



# Gentry News Jan 2011

**\*\*2011—Year of the Rabbit\*\***

## **Announcing the first and only American affiliate of Team ATOS**

As announced at the Xmas party, we are ecstatic to announce that GMA and Small Axe BJJ is the first ever American affiliate of Andre Galvao and Team Atos. This is quite the honor and opportunity. More announcements to come, but this is hitting the news all over the internet already!

## **Upcoming events:**

Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership Team 9:00-10:30
Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	Demo Team 10:30-12:00
Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	TKD BB prep class 1:00-2:30
Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parents committee meeting 6:30
Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	TKD black belt class 9:00-10:30
Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	HKD black belt class 10:30-12:00
Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	Hapkido testing 7:00 pm
Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Demo Team 9:00-11:00
Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Stickfighting 1:00-3:30
Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	GMA Red Carpet Night—Movie premier 6:30
Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	TTCA testing 5:30 (no TKD class)
Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>	Black belt prep class 9:00-11:00
Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>	TKD interschool tournament 11:00-?
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	HKD seminar with Bill West at DPU 10:30-40:30
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Andre Galvao seminar

Other dates:

March 19 <sup>th</sup>	TTCA Tournament (BB testing on the 18 <sup>th</sup> )
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tentative date for USHF seminar

\*\*\*A REMINDER that Tai Chi classes have been moved to Mon/Wed evenings for the month of Jan. \*\*\*\*

## **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:

- Most Improved Student—Kaitlyn Nolan
- Competitor of the Year (TKD)—Noah Wilson
- Competitor of the Year (BJJ)—Colten Lynn
- Black belt of the Year—Mr. Gabe Wilson
- Student of the Year—Melissa Payne

Special Congrats to Dan Wiggins, for receiving GMA's highest honor...the title of gentry-man.

Also congrats to our newest lil dragon graduates: Aiden Bambery and Logan LaMar

## **GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:**

Brynslee Riffel	1-4	Ronnie Perry	1-7	Annabelle Cleary	1-8
Amanda Britton	1-10	Ryan Jerome	1-11	Angela Fields	1-13
Anthony Tejera	1-13	Raeden Lane	1-15	Ethan Barnhill	1-20
Levi LaMar	1-22	Noah Lambert Adams	1-23	Jacob Carter	1-24
Mason Smith	1-25	Ethan Retz	1-25	Branden Mason	1-28
Jacob Waltz	1-31				



## Training Anniversaries

Jia Jones (TKD 5 yrs)

William Eirhart (TKD 1 yr)

Chase Modugno (HKD 1 yr)

Logan Scott (HKD 1 yr)

Greg Hamilton (BJJ 3 yrs)

Michelle Kissinger (TKD 1 yr)

Sammy Petraits (TKD 1 yr)

Amanda Spires (TKD 1 yr)

Austin Brummett (BJJ 1 yr)

Levi LaMar (TKD 1yr)

Karl Russell (LD 1yr)

Ryan Spires (TKD 1 yr)

## Announcing our first Movie Premier

We will be making a “red carpet” event for our movie camp participants, and the whole school is invited to the premier. Show up a bit early if you want to catch a glimpse of stars arriving. Watch the movie and enjoy popcorn. We will also be showing clips from Mr. Yoshida’s movies and another full length feature. Families and friends are welcome.

## Interschool tournament

In an opportunity to get experience for our upcoming spring tournament in March, we will be hosting an interschool tournament on Jan 29<sup>th</sup>. We will run rings and brackets as close to the tournament experience as possible.

## 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.

## 2010—GMA Roared in the Year of the Tiger

Having 175 of our students and families brave bad weather to make the Christmas party makes me appreciate how strong the GMA family truly is. As I mentioned at the Xmas party, it was this time last year at the party that I took people across the street in the snow to let many see their first glimpse of the new building—it was just framed in and I had to point out where everything was going to be. Obviously, the new building and all its improvements/benefits helped make 2010 a good year for us. But as I said before, regardless of where we are housed, I would hope GMA would still accomplish its purpose. And I have to say that—pardon the pun—the year of the tiger was a roaring success for GMA.

We were up in our tournament medal count in both TKD (93) and BJJ (28). We promoted 3 new blue belts, 16 new black belts—including a class of impressive young ladies—and 7 new 2<sup>nd</sup> dans. What is really special about this class of 2<sup>nd</sup> dans is that three of the young men started their martial arts career in our Lil dragons program!. I hope our current lil dragons realize where they can be someday with years of hard work. But that wasn’t the only “firsts” this year that exemplified martial arts dedication. Our BJJ program has its first purple belt (though we frequently have more purple belts that are friends on the mat). Mr Miller was promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> dan in HKD, and Mrs. Yoshida and Mr. Yoshida were both promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> dan in TKD.

To put it in perspective, I was a third dan when we founded GMA. Now we have 3 additional “junior masters” that are beyond that. I assure you there are a lot of martial arts schools out there that don’t have a single 4<sup>th</sup> dan or maybe one instructor, but not a complete staff. There are schools that have existed for longer than GMA, with good instructors, but don’t have 3<sup>rd</sup> dans among their ranks. To have such a strong supporting cast is an honor and a real luxury that I hope our students don’t take for granted.

The biggest noise was hosting multiple BJJ world champion Andre Galvao. To say the visit was productive is quite the understatement, as GMA/Small Axe is proud to announce that we are the only American training affiliate for Andre Galvao and TEAM ATOS. While reflecting on how we roared in the year of the tiger, I know I am also excited about the future with Team Atos and other memorable events we are working on for 2011, and I am sure there will be other significant events we cant even appreciate yet. I am confident 2011 will make for a great year in review as well—I am just not sure on how to make a pun with the year of the rabbit yet. ---BLS