



Gentry News Jan 08

****2008—Year of the Rat****

Upcoming events:

Jan 5 th	BJJ Blue belt pretest 9:00-1:00
Jan 12 th	TKD black belt class 9:00-10:30
Jan 12 th	HKD black belt class 10:30-12:00
Jan 12 th	FAST Basics class 1:00-4:30
Jan 19 th	TKD bb prep class 9:00-11:00
Jan 19 th	Demo team 11:00-12:30
Jan 19 th	Lil dragon movie/buddy night 6:30-9:00
Jan 25 th	TTCA testing 5:30
Jan 26 th	Stickfighting 9:00-12:00
Jan 26 th	Tai Chi 1:00-3:00
Feb 2 nd	TKD bb prep class (tentative) 9:00-10:30
Feb 9 th	TKD BB trip to GM Choi's school
Feb 9 th	FAST Basics class at Harrison Co TKD School, Lanesville IN
Feb 16 th	FAST Extravaganza at GMA
Feb 23 rd	Caique seminar at GMA!
April 18 th	TTCA black belt testing
April 19 th	TTCA Tournament in Louisville, KY

And the winners are....congrats to our award recipients!

We want to once again thank everyone for a great time at the annual Christmas party and awards banquet. This year we recognized the following students with our annual awards:

Martial Spirit Award—Rob Pounder
Most Improved Students—Taylor Dodge
Competitor of the Year (TKD)—Greg Hamilton
Competitor of the Year (BJJ)—Daniel Wiggins
Black belt of the Year—Mr. Seth Wilson
Student of the Year—Jared Hamilton

Also, special congrats to two students who received GMA's highest honor—the title of Gentry-man:
Jeremiah Deckard and Greg Hamilton

Congrats to Some Milestone Promotions

Congrats to our latest black belt in Hapkido, Rob Snyder
Congrats to our latest lil dragon graduate: Ben Marino

Congrats to our BJJ team in Michigan

Those BJJ students who traveled to Detroit represented GMA and Team Caique well. Congrats to those who medaled: Lain Stocke (1st), Bryan Neal (2nd), Dan Wiggins (3rd), and Mr. Sledd (1st, brown belt division)

GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Richard Bottorff	1-3	Ryan Jerome	1-11	Andy Eckert	1-14
Alexander Christain	1-16	Miss Raven Shotts	1-17	Titus Vee	1-18
J Burress	1-19	Austin Fowler	1-20	Noah Lambert-Adams	1-23
Kassie Hogan	1-25	Corbin Graham	1-28	Kian Benton	1-28
Gavin Porter	1-30	Jake Waltz	1-31	Mike Jent	1-31



Training Anniversaries

Mr. Cory Pierce (TKD 8 yrs)
Caleb Shotts (TKD 6 yrs)
Ethan Rupert (TKD 3 yrs)
Mandi Kestler (TKD 1 yr)

Mike Ksenak (HKD 7 yrs)
Raven Shotts (TKD 6 yrs)
Jia Jones (TKD 2 yr)

Marc Shotts (TKD, HKD 6 yrs)
Zachary Rupert (TKD 3 yrs)
Rylie Owens (TKD 1 yr)

Quotes of the Week

Since Jan is the time for new years resolution, we take the chance to discuss goal setting. We will be getting everyone to share their goals through a homework assignment.

Holiday Musings from a Martial Arts Mind

As our staff and students are recovering from the whirlwind of holiday excess, I am willing to bet that some of you are nursing numb fingers from battling the ridiculous amount of twist ties that anchor virtually every part to every toy. Those of us with little ones undoubtedly had the even more frustrating experience of trying to hurriedly remove them while impatient little fingers tried to help you free Santa's gift from its bondage. All the time—at least if you were like me—muttering under your breath that “our toys never were packaged anything like that.” Maybe it is showing our age, but of course, it is also telling of the times. When you stop to think of all the costs that are associated with those twisty ties—the time to engineer and tool machines to do those ties—several ties for each toy—and then add the cost of the material, I think those simple inconveniences actually turn into a glaring condemnation of the times today. The cost of doing business with those extra expenses is has become cheaper than dealing with all the theft that it serves to deter. I couldn't help think that all money could have been put to a better use in a perfect world. And even in this world, I couldn't help wonder what things would be like if people treated the problem in society rather than simply creating new machines to minimize the symptoms in the toy industry.

If you are still wondering how this relates to martial arts, what if the money spent on the symptom of theft had actually be spent on ways to prevent kids (and I suppose some parents too) from being so delinquent? Say...martial arts for example? What if we focused on giving more kids the respect and self-discipline they needed to be better citizens, to be more “gentry” like? What if we taught them personal responsibility and a sense of honor? We if we taught them a pro-active mindset—that of a champion with no excuses and no explanations—as a way to get them to change their circumstances—rather than letting them offer rationalizations for their poor behavior? I think more than the toy industry would enjoy that society. Now, if you even remotely know me, you can probably surmise my political leanings and they don't include huge government programs throwing money at problems that are the responsibility of individuals. I am certainly not advocating a government program to do the above (although I wouldn't mind getting that contract ☺)

It is the responsibility of parents and families to get those messages across, but clearly there are many who aren't. And maybe that isn't for lack of trying by the parents. And that of course is where we can help. With our Christmas gift certificates, some of our promotions read something like “give the gift of confidence, or discipline, or respect this holiday.” We think that is quite a gift to offer and we believe we can help deliver on that gift, otherwise we wouldn't do what we do.

In contrast, we occasionally get parents who comment that the prices for our lessons are too high or the time is too much. I can certainly appreciate that families have to budget, but given the fact that we are close to ½ the national average for instruction and don't require contracts, lets just say we don't lose sleep over what we charge. While keeping it professional, we have always wanted to also let most everyone be able to participate, because we feel most everyone can benefit. Indeed, some of the parents of those kids who need those aforementioned life lessons the most are ones who object to the cost the most...and upon hearing that I can't help but ask myself “how can you afford *not* to have your child learn these things.” Now, please don't misunderstand that I am saying that everyone who doesn't invest in martial arts lessons for their child will have them end up juvenile detention.

In some ways, it is our fault for not clearly communicating the real value that we feel comes with martial arts training, or conversely, the cost of not learning these lessons. Recently, the newspaper had the 12 honor students at East Middle. It was quite rewarding to see 25% of them were our black belts. Others were former students. I would like to think that the lessons we teach here, and along the way to black belt, helped to some degree in their success, and I also enjoy the fact these kids are among the sphere of influence to other kids here at GMA. Personally, martial arts has helped make me the person I am today in such a positive way, that if you offered me the chance to return the experience and be refunded a million dollars, I can look you straight in the eye and say “no deal.” I know several of our students who would likely say the same thing. Yes, martial arts have been worth that much to me. Next time you wonder about the value of the martial arts, just look at your raw fingers at Christmas time. I bet the toy companies wished more people would see the value in learning the *real* lessons in the martial arts. --BLS