



Mizu-Ryu Quarterly



Edition 2

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WI TEACH 2009

An unfortunate trend in the martial arts community is the lack of high level female influence across all branches of the arts. At any given tournament or seminar, the ratio of male to female master instructors weighs heavily to one side. There is no one to blame, but there is a chance for opportunity and growth.

Each year the Daughters of the Arts organization hosts Women Instructors Teach, a seminar where successful female martial arts instructors are put on center stage. Each year we take a portion of our proceeds and donate to a martial arts cause. This year our donation went to the Eskrima Club at Lowell High School in San Francisco. It was a true pleasure to meet our host Mr. Cordoba, an accomplished eskrimador and dean of the school. We were also very delighted to have met his daughter, Janin, another true daughter of the arts.

This year's seminar was only the second time DOTA has attempted to host an event of this kind, and we are proud to say that it was a resounding success! Compared to the first year, our attendance more than doubled and we have hopes that our seminar and our message will continue to spread so that next year we can be even bigger! As with every event, each year has it's ups and downs. One of our instructors, Guro Em Angeles, was unable to attend because she was in a hospital bed recovering from a softball game where line-drive smashed into her knee. Another instructor, Sensei Chantilly Ortiz, got up at 4:30 AM to make the 5 hour drive from her home to the seminar and found herself in an auto repair shop when her radiator blew. We deeply missed these women, and hope that they will be able to attend next year.

On a more positive note, we were happy to welcome back SahBoNim Angie Moehring. SahBoNim has been training since 1977 and was the head instructor of West Coast

Fong Taekwondo for several years. Her high-energy class *always* pumps up the group and *always* makes us glad for a water break! She is so motivational and a wonderful instructor.

We were also happy to see Sensei Margarita Jimenez back again this year. I must say that when I grow up, I want to be just like Sensei Jimenez! She is a wonderful martial arts instructor and a very impressive woman. In short, she has trained for over 40 years. She has been on the police force and been a body guard. She is fluent in Japanese...she can rock climb, she races sail boats for fun, she is a co-owner of a 13,500 sq ft training facility, and her experiences are so extensive that I'm sure I'm forgetting something...but even with this outstanding resume, Sensei is humble, kind, and generous. As a matter of fact, she has already offered to donate her fabulous facility to WI TEACH for next year's event!

Both SahBoNim and Sensei plan to attend this year's Mizu-Ryu SMART Camp in February if their very busy schedules will allow. We sincerely hope to see them there. In addition, the Daughters of the Arts founders, Sur Suro Jena Inay and myself, Shihan Ginger Ferrick, will be at that camp. We look forward to the potential "family reunion."



Margarita Jimenez, Ginger Ferrick, Jena Inay, Angela Moehring



Ray & Janin Cordoba

By: Shihan Ginger Ferrick

Student of the Year Award

A Brief History

I have chosen the Student of the Year Award since 1972, with the exception of these past few years. I feel that this is a tradition that needs to be reinstated.

When I was in Ohio, the award was a trophy that was passed from recipient to recipient. When I moved to Florida, I got away from the idea of a trophy and instead award weapons. I awarded each weapon based on the strengths and training of each recipient. Bo staffs, manriki, sai, comas, tonfa, eskrima sticks, and swords are a few of the awards that I presented. I have now designed a plaque that will be passed from recipient to recipient (as was the tradition with the trophy), and each student's name will be engraved on the award.

When this award began, I guess I was looking for the most improved, the most dedicated, and the most loyal student. Since then, I have added into the equation Bushido. In my opinion this is the biggest attribute that defines a true martial artist. As you all know, Bushido means always doing the right thing, being leader in and out of class and not expecting recognition for these actions.

When asked to do something, Mr. Bill Evans responds without hesitation. He does what ever it takes to get the job done the right way. This was an easy decision for me this year. Bill Evans fits my Student of the Year criteria to a T.

Congratulations Mr. Evans, job well done!

By:
Soke Marty Ferrick

How I Felt During My Brown Belt Test

My brown belt was very difficult compared to all my previous tests. Like most of my other test, I was real lucky. Since I was a green belt, I was able to spar a 8th Dan or higher. Although I felt like I was going to die, I was honored that I was able to spar Hanchi Wendell, Sensei Lu, and Sensei Joe for my test. I remained confident for the whole test. When sparing came around, I was scared for about 95% of it. During my test I hesitated a lot of just thinking too much and being real nervous. I wish I would of just relaxed and not be so tight. I believe I would of done a lot better on my kata and self defense if I did that. I kept telling my self not to give up and to keep going. When I passed my test and obtained my brown belt, I was real happy. Besides being a brown belt, I am one step closer to learning the intermediate techniques that Soke is always talking about. After the second day of the test, I was very tired, I mostly slept for the rest of the day. Now no matter what anyone says, I know I worked hard for this belt through sweat, tears, and a lot of hope.

By: Stone Arrue

Thank You Suro!



This past May Suro Jason Inay traveled from California to conduct a week long seminar. The participants of the seminar wish to express their deepest gratitude and are looking forward to their next training opportunity.

"First of all I would like to thank everyone who made this seminar possible. From Soke bringing Suro here, to Suro taking the time to be here and share his knowledge with us. I have to say that it is an honor and privilege to be able to work with such a talented and diverse group of martial artists. The only thing that surpasses the talent is the quality of the people themselves. Words can't truly sum up how I feel but I'll give it my best anyway. At times I felt very comfortable with what we were doing until we were put to the test. As Suro stated though, his job was to make us fail but only to a certain point. Just enough for us to see where we needed to work hardest to improve and then to actually work on it. For me personally, I think that has happened and now I will definitely work harder to improve. On many occasions I was having trouble with certain techniques. Whenever I was paired up with someone who had more experience than me, even though they were there to learn and train as well, everyone was very patient and willing to help. Again, that goes to the character of the people attending the seminar, which makes it that much better. Everyone there has a great attitude and attitude is a reflection of leadership. I look forward to the next seminar with Suro and hopefully I can bring down the rate in which he hit me from 80%-90% of the time to 60%-70% of the time. Thanks again."

-- Paul Gordon, Dragon's Den TKD

"It was a great week of blood, sweat, and tears. Needless to say we had a lot of fun. Thank you Suro! We welcome you always and thank you Soke Ferrick and the Mizu Ryu crew for hosting and allowing us to join the fun. I also had it posted on our website, mushingojuryu.com."

-- Juan

"I thought Suro's visit was very beneficial. I learned a lot of new things. Was also able to too practice my angle recognition. I had a lot of fun."

-- Stone

*"Suro,
I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to train with you. You truly are an amazing martial artist, teacher and quite a motivation. I cannot wait to take what I have learned and incorporate it into my own art. Thank you for opening my eyes and allowing me to see what my thresholds are and what aspects I need to work on."*

-- Tamara

Announcements

- Congratulations to Bill Evans, Mizu-Ryu's Student of the Year!
- Mushin Ryu Black Belt Test, September 11th.
- Mizu-Ryu Testing, September 18th.
- Gold Coast Banquet, September 26th.
- DOTA Seminar, October 3rd.

Accepting Articles:

A good news letter presents a variety of articles from numerous authors. I would like to invite all readers Mizu-Ryu's Newsletter to submit articles to our future editions.

Articles can consist of anything that you're are inspired to share, including but not limited to:

- memoirs of camps, seminars, or tournaments
- historical research
- writing assignments given by your instructors
- editorials or opinion articles

Please email your submission to dunn@dotaorg.com before **November 1, 2009.**