



GMA Newsletter

March 2010

Upcoming events:

March 6 th	USHF seminar at Terre Haute 10-4:00
March 6 th	IU Friendship TKD tournament (DPU competes only, but spectators welcome)
March 12 th	TTCA testing
March 12 th	Tournament entry forms due
March 13 th	Leadership Team 9:00-10:00
March 13 th	Demo Team 10:00-12:00
March 13 th	TKD black belt prep class 1:00-2:00
March 13 th	Stickfighting 2:00-4:30
March 20 th	Planned opening of our new building! See details below
March 25 th	No BBC—demo team practice 7:45-8:30
March 26 th	TTCA black belt testing
March 27 th	TTCA tournament—Louisville
March 27 th	EGO BJJ tournament
March 29 th	LD and HKD testing: LD from 5:00-7:30; HKD at 7:30
April 10 th	TTCA black belt ceremony, Louisville
April 17 th	Public Grand Opening of the new building: Black belt reunion, etc.

Class cancellations:

All classes will be cancelled on Friday, March 26th on account of the TTCA tournament and black belt testing (all instructors will be out of town). On account of tournament, grand openings, and Easter, we have had to put some testings on Monday, March 29th. No regular classes with meet that evening.

Demo Team announcements

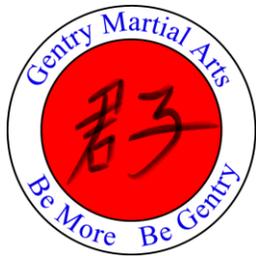
A reminder that practices on Friday evenings will be small groups. People will be notified as needed. The practice on March 13th is MANDATORY if you plan to participate in the demo at Tournament. Notice that there is a special practice on Thurs, March 25th. Remember to report to the finals early for final walkthroughs. Remember your demo uniforms at the tournament.

Congrats to our new BJJ Blue Belts

Joe Compton, Marshall Leitz, and Aubrey Rawlings were promoted to blue belt at the recent master Caique seminar. Way to go.

Tournament news and notes:

- Reminder that classes are cancelled on Friday March 26th, as all instructors will be in Louisville.
- Remember to wear your Team Gentry and GMA Parent t-shirts to show your support. The parents committee is organizing a “show your pride” day at school the same day—wear your Gentry stuff to school that Friday to send off the competitors
- Make sure all gear is clean and white. Please order any uniforms, patches, etc in advance—we sometimes sell out just before tournament.
- GMA group photo will be taken at 9:30 at venue of the tournament. This is the photo to be used for the local paper, website, etc. There will likely be a line into the room at that point, so don't be stuck in line while we are doing the photo. Please be in full uniform at that time.
- Be sure to get to the finals a bit early to get a good seat to cheer on our demo team and any people we have in the finals. Demo team, you will be expected to be back around 5:00 for walkthroughs.
- A reminder that GMA parents committee is sponsoring a dance later that evening, after the finals. It is a chance for everyone to come together as a team after the tournament.
- Review the tournament etiquette section of your manual.
- Good luck to all those testing for black belt on the 26th!!!! Other students are encouraged to watch.



Birthdays:

Logan Scott	3-6	Blake Satter	3-10	Mya Freed	3-14
Aleah Spires	3-14	Corinne Wagner	3-18	Erica Honaker	3-20
Gryffyn Wren	3-23	Shelby Moler	3-25	Mike Taylor	3-25
Taylor Payne	3-25	Amanda Spires	3-27	Luke Gamble	3-28
Josh Retz	3-29	Lise Roberson	3-29	Marc Shotts	3-30
Shae Brouse	3-30				

Training Anniversaries

Trance Behling (TKD 2 yrs)	Annabelle Cleary (LD, TKD 2 yrs)
Mike Dodge (HKD 5 yrs, BJJ 3 yrs)	

Quotes of the Week

This month's QOW will be dedicated to sportsmanship (martial arts style) and the proper mindset at the upcoming tournament and black belt test.

GRAND OPENING of the new building on MARCH 20th

We plan on having our grand opening for our students on Sat. March 20th (we will have a grand opening for the public in April). While we plan to minimize disruption during the move, it is possible we may be required to cancel some classes leading up to the move. We appreciate your patience and inconvenience as we try our best to make the school the best. At the time of writing there are many things still to be done in construction, let alone moving. There is a chance we will not meet our deadline, in which case things will have to be postponed, but right now, the following is the schedule:

7:30 am: Black belt "sunrise" class. It is only fitting that black belts have the first class in the new building.

9:00 am: Ribbon cutting and building opens—tour of the facility

9:30 am: Dodgepad tournament begins

12:30 pm: Registration for the interschool BJJ tournament

1:00 pm: Interschool BJJ tournament begins.

4:00-7:00 pm: HKD 2nd/3rd dan test. Also fitting that our school is initiated with new dan ranks.

Additionally

9:30-11:00 am Yoga matters combo class: A sampler of yoga, Zumba and a boot camp style class

1:30-3:00 pm Yoga matter combo class: A sampler of yoga, Zumba and a boot camp style class

10,000 classes. 100 black belts. 10 years. 1 new era.

Actually, those numbers are pretty conservative. It is probably closer to 15,000 classes, not counting camps. Our black belt numbers will hopefully reach 120 by this spring, and that doesn't count our blue belts in BJJ. And I have probably boasted about the 1 new era thing more than one time. ☺ How did we get here? Typical martial arts fashion. How do you teach that many classes? One night at a time. How do we get that many black belts? One rank at a time and then setting goals for the next wave. How do we have so many milestones? By constantly trying to improve ourselves and our school. By putting our heart and soul into our efforts and making it a labor of love. By wanting the best for the Gentry "family." As GM Choi says, the drop hollows the stone not by its force, but by its frequency. In some ways I need to pinch myself, because we are blessed to have this as a dream come true, but in other ways, it just seems...well...natural. Of course, we couldn't have done it without all the hard work and support of students, both past and present. We hope both groups will share in our excitement and fellowship regarding our new home, while also remembering our more humble beginnings.

It is funny how things run full circle, or as much as things change, they stay the same. This month I get to reiterate to everyone the same thing I said when we moved into our current location. A location that we are grateful that Miss Terry allowed us to have. A location that has drawn praise from our visiting martial arts "celebrities", some of whom do seminars around the country or around the world, as one of the nicest they have ever been in. When we moved here seven years ago, I said as great as this building is going to be, and as neat as things it will allow us to do will be, this place is still just a shell. I liken it a lot to the church, maybe in part because I have always felt this was my calling, my mission. Churches build sanctuaries, some very nice and large ones. And those facilities allow for some special things to happen. While those things are a logical outgrowth of what the church does, they are still secondary to the true message and purpose. If the church building burned and they had service in a gym that next Sunday, things shouldn't be that much different. And so it is with us.



I hope we can say that our Gentry family share a common bond or experience regardless of which of the three locations they have been at (or all three!). As we have our black belt reunion, the black belts of old should more or less have similar stories as our more current ones. I don't think our standards have changed. GMA's mission hasn't changed: to take people where they are and get them to where they want to be through the best martial arts experience we can provide. We all have our war stories and war wounds that are unique and yet we share; these are an outgrowth of the martial way. Traditional values like discipline, respect, honor, and responsibilities have no boundaries or eras. We sweat and sometimes bleed together, regardless of the floor underneath us. We share tears of joy and tears of disappointment, regardless of the location of our success or failures. We help each other along this martial arts path together, some are further along than others and help show the way, because we all believe in the destination that we never truly arrive at. But with our new building, our journey continues. --BLS