



Gentry News Jan 2025

****2025—Year of the Snake****

And the winners are.... congrats to our award recipients!

We want to thank once again everyone for the wonderful time at the annual Christmas party and awards banquet. This year we recognized the following students with our **annual awards**:

Most Improved Student—Corbin Seacat
Competitor of the Year (TKD)—Kylie Yoshida
Competitor of the Year (BJJ)—Gideon York
Black belt of the Year—Nathin Plummer
Student of the Year—Evalyse Jones

ALSO, CONGRATS TO OUR NEWEST LIL DRAGON GRADUATE: Ronnie Sachs

Upcoming events:

Jan 2 nd	Winter Weapons camp—Rope Dart 9:00-3:30
Jan 4 th	Catch up Camp 9:00-11:30
Jan 4 th	Nikki Sullivan BJJ seminar 2:00 in Greenwood
Jan 4 th	Spar Wars Kendo/movie choreography night 5:00-9:00
Jan 11 th	Demo team 9:00-10:30
Jan 11 th	Black belt prep 10:30-12:30
Jan 17 th	TKD testing—no TKD class 5:30
Jan 18-19	GMA hosts Tricom Edged Weapon Countermeasures course and instructor training* You must sign up online through Tricom
Jan 24 th	Demo Team performance at Martinsville HS halftime. Demo meet here first, TBA –NO CLASSES EXCEPT BJJ
Jan 25	Be Safe FAST Adult Basics Course 9:00-12:30
Jan 25 th	BJJ Tournament: Fuji in Noblesville
Feb 1 st	TKD tournament

Also, SUMO starts back up in Jan

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 over the holidays in our TKD catch up camp. All rank material will be covered in this 2.5-hour intensive camp which also counts for three classes—we have kept it very affordable to let everyone be able to catch up or simply get a jump start on training in the new year.

REVIEW and FOLLOW Campaign

We would appreciate it if our students/parents would leave more reviews on Facebook/Google, etc. This is important to reassure other perspectives who are checking us out, and it insulates us from trolls killing our rating. Some of our reviews are dated and we would like more fresh ones, so we are going to have a contest to help encourage participation. We will be having a drawing for a 100.00 Amazon gift card. Every review on google or Facebook will get you five entries. Subscribing to our YouTube channel will get you two entries and liking the GMAM Facebook page or following us on Instagram (if you haven't already) will get you one additional entry. Drawing will be at the end of the month. Please note, we must be able to recognize who you are in reviews/subscriptions/follows to give you credit, so if it isn't clear, message us or comment to clarify. You must message us about the GMAM page like...we can't see individual updates (another change by FB). And to those who have already done so, THANK YOU.



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endorse Mr. Sieg and Gentry Martial Arts



at Gentry_MA

GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Alysha Patel	1/01	Charlene Denney	1/03	Gus Alvey	1/02
Miylah White	1/08	Brycen Byrum	1/08	Suzanne Gens	1/12
Glaucia Henson	1/09	Ryder Morris	1/11	Ayalen Alonso	1/15
Deborah Kaufman	1/16	Tyana Alonso	1/17	Ruth Kaufman	1/18
John Hambrick	1/19	Lucy Norris	1/19	Bethany Wangler	1/25
Mikenna Kirk	1/31				

Training Anniversaries

Ryan Spires (TKD 15 yrs.)	Rebecca Watkins (TKD 6 yrs.)	Caden Howe (TKD 4 yrs.)
Adrian Martin (TKD 3 yrs.)	Eli Voorhees (TKD 3 yrs.)	Sarah Voorhees (TKD 3yrs.)
Chuck Goforth (BJJ 2 yrs.)	Joey Schilling (BJJ 2 yrs.)	Eleanor Berninger (LD 1 yr.)

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.

History repeated itself in 2024. Looking back at "generational" events

Whenever I see an old friend and/or former student out and about and start to catch up, the question of "how are things at GMA?" almost arises. My typical response is something to the effect that we are blessed to be still be doing the same, just plugging along, etc. While it does fit the socially accepted response (much like answering 'fine' when asked how you are doing), I am genuine and sincere when I say it. But upon reflection, that answer means something very different to me than to most of the people I give it to. For a school that has been around for over 25 years, and one that I would like to think strives for excellence, what I consider "the usual" isn't very normal to people with a more limited timeline or experience with us.

Perhaps the best example is our training trip to Korea this past year. I know of only a handful of schools in the entire country that have attempted that undertaking even once...and we just took our 3rd trip in since 2012. As someone who has been lucky to have the pedigree I have had in several martial arts, being around living legends, historical figures, and pioneers was not foreign. (I realize that seems like I am bragging, but I will admit I have done nothing special to deserve these privileges, but I will forever remain appreciative of them). On this trip to Korea our students met and



trained with four different ninth dans—old school grandmasters who have students who are now grandmasters. For even our 3rd dans, that is more than they had ever met up to that point, and it was very important that this generation get that experience, just like previous GMA generations have had. History was repeating itself, but I hope it was a history making moment for each individual student on the trip.

It is sometimes hard to keep track of different generations of students. I have been known to start talking to one student about another who trained several years before or after the other. (I hope that is true for anybody who has taught for any length of time, and not just a sign of TBI for me)

As such, it is hard for me to remember what exactly I have passed down to which generation. Even within our current classes, I must be careful not to lose track of the amount of time that has passed. I can easily think that I have covered that with our yellow belts—they know how to do that--- but that was 6-9 months ago, those yellow belts are now purple belts, and our current yellow belts don't know what I am talking about. Even more so in our black belt class, when I don't want to repeat myself with our senior black belts, but our newer black belts haven't heard it in years.

So at the risk of having our senior students roll their eyes when they have to endure certain stories or history lessons about our lineage or training, or supplemental training that I am handing down, as it was handed down to me, history very much has to repeat itself on a regular basis in ensure that the accumulated knowledge of the arts is preserved and passed on to the next generation.

The process happens many times over in the life cycle of the school. We try to make sure our black belt leaders appreciate similar life cycles in school. We have all had mentors and role models in training—people we looked up to and impacted us. Our current instructors and black belts had those people—and we make sure they understand that they are supposed to be that for the current-colored belts. Some of our now colored belts, and even our lil dragons, will someday be that type of mentor for future generations of students. It is the cycle of life in martial arts schools, and history repeated itself this year as well—we had some assistant instructors move on, and we have had the next generation step up. We also had to replace our program director this year—not an easy set of shoes to fill—but one we have had to do multiple times over the life of the school.

While certain things naturally occur in their season, it is important that we stay more deliberate in making sure certain events do repeat themselves. We want to continue to provide the next generation of black belts with the chance to go on a trip of a lifetime to Korea. We want to continue to bring in amazing guest instructors so our students can learn from the elite. In the past, it has been Olympic or World champions, or self-defense experts. Hard to say what the future holds, but we will continue to strive to give our students the best opportunities we can. Similarly, we want to provide our students with rare and unique opportunities most martial arts students never have— like we are currently doing with rope dart and sumo training. In the past, it has been German longsword, sarong, or tactical casualty care. The subject may change, but the sentiment remains.

We could rest on our laurels from those previous events, but that does no good to our current students. The dedicated student now doesn't want to hear stories about how many great things we used to do. This generation of students want the chance to learn and experience for themselves, and they deserve it. To not give them those opportunities would be like holding back information in classes.

So, we keep doing them. It is our same ole, same ole. I do not mean to suggest these events get mundane or old. I am very excited for events we have coming up in the near future. And I hope our students don't take them for granted. Because it is their job to help retain and pass it on to the next generation. The history we read about was major life event to the people living through it. And we are looking forward to history repeating itself at GMA in 2025, and our current students experiencing milestone events.