



GMA News June 14

Break-a-thon Results

Thank you to everyone who worked very hard to make our break a thon and annual picnic a success. Our final tally was approximately \$1,800. A special thanks to our sponsors lumber companies who donated part of the wood: 84 lumber. Please relay your appreciation to them.

Congrats to our new black belts:

Mr. Luke Gamble and Miss Karissa Cozee in TKD

Mr. Anthony DePascuale in HKD

Also congrats to Mr. Dakota Dalton, Mr. Adam Luhman, and Miss Trina Manalo, on receiving GMA's highest reward of gentryman-for their career of service at DPU.

SUMMER ATTENDANCE REWARD and Referral Program

As usual we have our summer attendance reward program starting in June. Look for details on how you can be a part of a celebration at the end of the summer for strong attendance during the hot summer months. We also have a special summer referral program. See the handout in class for details.

Upcoming Events

May 31 st	FAST stress shooting 9:00-1:00
May 31 st	Black belt prep 2:00-4:00
June 7 th	TTCA "summer camp"—Louisville 10:00-6:00
June 7 th	Hoosier Open BJJ tournament
June 14 th	Lil Dragons testing beg: 9:00-10:30, int/adv 10:30-12:00
June 14 th	Demo Team 1:00-2:30
June 16-20	Hapkido Day Camp
June 20 th	TTCA testing 5:30
June 16-20	Fathers join us for class.
June 20-22	Tai chi seminar—Master Chen in B-ton
June 23-27	TKD daycamp
June 23rd	Parents committee movie night—Mooresville Theaters approx. 7:00. No classes after 6:00
June 28 th	Stickfighting 9:00-11:30
June 28 th	Black belt prep 1:00-3:00
June 28 th	Tentative stress shooting
July 16-18	LD day camp
July 21-25	TKD day camp

Fathers' day invitation

After inviting the mothers to join the kids in class for mother's day, we would be in trouble if we didn't offer the same to our fathers. Dads, Grand-dads, etc. are welcome to join their kids in class the week following Fathers day—June 16-20.

Parents Committee Movie Night

Parents committee will be holding a movie night at Mooresville theaters on Monday June 23 at approx. . We will be watching the family movie How to Train your Dragon 2 at approx. 7:00 (watch for announcements on the specific time). A ticket for movie admission, popcorn and coke is only 10.00 per person. You save money and Parents Committee still raises funds. Family and friends are welcome! Watch for announcements concerning advance tickets sales. Funds are given back to the students by way of parent committee sponsored special events for the school—like our back to school fun day, holiday parties, etc.



Training Anniversary

Congrats to those students who are celebrating a year or multiple years of training with us:

Noah Wilson (TKD 11 yrs, BJJ 5 yrs)	Gabe Wilson (TKD 11 yrs, BJJ 5 yrs)	Rebekah Wiley (TKD 8 yrs)
Kelsey Wagoner (BJJ 4 yrs)	Morgan Williams (HKD 4 yrs)	Andy Farmer (LD 1 yr)
Christian Marion (BJJ 1 yr)	Cadyn Nugent (TKD 1 yr)	

Happy Birthday to these students

Zach Osborn	6-1	Ben Rahman	6-2	Obed Soto	6-3
Derek Nix	6-9	Luke Kachelmeyer	6-10	Adam Satter	6-14
Travis Roembke	6-14	Hayden Kachelmeyer	6-15	Fisher Dunscombe	6-16
Morgan Williams	6-19	Dominick Spires	6-19	Jayden Inlow	6-19
Dlyan Adams	6-22	Katherine Satter	6-27	Martina Ruba	6-27
Liberty Morris	6-29				

Quotes of the week—inspired by our new graduates, this month we will be talking about a healthy perspective on change.

Please keep us posted

A reminder as summer approaches: if you have vacation plans, we would appreciate being kept informed, so we don't worry if we miss you in classes. Thanks.

This Month in Martial Arts History (selected from “Dates with Destiny” in *Martial Arts Success* by John Corcoran.

June 15, 1917	Birthday of American jiu-jitsu pioneer Wally Jay
June 1961	Black belt magazine is founded
June 1978	“Good Guys Wear Black” first features Chuck Norris as the star
June 22, 1984	Karate Kid debuts—forever changing the perception and demographics of martial arts in America
	Karate II and III are released in June 1986 and 1989 respectively. As well as the remake in 2010.

Other June movie releases include *Mulan* (1998) and *Kung Fu Panda* (2008).

Congratulations, Your Master is Still Alive

This month I am excited to learn from my primary Tai chi instructor, Grandmaster William CC Chen, as he comes from NYC to Indiana on one of his yearly visits. Even though he has taught for many decades and I have studied for over 15 years, every time he comes, I always learn a great deal and it is always different. Perhaps this speaks to the complexity of the art, but it is also testimony to Master Chen’s continued investigation and growth both as a student and a teacher. Word has it from colleagues that went to his NY intensive that he has a new stich for this summer as well. Master Chen jokes that he is like an iphone, with a new version each year. At lunch a friend and classmate of mine, Daniel Martin, were discussing the frustration this can lead to, when just when you think you have it figured out, then a curveball comes along. He summed it up very well with the phrase, “congratulations, your master is still alive.”

And he is absolutely right. We should be very grateful, not just because of the convenience or the fact we don’t wish anyone dead, but because of the example that our grandmasters have set. From GM Chen and Dr. Yang (Tai chi) to Professor Galvao (BJJ), these masters at the top of their craft are continuing to improve, continuing to innovate or refine their curriculum, continuing to be lifelong students. Another one of my seniors under Dr. Yang also put it eloquently, “He wants you to get to where he is, but he isn’t going to slow down and wait for you to catch up!”

Sometimes people like or even romanticize the idea that martial arts have been done the same way for centuries. While an appealing notion, in very few cases does it really seem to be that way. Just look at the way the different schools of our TKD, Hapkido, or BJJ organizations do things slightly (or not so slightly) differently on account of individual instructor nuances. And that is with many of the primary instructors still alive. Many of you have played the “telephone



game,” where people take turns whispering a phrase down the line to see how distorted it becomes. Think of how badly that would happen over generations. I can assure you it is something we constantly fight just among our classes at GMA. Schools who are orphaned with no one to help them grow, or at the very least prevent them from degrading, are stuck in a very difficult position of trying to tread water and not stagnate.

Sometimes, the examples of being stuck in time with your teaching can be absurd. It reminds me of a story about a Christmas Ham tradition. One holiday season, a newlywed wife was at odds with the inlaws on how to prepare the Christmas ham. The new wife cut the ends off the ham before cooking it. When asked what benefit that had, she simply said it was all part of the family recipe, but she really didn't know why. So she asked her own mother. Mom didn't know either, just that is the way grandma had always done it. So they went to ask grandma. Turns out, grandma's oven was too small, and she had to cut the ends off to make it fit. A lot of tradition is like that. There is one tai chi form that has an adjusting step where you really don't step forward but simply switch feet in place. Many would swear it has been taught that for a specific reason for generations. In reality, when filming the instructional video, the teacher was about to step off frame, and so adjusted to keep on camera. Now it is tradition. Other times, tradition is rather arbitrary or circumstantial. I recently read some history on Chen style tai chi, where there is one version of the form that is viewed as fringe or unorthodox. In actuality, a particular master simply chose to move away and teach abroad. If he had assumed his position of authority in Chen village and taught there, then in all likelihood his version would have been viewed as the standard or conventional way for generations.

This spring I have been fortunate enough to finally receive my teaching credentials in Dr. Yang's Chinna curriculum, and our FAST team is one of only a few in the entire country to be able to teach the new FAST stress shooting course. We are glad to be able to offer this new teaching to further improve our students. Like GM Choi says, flowing water stays fresh, pooled water becomes stagnant. The martial arts—and life in general—should be a lifelong process of learning. We will continue to learn as students and grow as teachers. It can be frustrating at times when things change, but it is better than the alternative. So congrats, your instructors are still alive. --BLS