



# GMA news Aug 07

## **UPCOMING EVENTS and CALENDAR**

- Aug 4<sup>th</sup> Lil Dragon Testing (9:00-10:30 beginning, 10:30-12:30 inter/adv)
- Aug 4<sup>th</sup> Demo Team Practice 1:00-2:30
- Aug 4<sup>th</sup> TKD brown/black belt trip to GM Choi's.
- Aug 10-12 Dr. Yang Seminar in Indy. See flyer for details
- Aug 10-11<sup>th</sup> Rush Hour III trip (see below for details)
- Aug 18<sup>th</sup> CPR certification for staff/leadership team 9:00-1:00
- Aug 18<sup>th</sup> Stickfighting seminar 2:00-4:30
- Aug 24<sup>th</sup> TTCA testing 5:30
- Aug 25<sup>th</sup>
- Aug 25<sup>th</sup> Black belt prep class 1:00-2:30
- Aug 25<sup>th</sup>
- Aug 25<sup>th</sup> MMA style workout with Jason Winkle (7:00-9:00 pm) and UFC fight night

The summer retention party was unable to be scheduled in Aug. We are working on scheduling it for the beginning of Sept.

Other dates to make note of: Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>—Caique seminar at IU. Oct 14<sup>th</sup>—Fall foliage Parade. Oct 6<sup>th</sup>—USHF Fall seminar, April 19<sup>th</sup> 2008 TTCA Tournament.

## ***GMA goes to the movies:***

We are planning to go as a group to see Jackie Chan's Rush Hour 3 which opens the weekend of Aug 10<sup>th</sup>. We will have sign ups and purchase tickets in advance and go as a group. Details on showtimes/price etc. will follow. This is open to anyone who is age appropriate for the movie—presumably HKD and the older TKD students.

## ***Special Thanks for the Yard Sale.***

We appreciate everyone support in the parents committee yard sale...from those who donated items to those who bought items, but especially those who helped organize and staff it. We raised approximately 350.00 for the fund.

## **BACK TO SCHOOL LETTERS**

As students go back to school, it is a time to make good impressions and get into good habits for the new schoolyear. As always, our students will receive a letter to take to their teachers toward the end of the month. In addition, all students are expected to complete an exercise in figuring out ways that they can show respect to their teachers. Look for these to be sent out this month.

## ***Happy B-day to these students in Aug***

Tyler Clarkson	8-1	Isaiah Roach	8-2	Josh Eskonen	8-3
Sean Lamar	8-4	Grant Wolfa	8-4	Ryan McComas	8-6
Trent McLain	8-12	Anthony White	8-15	Jeremiah Deckard	8-16
Kira Weaver	8-19	Walter Elliot	8-20	Alli Pounders	8-13
Bill Ward	8-14	Patrick Mosby	8-27	Adam Hamilton	8-28
Magnum Luttrell	8-29				



### ***Training Anniversaries:***

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

John-Michael Murphy	(TKD 6 years)	Kevin Fowler	(TKD 3 years)
Austin Fowler	(TKD 3 years)	Bailey Fowler	(TKD 3 years)
Brett Luttrell	(TKD 3 years)	Ashley Luttrell	(TKD 3 years)
Cora Berkebile	(TKD, LD 3 yrs)	Ryan McComas	(TKD 2 years)
Jessica Zimmer	(TKD 1 year)	Zach Woodley	(TKD 1 year)
Josh Turner	(lil dragon 1 year)	Marshall Tucker	(TKD 1 year)

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

To coincide with our respect for teachers letter, we will be talking about respect.

### ***GMA CELEBRATES 5 Years at Current Location , 10 years in existence.***

Gentry was born in 1996-97 as more of a concept than a formal entity. Fresh out of college, Mr. Sieg began professionally teaching/training people in martial arts and fitness. He had a following of martial arts students at both DePauw University and IU, as well as other individuals from around. Needing a name to identify, describe, and unify those students who were following this particular martial path, Mr. Sieg felt “Gentry” best captured what this path was trying to accomplish in both curriculum and philosophy.

Actually, Mr. Sieg had been struggling to come up with the proper name—one symbolic and meaningful enough—for quite some time. While sitting in an upper level Asian Studies class his senior year, the professor made a connection between the Confucian character of Chun-tzu or Kunja and used the term “Gentry” as an analogous term for nobility (more in behavior and obligations rather than entitlements). Instantly Mr. Sieg realized it also described the warrior-sage model that GMA students are supposed to eventually emulate. Thus “Gentry” was born—contrary to the popular belief that someday Mr. Gentry will come into the building ☺

GM Choi gave Mr. Sieg his first set of flags (officially recognizing the school—the club at DPU) at a TKD test for his first group of yellow belts (3) in Dec. 1997, but those students started training at the beginning of the semester in August, 10 years ago. There was also a HKD test that semester. Incidentally, Mr. Yoshida was among the second group of students to test for their yellow belt in the spring, and Miss Dill was among the third group. Martinsville was added under the umbrella a couple of years later in 2000, taking space a couple of nights a week at Dance Discovery on the square, and GMA became a more formal entity as a school.

While we do have a few students who were around and still remember the horror stories of the “old building,” for most of us GMA’s home as always been 333 W Washington. And while we were teaching before this, in many ways, GMA was able to come into real being with a place of our own and a full time schedule. At the first Christmas party at the current location, (before we outgrew the building and moved it to the 4-H building), I mentioned that as great as the all the space and equipment was, the building was still just the shell. What makes GMA are the people, the atmosphere and what we do in the shell. As we mark our 5 year anniversary of the building—one that we are now outgrowing—one can’t help but take inventory of where we have come from.

Our original programs offerings of TKD and HKD have blossomed. Anchored by our black belt club, we have enjoyed success at tournaments in both numbers and performance: winning “most supportive school” awards and enjoying success in medal counts. Our demo teams have really learned ambitious routines for each year’s show and have been real trendsetters in some regards. Our HKD program has recently been honored by becoming affiliated with the Korea Hapkido Federation, with some of our black belts enjoying credentials from Korea on top of their USHF rank. Gentry has now promoted nearly 70 students to black belt, including some 2<sup>nd</sup>



and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees. Not only do we have a popular lil dragon program, but our lil dragon graduates are now becoming black belts in TKD! It is interesting to look at some of the ID card photos to see just how much some of our students have grown up in front of our eyes.

One of the things we are proud to be able to do is offer a variety of martial arts programs in order to meet a variety of needs for different populations. We take great pride in our pedigree and offerings in each of these areas. We have started our FAST defense program and developed a full team of dedicated, certified instructors. We remain the only certified school in the state to offer this national award winning program. We were also the first to host a multiple assailant class in the entire Midwest, and we have repeatedly hosted world renowned expert Bill Kipp. Not only have we started our Brazilian jiu-jitsu program, but we have become one of only a dozen national training affiliates of Team Caique. The former champion Professor Caique himself came to Martinsville to mark the opening as an official training site. We now have a crop of students who compete and represent GMA and Team Caique in tournaments, and we are starting to develop blue belts in art. Our tai chi program is small but progressing and is able to help a segment that can't or isn't interested in other martial arts, as well as building a better foundation for our other students. While one of our newer commitments, our stickfighting classes offer yet another avenue of martial arts strategy and concepts with practical weapons—not ones that are illegal to carry.

One of the things that being “gentry” implies is being a pillar of the community. We would like to think that our biggest contribution is helping to make better kids, better citizens. But we have always tried to maintain a presence and be an asset for Martinsville: from participating in fall foliage and other community events, to volunteering in the PE classes and holding after school programs in the elementary schools, to teaching tai chi and doing demos for retirement homes, and hosting special Olympics programs. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our students, we have raised/donated over \$26,000.00 to charity.

We have certainly come a long way from a handful of white and yellow belts on a rickety wooden floor. Again, the building is just the shell that enables us to chase our aspirations for the school and for our students. More importantly, we are lucky enough to have developed a great group of students and instructors that enable us to function as an extended family. None of this would be possible without the dedication and involvement of the parents (like those that help out on the parent committee) and of course, the willingness of our students to dedicate themselves to the martial arts and to being “Gentry.” Despite our accolades, pedigree and certifications, and public image, most people don't know or care about those things when they walk into the school (although it is our job to educate them on the significance of some of that). All they care about is how we can help them or their child. It is the atmosphere of the school: a place where they can see people are both learning and bonding...a place where they can call home. It takes the informal leadership of our school leaders and cooperation of all of our students to create that feel. I suspect it is that intangible but no accidental quality that has led our school to be voted #1 two years in a row (the contest has been around long). To all of you who are a part of that...thank you. We certainly couldn't have come as far as we have if it wasn't for everyone's contribution and support.

That is certainly not to suggest that we are done growing...as people, as martial artists, and as an organization. As two of my favorite sayings go--be happy with where we are, but not satisfied, because we know we can do better. And the enemy of greatness is good. Now, after 10 years, as we look ahead, it is hard to imagine another 5 years being so eventful in terms of “firsts” and “new.” But as the martial arts themselves demonstrate, just when you think you are getting an understanding of things, a whole new door opens up, leading to another level, and I am confident that our martial arts school will have the same type of experience in store for us. And I couldn't ask for a better group of people to share that journey with. Here is to the future. --

-BLS