



Wado International Karate-Do Federation DOJO CONNECTION

MAY 2007

Summer Camp

The WIKFUSA Summer Camp will be held in White House, Tennessee this June 8, 9, and 10th at Sensei Mike Vanatta's Dojo.

We have reserved a block of rooms at Holliday Inn Express Exit 108 White House, TN. In the name of Vanatta's Karate.

Phone: 615-672-7200

The room rate is \$76.46 if booked by May 12th.

The rooms are double rooms with either 2 beds or a king bed.

The hotel is 22 miles from the Nashville Airport and less than 3 miles from the dojo.

Mr. and Mrs. Vanatta would like to invite everyone to grilled hamburgers etc. at their house on Saturday evening. They have a pool and invite you to swim if you would like.

Japan 2007

Brody Burns, Dale Gatchalian, Matt Matson, Shannon Moore, Tom Kosslow, Andrea Knoll, Donald Holcomb, and Fred Ruttan traveled to Japan to join a group from Europe to train and tour Japan with Suzuki Sensei. We went so many places and saw so many interesting things that I can't describe all of it.

We were lucky enough to catch the cherry blossoms in bloom. The cherry blossom is the unofficial flower of Japan. It is probably the most beloved flower of the Japanese. The blooming of the cherry blossoms signifies the arrival of spring and the beginning of the new academic year for schools. The Japanese school year actually starts in April. The cherry blossoms are symbols of a bright future and suggest purity and transience. They are especially beautiful against the dark sky at night.



Sensei is moving around just fine in spite of rumors to the contrary. He taught a 2 1/2 hour course doing tanto dori, kihon gumite, and go-no-sen techniques. While off the floor he does look more like an old man than we are use to seeing once he puts on a gi and starts teaching that image quickly disappears. He once again looks the part of the true karate master that he is. Sensei traveled all over Japan with us

without any problems. We are looking forward to having him visit in Plano, Texas at this year's Suzuki Cup in November. Those of you who have not had the opportunity to train with this karate legend should really plan to attend.

While traveling in Japan with Sensei and the others I realized that even as we were traveling and training I would probably not have many opportunities like this again in my life. So I wanted to make the most of it and appreciate it while I still could. Experiences like this help you to realize that time is constantly slipping by. There is only me, and here, and now. All experiences are temporary and fleeting. Since my illness several years ago I have been more aware of what is happening in my life. I am much more conscious of the simple day to day events that will someday represent my past. The result is that I have a tendency to say, "Wait a minute! Let me understand what is happening here. I don't want to remember things at a latter time and say gee, I wish I had paid more attention." It's the best way I know to sort of grab hold of time and of giving myself the best opportunity I'll ever get to enjoy that period of time that makes up the rest of my life. All I can say then about this trip to Japan is that I am really glad I took the opportunity to do it.

PROMOTIONS

The **Academy of Classical Karate-Do in Plano, Texas** announces the following promotions:

PATRICK ENUNWAONYE	8 th kyu
MATTHEW ENUNWAONYE	8 th kyu
SAFIN KASTURI	7 th kyu
ALEX SMITH	6 th kyu
KHOS FARZANEH	6 th kyu
BRIAN SPENCER	7 th kyu

The **Fudoshin Dojo in Harrisonburg, Virginia** announces the following promotions:

BRETT TAVEL	8 th kyu
KRYSTLE AVERY	8 th kyu
MATT KEENAN	1 8 th kyu
MARK SMILEY	8 th kyu

EMPTY DOJO

Failure can frequently be a pathway to attainment. Last summer I went to my dojo for class and nobody showed up. I had only two students left so it wasn't completely a surprise. I looked around the dojo and thought to myself, "What a beautiful dojo this is...and empty."

Back when I was an elementary school principal I had to drive a 5 year old home because he had missed the school bus. He assured me he knew the way to his house. We rode for several blocks before he told me to turn. After several more blocks he told me to turn again. This went on for about 15 minutes until we finally reached his house. As it turned out the house proved to be only a block away from the school. When I asked him why we had gone in such a round about way to get to his house he said, "That's the way the school bus goes and it's the only way I know."

Since last summer I did a lot of thinking about how I taught karate. For the most part I taught the way I was taught in the 1960's because like that 5 year old it was the way I knew. I had not reached the point where I could apply what I knew about education to what I know about karate technique. The two should have been compatible, but somehow I couldn't make them fit.

So I visited a number of dojo that are successful to see what they were doing. What I had overlooked was a fundamental truth about learning. Learning is an acquired trait that is pretty difficult to arouse interest in if you do the same thing in the same way every time.

So late last summer I began to separate from my earlier teaching methods and started to apply what I know about education. I tried some things I never would have considered doing before. I stole ideas from Sensei Vanatta, Sensei Burns, and Sensei Jepperson, and a few other instructors. I might have come into the 21st Century crying and kicking and screaming but I seem to be it seems to be working. My dojo is still small by comparison to many but it isn't empty any more either.

I read somewhere once that as a man alters his thoughts towards things and people, he will find that people will alter their thoughts toward him. I think that's probably a pretty true statement.

"Look well into thyself; there is a source of strength which will always spring up if thou wilt always look there."

.Marcus Aurelius