

# The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

Volume XIV, Number 1. The Flash is published by the Academy of Martial Arts, Inc. Your letters, contributions and articles are welcome. Offices at 752 Lake Shore Road, Grafton WI 53024. E-Mail: [fmvh@execpc.com](mailto:fmvh@execpc.com). Check out our website <http://geocities.com/amatkd/>.

**Welcome to a new member school! The Academy of Martial Arts-West Bend will open its doors at 445 North Main Street in West Bend. (This is just one block south of Toucan Custard on the second floor of the old brewery.) Headed up by Mr. Paul DuKatz, Mr. Armando Manresa, Mr. Dwight Drescher, and First Dans Ginger Oestreich and Dan Schwerin, the school marks our first presence in a major demographic area since a prior school originally founded by Jim Jeager and taken over by our Association many years ago was closed in the early 90's. The school features a huge mat-covered workout floor (over 144 square meters) and ample office, waiting, and locker room space, and will begin formal classes on Monday, January 7. [Classes M, T, W, Th, 4:00 kinds, 6:30 and following adults and various levels, Sat. 10:30 (open). For details, call 1-262-335-8020.] Congratulations to Mr. Paul DuKatz on another superb organizing job.**

Welcome to the fourteenth year of publication of the TKD Flash! Those of you who wish to subscribe for 2002, please remit \$5.00 to the above address by February 15.

A test was held at the Sheboygan Academy of Martial Arts on December 15. 8 students tested, Mr. Mikkelson, Mr. VH, and Mrs. Karpinsky presiding, and Msrs. Jarvis Klassy and Luke Allen, and Miss Teresa Brandt wowed the audience with a display of their skills. Mr. Paul Schneider and Mrs. Karpinsky shared corner duties.

**U.S.T.F. dues due for 2001. \$25.00 for renewals, \$35.00 for initial application.**

A demonstration will be held at Woodview Elementary School on February 15. All who wish to participate may contact Mr. VH.

A test will be held in Sheboygan on January 26.

A Grafton faculty breakfast meeting is scheduled for January 12.

Gup level tests are scheduled for March 16 in Charlotte.

A Black Belt test is scheduled for May 18 in Huntersville.

A test will be held in the new West Bend school January 26.

## Correspondence on Completion of a Black Belt Test (Redacted)

Dear Mr. Van Hecke,

I just wanted to thank you for the generous hospitality, and great experience that you provided. I am sorry that I missed everyone at the banquet. I had originally planned on staying another night, but this would have been at the cost of an important family event on Sunday. After listening to Master DeBaca talk about family, I realized my place was back home. I have to say that Master DeBaca seemed to be a wonderful man. I observed that he smiled almost all the way through the testing. His attitude, and personality in conjunction with the fun loving, encouraging atmosphere that you and your club provided, clearly helped make those testing more at ease and comfortable. I continue training in Tae Kwon Do for two main reasons: first because it is fun, and secondly because of the strong sense of community I feel among the martial artist I presently train with, and those I have met over the years. I have seen a half a dozen or so black belt tests in my time, and most of them have been straight forward, and all business. Even though it was crowded, it was a extreme pleasure to be part of an

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atmosphere that can smile, joke, and cheer on their fellow students and instructors. I saw a lot of great talent on the floor that day. Great technique, spectacular routines, and awesome breaks, but without a doubt the relationship I see that you have with your students, and the openness of Master DeBaca stood above it all and was very inspirational to me. .... I sincerely wish you and your family a safe and joyous Holiday season. Take care and thanks again.

Sincerely,  
Jim Alger  
Cadillac Tae Kwon Do Club

Mr. Alger: I did most appreciate your testing with us. I thought your test quite impressive. I do very much agree with your analysis as to the importance of the brotherhood and sisterhood involved in our Art, and with your permission would like to forward on your comments to Master DeBaca and Grand Master Sereff. ...I believe if you chose family you chose wisely. Have a wonderful Holiday as well.

Dear Mr. Van Hecke,

First of all, you are more than welcome to share my thoughts with anyone you would like. It is reassuring to know that there are others who understand that TKD is much more kicking, punching, and doing patterns. This subject is favorite topic of

conversation for Dr. Osborn. Although it does not take a PhD in psychology to see that Tae Kwon Do has the potential to change a persons life. Actually, for myself, all it takes is a simple glance in the mirror. TKD has made a tremendous difference in my life, and it effects me in everything I do. I am even different now that I was last Friday riding in the car on my seven hour journey to Packer country. Over time I have come to realize that it is not always the major metamorphosis that we must appreciate, but the so often overlooked subtle changes that occur each day. Events like the breaking through your first set of boards, or bringing home your first medal are great, but there are many small successes that occur in and out of the Dojang that we must cherish; like morning hug from your wife, or simple wave hello from a stranger.

As we talk about how subtle changes occur in a persons life, it amazes me how simple transference between one individual to another can make such events occur. Like how one person can without even thinking simply smile at another and then continue on his way, and how that thoughtless smile can inspire feelings of acceptance and joy within another. Sometimes small things can make a big difference. You might not recall, simply because you have tested so many students in

your career, but you sat along side Mr. Weiss and Mr. Miller for my first Dan testing.

When it was over, it was clear to me that there were aspects of my test that were not representative of my best performance. I was not feeling all that great at that point....you ... came to me, shook my hand, looked me in the eye, smiled and told me you were very impressed with my power. I barely knew who you were, and did not know if you could break a board or even break a sweat.... When I returned from Chicago, and everyone asked my how things went, it was always that five second hand shake that started my reply.

I have unfortunately experience those who believe that belts are ways to separate, and distinguish inferiority. I am sympathetic to those people, because they will never realize that life is about interaction, and being kind, courteous, and connected is more important than any belt or title. I tell my students not to strive for the next colored belt or level, but to focus on their skills and development. That it is not the belt that defines the person, but the ability and character that is demonstrated by that person. I tell them to set goals of being not only a better kicker, but more importantly to be a better brother or sister, father or mother, husband or wife. To understand that if you spend to much time dwelling on where you have been, or focusing on

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where you are going you will miss out on the splendor of what is happening now. I believe it is somewhat ironic that an art whose literal translation refers to smashing and breaking with the hand or foot, yields its greatest power from building self confidence, friendships, and community. Behind all the fancy kicking, there is a foundation on which bridges are laid between race, religion, age, gender, and color. It is a place where all are welcome. It does not matter if your short, tall, fat, skinny, a doctor, a lawyer, a chemist or a butcher, we are all just people who love our martial art. Sincerely,  
Jim Alger

On Saturday December 8 a United States TaeKwon-Do Federation Regional Black Belt Test was hosted by the Association of Academies of Martial Arts at the Still Waters Community Methodist Church in Jackson, Wisconsin. A total of 28 men and women from four states tested for various degrees of Black Belt before a panel consisting of Seventh Dan Master Paul DeBaca of Aurora, Colorado, Vice President of the United States TaeKwon-Do Federation, and Sixth Dan Earl Weiss of Skokie, Illinois, the U.S.T.F. Region Five Director. The test was conducted under the authority of the International TaeKwon-Do Federation, Gen. Choi, Hong Hi, Founder and

President, and of the United States TaeKwon-Do Federation, Grand Master C.E. Sereff, President. This was the largest I.T.F.-U.S.T.F. sanctioned Black Belt test ever held in Wisconsin.

Thirteen students tested for their First Degree Black Belts. They are Msrs. Riz Refugio and Peter Auld of Illinois, Mrs. Erin Graff, Miss Alice Soriano, Mr. Sam Van Hecke, Mrs. Ginger Oestreich, Dr. Mark Brudnak, Miss Teresa Brandt, Rev. Dan Schwerin, Mr. Jarvis Klassy, and Mr. Luke Allen of Wisconsin, and Miss Andrea Zagata and Mr. Jeremy Duke of Michigan.

Testing for their Second Degree Black Belts were Mr. James Alger of Michigan, Dr. Ray Peleux, Mr. Dave Christie, and Mr. Joel Miller of North Carolina, Mr. Paul Schneider, Mr. Roger Barts, and Miss Caitlin Madden of Wisconsin, and Mr. Richard Mann of Illinois.

Mrs. Mary Lubner and Mr. Steven Warnke of Wisconsin, Mr. Otto Precht of Illinois, and Dr. Steve Osborn of Michigan tested for Third Degree Black Belt.

Mr. Mike Van Pietersom of Cedarburg, Wisconsin tested for his Fourth Degree Black Belt.

Mr. F.M. Van Hecke, tested for his Sixth Degree Black Belt along with U.S.T.F. Illinois State Director and School of Classical TaeKwon-

Do Founder Mr. Braxton Miller.

In attendance were spectators from six states. Also in attendance and participating in the activities were North Carolina U.S.T.F. State Director Fourth Dan Jeremy Kempka, Second Dan Instructor Mr. Doug Kehl of Cadillac, Michigan, Third Dan Jason Cram of Wausau, Wisconsin, and students and instructors from Academies of Martial Arts and U.S.T.F.-affiliated schools in Sheboygan, Grafton, Merrill, Jackson and Mequon, Wisconsin, Island Lake and DesPlaines, Illinois, Charlotte and Mooresville, North Carolina, and Cadillac, Michigan.

Third Dan Tom Minesal of Grafton, Wisconsin, served as Corner (Master of Ceremonies) and Mrs. Jacqueline Karpinsky, Second Dan, as Head Table Adjutant for the test.

At a celebration dinner held that evening at the Church Fellowship Hall, Master DeBaca was presented a combined calligraphic and watercolor certificate welcoming him to Wisconsin. Master DeBaca then awarded those who had tested their new black belt ranks to a standing ovation.

We thank all who labored so hard to make the day a success, and all the instructors who tested their students with us.

# TRIBUTE TO THE FATHER OF TAEKWON DO

**USTF/ITF INSTRUCTORS  
COURSE & TRIBUTE TO THE  
FATHER OF TAEKWON DO,  
GENERAL CHOI, HONG HI**

USTF, KATU MEMBERS & INVITED GUESTS

**APRIL 6, 7, & 8, 2002**

**8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

**Pre-register by: January 5, 2002**

**Banquet**

April 6, 2001  
Coat & Tie  
\$40.00 per person  
Reservations by  
March 5, 2002

How Many? \_\_\_\_\_  
Please pay with  
Deposit! (Can be on  
Credit Card.)

Course Location &  
Hotel Accommodation

Holiday Inn Northglenn  
10 East 120th Ave.  
Northglenn, Colorado  
(303) 452-4100

\$75.00 Single or Double  
Ask for the United States  
Taekwon Do rate  
No later than Mar. 5, 2002



- Entry fees: Pre-register only
- \$45.00 YELLOW BELTS
  - \$60.00 GREEN & BLUE BELTS
  - \$160.00 RED BELTS
  - \$185.00 I DAN BLACK BELT
  - \$235.00 II DAN BLACK BELT
  - \$280.00 III DAN BLACK BELT
  - \$295.00 IV DAN & ABOVE

*Black Belt Test for participants IV  
Dan & above, on Monday, April 8,  
2002. Contact Master Renee' Sereff  
for more information. Must have In-  
structors permission in writing.*

For more information or to register call:

**USTF, Inc. Headquarters  
303-466-4963**

US Dollars Please  
No refund on deposit

Mail form, & deposit by  
January 15, 2002. Balance  
Due March 5, 2002.  
Registration after deadline  
Add \$25.00.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt Size: S M L XL

T-shirt included with course.

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

ITF Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Master Card, Visa, American Exp. or Discover  
accepted on the course, deposit & banquet.

No. \_\_\_\_\_ exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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