

NEWS

Unifying TKD

Seoul, Korea—On the 44th anniversary, March 22, of the formation of the International Taekwon-do Federation (ITF), several original pioneer grandmasters were invited to Seoul by the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF). The purpose of the invitation was to thank, honor and credit these pioneers, who were the founding members of the ITF, for their hard work and dedication in spreading TKD to the world before the WTF was even formed.

The invitation was extended to Col. Nam Tae Hi, co-founder of the Oh Do Kwan, the military gym where TKD was originally developed under the leadership of General Choi Hong Hi. Col. Nam has often been referred to as Gen. Choi's "right hand man" through TKD's first period of development. Invited as well were Grandmasters Cho Sang Min (Pioneer-Brazil), Kong Yong Il (1973 World Tour Team Member) and Kong Yong Bo (1st ITF Overall World Champion 1974). Also invited, but could not attend at this time were Grandmasters Kim Jong Chan (Pioneer-Singapore, Malaysia & Coordinator of the ITF Formation Committee), Choi Chang Keun (Pioneer-Malaysia & 1973 World Tour Team Member), Park Jong Soo (Pioneer-Germany, Holland, Canada, 1965 & 73 World Team Tour Member), Rhee Ki Ha (Pioneer-United Kingdom & Ireland, 1973 World Tour Team Member), Lee Yoo Sun (Pioneer-Hong Kong, Holland, France) and Yang Woo Sup (Pioneer-Australia).

This attempt to further unite TKD was presided over by WTF President Dr. Choue Chong Won and Secretary General Mr. Yang Jin Suk. This event was made possible in part and as a result of the work that LUV Films has been doing since 2004 in trying to document the full and complete history of Tae Kwon Do. For more information on the films, please visit www.LUVfilms.com and <http://www.tong-ilmovie.com>.

ZMAC Opens New Branch

Karachi, Pakistan—The new branch of Zubairi's Martial Arts Centre has opened in F.B. area, Karachi. Mr. Ahmed Ali Rajput, the Associate Secretary of Pakistan Olympic Association and Secretary of Sindh Olympic Association, along with senior TKD students and master instructors, cut the ceremonial ribbon.

During the ceremony, Grandmaster Zubairi awarded the rank of fourth-dan to Omar Mussee Ali, a Somalian national and member of the Centre since 2004. Grandmaster Zubairi also awarded the International Sports Award to Mr. Ahmed Ali and the International Martial Arts Award to Shabbir Hussain, Rehman Shah, Kashif and Abid.



Ribbon Ceremony

MacKenzie Martial Arts Spectacular

Atco, New Jersey—Recently Masters Perry Zmugg of Graz, Austria (Arnold Schwarzenegger's home town), and Robert Ott of Olympia, Washington, were the featured guests at Grandmaster Ken MacKenzie's 27th Annual Winter Martial Arts Spectacular. Leading Masters Scott Yates and Robert Turley served as co-hosts for the event. Over 80 Korean-style martial arts instructors and students from New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York attended. Included in the group were also three grandmasters and seven masters. While Master Zmugg taught Sin-Moo Hapkido, stick-fighting, and advanced jump-kicking, Chief-Master Robert Ott gave an impressive presentation on history, philosophy and gaol-setting. The eager students gathered in large numbers to get their autographed copy of Ott's newest book release, *Certain Victory*, Special Edition.



Martial Arts Spectacular

Brandon Bauer



PROMOTIONS & AWARDS

10-Year-Old Earns Black Belt

Dawsonville, Georgia—Ten-year-old Brandon Bauer received his black belt from Starr's Taekwondo Plus, a member of the International Taekwondo Alliance (ITA), in April 2010. The school is owned and operated

by Master Lowell Starr. Master Starr presented Brandon with his first-degree level one black belt during the awards ceremony in April. Brandon has been dedicated to the martial arts from a young age, training at Starr's Taekwondo for over two years. Brandon is also a level one instructor and enjoys the competition at the local ITA tournaments.

Blakeley Earns 7th Dan

Portales, New Mexico—Steve A. Blakeley was recently promoted to the rank of seventh-dan master by his instructor, Grandmaster Walter L. Lang, ninth-dan black belt, and the Yom Chi Taekwon-Do Association Board of Trustees. Other attending dignitaries included Grandmaster Mel Steiner, ninth-dan, of Miami; Master Floyd Griffin, eighth-dan, of Hugo, Oklahoma.; and Master Douglas Arnold, seventh-dan, of Morrison, Colorado. Master Blakeley began his training in 1976, testing for first-dan black belt in 1980. Active in all facets of Tae Kwon Do, Master Blakeley has placed at every level of competition, from local tournaments to a silver medal in sparring at the 1992 National Black Belt Championships, in Boston. Master Blakeley competed in full-contact with a 6-1 record, created full-contact sparring team Bad Company, and has trained two full-contact amateur title holders. He has been the senior instructor and owner of Eastern New Mexico Taekwon-Do in Portales since 1979 and has promoted 54 black belts; trained nine black belts who competed in the ITF World Championships in South Korea, England, Canada, and Ireland; written four books and coached the USA world team in South Korea and England.



Master Blakeley

Chosun Promotes Black Belts

Warwick, New York—The Chosun Taekwondo Academy recently hosted its 26th Biannual Black Belt Promotion Test. With over 20 students testing, the event was overseen by martial arts pioneer and author, Grandmaster Richard Chun, one of the highest ranking international master instructors in the U.S.

The Chosun students were required to demonstrate proficiency in basic self-defense techniques, poomsae, and breaking of wood. The demographics of the students testing varied from age eight to over 70 with an almost equal number of male and female candidates. Students testing for first-degree included: Eleanor Pyke, Marcelle Mitscherlich, John Vanderhee, Kole LoSchiavo, Deven LoSchiavo, Jean Orlovsky, Ethan Tuomala, Nicole Scelta, Carl Ferrara, Pamela Roeloffs and Sarah Labance; testing for second-degree were: Lisa Ehrenreich, Susanne Fitzsimmons, Alessandro Molinas, Corey Orlovsky, Robert Urbach, BJ Quasius and Kathryn Pernice; testing for third-degree were: Emma Crouchen, Nicholas Fitzsimmons and Ian Suleski.



Chosun Students

Cane-Fu Students Pass Test

Zephyrhills, Florida—Four students of Gary Hernandez Martial Arts School tested and passed the beginning training level in the Canemaster Cane-Fu System. The students range in age from the mid 40s to the mid 60s. The four students were tested on using the cane in self-defense with blocks, strikes, and basic cane techniques against grabs from attackers. The Canemaster Cane-Fu System is designed for people that use the cane in everyday life to learn to use the cane for self-defense.



Cane-Fu Students

IKSDF Promotes Masters

Adrian, Missouri—In February, the International Kong Soo Do Federation conducted a dan shimsa, where three candidates successfully fulfilled the requirements for promotion. Master Mike Kreitler, who has been practicing martial arts for 41 years, was promoted to sixth-dan. Master Stuart Salomon earned the rank of fourth-dan, and Mr. Cody Kreitler earned the rank of third-dan. The grading was proctored by Master Joshua Paszkiewicz of the IKSDF Technical Advisory Council.



(L-R) Joshua Paszkiewicz, Mike Kreitler, Stuart Salomon, and Cody Kreitler

Black Belt Family Promotes Son

New York, New York—The "first family" of Glen Ridge Taekwon-do (GRTKD), located in Montclair, New Jersey, recently promoted the fourth member of their family to black belt. Nine-year-old Duncan Bayless-Marr joins his father, Master James Marr (fifth-degree and owner of GRTKD), mother Elaine Bayless (third-dan and director of GRTKD's program for 4-6 year-olds), and sister



The Bayless-Marr family

Amelia (age 11, who received her junior black belt in 2008). GRTKD recently expanded its facilities, with classes for different age groups running simultaneously. This has created more class choices for all students and makes it possible for siblings at different levels to train at the same time. The very popular adult/child classes allow families to train together.

GOOD DEEDS

Flying Tiger's broken boards



Break-A-Thon Benefits Wounded Warriors

Whitehouse Station, New Jersey—Flying Tiger Martial Arts Academy recently held a break-a-thon to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit organization founded by several war veterans to support injured servicemen and women. Master Sam White, owner and head instructor of Flying Tiger, was proud his students chose this charity. The event was organized and run by his third-dan black belts as part of their community service project, a requirement for all third-dans. Over \$5,000 was raised through the break-a-thon.

HMA Raises Awareness & Money

Louisville, Kentucky—Hwang's Martial Arts hosted its 14th annual exhibition to benefit the WHAS Crusade for Children in March 2010. The fundraising campaign began in January; with a goal of \$35,000. As always, HMA students rose to the challenge. Throughout January, February and March, students worked on their demonstrations, gathered silent auction items and sold tickets to the exhibition. The show began with a Judo demonstration from Grandmaster Jung Oh Hwang, who won a Silver Medal in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games for the martial art. The demonstration teams from his five Kentucky dojangs then followed with their presentations.

Among the special guests were principals from several elementary schools in the Jefferson County public school system. They attended the exhibition to see what impact martial arts training has in a school. In January, Grandmaster Hwang began an eight-week program that ran concurrently with physical education classes at Blake Elementary School in south-central Jefferson County. He donated his time and 500 new uniforms to these students, with the hope that martial arts would bring confidence, self-discipline, respect and physical fitness to our youth. Following the completion of this eight-week program, the faculty at Blake Elementary School reported a 50 percent decrease in disciplinary actions.

Hwang's Martial Arts raised \$37,300 for the WHAS Crusade for Children of Kentucky and Southern Indiana, which benefits special needs children and in the past 14 years, has raised over a quarter of a million dollars for this cause.

EVENTS

7th Biennial World Hapkido Championship

Incheon, South Korea—Over 1000 competitors from over ten different countries representing Asia, Australia, Europe, North, Central and South America came together at the 7th Biennial World Hapkido Championship & Master's Demonstration to celebrate Hapkido and Korean Martial Arts through fierce competition and thrilling demonstrations. The event was hosted by the World Kido Federation/Hanminjok Hapkido Association.

The event's extensive media coverage included Korea's biggest television network, KBS, and largest sports broadcaster, MBC/ESPN. Special honored guests included the 29th Prime Minister of Korea Lee Soo Sung, Congressman Yoon Sang Hyung of Incheon, and President of KoAm Corporation Kim Diong Ok.

World Hapkido Championship



Following the Championship, Grandmaster In Sun Seo, President/Chairman of World Kido Federation/Hanminjok Hapkido Association, conducted a special Hapkido seminar for World Kido Federation members who traveled to Korea for the Championship.

Compete 2010

Ontario, California—The Ontario Convention Center played host to the Compete 2010 Martial Arts Championships during the month of February. Recognized and rated as a world class event, participants from across the nation traveled to Southern California to participate in the three-day event. Various titles including NASKA and non-NASKA divisions from weapons to forms and fighting gave witness to a variety of exciting displays of martial arts skills and professionalism. The city of Diamond Bar, California, was well represented by the Red Dragon Karate Champions Training Center. The outstanding black belt competitor of the day was Shahin Jahan-Vash who captured a first place in NASKA in fighting, forms and weapons enabling Shahin to win the overall grand championships for the tournament with his outstanding first place wins in fighting, forms, and traditional weapons.

Not to be out done, the Ruiz Family, lead by Patrick Ruiz, an 11-year-old brown belt from Red Dragon Karate, had the most wins of any color belt with ten first places. His brother Michael swept the 11-17 division in fighting and forms, while sister Kyra won first places in the 9 and under division, followed by their father with first places in his respective divisions as well. This talented family accounted for an unprecedented total of 34 trophies and six grand championships for the tournament.

Instructor Shahin & members of the Ruiz family



OBITUARIES

Grandmaster Sun Duk Choi Passes

Chandler, Arizona—Legendary Grandmaster Sun Duk Choi, one of the world's leading Martial Artists of Taekwondo, passed away on March 17, 2010.

Sun Duk Choi was born in Gyeongsangbugdo, South Korea in 1934. He was the 1968 National Grand Champion of Korea and was one of only a few who have been awarded the rank of ninth-degree black belt in TKD. He studied martial arts for 65 years and taught for nearly 55 to over a million students. Choi was considered to be a pioneer of modern TKD.

Choi came to the U.S. in 1971 after teaching the U.S. Army Seventh Division Infantry in 1960. During that year he taught TKD at the California Police Academy and moved to New Mexico where he opened the Albuquerque Taekwondo Association, and began training the Albuquerque Police Homicide Team. Three years later, Grandmaster Choi was on the move again, this time founding the Arizona Taekwondo Association and the International Taekwondo Institute. In 1980, he toured the world as part of the Taekwondo Exhibition with General Choi Hong Hi and the "Super Masters." In this prominent group of Grandmasters, Choi was the last one to pass.

He is survived by his wife Kum Oak Choi, two sons, two daughters, and three grandchildren. His student Master Robert Grasso will continue to carry on his legacy of martial arts to others. To read more about GM Choi, visit taekwondotimes.com.



GM Sun Duk Choi

GM Trần Triều Quân Memorial Ceremony

Quebec, Canada—Grandmaster Trần Triều Quân, president of one of the three ITF fractured organizations and martial artist, passed away on February 12, 2010, in Haiti, when a massive earthquake struck. It took a few weeks of research at the Hotel Montana location before his body could be found under tons of debris. GM Trần went to Haiti as an expert engineer, to help improve building standards to resist earthquakes.

On Sunday, March 21, 2010, the International Taekwon-Do Federation of Quebec organized a commemorative event in Quebec to honor the memory of the late Grandmaster. More than 100 martial artists from Canada and other countries were there to support GM Trần's family. Friends, co-workers and TKD students shared their own stories about GM Trần.

GM Trần's memorial

