



GMA Newsletter

March 04

Many Thanks to Everyone for the GMA-E Grand Opening

Thanks to everyone who helped make the grand opening of our new GMA-Ellettsville location a success. We are glad that students from both schools were also able to participate in the bully workshop, the breaking workshop, etc. Special thanks to the demo team for their hard work and the leadership team for being greeters and helping with the intros. Special recognition needs to go to a few other people: Debbie Mcleod, Amy Lanning and Jessica Brinson for organizing the refreshments; Trevor Lanning and Stephanie Miller for being helpers in Lil dragons intros; Mr. and Mrs. Yoshida for helping to paint till 3:00 am the night before; and Cory Bunell for putting in a full day while being stuck with Mr. Miller.

Mr. Sieg in Faith and Fitness magazine.

Mr. Sieg has written an article on why it is ok to do martial arts as a Christian, which will be featured in the March/April issue of the online magazine, Faith and Fitness. (faithandfitness.net). We thought our students might like to read his opinion. You can look for it later this month.

Upcoming events:

Tournaments:

- March 6th. IU Friendship TKD tournament—DPU college team only.
April 10th TTCA tournament in Louisville. Applications are due April 1st. Information, applications, hotel information, maps, spectator tickets, etc, are all available.

Testings:

- March 12th TKD testing 6:00 pm at GMA-Martinsville
March 15th Hapkido testing at DePauw-lower rank
March 17th Hapkido testing at DePauw-upper rank and make ups
March 26th Hapkido testing at GMA-Martinsville
March 27th Lil dragons testing for GMA-M. Lower ranks begin at 10:30. Upper ranks begin at 12:00
April 2nd Lil dragons testing for GMA-Ellettsville (tentative, time TBA)
April 10th TTCA black belt testing: Stay after the tournament to cheer on Miss Dill, Derek (DPU), Jessica (DPU), and Tyler (GMAM)

Seminars

- March 13th. FAST defense (adult and kids class) at Harrison Co TKD, Mr. Rick Haines school in Lanesville.
April 3rd. USHF Spring seminar hosted by GMA-DPU Hapkido club from 9:30-5:30

OTHER

- March 20th. Laser Tag in Bloomington from 10:00-12:00.
March 20th Demo team practice (New demo) at GMA-Ellettsville. Presumably after Lasertag
March 27th Leadership Team training, 9:00 am

Class Cancellations due to events:

- Friday March 12th: No classes in Ellettsville. No TKD classes in Martinsville
Friday April 9th: No TKD classes in any GMA locations—all TKD instructors will be traveling to the Tournament.

Birthdays

<u>Martinsville:</u>	Kourtney Herman 3-3	Shelby Moler	3-25
	Tyler Sonnega 3-6	Tanner Norman	3-28
	Richard Allison 3-8	Marc Shotts	3-30
	RJ McKinney 3-8		
	Daniel Jones 3-16	<u>Ellettsville:</u>	Matthew Green 3-18
	Levi Collins 3-18	Stephanie Miller	3-31



Quotes of the Week

Recent developments with the Ellettsville school have presented the opportunity to discuss the attitude of learning with humility. The character development for March will revolve around this attitude of good student.

“In the beginners mind there are many possibilities, in the expert’s mind there are few”—Suzuki Shunryu

“When a person thinks he knows all things and thinks there is nothing else to learn, it is because he is still unknowing”—paraphrased from the Unfettered Mind

“Teacher becomes the student, the end becomes the beginning, the circle has been completed”

Loyalty

Maybe it is from watching “The Last Samurai” and the history channel special on the samurai that coincided with it. Maybe it is looking forward to the record number of black belts that GMA hopes to promote in the next couple of months. But the subject of loyalty in the martial arts has been on my mind a lot lately. With the opening of the Ellettsville school, we have had students of 4 other area martial arts schools stop by to check it out. All live in Ellettsville and were looking for something more convenient. Most, on finding out that we don’t accept their rank (purple belts given in six to eight months time for example), are never seen again. Some are more open to learning, even if that means starting over. On a somewhat related note, we had one former Martinsville student call us in January and tell us that they can’t continue classes because they were moving. I asked where—Mooresville. It was too long of a drive for them. I didn’t bother to tell them Mr. Miller lives in Mooresville, that I live further away, and that we have students that drive from Decatur, Castleton, and Fishers, a full 1.5 hours away. Granted, most of these commuters are long term, dedicated students. The student who moved was a beginning lil dragon—hardly the same amount of investment. So I wasn’t surprised that they didn’t get it, but at the same time, I had to laugh to myself a little bit.

Most of us know that martial arts are not a commodity that can be shopped around for. Most us know that the quality of lessons, the relationships formed with both the instructors and the other students, and the overall experience are not easily replaced. And as you continue to train, as you continue to see the impact that the martial arts has had on your life, you begin to feel the indebtedness to your instructors for all that they have given you. It is VERY important to understand that I am writing this commentary as a fellow student, not as an instructor. This is the relationship I have had with my instructors, who are some of the most influential people in my life. It is this impact that has led me, and the other GMA instructors, to become instructors ourselves—to have chance to give back or pass it on. To many of us, changing instructors is not an option, because would be an act of betrayal. I don’t stay with my instructors because they tell me that I have to and it is disloyal to leave; I stay because I appreciate all they have given me, and for those things, my loyalty is the least I can give them.

Sometimes that means sacrifice, for us and our students. It would be easier, from a “customer service” standpoint, if we could do testing ourselves—without having to work around GM Choi’s schedule and without sometimes having to travel. It would be easier if we didn’t bring in a panel of outside judges for our other tests...but that would detract from the student’s experience. It would mean our students would lose the opportunity to learn from an 8th degree black belt and provide a truly cultural experience in ways I (or anyone else in the area for that matter) simple can’t recreate. That opportunity is well worth the extra effort. It certainly helps that I have been blessed with good instructors. Admittedly, when I started I didn’t know any better and simply lucked into good ones. Now, we seek out the best to learn from.

Let me also make it clear that although it doesn’t sit right with me to see students switching instructors, I also don’t necessarily blame them. In some cases, it is a case of the student who thinks they are entitled to more than they are, etc.—which is unfortunately becoming more prominent in society in general and as martial arts students consider themselves customers first and students second. Perhaps that is one of the social ills that quality martial arts can address—loyalty and short term sacrifice (but long term growth) that results from it. Of course there are those who have moved away or other circumstances that prevent continued loyalty in practice (but perhaps still in heart). But if students don’t know or haven’t gotten a sense of loyalty...it may be on account of some failure at the school or instructor level. As I said, it helps when you realize that you have a quality experience from a good instructor or school—and there are many out there who don’t get that. For some reason, despite our best efforts, we failed to reach the lil’ dragon moving to Mooresville on that level. Honestly, I am not sure if our schools are categorically worthy of that type of loyalty, but I see some of our students giving it, and I know we are on the right track. More importantly, I hope our students get the idea behind it. And I promise that we will keep doing our best to give you a reason to give it. ---BLS