



# GMA News April 05

## ***IU FRIENDSHIP RESULTS***

Our DPU team had a good showing at the IU Friendship tournament, competing against the host school, Purdue, and IUPUI. Highlight included sweeping men's advanced forms and almost everyone getting out of the first round in sparring. Congrats to the following

Kennedy Adams	men's adv	3 <sup>rd</sup> forms	
Kyle Cissell	men's adv	1 <sup>st</sup> forms	3 <sup>rd</sup> sparring (T)
Qiming Deng	men's adv	2 <sup>nd</sup> forms	3 <sup>rd</sup> sparring (T)
Josh Enneking	men's int	2 <sup>nd</sup> forms	3 <sup>rd</sup> sparring
Megan Luecke	women's beg		3 <sup>rd</sup> sparring
Stephanie Bewley	women's beg	2 <sup>nd</sup> forms	
Miss Laura Lempke	women's black		2 <sup>nd</sup> sparring
Aleka McAdams	women's int	1 <sup>st</sup> forms	3 <sup>rd</sup> sparring
Josh Wyant	men's beg	2 <sup>nd</sup> forms	1 <sup>st</sup> sparring

## ***Upcoming Events***

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> USHF Spring Seminar, hosted to GMA/DePauw Hapkido club
- April 5<sup>th</sup> Mandatory Demo Team practice
- April 8<sup>th</sup> TTCA black belt testing—good luck to all 10 of our students
- April 9<sup>th</sup> TTCA Louisville Tournament. Tournament begins at 10:00 Louisville time (9:00 ours)  
\*\* Group photos will be taken at 9:45.
- April 8<sup>th</sup> No classes at any schools—see you at the tournament
- April 14<sup>th</sup> FAST seminar at Eastview Church, Martinsville
- April 16<sup>th</sup> Lil Dragons testing at GMAM. Beginning (white, yellow) from 9:00-10:30. Orange and green from 10:30-12:00. Advanced (purple, red) from noon to 1:00.
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> TTCA Testing, GMAM at 5:30.
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> HKD black belt class/pretest 8:00-9:30.
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> Tai Chi seminar 9:30-11:30 am
- April 26 USHF Hapkido Testing in Ellettsville
- April 28<sup>th</sup> NO HKD or Lil dragon classes in GMAE. Modified schedule at GMAM (see below)
- April 29<sup>th</sup> USHF Hapkido testing, Martinsville
- May 7<sup>th</sup> USHF black belt testing. Place and time TBA.
- May 14<sup>th</sup> Tentative date for TTCA black belt ceremony
- May 21<sup>st</sup> Break a thon and annual school picnic

## ***Upcoming Class Cancellation -- Please make note of the following***

No classes at any GMA school on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. See everyone at the tournament that weekend.

Class will be impacted by some of our staff traveling to the National Association of Professional Martial Artists Convention the end of April. This conference assists us in making GMA better, so we hope you will agree that such goal is worth a small inconvenience.

No Lil dragon or Hapkido classes at GMAE on Thurs April 28<sup>th</sup>.

No Lil dragon or white belt classes at GMAM on Thurs April 28<sup>th</sup>. Both can make up during the M/W section, or TKD can always take Friday class

Classes will meet on Friday as normal with some instructor changes.



### ***Summer Camp dates are set—mark your calendars and plan now***

TTCA Summer camp	June 3-5
GMA Hapkido Daycamp	June 6-10, July 25-29
GMA TKD Daycamp	July 18-22, Aug 8-13

### ***Reverse the Tide Update***

Thanks for the overwhelming support on this charity for tsunami relief. The message of a double meaning in the slogan appears to have really resonated with our people. The children's wrist bands are finally in! We apologize for the delay from what we were originally told. If we sell out of those like the other, please have patience as we get more. So far, we have bought approximately 150 bracelets. Thanks for your support.

### ***Demo Team News***

Only a few short practices left before the big show—we are one of two featured schools at the TTCA tournament during the finals that evening. We hope that even non team members show up in force that night and help support our school.

Demo team has additional practices on Tues and Thurs, April 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, during black belt club times (7:45-8:30). **NO BLACK BELT CLUB CLASSES THAT WEEK.** The Tues practice is absolutely mandatory, as final cuts will be made and places established.

Demo team, be prepared to meet at 5:00 pm the night of the tournament finals, to do a walk through that evening.

### ***Tournament Details***

Ok, tournament is almost here. If you haven't gotten your entry forms in, do so ASAP. Also, if you need a room, we need to know that ASAP. NOTE: All times posted are Louisville time, which will be an hour ahead of our time. Please plan accordingly.

Everyone—including spectators—should review the tournament section of the manual to refresh themselves on proper etiquette. Parents and students, don't forget to show your support by packing your GMA attire. We hope to see an army of blue parents T-shirts in the stands this year. It will also really help to encourage interaction among our various schools if you can spot each other out ☺

Black belt testing is at 7:00 pm Louisville time on Friday April 8<sup>th</sup>. Anyone is welcome to support our record number of students testing for black belt.

Our group photos will be taken at 9:45 am on Sat Morning (before everyone competes and runs off). These are the photos that will be sent to the newspapers, put on the website, etc. If you want in them, be in full uniform and ready at this time.

Tournament begins at 10:00

Demo team will report back at 5:00 for walk through. Make sure to have your T-shirt but also your dobok top.

Tournament finals start at 6:00 pm

Dance follows that evening.

We look forward to this every year as a chance to renew some old friendships from other schools as well as strengthen our own among GMA. It is a chance to get charged up about TKD, and a great opportunity for camaraderie among our students as they cheer for one another and hang out at the dance, etc.



### ***Misc kudos:***

Congrats to Mr. Yoshida, who has small part in an independent martial arts movie being filmed in the Indianapolis area. Release of the film has been scheduled for the fall, so you can be sure that we will be having school wide movie nights sometime around that time.

Max and Tiffany Chen, son and daughter of Master William CC Chen of our tai chi lineage, appear in the April issue of Inside Kung-fu.

In no small part due to hosting the first FAST multiple assailant seminars in the Midwest, Mr. Miller was nationally named the FAST instructor of the month for April.

Speaking of FAST, you can listen to excerpts of the Bill Kipp interview on WCBK to be played during national sexual assault awareness week the first week of April.

### ***Parents Committee Updates***

The parents committee has been busy organizing fund raisers and other projects.

GMA stickers and window decals will be available soon for only a couple of bucks. Money will go to the parents committee for future activities, possible scholarships, etc.

Also look for the chance for our students to buy their mom mothers day flowers, and again, all proceeds go to the parents committee.

Don't forget to wear your blue or grey parent's T-shirt to the TTCA tournament.

\*\*\* Next Parents Committee Meeting in Martinsville will be help during testing, on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. All parents, from all of our programs, are encouraged to attend if interested.

### ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY to***

<b><i>Martinsville:</i></b>	Mike Ksenak 4-1	Noah Wilson 4-1	Alex Townsend 4-6
	Cindy Stuard 4-7	Grant Ksenak 4-13	Karra Kirsch 4-24
	Bailey Fowler 4-25	Caleb Shotts 4-27	
<b><i>Ellettsville:</i></b>	Missed in March:		
	Matthew Green 3-18	Torie Curtis 3-27	Stephannie Miller 3-31
	April:		
	Jacob Allen 4-2	Chris Mosby 4-21	Chris French 4-29
<b><i>Instructors:</i></b>	Miss Dill 4-14	Mr. Miller 4-18	

### ***Training Anniversaries***

Congrats and thanks for all the hard work to those students who have completed a years worth of training

Tanner Norman (GMAM, TKD, 4 years)	Miki White (GMAM, TKD, 2 yrs)
Zeke Neihart (GMAM, TKD/LD, 2 yrs)	Mark Vanhuss (GMAM, TKD, 1 yr)
Blake McFarland (GMAM, LD, 1yr)	Curtis Bitner (GMAE, TKD, 1yr)
Adam Bollinger (GMAE, TKD, 1 yr)	Brady Chalfin (GMAE, TKD, 1yr)
Jordan Eldridge (GMAE, TKD, 1 yr)	



### ***Quotes of the Week, Character Development***

This month our discussions will be centered around the tournament experience and sportsmanship and “healthy competition” in general.

“The ultimately aim of Karate lies not in victory or defeat, but in the moral perfection of the practitioner.” --Shotokan Karate founder Gichin Funakoshi

“Win as though you expected it, and lose as though you enjoyed it.” –unknown

The true competition is not with your opponent, but with yourself.

### ***Giving our students the chance to fail—and learning from it.***

I realize this doesn’t sound like a very positive message for the month, but I do believe it is an important one. I also hope it goes a long way in explaining how “old school” martial arts training can benefit you or your child, and thus, help some people better understand how our program works.

While teaching an undergraduate sports management class to 200 underclassmen at IU—one of my first real lecture assignments-- I was a bit disappointed at the level of effort by a significant number of students. In our martial arts classes at GMA, our instructors’ jobs are to get the most out of every student and do our best to ensure to every student is ready for and passes every test. In contrast, in the college environment, it is not only accepted but expected that this is not the case, that some people will excel but others will flunk out. If everyone were to excel, I would be criticized for grade inflation and making the classes too easy. But I still felt a little responsible that I hadn’t convinced some of the students how important the material was, etc—maybe I should give them extra credit or something. One of the professors in the department then passed along an insight that was given to him by one of his mentors, that has always stuck with me. He said, “you are not giving these students the opportunity to fail.”

And the more I thought about it, that is one of the great parts of traditional martial arts training as well. To be sure, a big part of being a martial arts instructor is to inspire, to motivate, to get the students and parents to see the heights that can be reached and the true benefits of the martial way. Given that we are having record numbers getting their black belts, I would like to think some of that is going on. But the martial arts journey is also one of personal responsibility. The student has to ultimately decide how hard they are going to work, etc. At the recent pretest for 10 TKD students testing for black belt, the things GM Choi corrected were the same things we had been mentioning to them for quite some time. You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink, as the saying goes. I can say it till I am blue in the face, in as many ways or analogies as I can think of, but ultimately, the student has to decide to correct or improve it. Now, if I don’t catch a mistake and don’t tell them to fix it, then that is my fault. But if I did do my best, and the student doesn’t change, then that student doesn’t have anyone to blame but himself, and that is maybe one of the biggest life lessons that the martial arts can teach us—one that is being taught in fewer and fewer places. Instead of looking for others to blame, look at yourself.

We have had students quit because they couldn’t break a board or failed a test, etc. The solution for a lot of places in life (and sadly a lot of martial arts schools) is to lower the bar. Student can’t read, no problem, pass him anyway and hope that he gets it next year when it is someone’s else’s problem. Can’t do the rank requirements, well, we don’t want to hurt his self-esteem, so we will pass him anyway. I believe students know when they have earned it, and that is what builds self-esteem. I am afraid life sometimes doesn’t bend over backwards to let you succeed. And failures in and of themselves are not always bad (hey, most of have of us have been there one belt test or another). What matters is you pick yourself back up and try again. What matters, is you that take responsibility in making sure you succeed, not hoping it will be given to you anyway.



I have been told I expect too much responsibility out of children. I think it more that the rest of society is letting children get away with less and less. We have been told that having lil' dragons learn their phone numbers at age 5 is too much to expect, only to have 3 year olds do it. We have been told our demo team can't do something that ambitious with mostly children...I think we put on a pretty good show. I have been told it is too much to ask children to be responsible with deadlines on papers, checklists, etc. Again, my question is, when are they going to learn responsibility? I would sooner them learn it in the martial arts school, where the penalty is rather minor, than in college when it means failing a course or flunking out. I'd sooner them learn it on a belt exam, when failing means waiting another month to get it right, than when they are an adult, and it means losing a job and trying to find another way to support your family while you learn to get it right.

Now, I am sure some of you are saying that I am being a bit overly dramatic. Perhaps...but I can tell you from teaching hundreds of college students every semester, that a lot of them certainly haven't figured it out yet. I am wrapping this letter up to go meet with a dean at DPU over a grade dispute—a girl is contesting her F because she missed too many classes as outlined in the syllabus—but she still thinks that it is unfair for her to get an F. It is clear to me that many times, no one has ever given youth the chance to fail. They always have an excuse or a reason why their performance was substandard or why they forgot, etc...it is usually met with "Well, next time be more careful." At some point in life, they might not get a second chance. In martial arts, in simulating self-defense, we don't assume we get second chances. We hope that there isn't a "next time" when it comes to assaults, etc, and we hope we get it right the first time. A lot of people could stand to take that same mindset into work, into school, etc.

Now, I am not saying that I use this mantra of personal responsibility to absolve myself of any and all of my own responsibility. Rather, I will admit that we keep the bar high. I'd don't mind giving our students the opportunity to fail. I certainly don't think any less of them if they do. But in our effort to help our students to be more, I want them to learn that it takes black belt attitude to accept responsibility for our failures, and to learn that it ultimately takes responsibility to succeed. A small failure in our school is not so bad unless the student fails to learn from it, and we are in the business of education. BLS