



GMA news June 05

Congrats to our new Hapkido Black Belts

On the heels of all of our TKD black belt promotions, we had a black belt promotion in HKD. Congrats to DPU students Qiming Deng and Mike Duffee on getting their 1st dans. Congrats to Mr. Yoshida on getting his 2nd dan in hapkido—the first GMA student to earn 2nd dans in both arts.

Special Thanks to Everyone who Helped with the Break-a-thon.

We really appreciate all the help and support from over 50 students who broke (to our best guest) over 340 boards and raised over \$2,100 dollars for project action. If anyone has any outstanding pledges, please return those as soon as possible. Special thanks to our parents committee for all their help in organizing, obtaining boards and cutting them, grilling, etc. We hope everyone had a good time.

Also, please be sure to thank those businesses who donated lumber: Bender, 84 lumber, UBC in Ellettsville, Black lumber in Greencastle and b-ton and Newcomer lumber in Mooresville.

Nationally, we helped to easily break the old world record, with 92,500 breaks across the country.

Misc Congrats:

Congrats to Mr. Derek Smith for his recent engagement.

Congrats to our seniors who are graduating from DPU: Mr. Kyle Cissell, Mr. Qiming Deng, Mr. Kennedy Adams, Mr. Mike Duffee, Miss Laura Lempke, Ben Steffen, and Megan Luecke.

Summer camp info

TTCA Summer Camp is June 3-5. There will be a sign up leading up to the camp for carpooling needs. It might be possible for some parents to trade off a drive down on Friday with a drive down on Sun. Also, people staying behind for the demo may be able to leave their bedding with others so that they can have a spot reserved when they arrive. Check out the viewpoint for these issues.

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

GMA-Ellettsville TKD camp June 27-July 1. (We need five confirmed for the camp.)

GMA Hapkido Daycamp June 6-10, July 25-29

GMA TKD Daycamp July 18-22, Aug 8-12

Spring Cleaning at GMAM.

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. We will likely be in need of a couple of extra garden hoses, if anyone could bring some extra.

Class Adjustments (or non-adjustments)

Memorial Day—Yes! *WE HAVE CLASS*

Friday June 3rd—all classes but Brazilian jujitsu are cancelled on account of the TTCA summer camp and demo

Thurs June 2nd—TKD BBC at GMAM may be cancelled to allow for another demo team practice. Please listen for announcements that week concerning this adjustment.



Fathers—its your turn

Ok, Moms got on the floor and played. We would be in trouble if we didn't "offer" the same to our dads for Fathers day. As traditionally done, as a Father's Day gift from our students to their Dad's, Grandpa's, etc. we are inviting them to join their children for the week of June 20-24 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 dads a better appreciation for how hard their kids work in class.

Updating records and information

- As a reminder, we are switching some of our billing procedures for our Martinsville students in June. When you drop off your June check, we will need to you to fill out a revised membership agreement. If you didn't attend a conference about the changes, then we will still be happy to explain it to you.
- A reminder to 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 please keep us up to date.
- Also, we have had several times when we have tried to reach a student, only to find their contact information has changed. When you come in to fill out your new membership agreement, please make sure we have all the current contact information.

Upcoming Events and dates

May 27 th	Demo Team practice 6:30-7:00
May 28 th	Spring cleaning at GMA-Martinsville
May 30 th	Memorial day—we do have class
June 3	Relay for Life Demo
June 3-5	TTCA summer camp
June 6-10	Hapkido daycamp at GMAM
June 11 th	Leadership team from 9:00-10:00 GMAM
June 11 th	Demo team 10:00-11:30 GMAM
June 11 th	Hapkido black belt class 11:30-1:00 GMAM
June 24-26	Master William CC Chen Tai Chi workshop in Bloomington
June 25 th	Lil Dragons Testing at GMA-Ellettsville. White-yellow at 9:00, orange/green at 10:30, advanced from 12-1:00.
June 27-July 1	TKD daycamp at GMAE
July 18-22	TKD daycamp at GMAM
July 25-29	HKD daycamp at GMAM

Other monthly classes: no TKD black belt class on account of TTCA summer camp
No tai chi seminar on account of Master Chen seminar

Demo Team News

Next demo is for the Relay for Life on Friday, June 3rd from 7:00-7:30. Demo team should meet at the school around 5:00 (if possible) to go through the show a couple of times before we move over to the fairgrounds.

Demo team has a very important practice on Friday May 27th This is the last practice before the day of the relay for life demo. There is also a chance we will practice on Thurs, June 2 before the demo. TBA.



Quotes of the Week, Character Development

TKD--After we wrap up working on the membership oath, we will be starting to discuss the five rules of the Hwarang in order to assist with the black belt papers.

HKD—Don't forget to get in the habit of working on your nightly action principles.

Happy B-day:

Ellettsville

Lochlean Haverfield	6-14
Adam Bollinger	6-29
Jacob Green	6-30

Martinsville

Obed Soto	6-3	Ashley Luttrell	6-7
Alex Hermann	6-9	Ethan Gabbard	6-9
Gabby Tumey	6-13	AJ Vedder	6-14
Krystal Hendrickson	6-15	Devon McCabe	6-15
Brandy Potter	6-22	Quinton Nenedjian	6-22
Cameron Ruba	6-24	Nevin Markitan	6-24
Nick Fine	6-29	Allison Atkins	6-29

Training Anniversaries:

Congrats to these students who have completed a year or multiple years of training

Stephanie Miller (GMAE, TKD 2 years)
Quinton Nenedjian (GMAM, TKD 4 years)
Timothy Thomas (GMAM, TKD, 2 years)
Nick Firsich (GMAM, TKD 2 years)
Abigail Farmen (GMAM, TKD, 1 yr)
Tyler Martens (GMAM, TKD 3 yrs)

Our students—one in a thousand?

As spring brings another crop of black belts, and this year's is rather large, it got me thinking about how hard those students have worked over the past couple years, and also about those who didn't make it this far along the journey. You used to hear this adage all the time—"only one in a thousand students who start will make black belt." I am not sure where the stat started or how literal it is to be taken, but it was told to me when I was going through the ranks, and I have heard it from numerous people and places. Another TTCA school did a study of their old records to get an actual ratio of students who reach black belt. I can't recall the exact number, but do seem to think it was well over 1 out of 200.

By means of comparison, I thought I would share with you the numbers from our still relatively young school. In Hapkido, our 15 black belts represent roughly 8% of those who got their yellow belt. The DPU TKD club has a 22% success rate to black belt. Our TKD numbers in Martinsville are a bit lower—perhaps not surprising given that we work with mostly children there—but we still have approximately a 4% black belt success rate. That doesn't even take into account the likelihood that several of those students are still in the pipeline and will likely get their black belt in the near future. If we stopped taking new students and just finished out our current ones, I would be disappointed if that number didn't triple.



You don't hear that one in a thousand number as often today. As schools have become more commercial and as standards are lowered for commercial reasons, the emphasis has become on getting everyone to black belt, whether they are qualified or not. Noting the disproportionate number of students we had testing at the last TTCA black belt test, the cynic may suggest we are simply a belt factory, just throwing them up there as quickly as we can. Of course, we would disagree. Did we lower any standards? No. All of our students passed the same test with the same requirements as every other student to be compared with. They all had to get recommendations from GM Choi and other instructors. If they weren't ready, there was ample opportunity to catch it. Our Hapkido students are required to do more than what is minimally required by the USHF. There is no doubt in my mind that our students earned it.

Then perhaps (a detractor might argue), we are still apt to push people through the ranks too quickly. The TKD students who recently passed their black belt exam had an average career of 44 months—well over the typically stated 2.5 to 3 years needed to earn a black belt. That suggests to me that we make sure they are ready before they test, as compared to many schools who refuse to delay a student because “it will hurt their self-esteem.”

So what is the difference? Why are our numbers so much higher?

I had one instructor at a conference make reference to the 1 in a 1,000 comment, joking that this was his motivational speech when he started. And he is right...that comment has an implication. In old school training, it was made to point out that most people wouldn't be able to handle it. Martial arts did not build strong people, it simply eliminated the weak ones. Those stubborn enough not to quit—like the pioneers, my instructors, etc, were the ones who made it. One way to put it, is that black belts are born, not made. It was sink or swim on the training deck.

Now, I will not deny that some people come to us with qualities that make the journey to black belt easier for them. But the more successful martial arts schools of today have a slightly different perspective. Black belts are not born, they can be molded, they can be made. Indeed, the martial arts is a great vehicle to learn, to develop those qualities that are needed for success, such as self discipline and work ethic, personal accountability, respect for instruction, etc. It is still ultimately sink or swim on the training deck (as opposed to throwing them a life preserver and calling it swimming), but we can teach them how to swim in the process. We can teach, demonstrate, and inspire them to succeed. Just about anyone who wishes to grow enough can become a black belt. Our job is to help them get there. To take them where they are and help them get to where they want to go. To help them to *be more*.

That journey of turning into a black belt doesn't occur overnight. We have some people come to us and want us to straighten their kids out for them during their two free weeks, and then move on. Life changing habits and qualities are rarely learned in two weeks. But by the time a person reaches black belt, chances are some of those lessons are starting to stick. I would say that most of our black belts could cite how they have grown along the martial path. And I would like to think that we have helped them learn some of those lessons.

I am sure our ratios could improve, we can always try to do a better job helping and inspiring our students to greatness. And there are lots of schools with higher numbers I am sure, but maybe they have gone to the other extreme and sold out. I certainly don't want that either. The student should never feel like the odds are stacked against them to make it to black belt. Some would view such conditions as a challenge, but most would look at it as a discouragement. I want them to see that there is a way. I want them to see the success that is around them, how others have done it, and make the decision that they are going to succeed as well. Our black belts made that decision to dedicate themselves, to work hard, and to turn themselves into a black belt. And for that, they should all be applauded. They maybe weren't one in a thousand when they came to us, but I do believe that they have turned themselves into a rare breed of person. The type of person society needs more of. And that is our job, to make those type of people...one student at a time. --BLS