of travelling to Florida at this moment, but your kind suggestion certainly makes me to think about. When you meet with the FSU gymnastic friends this year, please send my regards. This year I am scheduled to visit Doha, Qatar in May for an international conference of physical education in which I am to present couple of lectures. In October I am invited from Guam Island government for walking enhancement event. Other than these everyday is more or less a retirement life with lots of daily exercises.

Please tell me about your life recently when you hve a chance to send another e-mail. Best wishes Yoshiro Hatano

Steven Zindell | **66-68** | **Re: Email to Mike Mann**

<szindellacutecare@yahoo.com>“Hi Mike, It certainly was fantastic to take a stroll down memory lane (you did a fantastic job) and see all of the guys I competed with in '66, '67, and '68. Additionally, thank you for the wonderful commentary on Coach Price and Coach Beavers. There used to be a picture of me in an iron cross (I tell people if they want to see a skinny Steve Zindell, google me). Did you remove that group of pictures from the website or where can I find it? Also, if you know of any reunions, please put my name on the list and or email me. You can also get a hold of me @ 847-634-2646. Thanks so much. Steve”.....

{2nd email...jmm} “Hi Mike, Thanks so much again! I found the picture of me in an iron cross in Gymkana/Caravan...the picture of me in an Olympic Cross was in Gymkana/Atlantis. I emailed both pics to my 3 daughters and they were amazed at how thin I was. You are fantastic. I am going to get in touch with Jack.”

{3rd Email...jmm} “Steve -I am in the process of setting up for this years reunion on the web site, see <http://fsugymnastics.org/index-20100115.html>) for last year's information which will be modified. The registration fee is going up \$5 to \$35 but that is a bargain for three days of food. Rooms at Barbara's will be similarly priced. She owns three houses right there together and makes arrangements with neighbors if needed. In the link from above for her location is her main house and shipwatch house next door. She also owns the one that sits on the road in front of her place which is on the beach.”

You may want to touch base with Joe Gusic in Chicago [(773) 581-6248], see attached (Joe in the middle, Barb on the right), he usually flies down. Barbara picks him up at the airport and takes him back. That way he doesn't have to rent a car in Tallahassee for three days. Maybe the two of you could arrange to take the same flights and you could avoid car rental too. Joe doesn't do computers so you will have to call him. Don't worry, he sounds gruff but he won't bite! The only bad side to that is I think he comes a couple of days early and stays a couple of days later. I am sure it would just break your heart to have to leave that Illinois cold and stay a few extra days on the beach. Mike”

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye | 50-58 | Body Surfing

“Just recovering from a recent hernia operation, which was no pain just gain, I went to Melbourne Beach with my wife and son. We had taken the two & a half hour ride to attend Easter Services at the Church of a Priest who had been transferred from our Ft. Lauderdale Church... who we really liked a lot. After church services we headed for the beach. We came prepared with towels, sunscreen and a packed lunch. It was a gorgeous holiday when we hit the sands....and there were some great riding waves – one of my favorite activities.

I sunned for a while...it was lovely...I watched the surfers do their thing on their boards then I got up and headed to the ocean. Chad was already in the water...**Kee-ripes** that water was cold...I went in very slowly...past my cold sensitive areas...up to my nipples...then I had to jump into a wave and scream underwater. I know Chad was proud of his old man so I caught a few small waves body surfing.

Then a jewel of all waves came in and I decided that this was “the one”....Chad would be so proud of me....I swam with it as hard as I could.....Oh Boy...The wave was much bigger than I thought...It crested very high....I was lifted up to the top of the wave...not a good place to be.....then down like a pile driven pole..... **KeeerASH**....I slammed the bottom with a bone cracking , scraping of the back, driven across the sandy bottom force, in a bent position not unlike a cashew in a blender...My spine twisted in a sound like a centipede cracking it's knuckles...GaWWD..DID THAT HURT. I waddled back out of the surf. Trying not to show my pain I sat down on my beach chair. Hoping that some day I would be able to get up again on my own.

I sat there and then **it** started. First it started with small tremors, larger, then larger, even larger, then I could see waves of muscle activity running up and down my arms, chest, and legs. It was fascinating - a complete muscle control show...my thighs were vibrating so much....it looked like as I was viewing my legs as they were being rippled over by a fast clear mountain stream. Nancy grabbed a towel and covered my chest & shoulders. Chad wrapped my legs in a large beach towel. People sitting near by were staring with obvious concern as I did my best imitation of an Eplectic Fit....Great....I was going to die of hyperthermia on the beach on a warm & bright sunny day. This went on for an hour. I was exhausted.

Well..... by now I guess you figured that I didn't die, but I can tell you now. Two weeks later, I am still very very sore. I think the big Easter Bunny hopped all over me and broke a few ribs, or at least it feels like it. I think I'll just hang back when the next Kahoona wave comes. You know, 82 is much more different then when I was 72....Geeez. Give a guy a break.....jmm

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye | 50-58 | Re: Bud Shapard

{ While at FSU. Bill Beavers, Mike Mann , and I became very good friends with FSU student & SCUBA diving buddy, Bud Shapard. After graduating Bud joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs and married Apache Chief Loco's granddaughter and spent time with all the Apache tribes in Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. His experience among the Apache gave him unique, inside information about Chief Loco, and the Warm Springs Chiricahua Apache's history and their culture. Bud retired after 25 years of Service. He devoted almost 40 years to researching for a book, “*Chief Loco: Apache Peacemaker*”, and eight years writing it. The book includes Information about the internal tribal conflicts between Loco and other Apache leaders such as Cochise, Geronimo, Victorio, and Naiche.

Anyone Interested in the American West, American Indian History, or Apaches will find this non-fiction work to be fascinating reading and an accurate history. *Chief Loco: Apache Peacemaker* can be purchased online from: Amazon.com...Barnes & nobel.com (or B&N.com) and OUPress.com (The University of Oklahoma Press)....You writers out there can appreciate the monumental effort Bud took in making his works a reality.....Check it out.....He is one of us.....a wonderful friend.....jmm }

Mike Mann & Fran Millians | **57-67** | **“Must Brag” smart grand daughter**

“We are in Clearwater this weekend having a very brief visit with my youngest grand daughter who is

here for two weeks on her spring break from her school in Denver. You may recall that she had to go out there with her natural father after my youngest daughter died.

We have also been getting and update on the older grand daughter who is still in St. Pete living with her grand mother while she finishes high school. They got an invitation a few weeks ago from some organization to a dinner and what sounded like an "introduction to college" type activities. They had never heard of the organization and went back and forth about whether to attend or not. They finally decided to go as much for the free meal as for any other reason.

At the dinner, my grand daughter was presented with a (tuition) scholarship for two years at any State of Florida university. In addition, she is in an IB program and from that has already earned thirty-two hours of college credit. So with some time still to go in high school, she already has three years of college taken care of. Now, if we can just find those living expenses which is the really expensive part of the whole deal.

That is the good news, the bad is that she wants to attend the University of Florida, BOO HISS! Mike” {I’m “witch hew” Mike....jmm}

Claire Essig (Mrs. Dick) Traynor | **59-62** | **“Must also Brag” TV Star**

“To my e-mail buddies: My son, Randy is doing the Florida Lottery number drawings at 1:00 pm on TV.

Eventually he will be on at night in the future (11:30 pm). Guess he is a celebrity?? See link below:

Go to Flalottery.com..Click on videos/left side..Click on Cash 3 Play 4..Claire” {I love it when you brag about your young....jmm}

Jack Miles & Nancy Dye | **50-58** | **“More Brag” The Chowder King**

My brother Bob {who was also a champion side horse worker) has a son who calls himself “Mr. Fats”. This

nephew of mine looks like a professional wrestle. He is huge and wears a beard. He lives in Sea Girt New Jersey and is an active member of the Elks. He made and sold 288 Quarts of Chowder which had been ordered ahead of time. The proceeds of the sale went to the Elks many children’s charities. This annual fundraising event raised \$68.000 state wide. Big guy...Big heart...

Another Newsletter coming soon highlighting coming reunion beginning May 21st