



# GMA News Feb 11

## Upcoming events:

Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sweat a thon charity event (leadership team—sign up)
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Demo team 9:00-11:00
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	BB prep 11:00-12:30
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lil dragon testing (beg 9:00-10:30, inter/adv 10:30-12:00)
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tai Chi field trip to b-ton
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Professor Caique seminar at IU 12:00-3:00
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	NO CLASSES—welcome yoga fit training
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Bill West Seminar at DPU 10:00-4:30
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership team 9:00-10:30
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Andre Galvoa Seminar 1:00-4:00
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Stickfighting, demo team, TKD black belt classes TBA

## Upcoming dates

March 18-19 <sup>th</sup>	TTCA black belt testing and TTCA tournament, Louisville KY
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	USHF Seminar

## 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 to get the group block rate.

## Lobby Noise and Behavior

Despite signs and requests, our students and parents have not been mindful or respectful of the yoga room and practice, and quite honestly, have lessened the yoga experience and business. Yoga practitioners come here to relax, but have to step over small children rolling on the floor to enter the room, and people loiter in front of the doors. While we strive to be a family friendly place, and we realize some of our students are here for multiple classes, corrective measures need and will be taken. Thank you for your cooperation.

## 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 MAY resume on Friday evenings from 6:30-7:00 and will run through March. Listen for announcements. There will also be a mandatory practice on March 17<sup>th</sup> during BBC time

## Quotes of the Week

We plan to revisit our "heroes in training" theme in Feb.

## Parents Committee Notes

The parents committee is meeting on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 to discuss post-tournament activities.

## GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Reese Elliot (2-5)  
Jayden Brooks (2-14)  
Sammy Petraits (2-21)

Sebastian Lynn (2-8)  
Keegan Spires (2-14)  
Cody Craig (2-23)

Finnegan Vandewalle (2-10)  
Adrian Bambery (2-14)  
Brandon Libecap (2-26)



## Don't forget GMA website/facebook.

Want to be the first to know when the school closes? Need to double check the special events calendar or pics? Check the GMA website and or facebook group, and sign up for email announcements online.

## Training Anniversaries

Collyn Dodge (TKD 8 yrs)  
Alex Hamilton (TKD 5 yrs)  
Kaitlyn Nolan (TKD 2 yrs)  
Anthony Tejera (LD 2 yrs)  
Delanie Lamar (LD 1 yr)  
Frankie Williams (TCC 5 yrs)

Clayton Smith (TKD 6 yrs)  
Sarah Smith (TKD 4 yrs)  
Aiden Bambery (LD, TKD 2 yrs)  
Jake Waltz (BJJ 2 yrs)  
Blake Satter (LD 1yr)

Greg Hamilton (TKD 5 yrs)  
Jesse Chouinard (TKD 3 yr)  
Zach Dyer (LD, TKD 2 yrs)  
Noel Dickinson (LD 1 yr)  
Cooper Staples (LD 1 yr)

## Martial arts education—more than you bargained for

During my winter term lecture at DPU, I overheard a student complaining in the hallway (but still within earshot), “I signed up for a martial arts class, not an Asian Studies class.” Actually, you signed up for Intro to the Martial Arts: History, Culture, Traditions, and Technique. So don't complain when you get history, culture and tradition. You are getting more than you bargained for. I don't think he appreciated the benefit of that, but I hope our students do. We often cite the many benefits of martial arts training that go beyond the physical, but probably the one least appreciated is the cultural aspect. Of course, it doesn't help that our students have a martial arts geek (I prefer the more politically correct term of “academic.”) as an instructor. Many people might wonder why it even matters. Let me explain.

After someone wrote their goals cards and signed it with red ink, I had to explain in class that death sentences were written in red. To write someone's name in red is to wish them or write them off as dead. How do I know that? Well, among other places I was taking notes with GM Choi when I started to write one of his senior's name with red ink and got smacked for it. Now, contrast that to some “senior” black belts in America who walk around with their names embroidered on their black belts in red. Granted, not everyone has to subscribe to that superstition, but what impression do you think that person makes when they interact with a Korean grandmaster? Or what if one of our students went up to a famous master and asked for his autograph with a red pen? We don't want our students to be “that guy.” Just this weekend I had to sign my credit card receipt at a restaurant in red ink. Perhaps one of our students may someday be a manager in a business that manages not to offend its Asian clients.

Our students have to learn some terminology and spout off some meanings. But what is the point of wrote memorization if you don't understand the reason behind it? I believe it helps you study the martial arts if you understand the context: what the pioneers were thinking, what they were dealing with, what the culture was like, etc. Then you better understand why we do what we do, and the meanings behind the terms, etc. If we don't make the effort, then we are one of those Korean martial artists who talk about how they love doing their TKD in their dojo, wearing their gi (both are Japanese terms).

That same Winter term class had a second degree black belt in taekwondoe—doe—a female deer. A 2<sup>nd</sup> dan who can't spell the art they profess to love. Our students shouldn't be “that guy.” I have been to conferences where other TKD “professionals” walk around in shirts that are monogrammed “sensei Bob”. Not only is it a contradiction of country, but it also violates the rules of grammar and culture. It is wrong on many levels. Don't be “that guy.” Now, I have been called “sensei” by people in town and even in class. I don't take offense, because most of the time people are genuinely trying to be respectful. But our students should know better. And many a sensei Bob might truly love the arts and be sincere about helping people through teaching them. They might not know or care. Ignorance is bliss, but is still ignorance. Our students should be better than that.

This school year alone, I have written two letters of recommendations for study abroad programs. I am able to demonstrate with confidence that our students have already shown the ability to appreciate a foreign culture and could easily embrace and adapt to the challenges of studying abroad, because they already had done so in the dochang. I can confidently say they are not going to be “that guy” in a situation abroad, because they have practiced being better than that here. It is certainly not why our students signed up for classes, but I hope they now appreciate how they got more than what they bargained for. Our students might not go onto to become martial arts “academics,” but whether going abroad or managing a restaurant without red pens, it is just one more example of how “being more” pays off. --BLS