



GMA NEWS

May 05

GMA has a record number of major promotions

Congrats to all of our new black belts, who all passed their cho-dan tests:

Miss Brittany Nenedjian	(GMA-M)	Mr. Marc Shotts	(GMA-M)
Miss Makyla Nenedjian	(GMA-M)	Mr. Neal Fashimpaur	(GMA-M)
Miss Shelby Moler	(GMA-M)	Mr. Kyle Cissell	(DPU)
Mr. Jayse Willhardt	(GMA-M)	Mr. Kennedy Adams	(DPU)
Mr. Caleb Shotts	(GMA-M)	Mr. Qiming Deng	(DPU)

Mr. Marc Shotts becomes the first exclusive GMA-Martinsville student (and only sixth overall) to earn black belts in both TKD and Hapkido.

Don't forget the lil' guys

In addition to the black belts, our Lil' Dragons program also had some graduations marking real milestones in these lil' guys martial arts careers. Congrats to...

Blake McFarland
James Dunn
Ayden Arnold

NEW CLASSES/SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS!

We are excited to announce that GMA-M will be offering **Brazilian Jujitsu classes** on a trial basis in the month of May and June. The instructor is Tim Sledd, a purple belt under Ciaque and BJJ instructor at Indiana University. Mr. Sledd is the first gentleman that was available and that we felt we could personally vouch for as being consistent with our Gentry philosophy. He is an excellent guy and an excellent technician. Bringing in an additional instructor does mean additional costs, so if any of our students can bring a friend or refer one (and still get the referral credit), it would go a long way to keeping the costs for our existing students low. Classes are Tues from 7:45-8:30 and on Friday from 8:00-9:00, following HKD class. Students who are interested need to have a heavyweight "judo" type gi (the TKD ones are too light and will rip). We are only doing these as special order, and the initial investment is \$40.00. Order one right away so it will be here for class. Keep in mind you can wear the white judo gi to either TKD or HKD as an extra practice top. ***Classes start on Tues, May 10th.

On Friday nights, we will also be having a regular **Tai Chi practice session**. These are intended to supplement the monthly seminars that people have been attending, but are not meant to be instructional. It is merely a review of previous material to keep it fresh. All new or additional information will be introduced at the seminar. In the meantime, the group review session will be led by Mr. Yoshida on Friday evenings from 8:00-8:30. ***Review session starts on Friday, May 6th.

It is likely that we will be adjusting our **Wednesday night schedule at GMA-E** and splitting the class, although the details have not been finalized. Look for an announcement forthcoming very shortly.

FAST cats Seminar offered

After bringing Bill Kipp in for the recent FAST defense seminar, we have had several parents ask about the kid's version of the program. We have finally found a slot to have a kids program on Sat. May 14th, from 1:00-3:30 at GMA-M. Space is limited so sign up soon for the missing link between martial arts and self defense.



Break-a-thon and annual school picnic

Our annual school picnic and break-a-thon will be Sat. May 21st. Registration for the break a thon will begin at 11:00. Breaking will occur from 12-1:00. The picnic will occur immediate following the conclusion of the breaking, followed by some fun and games until about 3:00 or so. The location will be the same as last year, the Morgan Monroe Forestry off of the 37 (in between the two schools). Break-a-thon packets should go out later this week. The break-a-thon proceeds go to project action—a foundation that helps at-risk youth attend martial arts, dance and gymnastics programs. Some of our own students are on scholarship with project action, so we will be helping some of our own. We really appreciate your participation.

Sign ups for the pitch in picnic will be posted the week prior. Please let us know how many people will be attending.

Lastly, in order to ensure most of the money goes to the charity, we really need as many donations of boards as possible. Planks of pine should measure 6'x12", 8'x12", etc.. #2 in grade is preferable. Pre-cut into 10" sections is even better. Anyone who "knows someone" that can assist in this, please let us know.

Summer camp info

TTCA Summer Camp applications are available. It is important that these are returned in advance so that the TTCA can anticipate number of beds, food requirements, etc. Camp applications must be returned by May 21st. Also, as usual there will be a talent contest during the camp, but limited to the first ten registrants. If anyone is interested, let us know ASAP.

Don't forget our GMA day camps later this summer as well. Sign ups are already available.

GMA Hapkido day camp (GMA-M) June 6th-10th, July 25th-29th

GMA TKD Day camp (GMA-M) July 18th-22nd, Aug 8th-12th

*** In addition, we have added another TKD day camp at our GMA-E location. It will be June 27th through July 1st. This is the first TKD camp of the summer, so please sign up soon.

Spring Cleaning at GMA-M

May 28th. We know it is Memorial Day weekend, so we don't have any activities planned, but it does give us a chance to take care of those odds/ends at the school. Anyone willing to join us is more than welcome. We will start around 10:00 am.

Moms—Come join us for Mothers Day

In following what we have traditionally done, as a Mother's Day gift from our students to their Mom's, Grandma's, etc. We are inviting "Moms" to join their children for the week of May 9-13th in any of our classes. We will make sure that the student and parent will be able to interact and have some fun, while hopefully giving mom a better appreciation for how hard their kids work in class.

Please keep us posted of your itinerary

Please be kind enough to notify us when you are going on vacation this summer. It will keep us from worrying if everything is ok while you are gone. We do keep a log, and do our best not to lose track of people. So your help is appreciated in keeping us up to date.



Upcoming Events

- May 7th TKD black belt/black belt prep class 9:00-10:00 am. This class is tentatively set to be held at Jimmy Nash Park (weather permitting). If weather is poor, we will return to the school.
- May 7th Leadership team training 10:00-11:00
- May 7th Demo team 11:00-12:30
- May 7th USHF black belt testing. GMA-M at 1:00 pm. Ceremony to follow.
- May 14th Tai Chi seminar 9-12.
- May 14th FAST cats (kids class) 1:00-3:30
- May 20th TTCA testing, 5:30. Location TBA
- May 21st Project action break-a-thon and annual school picnic 11:00-3:00 (?)
- May 28th Spring Cleaning day at the GMA-M. 10:00 am.
- June 3rd Relay for Life demo, 7:00 pm at the fairgrounds.
- June 3rd-5th TTCA summer camp at Wyandotte woods (O'Bannon Woods State Park)

News from Madagascar

As some of you recall, Jessica Brandt, one of our black belts (TKD, HKD) from DPU joined the peace corps and is teaching in Madagascar. After much red tape, she actually has started a martial arts program in her rather remote region. We thought you might enjoy the update (she actually made it to a computer to email us)

Both my tae kwon do and hapkido clubs have started. TKD is meeting, for now, two mornings a week from 5-6. yes, in the morning. the bats are still flying about the classroom and everything. they seem to be excited about it -- and i am so glad that most of them are my students, as they can translate my english/pathetic-Malagasy for everyone else. it's really funny how that works -- i was trying to talk to a few terminale students the other day, and one of my seconde students was present, and the seconde student had to tell her what i was trying to say. they've gotten used to me, i guess. fun times. anyway, so i don't know how well i'm doing on the teaching front -- it's only been a week, so i'm still yelling at TKD about their stances. i have a feeling that's going to go on for a while. anyway. and hapkido is cool, because it's a lot smaller and all girls, so we're having fun. at least, i had fun. anyway.

Demo Team News

Our next demo will be Friday June 3rd at Relay for Life beginning at 7:00 pm. We realize that there is conflict with the TTCA summer camp. We are currently working out a plan to minimize the conflict.

We have practice on Sat. May 7th to not only review the current show (including HKD) but also to start touching upon possibilities for our new show. After all, we have a title to defend.

Friday night practices will also resume in preparation for the Relay demo.

Character Counts

The local character counts program in Morgan County, including the schools, recognizes on a regular basis a youth that demonstrates one of the six pillars of character. These are done by nominations. We think our students should be among the best in character, and we want to recognize those who are. Help us stay aware of how your child has exemplified one of the character counts pillars, and we will submit one of our students each month to be considered for the community's youth of the month.



Tournament Results

We are extremely pleased at our schools performance at the recent TTCA tournament, and more importantly proud of how well our students carried themselves. There were many highlights during the day and that evening. All seven peewee brown belts getting out of the first round and being 80% of the remaining competitors was exciting. Having five out the possible six brown belts sparring in the finals that evening, as well as two in the black belt divisions, made for a great finals, even if we weren't sure who to cheer for at times. Of course, our demo team winning best demonstration was also exciting, and our demo team is certainly well deserving for all their hard work. Good job to all of our students, and congrats to those who medaled:

GMA-E:

Sam Greencorn	4 th forms	4 th sparring	Darian Crites	2 nd forms	Chris French	2 nd forms
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DPU:

Mike Duffee	3 rd forms	4 th sparring	Jessica Mason	4 th forms	1 st sparring	Kyle Cissell	1 st sparring
Qiming Deng	3 rd forms	2 nd sparring	Inessa Kulheyko	3 rd forms	1 st sparring	Shaun Watts	3 rd forms
Aleka McAdams	2 nd forms	3 rd sparring	Ryan Ely	4 th forms			1 st sparring

GMA-M:

Tylor Martins	2 nd forms	3 rd sparring	Collyn Dodge	3 rd forms	1 st sparring	Miki White	1 st forms	3 rd sparring
Cherish Selburg	3 rd forms		Logan Scott	4 th forms	4 th sparring	Mr. Cory Pierce		2 nd sparring
Catie Willhardt	1 st forms		Nevin Markitan		4 th sparring	Caleb Shotts	2 nd PTF	1 st sparring
Seth Wilson		3 rd sparring	Mark VanHuss	4 th forms	1 st sparring	Mr. Derek Smith		2 nd sparring
Jared Holt		3 rd sparring	Shelby Moler		4 th sparring	Miss Dill	1st forms	
Jacob Waltz	2 nd forms	4 th sparring	Brittany Nenedjian		2 nd sparring			

Overall, we left with 20 medals in forms and 23 in sparring. Not bad at all. Congrats guys.

Parents Committee Updates

The window static clings and decals are in and available for sale. This is a huge fundraiser for the Parent Committee and we urge everyone to buy them. The window clings are \$2.00 each and the decals are \$1.00 each.

We will also be selling carnations May 2nd-May 6th for Mother's Day. Be sure to pick up one or two for your mother, grandmother, aunt or special friend. There are cards available for the student to fill out and these will sell for \$2.00 each. Multi colors will be available for purchase.

The Break-A-Thon is quickly approaching. Be sure to watch for sign up sheets for the annual picnic. If you plan to attend we need everyone to please sign up under their designated area as to what they are bringing so we know what we'll need. Also anyone who knows anyone in construction or affiliated with any local lumber company please try to get board donations for the Break-A-Thon.

Also we urge all parents wishing to be a part of the parent committee to let us know. We would love more lower belt parents on the committee.

Happy Birthday To:

Martinsville:

John-Michael Murphy	5-8	Brandon Hacker	5-23
Ariel Stuard	5-10	Brayton Kaylus	5-26
Catie Willhardt	5-14	Branden Edwards	5-29
Mariah Ellis	5-18	Brett Lutrell	5-29
Cody Bayliff	5-20	Miki White	5-30
Alex Ellis	5-23		

Ellettsville:

Shelby Crites	5-18	Kenny Cline	5-30
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Training Anniversaries:

Tre Bower (Lil' Dragons, GMA-E, 1 yr)
Andy Fields (Lil' Dragons, GMA-E, 1 yr)
James Dunn (TKD, GMA-M, 1 yr)
Caitlyn Gula (TKD, GMA-M, 2 yr)

Ryan Clark (TKD, GMA-M, 2 yrs)
Griffin Selch (TKD, GMA-M, 3 yrs)
Taylor Green (TKD, GMA-M, 3 yrs)

Quotes of the Week, Character Development

This month we are going to start breaking down and analyzing some things that we use and say all the time, but maybe take for granted its significance—the Membership Oath. We don't want to just give lip service about training according to the strict code, or being united in mutual friendship...we want our students to understand what it means.

Changes in the way we do monthly tuition—meetings to help answer questions

At the recent industry convention, we upgraded our software that now allows us to do more automated billing. We hope to have the system in place in June. This won't change the amount of your payment or the method of payment, it just makes it more streamlined. See the article below for more details. In the meantime, we plan to have some conferences in order to allow for group explanations and answer any questions. We will have meetings the week of May 23rd-27th. In Martinsville these will start at 4:00 and be every half hour. In Ellettsville they will be held in between each class.

Reflections on the Martial Arts Industry World Conference-and how it affects you

As many of you noticed last week, some of our regular instructors were absent from class as we attended the biggest gathering of martial arts instructors at a world conference. It truly was a world conference with instructors from England and Australia in attendance, to name a few. Mr. Sieg and Mr. Miller were the bulletmen for Mr. Kipp's FAST presentation. We got to play with some top notch instructors, but most of our time was spent in seminars concerning other aspects of teaching and management. We were exposed to a lot of ideas and a lot of ways to do things. Sometimes, it is great information...sometimes, we just don't feel like doing it the way the "industry giants" suggest. It might work to make us rich, but it isn't the Gentry way. Some ideas we have been kicking around for a long time, but just now have gathered enough information and felt comfortable with moving forward with them. As always, we have come back recharged and ready to improve our school. Some of these changes will be subtle and you may not even notice. Some will be a bit more significant.

One of our favorite quotes of the week is "the enemy of greatness is good." The black belt attitude is never being satisfied with "good enough." The martial arts journey is one of constant improvement and refinement. So we hope you will agree that it is natural we apply the same philosophy to our school. Otherwise, we would still be in the locations of our—shall we say—humble beginnings—yikes. Rest assured, these changes won't affect our core, they only helps us run a better school. The three areas I will make note of all have to do with efficiency. As our schools grow, the administrative duties, such as the collecting of payments, testing paperwork, and student evaluation for testing, has also grown significantly. We are going to be implementing some new processes that help streamline those areas.

First, we have upgraded our software, which also now comes with automatic billing options. Basically, all of our payment options and methods will be intact (monthly, check or credit card, etc.) This just makes it much easier for us to do. Rather than running each credit card individually, we will be able to run all of them at the same time with the press of a button. If you prefer to pay from your checking account, we will now be able to run an automatic draft. Many of you have mortgage or car payments already set up to make an automatic



withdrawal from your account on a certain date. Most fitness centers utilize the same technology. We will be able to do the same. You no longer have to remember to write the check every month, and we no longer have to take up so much time during classes taking payments. We can run the system after hours, and spend class time dealing with more important or personal matters. Should special circumstances arise, no problem, we are able to “put on hold” the electronic draft, so we are still able to work with you. Being able to work our students during special circumstances was a major concern--we have been wanting to make this move for a while, but only now felt comfortable with the switch—now that we are confident that the system gives us the flexibility to do that. The only requirement is that you communicate with us. No health club or bank will make the same allowances. We will begin moving people over to the new system this month, and will be scheduling meetings about the switch to alleviate any other concerns you may have. (Incidentally, the same technology gives us additional perks, like being able to make an automated, pre-recorded message to every student informing them of a snow day cancellation for example).

Second, we are going to start mailing testing applications and information to your house. Sometimes the paperwork doesn't get out to the parking lot with the child, it gets lost, etc. This will ensure you will get it with plenty of advanced notice. As with the billing change, this liberates Sarah and the instructors from spending class hours handing out paperwork and allows them more time to answer more personal questions.

Third, we will slowly be integrating a slightly new way of evaluating students for testing eligibility in TKD. The new method will be a more gradual and continual progress check, rather than the two week cram period that shouldn't, but often does occur. Within the three month period between ranks, each student will be evaluated on a monthly basis on a portion to the overall testing requirements (sort of a mini-test). They will then get credit for that portion. You need to get credit for all three portions before you are allowed to test—but our hope is this will let us identify problem areas in a more timely manner, while giving our students more feedback on their overall progress. Our lesson plans for our classes will change slightly to accommodate the new evaluation that we are phasing in.

In short, all of these changes are not monumental and don't change the art we teach or the school. What we hope to accomplish is freeing up time from the administrative duties to allow us to better focus on our students—give them more feedback, answer more questions, give them more attention—instead of being concerned with paperwork.

We are grateful that many of you are quite fond of our school and programs the way they are currently run. But I think we can agree that we can always get better. We are constant pushing our students to make it just a little bit better, and we should be doing the same with our school, and we believe these changes will do that. We appreciate your patience as we implement them, and we assure you that we will make them as smooth as possible. Perhaps you might not even notice them. We just wanted to give you a heads up. ---BLS