



Gentry News Jan 2015

****2015—Year of the Sheep****

Upcoming events:

- Jan 2nd Catch up camp 1:00-4:00
- Jan 3rd Demo Team 9:00-10:30
- Jan 3rd Black belt prep 10:30-12:30
- Jan 3rd Leadership team 1:00-2:30
- Jan 17th Lil Dragon testing 9:00-11:00
- Jan 24th Demo Team 9:00-10:30
- Jan 24th Black belt prep 10:30-12:00
- Jan 24th Stickfighting 1:00-3:30
- Jan 30th TTCA testing 5:30
- Jan 31st FAST stress shooting 9:00-1:00
- Feb 7th Holcombe Thomas HKD seminar--DPU
- Feb 14th Demo Team 9:00-11:00
- Feb 14th TKD black belt prep 11:00-12:00
- Feb 14th Stickfighting 1:00-3:30
- Feb 21st USHF Spring seminar—Indiana State Terre Haute
- Feb 27/28th TTCA black belt testing and tournament
- March 7th IU TKD tournament (DPU and 18 yo)
- March 7th GMA Red Carpet Night—Movie Premier 7:00 pm
- March 14th FAST Extravaganza 9:00-4:00
- March 21-22 Dr. Yang Jwing Ming seminar—Indy.

And the winners are....congrats to our award recipients and other promotions!

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:

- Martial Spirit Award—Thomas Neidigh
- Most Improved Student—Austin Edwards
- Competitor of the Year (TKD)—Morgan Williams
- Competitor of the Year (BJJ)—Noah Wilson (first to win in both TKD and BJJ)
- Black belt of the Year—Collyn Dodge
- Student of the Year— Kathryn Clephane

Congrats to Lise Roberson for earning GMA’s highest honor, the Gentry certificate, for the many years of loyalty, hard work, and servant leadership.

GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Aviah Todd	1-1	Sophie Gillick	1-10	Ryan Jerome	1-11
Anthony Tejera	1-13	Debbie Rahman	1-21	Noah Lambert Adams	1-23
Adriana Dodds	1-26	Aiden Dodds	1-26	Jacob Waltz	1-31

Training Anniversaries

Austin Brummett (BJJ 5 yrs)	Sammy Petraits (TKD 5 yrs)	Ryan Spires (TKD 5 yrs)
Kylie Yoshida (LD, TKD 6 yrs)	Torrey Hanson (HKD 3 yrs)	Austin Edwards (TKD 1 yr)

Announcing our 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 likely watch another full length feature –although it won't be as entertaining as our premier. Families and friends are welcome.

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.

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

Jan 7th 1932-- Birthday for Jhoon Rhee—father of American TKD and Chung Do Kwan member

Jan 17th 1939—Birthday for Dr. He-Young Kimm—HKD master and Korean martial arts historian

Jan 17th 1970—Chuck Norris's last fight before retiring.

2014 in Review—The Travel Destination that is GMA.

As we typically do, it is time to take stock of where we as a school and also reflect on our past year. As usual, we had our share of accomplishments in the typical areas: 8 new black belts ranging in age from one of our youngest ever to some able bodied college students to a mid 40's mother. We garnered 91 trophies at TTCA tournaments (49 sparring 42 forms) which is nearly a 1.5 trophy per tournament entry ratio. The school with the next biggest haul of trophies in the fall tournament had less than a 1.0 average. Several of our HKD black belts also got promoted or got their rank recognized in the Korea Hapkido Federation as well. And our BJJ program saw our first wave of leaders and instructors get brown belts in that art.

But the biggest accomplishments this past year were in the realm of FAST. Our team became part of one of the first and only group of instructors in the new FAST Stress Shooting course. We passionately feel this course fills both a need and a niche in responsible gun ownership programming. Much of our growth as professionals in terms of research and training came in support of this program. We also were one of three cities to host a regional FAST certification weekend—where other martial artist or self-defense instructors came to be certified in the FAST program. The other two cities were Boston and San Diego. I frequently said this year that while you typically don't associate our town with those other two travel destination cities, it just goes to show what we try to be big league in what we do at GMA. And in doing so, we bring a lot of attention to Martinsville. This year I found myself joking that GMA is Martinsville's number one tourist attraction. I don't think I am far off the mark.

For starters, as we are committed to bringing the best instructors to our students, we have had guest instructors visit us from Boston, Virginia, Brazil by way of San Diego, Pacific Northwest, Colorado, Korea, and China (by way of IU). None of these people would have come to our little town if not for martial arts. This FAST certification saw Dik Chance, global training director for FAST, who hails from the UK, hang out of our school and sign our mats.

But we don't just pay people to come to Martinsville; often they pay to come to us. This year alone, our HKD events have brought people from St. Louis, Chicago and all parts of Indiana (in the past, FL and AK). Our tai chi push hands events have brought people from Evansville, Corydon, Bloomington, and Indianapolis. Our stress shooting courses have brought people from all over the state—hours away in several directions—from Anderson to Corydon, etc. As have our FAST classes, such as the Cincinnati region Last week's BJJ seminar brought 50 people from all over—West Lafayette, Orleans, etc. (In the past, BJJ has brought people from TN, AL, SD, MO, OH). During the FAST certification, we hosted guests from Michigan, Texas, Georgia, California, and New Mexico.

I would be willing to bet no other activity or event in town brings people from such a broad range specifically for a recreational purpose. I am not talking friends or family using the fair or fall foliage as a pretext to come back to visit. These people have no other reason to ever visit Martinsville except for our programming. They buy gas, food, lodging when they come. More importantly, it gives our students, and more broadly our town, a chance to make a good impression. And we usually do.

Let's face it, Martinsville suffers from not having the best of reputation around the state. When I first started teaching here, I invited students from the universities to come up and visit our school. A few refused based on that reputation. Some of those eventually acquiesced, and their minds were changed. Those who attended FAST from afar



were glowing with reports of Hoosier Hospitality. Honestly, some of their impressions were kind of comical to me: apparently we don't try to run elderly people with walkers out of the way like they do elsewhere. In all seriousness, I am glad to live in a place where we take the basics of treating people decently for granted. And I am glad that I can help share the positives of our town with lots of people who would otherwise never visit Martinsville, and maybe even inspire them to BE MORE in their hometown. --BLS