



# GMA News Feb 09

## Upcoming events:

Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yoga schedule starts!
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	Stickfighting 9:30-12:00
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	Demo team 1:00-2:30
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	TKD BB Prep 2:30-4:00
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	USHF HKD testing
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Demo team 9:30-11:00
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	TKD black belt class 11:00-12:30
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Jason Winkle MMA seminar at IU 5:30-7:30
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	BB prep to GM Choi's. All black/brown belts welcome
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	FAST Adults basics 9-12:30
Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	Professor Caique seminar at IU (time TBA)
Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	TKD black belt pretest trip
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lil Dragon testing (beg 9-10:30, int 10:30-12:00, adv 12:00-1:00)
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	IU Friendship TKD tournament (DPU only)

## Upcoming dates

March 27-28 <sup>th</sup>	TTCA black belt testing and TTCA tournament, Louisville KY
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	USHF Spring seminar at DePauw

Get your rooms reserved now for TTCA tournament!

The TTCA has reserved several rooms blocked at the tournament location: Holiday Inn on Hurstbourne Lane. However, we don't want our students to be without rooms, so we recommend getting your reservations ASAP. Call 1-502-426-2600 for reservations. Same hotel as the past couple of years—very family friendly with a pool. Make sure to mention the tournament code TKW to get the group block rate.

## Valentine Passes Coming Soon

Don't forget to look out for our annual Valentine Day Guest Passes to share with your friends. If they bring one in, they get the bonus and you still get the referral credit on your tuition.

## Demo Team news/notes

- Demo practices resume on Friday evenings from 6:30-7:00 on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> and will run through March. There will also be a mandatory practice on March 26<sup>th</sup> during BBC time

## Quotes of the Week

Since we discussed new years goals in Jan, this month we will be discussing following through on our goals and overcoming the obstacles that might come up along the way.

## Parents Committee Notes

The parents committee is meeting on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>. Discussion about the post-tournament activities will take place.

## GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Tyler Stocke (2-4)  
Reese Elliot (2-5)  
Dakota Brown (2-10)

Kyle Metz (2-4)  
Thomas McGuire (2-14)  
Evan Burleigh (2-14)

Faith Hopkins (2-4)  
Finnegan Vandewalle (2-10)  
Zachary Rupert (2-16)



Karissa Pope (2-18)  
Amy Law (2-26)

Carley Warriner (2-20)  
Travis Holman (2-27)

Ruth Ann Honaker (2-20)  
Malana Harmon (2-29)

## Training Anniversaries

Collyn Dodge (TKD 6 yrs)  
Clayton Smith (TKD 4 yrs)  
Andrew Baugh (LD, TKD 3 yr)  
Jesse Chouinard (TKD 1 yr)

Miki White (TKD 6 yrs)  
Greg Hamilton (TKD 3 yrs)  
Sarah Honaker (LD 3 yrs)

Brenner Williams (TKD 6 yrs)  
Alex Hamilton (TKD 3 yr)  
Sarah Smith (TKD 2 yr)

## The Ending of the Golden Era—last chance to catch a glimpse.

Those of you who know my political leanings might presume by the title that I am talking about American society as a whole, but that goes beyond this newsletter. It does make you wonder, however, if—for example—the people of Rome realized the historical significance they were living through as the Roman Empire collapsed. I completely switched out topics for this newsletter last minute, as recent events has prompted me to call our students's attention to this particular period in martial arts history. If you are not already aware, the founder of Gracie Jiu-jitsu, Helio Gracie, died last week at the age of 95, still an active practitioner and teacher. Of course, the entire BJJ community is touched, especially those with closer ties like our Professor Caique. Sadly, I never got to meet the man.

I must say I don't get the interest in getting a map to the stars and trying to find their homes in Hollywood. I have never been much for meeting celebrities, except for the martial arts ones. I enjoy at least attending seminars by many martial arts legends to see what they are about and maybe learn a trick or two. I have had the pleasure of meeting some before they have passed: Wally Jay, Herman Suwanda, Remy Presas, GM Y. T. Chung and Dr. Tao Ping-Shiang (a classmate of our TCC master William CC Chen) come to mind. Others I have missed, like CDK founder GM Won Kuk Lee, and Larry Hartsell (one of Dr. Winkles main instructors). In my mind, their genius in their field was only matched by their passion for it. I am glad I got to at least see them apply their craft a little bit. Especially with Dr. Tao, I wish there was opportunity for more. More importantly, I wish our TCC students could see for themselves what I am talking about when I mention him.

And there is the sad reality, all of this generation of pioneers are getting older: Dr. Yang, Master Chen, Dan Inosanto, GM Park (GM Choi's teacher), GM Duk Son Sun, Dojunim Ji Han Jae (arguably the founder of HKD) are all in their 60's, 70's, or 80's. So are some of the next generation that are in our line: GM Choi, Master Whalen, Thomas, and Burns. I am certainly not trying to suggest that they are on their last legs—in fact, I think because many of them still move better than most of us, we tend to forget their real age. But the hard fact of life remains, they won't be around forever. These are some of the founders of the modern martial arts, the pioneers in the arts and in bringing them around the world, and truly great masters. Quite frankly, when they are gone, I am not sure anyone can truly take their place. In my humble opinion, these are the last of the truly great masters...the end of the golden era. Now to be sure, there are plenty of other great BJJ practitioners and TKD competitors out there. But they are carrying on what these masters started. There are plenty of amazing MMA fighters, but I am not sure these professional fighters (growing more egotistical as a whole) will be the ambassadors of the arts like these masters were. There is a difference between being mobbed by fans and being loved by dedicated students.

These "golden era" masters are acknowledged for reaching a pinnacle of skill that lesser martial artists never reach. It is the combination of raw talent, intelligence, and mostly unswerving dedication and hard work. People reaching this level will be fewer and farther between. Why my pessimism? In one word: television. Between the pace of modern society and its comforts, very few are willing to "eat bitter" enough to get to the same level. With the commercialization and popularization of the martial arts, we have more weekend warriors, but the training environment is not the same as what this great generation grew up in. In fact, most people would get sued if they tried to re-create it!

How does this affect our students? The tone of this article is a bit of a sad one...and yes, the window is short. But the good news is it isn't closed. Many of our students have met some of the giants I mentioned above—people that many other schools only know by name—if they even learn who they are in the first place. I want our students to appreciate the



time period they are living in....that they started their martial arts journey just in time to see some of the truly great ones, and to create memories that will become part of the lore for future generations who were too late to see them for themselves. We are lucky to have started at least in time to see a glimpse of the greatness that these masters possess. I hope our students who have had those opportunities cherish them, and I hope many of our other students make an effort to take advantage of living in this era. I don't think it will be all that long before we are saying "back in the old days." --BLS