



Gentry News Jan 2019

****2019—Year of the Pig****

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—Kaiden Cedeno

Competitor of the Year (TKD)—Jack Higgins

Competitor of the Year (BJJ)—Launa Perryman

Black belt of the Year—Launa Perryman

Student of the Year—Jack Higgins

Congrats to the newest recipient of GMA's highest honor—the title of Gentry-man—to Clay Thacker

Congrats to BJJ competitors and Promotions

We had a small contingent, and several had their first tournament in adult divisions. Congrats to Wesley Yoshida and Braeden Myers (3rd) on finishing on the podium.

We also had some promotions to some elite BJJ ranks: Congrats to Mr. Noah Wilson on his promotion to Purple Belt, and Congrats to Mr. Yoshida on his promotion to brown belt.

Welcome Miss Spires, Thank you Miss Gens

We would like to formally introduce Miss Aleah Spires as our newest assistant instructors. She will be stepping in a lot for Miss Gens, who is stepping back from teaching regularly to focus on other things as she finishes her high school career.

Upcoming events:

Dec 30, Jan 1st No class—Happy New Year. BJJ open mat. TBD

Jan 2nd Catch up camp 1:00-4:00

Jan 2nd Classes resume

Jan 4th Weapons Camp 9:00-3:00

Jan 5th Lil Dragon testing (beg 9:00-10:30; 10:30-12:00)

Jan 5th TKD BB stripe retest/make up test 2:00

Jan 12th Leadership Team 9:00-10:30

Jan 12th Demo Team 10:30-12:00

Jan 18th TKD testing 5:30

Jan 19th TKD black belt prep 9:00-11:00

Jan 19th Demo performance at MHS halftime (demo meet here at 5:00, performance approximately at 8:00)

Jan 19th Teenager (15 +) movie night, following the demo till midnight (ish?)

Jan 26th TKD tournament

Jan 27th Push hands workshop, B-ton

Catch up Camp

As always, we are offering people a chance to get back into the swing of things and catch up on missed classes from over the holidays in our TKD catch up camp. All rank material will be covered in this 3 hour intensive which also counts for 3 classes—we keep it very affordable to let everyone be able to catch up or simply get a jump start on training in the new year.

Weapons CAMP

This year's camp will feature one of Mr. Sieg's instructors in the Filipino arts, Dr. Jason Winkle. He will be teaching espada y daga (stick and dagger). A part of the Filipino arts, it is also heavily influenced by European sword and



dagger, so it ties in with both our Stickfighting program and also our German Longsword camps. Although Dr. Winkle has signed our mats of fame, it has been over 7 years since he has taught here, so we are extremely excited to have him back.

Look for two important communications*

Please watch out for two important memos from us at the start of the year. Both were important enough we didn't want them to get lost in the shuffle of the newsletter. The most important one is dealing with some housekeeping regarding memberships and we appreciate your prompt cooperation. The second is in regards to a huge referral campaign we are doing.

GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Alysha Patel	1-1	Shawna Clark	1-1	Ryan Jerome	1-11
Suzanne Gens	1-12	Anthony Tejera	1-13	Steven Estrada	1-14
Jayden Parsons	1-15	Debbie Rahman	1-21	Aiden Dodds	1-26
Eva Morton	1-28				

Training Anniversaries

Ryan Spires (TKD 9 yrs) Haley Adams (TKD 1yr)

Quotes of the Week

Since Jan is the time for New Year's resolutions, 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.



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2018 Year in Review—the Common Language of Martial Arts

If there was a unique theme that played out this past year, it was probably the importance of culture in the martial arts. No doubt some of our students and parents wonder why we are so particular on learning the proper Korean terminology for techniques, etc. This year turned out to be a good example as to why.

This previous semester I had the chance to work with Miss Eddie Kim, who as an intern from Yong In, South Korea and sat in on some of my courses at IU. She is a 3rd dan in MooMooKwan Hapkido. Because of my strong background in very traditional, Korean Hapkido and TKD, I had a better understanding of where she was likely coming from and could serve as a bridge between her martial arts and the more "Americanized" martial arts and self-defense she would be observing in our classes. We compared notes. She corrected some of my Korean, helped me buy a book in Korean, and taught me more commands to yell at my students in Korean. Her English is pretty good, but I still got to teach her words like haymaker and slobber-knocker. There were many times, however, in discussing techniques or what I



wanted her to review in class, when the most expedient thing was simply to use the Korean terminology or closest approximation.

This semester at DPU, we had several black belts transfer in from around the world: China, India, even Milwaukee. Other students were from Japan, Germany, and Thailand. In fact, the majority of students are NOT American. Sometimes, the biggest differences were not in language or culture barriers but a chasm in their TKD training. It was clear many had learned TKD only as a sport. No one steps, no breaking. Forms were only a thing you crammed right before you promoted, and then to be forgotten again. One student admitted as such when I was confused at how an upper rank colored belt didn't know the beginning form. The girl from Milwaukee insisted she was a Kukkiwon black belt, and she may very well have the certificate, but she didn't know any of the Kukkiwon curricula but instead did the ITF forms. Admittedly, this is not unheard of. And none of this is their fault. Most appear to be good kids and dedicated students who just happened to have a different teacher.

But the bigger thing that struck me is how *in theory* we should have been able to precisely communicate in the language/terminology of taekwondo. Apkubi is an apkubi (front stance); sonnal makki is always sonnal makki (knife hand block). Sometimes that worked. Often it didn't. Again, as international students their English is much better than my Chinese (different dialects), Thai, Japanese, Indian, or even Wisconsinian, but if they had been more prepared in the lexicon of TKD, life would have been simpler getting them up to speed with the way we do things.

That is why I value my upbringing in very traditional training and try to remain close to those roots. That is why events like our first ever Korean Cultural Night, in conjunction with the IU East Asian Studies Center, is important to our students. And because we value these things, we gain opportunities like having our demo team perform at Korea night at IU—showcasing a Korean martial art to about 300 Koreans. As we prepare to take 15 black belts back to Korea next year and train among other nationalities in some of the mecca's of Korean martial arts, I hope that we are better prepared to communicate at least while on the training floor by speaking the common language of TKD.