



2009 INDUCTEES

Youth

Elijah Pyatt.....Outstanding Martial Artist

Elijah is a senior at Oak Hill High School in Oak Hill, West Virginia. He is the 2008 West Virginia State Champion, and the 2008 Ohio State Champion. Elijah is the 2008 National Champion at the American Karate JuJitsu Union. He has also won the Grand Championship in the 2007 & 2008 United Martial Arts Tournament Alliance. Elijah is currently undefeated with a record of 25-0-0 in the 3 years he has studied. He is also the first Black Belt promoted from Heiandjin-Li Karate.

Noah Pyatt.....Outstanding Martial Artist

Noah is going into 5th Grade at Collins Middle School in Oak Hill, West Virginia. During his 3 years of studying, he won many awards in 2008. He won the Ohio State Champion, the 8-9 year old American Karate & JuJitsu Union National Champion, the 2nd Place under Black Belt Grand Champion, the 7-11 “Spring Show Down” Grand Champion, and the under Black Belt “fall Face Off” tournament Grand Champion. Noah is the youngest Black Belt promoted from Heiandjin-Li Karate. In his 3 years in the martial arts he has a sparring record of 35-1-0.

Arizona

Robert Corella.....Most Distinguished Master Instructor

Mr. Corella currently holds the rank of 4th Dan in Judo, 2nd Kyu in Kendo, and 3rd Dan in laido. Mr. Corella has been to Japan 22 times to train in Judo and laido and has lived in Japan on several occasions. He has also taken his students to Japan to study in laido. Mr. Corella was the first person to introduce laido to the state of Arizona in 1985. There are now dojos across the country.

Larry Vasquez.....Master

Mr. Vasquez currently holds the rank of 6th Dan in Kenpo Karate. He has been studying the arts for 39 years. Mr. Vasquez has also studied Kunfu-Honbi, Balintawak Escrima, and Boxing. He is a member of the International Kenpo Karate Federation. Mr. Vasquez is an active instructor of Valley Kenpo Karate Association.



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Arkansas

Diem Nguyen.....Female Instructor of the Year

Ms. Nguyen has been training in the martial arts for 15 years. She holds a 2nd degree Black Belt in White Tiger Kenpo Karate. She is an Associate Instructor in Combative Jujitsu under Professor Marty Cale. Ms. Nguyen also holds a Bachelors Degree from the University of Arkansas and is a Law Enforcement Officer. She also volunteers for the Sexual Assault Rape & Prevention Agency, teaching survivors self-defense. She currently teaches classes for Professor Marty Cale in Fayetteville Arkansas.

California

Gabriel Green.....Instructor

Mr. Green holds the rank of a 5th degree Black Belt in Tang Soo Do. He has also studied Shaolin Ch'uan Fa and Eshabo-Daan. Mr. Green has been training in the martial arts for 32 years and currently teaches at United Studios of Self Defense in Foster City, California. He received an award in the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2008.

Rikki Lynn Gonzales.....Instructor

Ms. Gonzales holds the rank of 3rd degree Black Belt in the art of Koden. She has also studied Boxing, Muay Thai, Arnis, Kali, and Jeet Kune Do. She is an active Instructor with Premier Martial Arts Academy and has trained in the arts for 17 years.

Sara GonzalesInstructor

Ms. Gonzales holds the rank of 3rd degree Black Belt in the art of Koden. She has also studied Boxing, Muay Thai, Arnis, Kali and Jeet Kune Do. She is an active Instructor with Premier Martial Arts Academy and has trained in the arts for 28 years.



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George Votaw.....Master

Mr. Votaw holds the rank of a 7th degree Black Belt in Kenpo and Tae Kwon Do. He also has studied Judo, JuJitsu, Go Ju Rye, and Yawara. Mr. Votaw is associated with CMAA and WTF. During his 25 years of training he has received numerous Grand Champion awards at tournaments. Mr. Votaw is an active instructor at Buz’s Kung Fu & Karate School.

Irving Hoffman.....Most Distinguished Master

Mr. Hoffman began his Martial Arts at an early age with his first instructor being Chuck Norris. At the age of 12 he began teaching for Mr. Norris. By the age of 17 he had opened his own studio turning out many young champions and many Black Belts. Traveling and competing for more than 20 years, he was ranked in the top 10 Black Belt Sparring Divisions. He has trained with the likes of Chuck Norris, Mike Stone, Joe Lewis, Bill Wallace, Dan Anderson, Bob Wall, Bruce Lee, and Benny The Jet. He has been featured in numerous martial arts magazines with a career spanning over 4 decades.

Armando Laguna.....Grandmaster

Mr. Laguna has been training in the martial arts for more than 35 years. He holds the rank of 9th degree Black Belt Grandmaster level in the art of Kajudkeno. He has also studied Lima Lama and Kosho-Ryu. He is a member of the KSDI, and the Kosho-Ryu International. He is the owner and chief instructor at Armando’s Kosho-Ryu/Kajukenbo in Chula Vista, California.

Mauricio Lama.....Master

Mr. Lama holds a 6th degree Black Belt Master level in the art of Shaolin Kenpo. He has also studied JuJitsu, and Shotakon. Mr. Lama is in association with BASKA, and International Shaolin Kenpo. He has received many awards from BASKA, and the NBL, such as Gold Cup and Competitor of the Year. He has been training in the martial arts for 35 years.



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Allen Rubin.....Master

Mr. Rubin began his martial arts career at the age of 8. He has studied Japanese Jiu Jitsu, Aikido, Wrestling, Ji Do Kwon, JKD, May Thai, Gracie Jiu Jitsu, Machado Jiu Jitsu, Wing Chun, Escrima, Arnis, Butterfly Knives, Kendo and Kenpo. Mr. Rubin currently holds a 5th degree Black Belt in Ji Ko Kwon. He has trained with the likes of Richard Bustillo, Dan Inosanto, and Paulo Tocha during his 35 years of training. Mr. Rubin is a well-respected weapons specialist instructor in many different Dojos.

Eli Gonzales.....Founder

Mr. Gonzales holds a Lakan Dauawa in the Progressive System of Martial Arts. During his 41 years of training he has studied Boxing, Muay Thai, JuJitsu, Kali, Siuat, Sambo, and JKD. Mr. Gonzales is associated with White Tiger Hop Chi Dao Martial Arts. He has received a Modern Arnis Advance Instructors Certificate, and is an active instructor at Prewer Martial Arts Academy.

Mario Huipe.....Black Belt of the Year

Sensei Mario Huipe began studying Ryo-Bu-Kai-Do under Kiyoshi Yamasaki in 1989 and then started studying Shotokan Karate in 1990. He holds a Sandan in Shotokan and has taken courses with Sensei David Furuya in Aikido. He has studied strategic combat methods and is co-founder of the Japan Traditional Karate-Do, consisting of numerous dojos in California, Oregon, Peru and Russia. He is a certified Referee of the USANKF and Secretary for the SPKA. He is head sensei of the Fullerton, California dojo where he has taught without charge for low-income families and inner city children for the last 15 years and has trained several National and Pan American Champions

Alan Moore.....Martial Artist of the Year

Upon being awarded Shodan and an Instructor’s Certification in 2005, Alan Moore began teaching students of all ages to excel in life by excelling in Karate-Do. He teaches Shotokan in the Japan Traditional Karate-Do organization, and has earned USA-NKF Dan certification as well as a kumite referee license. Through the practice of Karate-Do, Alan strives to help people of all backgrounds and circumstances including those with special needs.



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Jose Ponce.....*Martial Artist of the Year*

Mr. Ponce began training in Shotokan Karate in 1994 under Sensei Mario Huipe in the Japan Traditional Karate Do organization. He soon began competing, winning a National Championship along with numerous 1st and 2nd place finishes in national and international tournaments. After earning Shodan and an instructor's certificate in 2000, Mr. Ponce proceeded to pass along The Way of Karate and teach others how to apply these skills in their own lives. One of his great blessings is hearing of students who have stopped using drugs, avoided gangs, or even had lives saved thanks to what they learned in his classes.

Colorado

Austin Box.....*Native American Grandmaster of the Year*

While serving in the Air Force and traveling around the world Mr. Box became interested in Tae Kwon Do. He has studied martial arts for 41 years and is a member of the Japanese Karate Association, International Tae Kwon Do Federation, All American Indian Karate Association and the Native American Sports Council as a senior advisor. He holds an 8th degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do, and a Hanshi level in Hana Dai-Ichi Karate. He has been teaching around the United States for more than 40 years. He was nominated for Indian Athletic Hall of Fame in 1984, and is the Tae Kwon Do coach of the North American Indigenous Games being held this year. Mr. Box is a true Native American with traditional values in the martial arts.

Connecticut

Alfred Seam.....*Instructor of the Year*

Mr. Seam currently holds a 3rd degree Black Belt in Kenpo. He has been studying for 12 years. Mr. Seam is a member of the Worldwide Kenpo Karate Association. He has won 2nd place in a continuous sparring match at Long Beach and has been previously inducted in the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2008. Mr. Seam is an active instructor known as a The Traveling Sensei where he brings the school to the student in their own safety zone.



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Daniel Semeraro.....Excellence in Teaching and Leadership

Daniel Semeraro has over 25 years of exp in the martial arts he holds a 4th degree B.B in Kashti Ochi Ma Chi Do Jujitsu, 3rd in Chuck Norris's Chun Kuk Do and is a member of the United Fighting Arts Federation, 2nd Degree in Filipino Kun Tao, and a 1st in Ich No Michi Ryu Jujitsu. He has also studied Jeet Kune Do, Wing Chun, Kenpo, Boxing, Tang Soo Do, Wrestling, and Escrima. He is an Alternative Weapons Master. He was awarded the United Fighting Arts Federation's Professional Martial Arts Certificate. As the New England Kick Boxing Association's Middleweight Champion he went undefeated before turning to MMA where he holds a 6-0 record. He is the co founder of the No Ka Oi System, a blend of the different arts he has studied. He is the owner of The Thunder MMA Academy and head coach of Team Thunder. Team Thunder competes in MMA and Grappling around the country and has several undefeated fighters on the team. He has taught Law enforcement and security personnel for various departments and works in Law Enforcement himself.

Florida

Logan's Martial Arts Academy.....School of the Year

Bill Logan has been training in the martial arts for over 28 years and holds 5th Dan in Shaolin Kenpo and has rank in Shorin Ryu, Isshin Ryu, Shotokan, Judo/Jiu-Jitsu. Tammy Logan has been training in martial arts for over 15 years and holds a rank of 4th Dan in Shaolin Kenpo and a 1st Dan in Tae Kwon Do. Together they opened Logan's Martial Arts Academy in October of 2008 and in nine months have acquired over 100 students. The school is also a member of the International Martial Arts Council of America. The school offers instruction in Kenpo, Kickboxing, Grappling and Escrima as well as Self Defense courses and seminars. Logan's Martial Arts offers free self defense seminars to some church groups and women and in need organizations as a way of giving back to the community.

Jr. Cobb.....Master of the Year

Mr. Cobb started his martial arts training 20 years ago in Shotokan Karate, and later in Chang Hung Tae Kwon Do. He currently holds a 4th degree in Tae Kwon Do, and recently received the Gondan level in Shotokan Karate. Mr. Cobb has also studied Combat Karate, Aikido, JuJitsu and Police Defensive Tactics. He has been inducted into the International Black Belt Hall of Fame for winning the Gold medal Team America. Mr. Cobb is currently in the Black Dragon Fighting



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Society and is an active instructor in his school, the Martial Arts Academy of Ft. Walton Beach.

Dennis Fitch.....Founder

Mr. Fitch started his martial arts training 41 years ago in the South Vietnamese Army as Captain at Ithaca College. He currently holds a 10th degree Black Belt in Chuan Fa Kenpo. Mr. Fitch has also studied Aikido, Tai Chi, and Tang Soo Doo. He is a member of the Senior Teacher Shaolin Chuan Fa Association. Mr. Fitch has received awards such as Soke, and an Honorary Member Award for the 6th Ranger Battalion. He is an active instructor of the Traditional School of Shaolin Chuan Fa Kenpo.

Frederette Dickens.....Instructor

Mr. Dickens has been training in the martial arts for 6 years. He is a former United States Marine. He has studied Kickboxing, JKD, Tai Chi, Qigong, Combat Kenpo, and law enforcement training. Mr. Dickens is a licensed Security Officer for the past eight years.

Gary Cecil.....Kung Fu Master of the Year

Mr. Cecil has been training in the martial arts for 41 years. He began by studying Akido and Gang Rou Ch'an Fa. He currently holds a 2nd degree in Gang Rou Ch'an Fa. He has also studied Kung Fu under Grandmaster H. D. Collins. He is considered a Warrior Priest to many. During his studying he has traveled to India and Nepal. Mr. Cecil currently holds an 8th degree in Wu Chi Kung Fu, and is an active instructor at Wu Chi Martial Arts Society.

Emmanuel Harrigan-Tomar.....Outstanding Martial Artist

Mr. Harrigan-Tomar currently holds a 1st degree Black Belt in the art of Shaolin-Do. He has also studied Tae Kwon Do, JuJitsu, Kickboxing, Hapkido, Kajuke Bo, and Kuk Soolwon. Mr. Harrigan-Tomar is a member of the Black Dragon Fighting Society. He has been studying the martial arts for 19 years and is currently an active instructor at a military base gym.

John Enger.....Sokeship

Mr. Enger has been studying martial arts for 40 years and holds an 8th degree black belt in the art of Hawaii Kosho Ryu Kenpo Jiu Jitsu. He also has numerous



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high-level earned and certified ranks Shinja Buke Ryu Kenpo, Kenpo Karate, Kenpo JiuJitsu, Shinja Buke Ryu Kenpo, Valadez Kenpo Combat, Valadez Kenpo Ryu, Kan Shu Kenpo, Krav-Jitsu, Kan Shu Kenpo, Shinja Arnis de Mano, Shinja Hosinsul Hapkido, Kan Shu Kenpo, and Verbal Judo/Tactical Communications. Mr. Enger is instructor at his school, where he teaches Shinja Buke Ryu Kenpo.

Adam Rose.....Kung Fu Instructor

Mr. Rose has been training in the martial arts for 10 years. He has been studying Tae Kwon Do for 6 years, earning a 2nd Degree Black Belt. He is a member of the Black Dragon Fighting Society. Mr. Rose currently trains under Grandmaster Lawrence Day and Master Chris Page in Shaolin Kung Fu/Tai Chi-Chi Kung achieving 2nd Black Sash.

Walter Knochenmus.....Outstanding Martial Artist

Mr. Knochenmus holds the rank of Nidon in Shotokan Karate Do. He has been training in the arts since 1973. In 2007, he was invited into the Black Dragon Fighting Society, by Grandmaster Lawrence Day. He is currently the lead instructor at Master Joe Cayer's private dojo where he teaches women's basic self-defense and stranger danger classes to children.

David Harris.....Founder

Grandmaster Harris has trained in a wide variety of the martial arts for over 29 years. He is the Grandmaster of Shun Tao Kung Fu and Shun Shen Tao Qi Gong. Mr. Harris is also a former concrete power breaking Grand Champion and a Dim Mak, Jie Gu, Tui Na, Qi Gong Rod, and Herbalism Master. Mr. Harris has spent the last several years successfully developing unique martial arts-based treatments for serious illnesses, saving the lives of numerous individuals and giving quality of life back to countless more. He is also a member of the Black Dragon Fighting Society.

Ashida Kim.....Grandmaster of the Year

Grandmaster Ashida Kim began his martial arts career as a boy, watching soldiers practice Judo on the Army bases where his father was stationed. In high school he was on the wrestling team. At university, he studied Shotokan Karate. In 1968 he was present at the Democratic national Convention in Chicago and became a member of the Black Dragon Fighting Society by learning John



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Keehan's Dance of Death. Since that time he has trained and taught and practiced to be a better person. In October 2008 he was reunited with two of the original students of Count Dante. On June 10, 2009 he was promoted to Judan, 10th degree, Yudansha by BDFS Grandmaster Doug Dwyer in recognition of his training, contributions and long standing in the martial arts community.

Jimmy Costa.....Martial Artist

Sensei Costa was first intrigued by the martial arts when he bought an original book by Count Dante through a magazine in the 1970s called World's Deadliest Fighting Secrets. Jimmy received his first hand-to-hand combat training when he served in the United States Army. Years later Mr. Costa met Master Joe Cayer in Florida where he began studying the traditional art of Shotokan Karate. After four years of training he obtained his Shodan black belt with Sensei Cayer and was privileged to study under Dr. Lawrence Day. Mr. Costa has assisted in the teaching of thousands of women in free women's self-defense seminars and clinics. In 2009 sensei Costa joined the Florida Chapter of the Black Dragon Fighting Society. He continues to train with Master Cayer and work toward his 2nd Dan black belt.

Joseph Cayer.....Master Instructor of the Year

Mr. Cayer began his training with Praying Mantis Kung Fu. He later earned his black belt in full contact karate and was lightweight kickboxing champion in the Southeast for three years. He continued his studies in Moo Duk Kwan Tae Kwan do, Shotokan Karate, Vietnamese Combat Karate, Iai Do, and Taiho Jitsu. Joe was awarded his 7th Dan Black Belt in Shotokan by Dr. Lawrence day. In 2003 he won Grand Champion in the Randori division at the Irish Cup as a member of the AKJU team. Master Kayer has taught over 22,000 women in self-defense clinics and has also taught Military Special Forces at Camp Rucker, Eglin, and Hurlburt Air Force bases. Joe was awarded the President's Bronze Volunteer Service award by President Bush in 2007 for his 25 years of service to his community and local Police and Sheriff's Department. Joe serves in the Black Dragon Fighting Society under Dr. Day.



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Travis Carney.....Outstanding Martial Artist of the Year

Mr. Carney began his training young in the art of Isshin-Ryu Karate and obtained a brown belt. While in the Air Force, he began his training in Shotokan where he has obtained his 3rd degree Black Belt. He has also crossed trained in Taiho Jitsu, Iai Do and Mixed Martial Arts. In 2006, he became a member of the Black Dragon Fighting Society. He has helped instruct hundreds of women in self-defense and has done specialized training for the troops of Eglin Air Force Base. He is currently serving in the U.S. Army and trained as a specialized combat medic. He is currently serving his country overseas in Iraq.

Georgia

John Rainwater, III.....Humanitarian

Mr. Rainwater has 36 years of martial arts experience. He holds a 3rd Dan in Defensive Fighting Art of the Peaceful Tiger. He has studied Moo Duk Kwan Tae Kwon Do, American Kickboxing, Tang Soo Do, Hapkido, Kenpo, San Shou, Chin Na and other reality self-defense systems. He is a member of the Black Belt of the Faith International and World TKD Federation.

William Chaffin, Jr.....Instructor of the Year

Mr. Chaffin has been studying the martial arts for 30 years and holds a 4th degree black belt in Tang Soo Do and has also studied Hapkido, Okinawan Kobudo, Chinese Kenpo, and Ninjutsu. He is co-founder of the Cornerstone Christian Karate Association, a member of Black Belts of the Faith International, and operates two Christian Karate Academy schools. He is a computer programmer that has been married for 28 years and has 3 children.

Billy Pierce.....Instructor

Billy attends United Methodist Church where he started taking karate lessons in the organization Karate Kids for Christ from his preacher who also attends UMAS Karate. Mr. Pierce earned his black belt at UMAS Karate and began teaching shortly after. He has been studying karate for over four years and has won numerous trophies at local and area tournaments.



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Hawaii

Jeremy Poulin.....Black Belt of the Year

During his 19 years of studying martial arts, Jeremy has earned 4th degree black belts in Tae Kwon Do and Hapkido. He has also learned Kenpo Karate, Jujitsu, and Filipino Stick Fighting and is a member of the American Martial Arts Organization and International Combat Hapkido Association. Jeremy is owner and founder of the Eagle Martial Arts Academy in Hilo, Hawaii where he teaches martial arts.

Randy Choy.....Golden Life Award

Mr. Choy was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. He began his training in Southern Chinese Boxing in 1960. Mr. Choy has since studied numerous styles and systems of Chinese Martial arts including, Northern Praying Mantis, Taijiquan-Chen, Yang, Wu styles, Bak Mei Pai, Wu mei Pai, Hakka Pai, Hsing Yi Quan and Choy Li Fut. Mr. Choy is a member of Chinese Athletic Arts Academy, Hawaii Martial Arts International Society. He has been inducted into several Hall of Fames and holds a 10th degree Grandmasters Rank.

Illinois

Douglas Dwyer.....Most Distinguished Grandmaster

Mr. Dwyer's martial experience has spanned more than 54 years. During this time he has had the privilege to learn from and train with many highly skilled practitioners. Beginning in 1954, he joined a Judo class taught by Art Broadbent and later enlisted into the US Coast Guard. After being discharged in 1960 he studied under Charles Gruzanski in Kyokushinkai Karate. In 1962 he trained with Robert Trias in Shorei-Goju where he worked through the ranks to earn his Shodan. He received the rank of Rokyudan in 1970. He was proficient in heavy breaking, the use of Asian weapons, and performing various kata, using weapons. He was featured in books and articles with Count Dante and is an original member of the Black Dragon Fighting Society.



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Joe Fiorentino.....Law Enforcement Instructor

Mr. Fiorentino is a Cook County Deputy Sheriff trained in defensive tactics. He started training in Judo in 1979. In 1983 he joined Shidokan Chicago under Shihan Eddie Yoshimura where he earned his Shidokan Black Belt and has learned Jiu-jitsu and MMA styles. He has taught MMA and grappling classes and volunteers to teach Cub Scouts as well as fellow officers. Joe was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award. He has fought in MMA, Pankration, and grappling tournaments where he has earned two NAGA Grappling Championship belts. In 2008 he was the #1 Ranked Director Division Grappler in the nation.

Larry Martin.....Excellence in Teaching

Mr. Martin began his martial arts training in 1977. In 1980 he was awarded his 1st Dan Black Belt in the art of Tae Kwon Do, later earning his 2nd, 3rd and 4th Dan Kuk ki Won Certified and his 5th Dan thru the USNTF. He has competed in numerous tournaments during his 30 years of training and on his 65th birthday he won Grand Champion in Forms. He has won over 60 trophies and medal and has taught hundreds of students. He was a 2007 Hall of Fame Inductee.

Rodney Childs, Sr.....Master Instructor

Mr. Childs is the Head Instructor of Mon So-Chi Shaolin Kempo. He has 32 years of martial arts and healing training. Mr. Childs has had extensive training in Shaolin Kempo and Kosho Ryu Kempo. He has also trained in Aikido, Iaido, Danzen Ryu Jujitsu, Kajukenbo, and many other arts. He is a life member of the Sei Kosho Shorei Kai and the Martial Arts Collective Society. He has training in weapons and 25 years of seminars as an instructor and participant.

Indiana

Melissa DeMello.....Outstanding Martial Artist

Melissa is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and Karate Do at Snow's Mixed Martial Arts. Her son, Skylar, was her inspiration to begin studying martial arts and her whole family quickly began taking classes. Melissa has competed in numerous tournaments and was the Indiana State Champion, but believes her greatest accomplishment was earning her brown belt and becoming an instructor, which she enjoys very much. She also teaches PRIDE, a program focused on women's self-defense.



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Jimmy Snowberger.....Instructor of the Year

Before beginning martial arts, Mr. Snowberger wrestled in high school. At the age of 20 he began studying under Soke Thomas Burdine of the Kokon Ryu Bujustu Renmei Organization. He studied with Mr. Bodine until achieving the rank of blue belt in Tae Kwon Do and Karate Do, then continued training under the direction of master Jim Snowberger. He currently sits on the Black Belt Council for Snow's Mixed Martial Arts and instructs in the school with his father and stepmother. Mr. Snowberger now holds the rank of 3rd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and Karate Do. He also holds five world titles in Tae Kwon Do sparring and has recently begun MMA cage fighting with a 9-1 record. He plans to continue MMA fighting and hopes to one day own his own karate school.

Dr. Philip Payne.....Instructor of the Year

Dr. Payne's formal training began in the system of Isshin-ryu Karate. He learned the styles of Tae Kwon o, Kung u, Judo, Kali, Rykyu Kempo, Hapkido, and Jujitsu. He has earned black belts in Ryukyu Kempo and Hapkido, he also holds a Master's grade in Jujitsu. Philip is a certified Reiki master and was inducted into the International Institute for the Advancement of the Combative Sciences' Hall of Fame in 2007. He is also highly involved in the Fellowship of Independent Warriors and is an instructor at the Payne Family Dojo.

Joe Bryant, Jr.....Outstanding Martial Artist

Joe started training in Tae Kwon Do and Karate Do in 2004, earning his black belt in 2008. He is currently a 2nd degree black belt and enjoys instructing at Snow's Mixed Martial Arts. He also studies grappling and has competed in numerous martial arts tournaments and cage fights with great success.

Jim Snowberger.....Outstanding Master Instructor

Master Snowberger's martial arts career began with his enlistment with the United States Marine Corps from 1968-1972 and while serving in Vietnam from 1969-1970. He continued his martial arts training and career with Soke Thomas Burdine of the Kokon Ryu Bujustu Renmei Organization and has since attained his 6th degree black belt in both Tae Kwon Do and Karate Do, a system he created. He co-owns and operates Snow's Mixed Martial Arts Federation with his wife, Kelli. Master Snowberger, a former United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductee, has also been inducted into the World Karate Union Hall of



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Fame, the Ne-Du-U-Kon-Tae Karate Kung Fu Federation Hall of Fame, and the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

Kelli Snowberger.....Master

Master Snowberger began her martial arts career in 1986 in Judo and Kenpo. She has continued her martial arts care with Soke Thomas Burdine of the Kokon Ryu Bujustu Renmei Organization studying Aikido, Tae Kwon Do, and Karate Do, and attained her 4th degree black belt. Mrs. Snowberger is the founder of the Women’s Personal Protection Program, PRIDE, which is her true passion. For her tireless efforts in the promotion of women in martial arts she has been inducted into the Ne-Du-U-Kon-Tae Karate Kung Fu Federation Hall of Fame. Mrs. Snowberger has been a previous inductee to the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame and well as being named the International Martial Arts Council’s Female Self Defense Instructor of the Year.

Vance Larimer.....Outstanding Martial Artist

Vance’s road towards his black belt began at the suggestion of his son’s instructor and he has since had a strong passion for the martial arts. He currently holds the rank of 2nd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and Karate Do. He is a state champion in self-defense and breaking. He is an instructor at Snow’s Mixed Martial Arts and loves to watch people grow as the progress through the ranks.

Lori Larimer.....Outstanding Martial Artist

Ms. Larimer began her martial arts journey at Snow’s Mixed Martial Arts under the direction of DR. Jim and Shihan Kelli Snowberger. She achieved the rank of 1st degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and Karate Do in November of 2008. She continually learns new skills in tournaments, camps and training seminars. Lori is currently an instructor at Snow’s Mixed Martial Arts and for PRIDE.

Iowa

Anthony Rhoad.....Instructor

Anthony has been in the martial arts for 13 years and possesses a 4th degree black belt Ryukyu Kempo Karate. He also studies Systema and Tae Kwon Do where he teaches at Kenyu Kan Dojo. Additionally, Mr. Rhoad is a Police Defensive Tactics Instructor and is a member of United Ryuku Kempo Alliance.



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He has received awards for Outstanding Instructor, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Police Academy Woodward Award.

Shawn Knudsen.....Master

Mr. Knudsen was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He began his martial arts career at the tender age of 5 years old. He has trained under a variety of Instructors and styles. His experiences have made him an asset in the Mixed Martial Art of Kombido. He currently runs the American Colleges of Kombido in his hometown. In 2004 Shawn competed in the World Games in Athens, Greece winning a silver and bronze medal.

Kentucky

Laura Christine Bingaman.....Martial Artist of the Year

Mrs. Bingaman has been studying the Martial Arts for over 14 years and currently holds a 2nd degree black belt in Attsuuten-ryu Kempo-jutsu and Ryukyu Kempo. She has also studied Shotokan and Chito-Ryu. She is a member of the International Martial Arts Council. She also teaches the women's self-defense courses at Premier Martial Arts Academy, where she is currently Chief Instructor.

Louisiana

Jay Vera.....Founder of the Year

In 1978, Jay opened two schools in Shreveport, Louisiana, and taught the devastating and overpowering style of Kajukenbo, which incorporates the techniques of Karate, Judo, Jujitsu, Kenpo, and Chinese Boxing. As a complimentary balance, Jay also taught the smooth flowing, soft, yet powerful style of Aiki Jujitsu, which incorporates the techniques of Aikido, Judo, and Jujitsu. Jay has focused on learning a variety of styles, including Penjak Silat, Shoalin Praying Mantis Kung Fu (both under Pete Soliz), Gung Fu (under Professor Ron Pierce), and laido ancient samurai (under Shihan "Ted" Tabura). Over the years, Jay has earned numerous accolades and was selected as one of the top instructors of Kajukenbo; an award given to him by Kajukenbo founder Sijo Adriano D. Emperado, who personally taught Jay over the years. Jay is one of the top Masters that continues to train and promote the Kajukenbo Self-Defense Institute, better known as the Black Belt Society.



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Massachusetts

Bruce McCorry.....Most Distinguished TKD Master

Bruce has studied under Jhoon Rhee and specializes in Tae Kwon Do and Northern Praying Mantis Kung Fu. He earned the level of Sifu/Instructor in 1983. He currently holds the rank of 7th degree black belt in Moo Duk Kwon. He owns McCorry's Martial Arts in Peabody.

Mississippi

Keith Lambert.....Silver Life Award

Mr. Lambert began training in Lung Shou Pai Kung Fu in 1986 under George Darr, then later under Joseph Schaneville. In 1989 her attained the black sash level. He began instructing in 1990 and was the Head Instructor for the Kung Fu Academy in Columbia, Mississippi. Then in 2001 he and George Darr opened Dragon Claw Martial Arts. He later moved and then taught at the North Hills Baptist Church recreation center. Later in 2001 he began studying directly under Grand Master Norman Pedleahore. Currently he holds the rank of third level Black Sash in Lung Shou Pai Kung Fu. He is a member of IMAC, and is a previous 2008 Hall of Fame Inductee.

Missouri

Eric Reeve.....Most Distinguished Instructor

Mr. Reeve was trained to box by his father while growing up. In 1973 he began training in Judo. In 1979, Mr. Reeve was ranked 3rd in the Midwest Heavyweight Kickboxing Standings, finishing his career with an 11-1 record. For over 30 years Mr. Reeve has taught children and young adults Chinese Chuan Fa. His students have been recognized on both the State and National Kumite standings. He operates a small school in Missouri and charges only \$5 per lesson, which he donates to the local church. He is a life member of the Chuan Fa Martial Arts Association and is currently running for Senator of Missouri

Allen Fischer.....Golden Life Award

Allen has been involved in the martial arts since 1966. He has studied multiple styles with his first belt promotion in Moo Duk Kwan Tae Kwon Do in 1966. Allen now holds a 5th degree black belt in American Karate. He also studies American



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Kenpo and Tushka-Homa under Chief Adrian Roman. He also holds a level one certification to instruct Combat Jujitsu under Michael DePasquale JR. He also studies the Cane Master System under Grandmaster Mark Shuey Sr. His school is a chartered school and he is a Life Member with IMAC.

Billy Baugher.....Golden Life Award

Billy Baugher started the martial arts in 1971 after a motorcycle wreck and 22 surgeries with the doctors saying he should learn to defend himself since he won't be able to run. So Mr. Baugher started taking Moo Duk Kwan. Then he would go on to study Judo and Tae Kwon Do, currently holding a 4th degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and earning black belts in Jujitsu, Hapkido, Aikido, Tang Soo Do and Goju. From 1988-1992 he did submission fighting winning 150 matches and losing zero. Mr. Baugher is a certified Judge and Referee for any Tae Kwon Do event.

New Jersey

Quoc Lien Tran.....Bronze Life Award

Mr. Tran was born and raised in Can Tho, Vietnam. Then moved his family to the United States in 1986. He has been involved in the Martial Arts since he was very young in which he studied, trained and taught. Mr. Tran currently holds high ranking Black Belts in several different martial arts styles and systems. In 1999, he established Tran's Combat Martial Arts School where he is Chief Instructor. He has also founded the art of Tinh Vo Dao, which is Vietnamese Combat Natural Boxing. He is a member of several martial arts federations and numerous Grandmasters Councils have recognized his martial arts systems.

Steven Jackson.....Master of the Year

Mr. Jackson has been studying martial arts for 39 years and has a 6th degree black belt in Shorin ryu Shotin ji ryu kenpo and black belts in Moo duk Kwon and Tae Kwon Do. He has been the Virginia State Champion and Osan, Korea Armed Forces National Champion. Steven is a member of Karate for Christ International, CBBA, and GMAF. He instructs at the Samurai Karate Do in Trenton, New Jersey.



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New York

Jim Wood.....Sokeship

Master Wood has been training in the martial arts for more than 25 years. He holds a 6th degree black belt in Tang Soo Do, A 5th degree black belt in Chun Kuk Do and was awarded the Certified Professional Martial Artist status from Chuck Norris in 1994. He has received the School of the Year award from the United States Martial Arts Hall Of Fame in 2005 as well as inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2003. He is owner and head instructor of his school in North Tonawanda NY and founder of his system Yi Dan Cha Gi.

Edward Rudy Duncan.....Master

Mr. Duncan holds the rank of 6th degree Black Belt in the art of Karazenpo GoShinjutsu. He has also studied TaeKwondo, Aikido, Silat and Tai Chi. He has been studying the martial arts since 1961. He has operated a martial arts dojo since the 80's and has been inducted in the numerous Hall of Fames.

Jude Innocent.....Founder of the Year

Grandmaster Jude Innocent is a living legend in the world of karate. He is known as the Master of Masters and his whole life is real proof of a man dedicated to the cause of karate. At the age of two, his older brothers started to train him, and he grew up to be the center of attention of the Haitian audience at every tournament, including international competition. His desire to know more sent him to America 30 years ago, where he studied with Granmaster Carter Wong in Los Angeles for many years, learning most of his secrets. After years of study and research, Grandmaster Jude founded his own style: Tiger Jude Seven Style Karate. His work has earned popularity world wide and is scaled by the Martial Arts Masters World Federation where he serves as Chief Advisor. Grandmaster Jude has been inducted to three Hall of Fames and is always happy to be honored.

Michael Rosati.....Senior Master

Mr. Rosati has been studying martial arts for 37 years and holds a 7th degree black belt in Matsubayashi Karate Jutsu. He also studies Yamane Ryu, JuJutsu, Aikido, and Russian Sambo. He is a member of the Shorin Ryu Karate Jutsu Association, New York Traditional Karate League, and the United States National Karate Federation. Some of his awards include the 1994 World Cup Karate



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Team Silver Medal and 1992 Ozawa International Karate Champion Gold Medal. He teaches at his school, The Rosati School of Martial Arts.

Paul C. Munchbach.....Master of the Year

Mr. Munchbach began studying the Martial Arts 37 years ago and currently holds an 8th degree black belt in Nemuru Karate. He also has attained 5th dan in Jujitsu and 5th dan in Judo. He is part of the United States Martial Arts Association and has received awards from the Universal Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2001 and United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2000. He is currently an active instructor at the Galway Karate Club.

Craig Sherman.....Instructor

Mr. Sherman has been studying martial arts for 21 years and holds a 2nd degree black belt in Kempo-Jiu-Jitsu. He also studies Brazilian jujitsu. Mr. Sherman is instructor at Wantagh Martial Arts. He is a member of the USA Martial Arts hall of Fame, Long Island Kempo Alliance, The Alliance, and International Martial Arts Council of America.

North Carolina

Kelly Oliver.....Jujitsu Master of the Year

Mr. Oliver has 20 years of experience in the arts and currently holds the rank of 4th degree black belt. He is the head instructor of Silent Mountain Martial Arts. He also holds a 4th degree black belt in Shotokan karate and is a certified instructor in Commando Krav Maga. Master Oliver has competed at the local, state, national, and international stages winning medals at every level. Aside from the standard martial arts classes, Master Oliver teaches women's self-defense classes and special tactical classes for SWAT teams and other law enforcement branches.

Michael Brown.....Jujitsu Master of the Year

Sensei Brown began his martial arts training in 1988 and currently holds rank in Karate, Ju-jitsu, and Judo. He also holds a 5th degree black belt in Shotokan. He is the head instructor of Windwalker Martial Arts, specializing in self-defense and traditional Shotokan Karate.



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John Carpenter.....Ch’uan Fa Instructor of the Year

Mr. Carpenter began his martial arts training in 1990 and currently holds the rank of 6th degree Black Belt in the art of Ch’uan Fa. He has also studied JuJitsu, Filipino Stick Fighting, and Sulum Fa. Mr. Carpenter is a member of the Carolina Association of Chinese Martial Arts and the United States Kuo Shu Federation. He received the award of Student of the Year in 1993. Mr. Carpenter is an active instructor at The Kwoon of Kung Fu.

Victor Moore.....Most Distinguished Master

Mr. Moore started his physical fitness and martial art training at the tender age of 7 in Cincinnati, Ohio. At the age of 12 he began training under Ronald Williams and after 5 years of training, he earned his black belt in Kempo. He later opened schools throughout the Cincinnati area. After becoming successful in competition he met the father of American Karate, Robert Trias and began training under him. He entered Ed Parker’s first tournament and is known for his demonstration with Bruce Lee. He is a highly decorated martial artist, having fought some of the world’s most famous fighters, including Chuck Norris, Bill Wallace, Mike Stone, and many others.

North Dakota

Paul Dyer.....Master

Mr. Dyer has trained in traditional styles of karate for the past 35 years and has earned the rank of 5th degree in Kenpo Jujitsu and Karate. He is well-versed in military close quarter combat fighting and also in Yang style Qi Gong and Qi Na. Paul is a stick and kinge-fighting instructor. He has earned the rank of 3rd golden dragon level in Tai Chi. A certified trainer and nutritionist, Paul has been training athletes of all ages for the past 15 years. He is currently the North Dakota State representative for IKKA, Midwest Director of the International Martial Arts Union and USA Director for the World International Martial Arts Association and Organization. He has received the North Dakota Humanitarian award for his radio show – Peace Talk Radio.



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Ohio

Daniel Young.....Instructor

Soke Young studies Young Ninpo Tai Jitsu, Karate, Ryukyu Kenpo, Jujitsu, Aikido, Kyusha, Tuite-Jitsu, Kubodo, and many others. He has been learning the martial arts for 16 years, most of his life and is a multiple-time black belt champion. He is an instructor at Young’s Martial Arts Academy in Ohio.

Oklahoma

Daniel Frazier.....Most Distinguished Grand Master

Grandmaster Frazier has over 39 years experience in martial arts and holds a 9th degree red belt in the art of Kajukenbo. He has studied many other martial arts styles while stationed abroad in the Air Force, Grandmaster Frazier’s military career took him to many parts of the world that were known for martial arts. He took full advantage of this by learning new things to incorporate into his Kajukenbo repertoire. Among the various arts he studied while stationed abroad were Gung Fu, Tai Chi, Okinawan Kenpo Karate, Kali, Arnis, American Kenpo, and western boxing. He is affiliated with the Kajukenbo Self-defense Institute, Kajukembo Self-Defense Systems, Lapunti Arnis International, International Kajukenbo Association, Guam United Martial Arts Association, and Okinamwa Karate Referee’s Association. In the early 1980’s he founded the Guam Defensive Tactics Systems and the Guam Kajukenbo Associatio, and was the regional representative for Sijo Emperado’s Kajukenbo Self-Defense Institute Association on Guam and Okinawa. He is the chief instructor for Kajukenbo and Launti Arnis at the Elite Martial Arts in Del City, Oklahoma.

Oregon

Albert Simon.....Master

Mr. Simon is Founder of the ChiFusion Tai Chi and Qigong system. He has also studied Ninjitsu, Aikido, and Bagua. He has dedicated himself to Chi development through Tai Chi and Qigong. He has studied 5 styles of Tai Chi including certification in Yang Style Tai Chi and over 20 styles of Qigong. He has been a professional member of the National Qigong Association.



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Pennsylvania

Randy Hutchins.....Founder

Mr. Hutchins has been studying the arts for 30 years. He currently holds the rank of Soke in Sho Bushido Ryu Bujutsu. Mr. Hutchins has also studied Aikikai Aikido, Karate, Judo, and Greco-Roman Wrestling. He is President of the Bushido Jujutsu Association and founded Sho Bushido Ryu Bujutsu. Mr. Hutchins is an active instructor for Sho Bushido Ryu.

Rhode Island

Erick Thorne.....Instructor of the Year

Sensei Thorne is the Chief Instructor and Director of the Cranston Studios of Self Defense and is currently ranked as a 3rd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, Kenpo jiu-jitsu, Karate, and Kobudo. He began studying Tae Kwon Do while serving in the Marines and earned the World Tae Kwon Do Federation National Championship in 1986. He has established mentor and anti-bully outreach programs and has worked with the Girl Scouts of America, Cranston School Department, and other organizations in an ongoing effort to prepare youth and families for the realities of self defense. Sensei Thorne established the Tategaido Association, has been inducted in multiple Hall of Fames and was the 2008 recipient of the kensho Ryu International Award. He continues improving his knowledge and skill as a student and instructor with Kyoshi M. Sheeley, founder of Kensho-Ryu.

South Carolina

Gary Shull.....Master

Mr. Shull currently holds a 7th Dan in the art of Ryute Renmei. He has also studied Judo, Motobu Tyu, Tae Kwon Do, Shoto Kan, and Ryute. Mr. Shull has been studying in the arts for 46 years, and during his training he has received awards such as Oyata Shin Shu Ho. He is a member of the Polish Internal Security Police and Polish Ryute Group, The United States Marine MP Group, The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Central Intelligence Agency, and many others. Mr. Shull is an active instructor at Shu Bu Kan.



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Tennessee

James Phillips, Jr.....Outstanding Instructor

Mr. Phillips has been an active member of the martial arts for more than 30 years. He was introduced to the arts in college and saw the need to continue his training once he began a career in law enforcement. He studied multiple styles, including grappling, Tae Kwon Do, Kung Fu, Dudo, and Isshinryu, in which he holds a San-Dan degree. He has placed in numerous tournaments both locally and internationally and was inducted in to the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2008. He has trained many law enforcement officers and civilians self-defense through the martial arts.

Evan Bowers.....Most Distinguished Master Instructor

Mr. Bowers has been studying the arts for more than 37 years and currently holds a Go-Dan in Isshinryu Karate, a 3rd degree black belt in Taga-Pagturo, and has studied Filipino Modern Arnis. He is currently an instructor at Hall's Dojo Arnis in Knoxville.

Colin West.....Law Enforcement Instructor

Mr. West has been studying martial arts and wrestling for 13 years, is a certified catch wrestler and hold a black belt in Mang Ho Kwon Tae Kwon Do. He has earned multiple awards during his service with the Knox County Sheriff's Office. He is an instructor at Warrior's Path Institute of Combat Arts and is an assistant defensive tactics instructor for the Knox County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy.

Keith Cofer.....Excellence in Teaching

Mr. Cofer holds the rank of 4th Dan Black Belt in the art of Isshinryu. He has also studied Jujitsu, Muay Thai, Kung Fu, Aikido, Shorin Ryu, MMA, and Tai Chi. He is a member of UIKA and IKA. He has received Dedication and Leadership awards as well as being a prior USMA inductee. He is also a grappling instructor and won numerous trophies. Keith also is the director of Karns Karate Sports Academy, teaching Christian Karate, every day, for many years.



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Carol Lynne Welch Swaggerty.....Outstanding Leadership Award

Ms. Swaggerty is a 1st Degree Black Belt in Isshin-ryu Karate. She began her study of the martial arts at the Pete Mills School of Karate in Knoxville, TN, where she currently instructs students of all ages. She has also studied other styles of martial arts and is a member of the Universal Isshin-ryu Karate Association.

William Hampton.....Outstanding Martial Artist

Mr. Hampton began training in Matsumura Sato Sokon while stationed at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, which taught him the style of Okinawan karate. He later became a law enforcement officer and continued his training in the style of Isshinryu Karate, where has reached the level of Yo-Dan. He trains in other areas such as weapons defense, pressure point control tactics, ground fighting, and many aspects of self-defense. He enjoys kumite and has competed in multiple tournaments. He serves as an instructor at Ogle’s Karate School in Madisonville.

Chris Hawkins.....Instructor of the Year

Mr. Hawkins has been involved in the martial arts for 18 years. He trained briefly in the style of Go-jryu and Isshin-Ryu. He was on a boxing team in the Army and trained in Tae-Kwan-Do. He currently holds the rank of San-Dan in Isshin-ryu and enjoys teaching at Grandmaster Pete Mill’s School of Karate in Knoxville.

Michael Swaggerty.....Outstanding Instructor

Mr. Swaggerty has earned his Black Belt in the art of Isshin-Ryu Karate. He began his study of the martial arts at the Pete Mills School of Karate in Knoxville, TN, where he currently instructs. He has also student Jujitsu and is a member of the Universal Isshin-Ryu Karate Association.

Texas

Jimmy Samuel.....Instructor of the Year

Master Samuel holds a 4th degree black belt in Tang Soo Do and is a member of the Tang Soo Do Karate Association based in San Antonio, Tx. He was inducted into the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2008. Master Samuel has amassed many awards and championships while competing in the Texas fighting circuit. Known for his seemingly unstoppable backfist and lightning-quick hand



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combinations, he earned his nickname as “The Cobra”. Jimmie retired from the United States Air Force in 1997 after 22 years of dedicated service. He was called to ministry in 2006 and serves as a pastor at a church in San Antonio. He is also an instructor at Walthers Karate Academy.

Randy Points.....*Founder*

Mr. Points began studying the arts 25 years ago at the American Colleges of Karate in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He holds the rank of 7th degree Black Belt in Aam Ka Jutsu. In 2004 he was invited to be a member of the United States Martial Arts Team, competing in Athens, Greece in the World Games, winning a Gold Medal in Self-Defense, Silver Medal in Multi-Person Self-Defense, and a Bronze Medal in Advance Black Belt Self Defense. Mr. Points has been teaching his art of Kombido since 2005.

David McLaughlin.....*Excellence in Teaching*

David is a seven-time United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductee. He received his 1st Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo from 7-time World Karate Champion and Tae-Bo creator, Billy Blanks. He was a performer in Blanks’ “Flying Tigers” demonstration team and owned and operated Blanks Taekwondo. He received his 2nd Degree Black Belt from the International Martial Arts Council and currently offers private Taekwondo lessons under McLaughlin’s Taekwondo of Texas in Lewisville, TX.

Ralph Britt.....*Grandmaster of the Year*

Mr. Britt holds the title of Si-Jo and founder in the art of Tun-Soon-Ryu. He has studied the fine arts of Tun-Soun-Sin-Bow, Soa-Fa, and White Crane. Later, he enrolled in the Institute of Oriental Therapeutic Studies where he is now certified as an Acupuncturist. Once again, he was blessed when he began to study Japanese Goju-Ryu under the instruction of two great men, Sensei Sherman Harrison and Sensei Richard Dixon. Under their instruction, he earned a fourth degree Black Belt in Goju-Ryu.

John Stampfli.....*Master of the Year*

Master Stampfli is a 7th degree black belt in Jujutsu and has also studied Karate-Do. He has served in the US Army National Guard, reaching the rank of Brigadier General where he was an all source intelligence officer. In addition,



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John is a former Security Specialist with both the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security.

Chuck Chretien.....Master of the Year

Mr. Chretien is a 7th degree black belt in Chuan Fa/Kajukuryu. During his 32 years in the arts he has also studied Karate, Jujitsu, Northern Shaolin, and Kenpo. He is a member of PCMA and NAPMA. Chris has previously received awards for PCMA Instructor of the Year and twice Dojo of the Year. He is an instructor at Spring Martial Arts.

Sam Lonewolf.....Lifetime Achievement

A 10th degree under John Chow-Hoon and Prof. Thomas S.D. Young in Hawaiian Kempo Goshin- Jitsu, he also holds a 7th degree black belt with Al Tracy's style of Kenpo and Goshin-Ryu Jujitsu. The trained with John Keehan, aka Count Dante and is a member of the Black Dragon Fighting Society. With 50 years of martial experience, he has schools in Palestine, Texas, Puerto Rico and South Dakota. There are more that 50 black belts under him in his lineage and he is the highest ranking Native American in the martial arts.

Virginia

Lawrence Sullivan.....Instructor of the Year

Mr. Sullivan currently holds a 2nd degree black belt in Tang Soo Do and teaches at the Eagle Self Defense Academy. He began studying Tang Soo Do in response to living in an unsafe neighborhood and noticed not only the physical benefits, but also the mental preparation. He tries to use the new perspective to help mold students into martial artists.

Katherine Olivar.....Female Competitor of the Year

Katherine has been studying Tang Soo Do for 3 years and currently has a black belt. She competes in numerous competitions and tournaments, representing Eagles Self Defense Academy where she is an instructor.

Jack Meservey.....Master Instructor

Dr. Meservey is a life-long martial artist having studied many styles during his career with the primary focus being Tang Soo Do, which he has studied and



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practiced for over 20 years. Master Jack holds a 6th degree black belt and is owner & chief instructor of Eagles Self-Defense Academies in Norfolk and Chesapeake Virginia. He was inducted into the Virginia Black Belt Hall of Fame in 2000 and is on the Board of Directors. He is a retired US Navy Chief Warrant Officer.

Washington

Jonathan Bannister.....Silver Life Award

Banister Sensei has been actively involved in the martial arts for 30 years and is an outstanding Aikido teacher. He tirelessly shares Budo martial arts practice with a huge and diverse audience. Mr. Bannister is a generous and selfless promoter of the arts through his service as a founder and president of the Pacific Northwest Budo Association. In addition, he is founder of an entirely new style of Aikido and an accomplished, internationally recognized teacher of Japanese swordsmanship, bonsai, brush calligraphy, and ikebana. He is ranked as Shihan in Tsubomi Seishin Kan Aikido and is an instructor at Tsubomi Seishin Kan Dojo.

Sky Benson.....Master Instructor

Mr. Benson has been studying the martial arts for 33 years. He started his martial arts training at the age of 9 studying Shaolin Kung Fu and receiving his Red Sash. He became a distinguished point competition champion. At the age of 15 he began his training under BloodSport Legend, Frank Dux. He has obtained his 6th degree black belt in the art of Dux Ryu Ninjitsu. Mr. Benson is one of a handful of instructors familiar with Dux FASST (Focus Action Skill Strategy Tactics), tactics that is adopted by elite police and military units. He is an active instructor and is still training under Grandmaster Dux. He has cross-trained in and acquired black belts in Tae Kwon Do, Tang Soo Do, Goju Ryu and several other martial arts. He has a Ph.D. in Alternative Medicine with an emphasis on Chiropractic through Stamford Hill University and is a certified G-jo practitioner.

West Virginia

Shane Burnette.....Master Instructor of the Year

Shane is a 4th degree black belt in Shoto Kan Karate, which he teaches at his school, Shane Burnette's School of Martial Arts in West Virginia that is part of his Christian ministry at the local church. He has practiced martial arts for much of



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his life and has also studies Ko Sutemi Seikan Jujitsu and United States Tae Kwon Do.

James Washington.....Grand Master of the Year

Mr. Washington holds the rank of 8th Degree Black Belt in the art of Kyusho Jujitsu. He is also Co-Founder of a 3 phase fighting system called “Man Maru.” He has also studied Shotokan, Kodokan Judo, Seiei Kan Karate and Jujitsu. He is a member of the US Judo Association, Black Dragon Fighting Society, the AKJU and the USAKF.

Thomas Washington.....Instructor of the Year

Master Washington became involved in martial arts as a young man in Oak Hill, West Virginia, training first in Karate and JuJitsu. His black belt is under Grandmaster Don Madden, founder of AKJU American karate and jujitsu. He also trained in Man Maru Jujitsu, in which he ranks in black belt. He has placed well in multiple national tournaments. He is currently an instructor at War Karate School.

Billy Grubb.....Grand Master of the Year

With over 40 years in Jujitsu, Karate, and Judo, Mr. Grubb holds the rank of 8th Degree Black Belt in the art of Koga Ryu Jujitsu. He is Co-Founder of a 3 phase fighting system called “Man Maru.” He has also studied Judo Aikido, Shotokan, Seiei Karate, and Jujitsu. He is a member of the US Judo Association, Black Dragon Fighting Society, the AKJU and the USAKF.

Marla Yates.....Master Competitor

Ms. Yates holds a Black Belt in 6 different arts, including Shotokan, Tae Kwon Do, Shaolin Kung Fu, Tai Chi, Aikido, and Iaido. She has won 53 National Championship Gold medals. She has taught numerous adult and children’s classes as well as camps and seminars. She has been a student of Grandmaster Lawrence Day for the past 10 years. She is a senior at West Virginia University and plans to study law.

Richard Pyatt.....Outstanding Martial Artist

Mr. Pyatt currently holds a 3rd degree Black Belt in Shoto-Kan Karate. He started his studying at the age of 16 in Mt. Hope, West Virginia in the art of Karate. In



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1984 he joined the West Virginia Army National Guard where he served for 7 years where then he was honorably discharged. With the assistance of Van Valkenburgh, Mr. Pyatt opened the HeianDjin-Li Karate dojo where he whole family studies. Mr. Pyatt has trained numerous champions at his school, and is very proud of them all.

Wisconsin

Edmund Fellmeth.....*Most Distinguished Master Instructor*

Mr. Fellmeth is a 6th Dan in Judo Jujitsu and has also studied Tai Jitsu. He is a member of US Judo, USJA, and USMA. Four times he has earned the award of World Master Athlete Judo Champion, National Masters Champion, and was Assistant Coach of the US JuJitsu Team that competed in the World Championships in Uruguay in 2002. He serves as a substitute and advisor at two martial arts schools.

Norway

Richard Hays.....

Master Hays is a longtime student of Grandmaster Richard Bustillo and runs a successful martial arts school in Norway.