

# The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts  
The National Newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation

The TKD Flash is published by the Academy of Martial Arts, Inc. The Editor is F.M. Van Hecke. The mailing address is P.O. Box 853, Grafton, WI 53024. E-Mail [fmvhl@mac.com](mailto:fmvhl@mac.com). Archived at USTF Region V site [www.ustf-region5.org](http://www.ustf-region5.org) Persons submitting photographs, letters to the editor, reactions to published articles or articles will be deemed to have consented to their publication unless specifically specifying otherwise. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission prior to publication. Persons submitting materials represent that they have the right to publish the submitted materials and images and submit the same without seeking compensation. Award-Winning Contributing Staff: Distinguished Stringers Roselyn Romberg, Ricky Todd, Renee' Sereff; and Stringers Corinne Sroykum, Guy Williams, Robert Martin, Mario Manera, Lisa Eastin, David Mason, and Melanie Bunch.

## THE NEW YEAR & REVIEWING THE OLD

As we all know, few issues create the fierce internal debate at Flash headquarters in downtown Manhattan as much as those issues

which review our own achievements in publishing. "Stringer of the Year" has resulted in emotions ranging from agony to ecstasy, and finding the best article by a non-stringer has in past changed the face of our News Department. Perhaps the most eagerly awaited outcomes related to Photographic Image of the Year. By its



(Not pictured: award recipients Stringers Mr. **Mario Manera** and Master **David Mason**.) Subsequent to the award Ms. Melanie Bunch joined the News Staff.

2015 did not bring us a single "Stringer of the Year," but rather brought deserved national recognition to the entire News Department of the TKD Flash, sharing in the 2015 Fulitzer Prize. In commemoration of the same, plaques acknowledging the award were furnished Grand Master **Renee' Sereff**, DFS, Ms. **Roselyn Romberg**, DFS, Sr. Master **Ricky Todd**, DFS, and Stringers Mrs. **Corrine Sroykum** (here represented by Master William Dubbeld), Master **Guy Williams** (represented here by Mrs. Arlene Slocum), Ms. **Lisa Eastin**, (represented by Master Dustin Stephenson), and Master **Robert Martin**. Their Editor is on the left.

**Return of the Splits Club:** Ms. Mia Lai, newest member of the New England Splits Club, casually observes a test.



nature, the latter category has excluded the excellent efforts in the annual kids' art contest and thus confined itself to photography: it is not an award to a photographer but to the image produced for many reasons. We are pleased, however, to present the results of our deliberations.

"Best Article by a non-Stringer for 2015" goes to "On the Military Beat" by Mr. **Patrick Finan**, from the January 2015 issue. A special commendation for a Stringer article was given to "Welcome to White Oak TKD" from the June issue, written by Ms. **Lisa Eastin**.

See many of the fine photos we considered, including the winning image. The photos begin on page 7.

*YHE*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

On February 20, 2016, Sr. Master **Bill Stephenson** will host a Class C Instructor Seminar, to be taught as one of this excellent series by USTF Director of Technique **Mike Winegar**.

Also on February 20 there will be a USTF Referee Course at Sereff Takeown-Do.

### AROUND THE COUNTRY

On November 30 Fifth Dan Mrs. **Mary Lubner**, Third Dan Mr. **Kevin Friede**, First Dans **Alyssa Jankowski**, **Patrick Jankowski**, and **Valerie Locklair** and Eight Dan F.M. Van Hecke presided over a gup test at the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, Wisconsin. At the Corner were Ms. **Rachel LaPorte** and Mr. **Elliot Humiston**. **Camille Lineberry** was tested to Gup 3 and **Sam Blamer** to Gup 4. **Aanya Kasera**, **Tim Harried**, **Piper Harried** and **Max Harried** were promoted to Gup 6. **Sava Belousov** was promoted to Gup 7. **Noah Friberg**, **Carol Oomen**, and **Suvidhi Mutha** were promoted to Gup 9.

On December 5 there was a Black Belt Testing at **Big Dog Taekwon-Do** in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Article on page 6.

Sir:

On Saturday, November 14th the New England region held its annual **Concord Invitational Tournament**. Competitors from schools around the region competed in this fun all-ranks, all-ages event. This was the second year that Breaking was included, to supplement the usual Patterns and Sparring competitions. As in past years, competition was friendly but fierce, and Referees were put to the test on more than one occasion. The tournament ended on a spirited note with the much-anticipated "Pick Your Own Black Belt" sparring event.



Competitors up to age 8 are permitted to select the Black Belt of their choice, from any school and any rank, for a one-minute round. Mr. John Murphy, head of Concord TKD and host of the tournament, reserves the role of Center Referee for himself (except when he can't keep himself from joining in the fun!) Thanks to all who attended, and we look forward to a great Northeast Challenge tournament in the spring! Photos: Sparring above, Bri Baang scores on a side piercing kick; Pick Your Own Black Belt below, Sera Baang aims a downward kick at Oliver Fox, III Dan.

*Roselyn Romberg, D.F.P.*

Sr. Master Van Hecke,

We had our last test for the year on December 5th. As you see from the photo it was a small group. We are well into winter here. The day after the temperature dropped to -20 degrees at nite. The birds that are here are tough. The snow birds are gone.

The names from left to right, starting in the front are: **Jedidiah Zidrashko** 9th gup, **Analise Zidrashko** 9th gup, **Caleb Drummond** 6th gup. row two: The twins **Mattae** (Best Test) and **Gabbie Drummond** both 3rd gup. Row Three: **Mark Lawson II**, **David Zidrashko** 9th gup, **Dana Woolery** 1st gup, **Makenna Drummond** 1st gup, Master **G. Williams VII**.

A happy New Year to all and may the U.S.T.F. prosper.

*Master Guy Williams, Flash Stringer*



A new student enrolls at the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, Wisconsin. **Zach Kelley**, right, is in the third generation of his family to study Taekwon-Do. On his left is his more seasoned cousin Aniela Van Hecke, who will be showing Zach the mysteries of that last belt loop in due course.





The New England Region conducted a Black Belt test on Sunday, November 22nd. Grand Master **Louis Reyes** presided, his first BB test as a IXth Dan. Mr. **Tom Gibbons**, head of Victory TKD, tested successfully for IV Dan. Mr. **Alex Gough**, of Giorgio's Academy of TKD, achieved III Dan. Mr. **Elijah Smith**, of Victory TKD and a student of Mr. Gibbons, tested for I Dan, along with mother and son combo **Renata Pomponi** and **Noah Büchner**. Congratulations, Black Belts! Photos: above, GM Reyes with successful candidates; right, Alex Gough pops through some lumber.

*Roselyn Romberg, D.F.P.*





Sir:

We at **Big Dog TaeKwon-Do** have news to share with the USTF. First we held a black belt testing on December 5 which was supposed to be for both Mr. **Shaun Brown** and Ms. **Mikayla Burke** but due to circumstances beyond anyone's control (more on that later), only Mr. Brown tested that day. But he did a wonderful job and made all of his instructors and fellow students very proud.

I am attaching a picture of Mr. Brown with Mrs. **Marianne Armstrong** (on the right, at left) and myself after his very excellent job. At dinner that night, Mr. Brown was inducted into the Big Dog Black Belt club and given the nickname Hero because he's been there whenever we've needed him.

Ms. Burke was unable to test because on the day before she was diagnosed with appendicitis and rushed into surgery to have her appendix removed. In a "first time ever" for Big Dog Taekwon-Do, Mrs. Armstrong and I were able to be there when her now-fiancee, also a student of ours, Mr. **Aaron Dull**, proposed to her in the recovery room. So while Ms. Burke hasn't yet been able to test, that will be forthcoming soon but she is sporting a new lovely engagement ring. And we have a wedding to plan! [Editor's Note: Nice recovery...]

And on one other note, Sir, I would like to point out that this testing was a difficult day for all of us at Big Dog because we knew that **Katie Fairchild** would have been testing had she not been tragically taken from us this past May 3. She was 16, lost in an auto accident, a much beloved student. We all missed her terribly, but Mr. Brown did an excellent job of representing all three of this class's candidates.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sharon Spungen  
3rd Dan, Big Dog Taekwon-Do



Some of the outstanding images contributed by our staff and others in 2015.





More great images from the 2015 Flash.





And yet more....





And more. Next page,  
Image of the Year.



Emelie Hardy's photo of OhDan Amy Willcox at Nationals: Image of the Year, 2015