



GMA NEWS July 14

Congrats to

Jake Waltz and Ryan Jerome, as they embark on another life chapter, received GMA's highest honor—the title of Gentry-man.

To our newest lil dragon graduate—**Ryan June**

Upcoming events/Class adjustments

July 4th	NO CLASS—happy Independence Day
July 10-11	Kids BJJ daycamp
July 12	Leadership team/junior LT 9:00-10:30
July 12	Demo team 10:30-12:00
July 12	Stickfighting 1:00-3:30
July 13	Small Axe BJJ seminar with Mr. Sledd 1:30-4:30
July 16-18	Lil dragon daycamp
July 18	TTCA testing
July 21-25	TKD daycamp
July 23 rd	Lil dragon testing beg/int 4:30-6:00, adv 6:00-7:00
July 26	FAST stress shooting course 9:00-1:00
July 26 th	Tentative demo team 1:30-3:00
Aug 9 th	Metamoris Open mat

*** July daycamp is nearly full***

Earn points, get lots of attention, intensive training, and lots of classes towards your next rank!

GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Jackson Gadberry	7-03	Dana Elliot	7-5	Mr. David Yoshida	7-8
Gauge Clephane	7-8	Kylie Piper	7-9	Evan Raju	7-13
Tanner Pottorff	7-14	Michael Hargis	7-19	Andy Farmer	7-20
Josh Britt	7-22	Mike Dodge	7-24		

Look for us at our FAIR BOOTH, and don't forget that students can earn points for helping. Look for sign ups at the end of the month.

Training Anniversaries

Congrats to those who are celebrating a year, or multiple years, of training. We appreciate their hard work, dedication, and friendship.

Richie Long (TKD 9 yrs)	Kyler Chylaszek (TKD 5 yrs, BJJ 1 yr)	Don Roach (TKD 5 yrs)
Dylan Adams (TKD 1 yr)	Aiden Bambery (BJJ 1 yr)	Devin Nix (BJJ 1yr)
Derek Nix (BJJ 1 yr)	Luke Wilson (BJJ 1 yr)	Nate Wilson (BJJ 1 yr)

Quotes of the Week

As the year is halfway over, it is time to assess our yearly goals and talk about sacrificing in order to “win”

This Month in Martial Arts History

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

July 1935. Mikonosuke Kawaishi introduced the concept of various colored belts to his judo school in France.

Subsequently adopted by all martial arts around the world.

July 20 1973 Bruce Lee's death

July 21 1899(-Oct 27 1986) Birthday of arguably the founder of Hapkido, Yong Sul Choi

July 24 1936 Birthday of Dan Inosanto (kali, jkd)

July 27 1923 (-April 25 1994) Birthday of Karate legend, founder of Kyokushinkai karate, May Oyama (Korean)



I don't like all this liking.

Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work. –William Arthur Ward.

Social media like facebook has certainly revolutionized the way people communicate, do business, etc. I was relatively slow to embrace the medium but realized how necessary it is to reach our students and communicate our message. But not all the change has been for better. I recently gave lots of praise to a video poem called “Look up”—ironically found and shared on facebook—that is an accurate commentary about how people become so self-absorbed in their devices that they lack real social interaction and lose the ability to make real connections. As the video says, “smart phones and dumb people.” I am biased, but I insist that GMA is a place that can help combat that trend, where people can find a real sense of belonging in team as we share the goal of bettering ourselves through martial arts training. Unfortunately, it is becoming harder and harder for that betterment to occur, which I partly attribute to another social media phenomenon....the like button.

The like button allows you to quickly and remotely show support or commiserate for a person or a cause, but just as facebook relationships are being mistaken for real connection, people seem to be confusing the superficial act of liking with true support and aid. When I recently published my e-book “Drops Against the Stone,” I was overwhelmed with the number of likes and support I got on facebook. But only a handful of those people actually spent the whopping three dollars to buy it. We recently asked people to like our facebook page and to also write a positive review. We got plenty of likes, but only a handful of people actually bothered to take the extra time to write something. I am not writing this to guilt anyone into doing either one of those things, but only to point out that there is a big discrepancy between clicking a mouse button and actually putting effort into something.

This spring at DePauw, we hosted our friend TK Logan, one of the country's experts on domestic violence for a couple of workshops. One sorority on campus has the stated philanthropy of domestic violence. They had their very successful charity event, a strut-a-thon, just the week prior to TK's visit. A strut-a-thon is where men from all the fraternities walk around the athletic track in high heels. It was well attended both in terms of participants and spectators. How many of those supporters came to the talks and supported actual education in the cause they supposedly championed? None of them. Make an idiot out yourself so cute girls will laugh at you (or conversely, make men do stupid things so you can both have a fun time by being silly), then lots of people seem to care about domestic violence. Actually show up to learn something about the problem that could actually make an impact on it? Well, that is a little more like work and we can't be bothered by that. (Maybe it is because I forget to create an events page and get them to click that they were attending?)

As we continue to superficially “like” things, we are forgetting what dedication truly is. Forget about going the extra mile, I am talking about just the basics. You say you “like” or support a candidate? Then actually get out and vote. You say you “like” what a particular charity does for the community, then put your money or time where your mouth is and donate one or the other.

I wonder how many people “like” the martial arts? More than understand what real dedication to the martial arts is more than occasionally showing up to class and posting a lot of martial arts related facebook memes. Don't get me wrong, I am glad they are at least doing that! But I wish they wouldn't just scratch the surface. I would like for our students to learn what real dedication looks and feels like, and I would like for our students to be just as dedicated in other endeavors and relationships so that they can make a real difference. I would like our students to BE MORE than just a button clicker. --BLS