



THE AMERICAN MARTIAL ARTS ALLIANCE

MARTIAL ARTS MASTERS & PIONEERS

WHO'S REALLY WHO IN THE MARTIAL ARTS

Volume 2

By
GRAND MASTER JESSIE BOWEN

Elite Publications

THE AMERICAN MARTIAL ARTS ALLIANCE

MARTIAL ARTS MASTERS & PIONEERS

WHO'S REALLY WHO IN THE MARTIAL ARTS

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All attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this book, but this is not a guarantee.

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Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Grandmasters Jeff Smith and Joe Corley, two of my continuing Martial Arts mentors and friends, for their support and assistance with gathering so many amazing martial artists to share their journeys in the Martial Arts. They embraced the concept and value of Martial Arts Masters & Pioneers, Who's Really Who in the Martial Arts. This edition seeks to cover and reveal. Their expansive contributions helped bring together this amazing collection of Legends in the Martial Arts.

I would also like to thank my wife Gwendolyn Bowen, Jessica C. Phillips and Krystal Harvey, without whose help this book would never have been completed.

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Hanshi
Jessie Bowen



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Introduction to the Who's Who Series

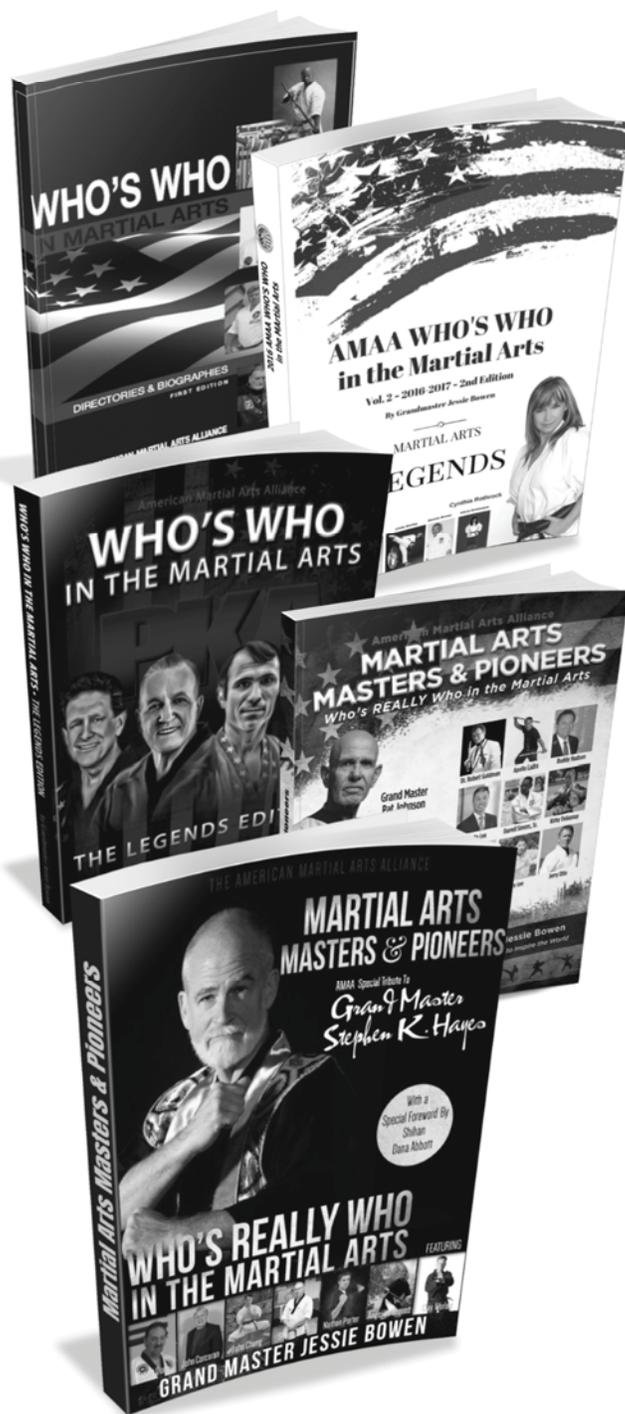
The Martial Arts Masters & Pioneers book is not intended to be just another martial arts book. It is intended to be both inspirational and motivational as you discover martial artists whose lives have been changed through the study of an application of the principles taught in the martial arts.

For more than 1500 years, martial arts has played a key role in personal development training and through the pages of this book you will discover the journey of hundreds of martial artists sharing their journeys, describing how the martial arts has impacted their lives.

Grand Master Bowen's Martial Arts Masters & Pioneers Edition represents the shift we Americans have brought to the arts, by recognizing the accomplishments of the individuals who practiced and perfected their arts, as opposed to the glorification of the arts themselves. In reading about what the Martial Arts Masters & Pioneers Leaders here have done, one can only marvel at the magnitude of individual effort expended and sacrifices made, from the grassroots activities to global media and organizational results.

So, rather than debating which blocks or strikes or styles are more perfect, this work heralds the individual strengths of those who share the marital bond in America, whose legacies have impacted martial arts in America and thus, around the world.

No matter where you are in life, the martial arts offer a powerful tool to aid you physically, mentally and spiritually as your mind and body work better together. The study of the martial arts helps individuals look inside and find their purpose. Along the path, they discover how to let go of the negativity and the things that hold them back in life. Enjoy here the journeys of Masters & Pioneers.



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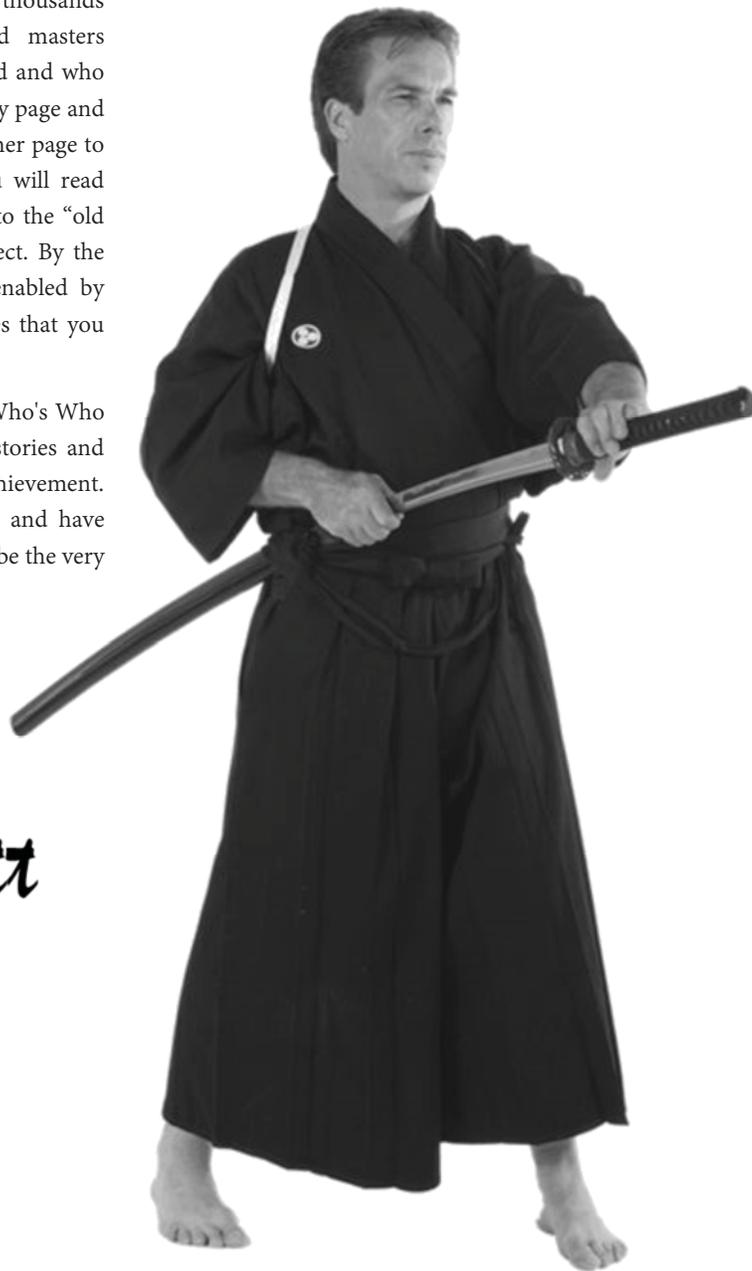
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Foreword

The Martial Arts Masters & Pioneers biography book is comprised of over one hundred and fifty of the most amazing individuals who have empowered and taught thousands upon thousands throughout the years. These dedicated experts and masters represent most all of the martial arts styles of the world and who does them. Thumb through the pages, randomly pick any page and find yourself in the midst of a Japanese art or turn another page to see a Korean stylist. Open yet another page, and you will read history in the making from a masterful eclectic stylist to the “old school” masters we have all come to admire and respect. By the time you finish perusing these pages, you will feel enabled by masters you have not yet met and inspired by the ones that you have.

Martial Arts Masters & Pioneers, or if you prefer, the Who's Who of Martial Arts offers you a glimpse into the lives, histories and martial arts styles of these extraordinary masters of achievement. These individuals have personally touched many lives and have made a difference in those lives by empowering them to be the very best they could strive to be.

Shihan
Dana Abbott



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Preface

WHY THIS BOOK?

“THE MARTIAL ARTS - AN ESSENTIAL TO SELF DISCOVER, CHARACTER, AND SUCCESS”

In your hands you are holding many Black Belt Martial Artists that serve as inspiring examples for us all. The Martial Arts is arguably one of the best skills to engage in not just because it can make you physically stronger, but this art is something that transcends time and helps us BUILD CHARACTER to have the fortitude to withstand life’s challenges, SELF-CONFIDENCE to allow us realize the true talent and power we all possess within ourselves, SELF AWARENESS to help us understand what our limitations are but also what we are capable of, and also FOCUS to be able to accomplish anything we set our mind to. What does a “black belt” symbolize? It means that you can now have the respect that you have achieved a milestone in your journey of self-discovery. Those not in martial arts may think that it is a point that one is an expert while those actually practicing the martial arts understand that achieving a black belt is just the beginning of learning.

As we advance individually, as a society or community, we see many things that vie for our attention. When we are born, we are open to learning. In today’s modern world however, we are bombarded with technology. It is not uncommon to see a 7-year-old child playing with the newest type of phone available. Amongst the wide array of technological advances and as we build our future, we know that certain things are very important to keep us heading in the right direction while others when introduced too early can have an adverse impact

on an individual’s development. We need to consider how we can truly support the future generations and communities and what we can provide. Here is where the disciplines taught within the martial arts can be very instrumental in the development of a person.

A few things are key to remember that are significant and that we need to take into consideration. While we are doing things faster, we need to see the signs that are prevalent when it comes to our overall lifestyle, mindfulness, as well as our mental and physical health. Whether or not we agree with it, the current forces of technology will affect us all. Interestingly, while we are “advancing”, we are also realizing the limitations of not really going through the discipline that life teaches us to grow, thrive, and survive that we circumvent with the ways of the “Now Generation”.

It is said that a bird must go through the process and break out of it’s own shell before it sees the light in order to build the endurance to survive. Also, when a new child is born, if it is not fed the mother’s milk, the baby will not have the necessary nutrients that make it strong and

Jim T. Chong



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We are learning how progressing without going through the needed pangs of our emotions being strengthened and tested results in many potential problems that could have been avoided if we only faced the challenges that existed in prior years.

For instance, in his famous talk about the new generation, Simon Sinek addresses the issue about how the new generation short circuits some of the natural courses of life that are actually hurting the new generation. The feelings of entitlement, over-stimulation, and also having and expecting immediate gratification does not work in our favor as a person.

For example, if someone feels lonely today, they can immediately get attention by getting on social media and doing posts or messages to individuals where they get “immediate gratification” that stimulates one’s dopamine which is a neurotransmitter AKA as the “feel good hormone” which is associated with such feelings as euphoria, bliss, and a natural high. While this is good in the short run, we don’t need to build our tolerance and patience and take for granted that some things may take time or that we will face challenges in life that we will need to deal with. Without going through the challenges of life and getting constant stimulation, when we are “alone” for any given period of time, or when we need to cope with challenges that relationships bring whether they be on a personal, spiritual, or business level, one may feel lost and helpless and not knowing how to cope leads to the feeling of being lost or helpless.

Some research even suggests that with all the stimulation, we are having an alarming increasing rate of anxiety attacks, ADD, drug addictions, and even incidents of suicide. The Martial Arts can play a vital role in helping instill the much needed discipline that an individual, especially the youth, to be able not just cope, but help advance more quickly in life whether it be relationally, emotionally, or in developing and nurturing their natural talent or skills and lead to the success a person wants to achieve.

By design, Martial Arts helps develop an individual’s

emotional endurance, perseverance, self-confidence and self-awareness, as well as how to cope with emotional stress or anxiety...and dealing with self. One other very important aspect of the Martial Arts, is that it helps an individual focus and keeps the mind sharp and helps a person be more mindful and even achieve a higher level of wellness. The teachings in this art not only teach us how to avoid “the bad”, but it actually fills us up with “the good.”

Our hope is that you can see this very special book as more than just a list of names, but as landmarks of accomplishments and examples of people that carry on the much needed practices that inspires us as individuals to personally further develop ourselves.

Many understand that martial arts help contribute in so many ways to our individual growth emotionally and mentally, physically and spiritually. Yet, we need to understand that this special art does so much more. It will help us understand our connection with a higher power as well as the awareness of what is around us and what is important. Truly, the martial arts will always continue to help us be grounded as well as help nurture the things that are most important.

Many icons of the past and present such as Bruce Lee, Chuck Norris, Jackie Chan, Jet Li, Eddie Reyes and so many others that are in this book serve as examples that we all can inspire to live a legendary life of achievement and significance.

Congratulations on helping not just acknowledge those that are modern day Champions, but for keeping the “torch lit” for the future generations to come.

*-Jim T. Chong the “Wok Star”
Master Emcee, Publicist, Influencer*

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Tribute to John Corcoran

The Father of Martial Arts Journalism (1948-2019)

Martial artist John Corcoran set the bar when it came to martial arts writing. Born in Pittsburgh Pa., John was from a hard-working steel mill town family. He was humorously quoted as saying that his Irish-Catholic kinfolks elevated “Hell-raising” to a science. He claims it was his humble, hard beginnings that led him to the discipline and focus of his martial arts training in 1967.

He was awarded his black belt by Glenn Premru in the art of Okinawan Shorin-ryu after 5 years of training in 1972. That was also the year that a young Corcoran would move to Los Angeles to seek his dream of becoming a screen-writer and martial arts magazine contributor.

John didn’t have to wait very long. After his first publishing in “Official Karate” magazine, he was contacted by “Black Belt” Magazine and offered the editors position. John would become the first actual “black belt” to write for the soon to be world- renowned magazine in 1973. It became the break that he needed. John would soon be launching a career that encompassed books, magazines and screenplays. His dream was coming true.

With the power of media behind him, he would help launch today’s most famous martial artists into the spotlight. His “star power” list includes Jean Claude Van Damme, Joe Lewis, Bill “Superfoot” Wallace, Howard Jackson, Karyn Turner, Ernie Reyes Jr., T. J Roberts and media sensations Karen Eden, Keith Yates and Andre Lima.

From 1976 to 1979, John worked with the PKA (Professional Karate Association,) along side Joe Corley as a consultant in pioneering “full-contact” karate. During this time, he was



*Master
Karen Eden*

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instrumental in promoting Bill “Superfoot” Wallace in the media.

By a strange move of events, John Corcoran would end up becoming roommates with world-class champions Bill Wallace and Joe Lewis from 1977 to 1981. It was then that he says Joe Lewis became his martial arts mentor, adding the practicality behind the moves that John had spent night after night practicing. They were the best of friends. Joe’s death in 2012 sent him reeling with despair.

Overall, John authored 12 books and acted as magazine editor for 24 different magazines. His dream of becoming a Hollywood screenwriter also came true in 1992, when he wrote the screenplay for “American Samurai” starring Mark Dacascos. At the time of his death, John was in the process of editing the next issue of MA Success magazine for Century Martial Arts where he had been employed since 2001.

Not bad for the kid from Pittsburgh, who ran away from home as a teenager to become a martial arts writer. John Corcoran was respected by many and accepting of everyone from all walks of life. He was 70.

-Karen Eden



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Appreciation

Appreciation & Attitudes of Gratitude 2019

So many of us were moved by the early days of Bruce Lee (RIP) in the Green Hornet and his ensuing films, drawn to the confidence, the speed, the power, the zen, the charisma and the discipline.

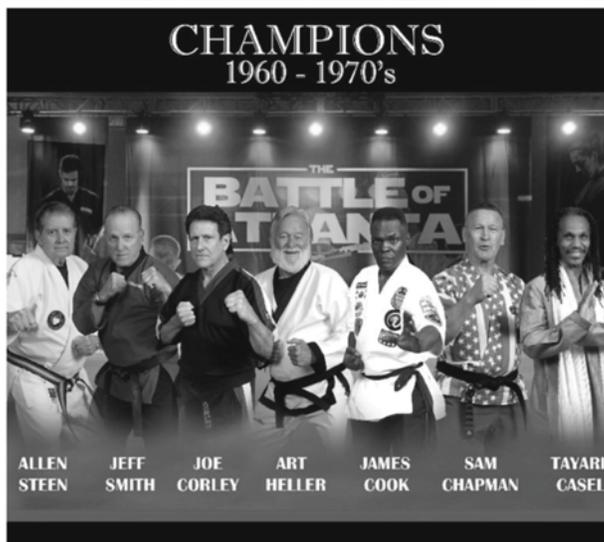
More than 5 decades later, the passage of Bruce Lee and the too-early losses of so many of our powerful pioneers in the martial arts, we are still thankful to be able to stand on their Shoulders of Greatness.

Just last April, at the memorial service for GM Jhoon Rhee, we heard a grateful and tearful Linda Lee Caldwell, Bruce Lee's widow, describe the great friendship her husband had with GM Rhee and the incredible chemistry they shared together and then shared with the world.

Many Masters that day shared tears of sadness at the passing of GM Rhee, mixed with the tears of joy for having known him and the literal tens of thousands of Black Belts he inspired through Grand Masters Allen Steen, Pat Burtleson and Jeff Smith. So many of us too were so grateful to have spent the time with GM Rhee at the 2017 Who's Who Legends banquet, thanks to GM Bowen.

A year later, I realize that we all can and should be appreciative for all those in our community who are helping build the next generations and the great leaders that will emanate therefrom. And that leads us to Who's Who 2019.

And so it is for me, four years since I was first invited to assist GM Jessie Bowen in his Who's Who vision, I can say that so many of us first and second generation "competitive pioneers" truly appreciate the efforts he has made to chronicle the visions and accomplishments of those whose shoulders we have stood on and the telling of the stories of so many of us .



Grand Master Joe Corley

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I now want to show my sincere appreciation for what GM Bowen has done these first four years, and now say thanks for the steps he is taking to present the stories of tomorrow's leaders and influencers who will become--or will themselves develop--the next Bruce Lees, Jhoon Rhee's, Allen Steens, Jeff Smiths and Bill Wallaces et al.

We applaud his willingness and initiative to give them thanks for their community efforts and his very specific methods and organized methods to build their brands and the brands of their students to position them in positive lights in their communities.

Keep up the great work GM Bowen.

*-Joe Corley
PKA Worldwide*



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Dedication

My longing to study the martial arts started when I was a child in the 1950s. I saw other children being bullied and picked on. Way deep down in my spirit I wanted to do something about it. But I was a kind and compassionate child, loved and honored by my family, and did not know the first thing about physically moving into action. I needed to learn how to fight.

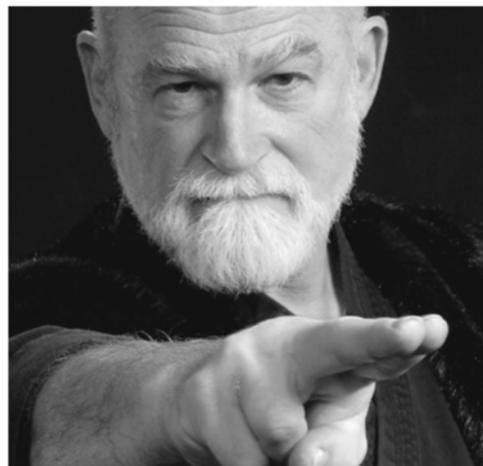
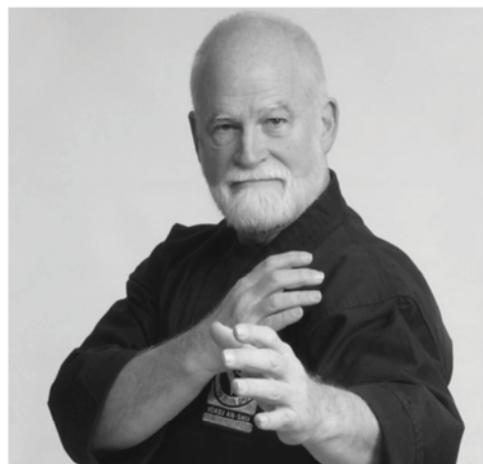
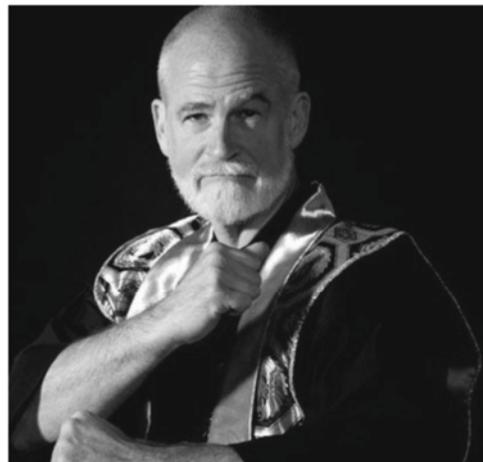
I saw TV shows that featured characters studying Asian fighting systems. I made up my mind that was what I had to do. I finally got my first chance to study the martial arts when I went to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Though I first began my study to learn physical self-defense, and thought I'd give it a few years, I soon became hooked. It became my lifetime endeavor.

How about you? What caused you to take up the martial arts in the first place? Do you remember? Maybe like me you wanted to learn to fight in order to make there be peace? Maybe you suffered a traumatic life and wanted to learn to fight to make war? Maybe you saw a movie that captivated you? Maybe you were inspired by a champion competitor's wins? Maybe you were moved by the idea of the mystical, and wanted to transform your ordinary existence into an elevated state of being?

I started karate in the mid-1960s. It was liberating. At long last, in my teens, I gained access to teachers who shared the secrets of the Asian fighting arts with me. Years of practice went by. I loved my karate. But I longed to expand my skills to include grappling and even defenses against weapon attacks. And what of stories of spiritual power gained through the secret arts?

I gave up all I owned and moved to Japan in the 1970s to study the unheard-of martial art of the ninja. In my 20s, I studied the clandestine arts of striking, grappling, choking and locking, along

*Grand Master
Stephen K. Hayes*



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a with a wide arsenal of sticks, swords, and thrown blades. I became an expert in the art of the ninja.

By the time I reached my 40s, I longed to study a modern applicable martial art that fit the times I lived in. My ninjutsu was Japanese fighting 1500s style. I needed to bring what I studied into the 21st century. I also realized that my frame of mind had become a little too warlike. I was likely to drop down and approach things on a physical level, even when they could have just as easily been resolved with some plain old human communication.

Miraculously, I found my way to spending the 1990s serving as dignitary security escort for the Dalai Lama of Tibet. I found the perfect balance to my warlike approach to the arts. For days on end during those years, I listened to (and questioned!) the Dalai Lama. The beauty of his way of thinking and living rubbed off on me. It affected the way I saw things, expressed myself, and conducted my daily life. I can admit I was transformed over my years with the Dalai Lama.

For the second time in my life, I left a stepping stone art and moved on in my exploration. I created a new practice for the 2000s. I took the principles of the ninja fighting art and applied those to effective responses to contemporary attacks. What characterizes To-Shin Do study? We meet force with deflection and absorption, guiding the force to where it does not work for an attacker. We attack the limbs, rather than block or cover with our own limbs. We use body momentum to generate knockdown power, instead of fixing our stance and speeding up our limbs alone. We take an attacker's balance and then throw him, instead of throwing him to break his balance. We move into center to lock up an attacker's options, instead of peeling away with attempts to lever his limbs. We observe a set of 5 elements - earth, water, fire, wind, and the void - that acknowledge the all-important effect of our emotions when in conflict or confrontation.

We call our modern art To-Shin Do, in a play on the Japanese written character for *nin* of ninjutsu. The top

part of *nin* is pronounced *toh*, and means sharp blade. The bottom portion of the letter is pronounced shin, and means heart-and-mind. Together as *toh* and *shin*, they stand for our physical means of defense and the mental or spiritual guidance to control how we apply those means. *To-Shin Do* recognizes the laws and culture we live in now, and will continue to grow and adapt throughout the years of the future.

Think back to what first motivated you. Now look at your life and ask yourself if you accomplished what you first set out to find. Are you still pursuing the martial arts for your original reasons, or has your original reason evolved into a newer deeper quest? Maybe you found that your original reason for starting the martial arts was but your ticket in, and what now keeps you involved is something far deeper and more evolved? Like me, have you advanced in how you define martial arts?

What of your future? Where will your martial arts study take you? As you develop new skills, further refine your capabilities, and discover ever more subtle areas to master, where will you go? What will your martial art come to look like? Will you take on new vistas of power? Will you explore new approaches to empowering others? How will you contribute to the legacy of the martial arts that we have all pledged ourselves to?

I am truly honored to be this year's featured focus of the **AMAA Who's Who In The Martial Arts** book arranged by my friend Jessie Bowen. I salute all my friends who share a mention with me in this our massive volume. Let's all celebrate our lifelong commitment to the martial arts in the best possible of ways to brighten life, bring honest strength, and be of comfort and inspiration to all others. Hey, I am in this for life. How about you?

-Stephen K. Hayes

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2019 MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL OF THE YEAR *SHENDRAGON* *Karate Dojo*



“*Shen* is the innate intelligence of each organism in particular and of the universe, as a whole, which is beyond the reach of calculation.”

-Lao-Tzu



INSTRUCTORS

Left: Celine Otto (Spouse)
Certified Shorin-Ryu Instructor,
Krav Maga Assistant Instructor,
Certified Tae Bo Fitness Instructor

Center: GM Jerry Otto
Hanshi 8th Degree Black Belt
Shorin-Ryu Instructor, Krav Maga
Instructor, Certified Tae Bo Fitness
Instructor

Right: Bryan Otto (Son)
Yodan, 4th Degree Black Belt,
Shorin-Ryu Instructor, Krav Maga
Assistant Instructor



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HISTORY

In the year 1981, Master Otto founded the Shen Dragon Karate Dojo, in Phillipsburg New Jersey. His philosophy is based on the principles of humility, honor, virtue and compassion. Since that time, the Shen Dojo has become a legacy of students, throughout two generations, who have aspired to become great human beings and achieved high levels of success, in their lives. The founding principles haven't changed, but the martial arts system has evolved to become one of the best curriculums, in the world.

The Shen Dragon offers children, teens and adult classes in Okinawa Shorin-Ryu Karate, Krav Maga and Tae Bo®Nation. Grand Master Jerry Otto is a former U.S. National Karate and Weapons Champion, Hall of Famer and a Legend among his peers. His students then and now, continue to follow in his footsteps. The Shen Dragon Karate Dojo is located on St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands.



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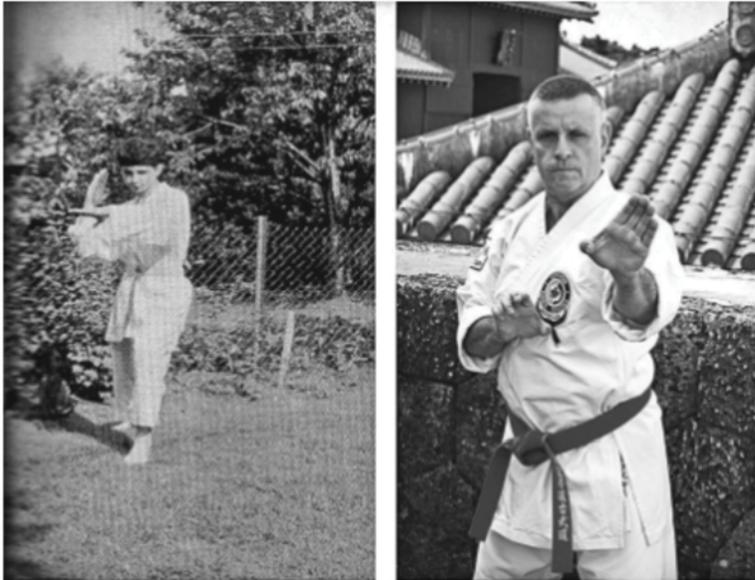
Golden Achievers
In the Martial Arts

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CEZAR BORKOWSKI

“Master Borkowski has over 50 years experience studying, researching and teaching the Martial Arts.”



Cezar Borkowski is a dedicated practitioner, master level instructor, author and a very successful martial art businessman. He has logged some fifty years experience studying, researching and teaching martial arts. Always on a quest of improvement, he has visited Asia over 50 times to gain firsthand knowledge.

In 1972, he established Northern Karate – one of the most successful, well-respected martial arts and personal development organizations in the world, with more than 10000 active and very loyal students.

A former internationally-ranked competitor, Cezar was six-time Canadian Champion. He was rated #1 by the North American Sport Karate Association (NASKA), the PKL and Karate Illustrated magazine and he has received hundreds of awards, trophies and medals.

He holds very senior grades in Karate - Chito-ryu, Shorin-ryu, Goju-ryu. In Kobudo he is likely the only person in the world to hold rank and teaching license in Ryukyu, Matayoshi and Yamane systems (all received in Okinawa). He is also ranked in Jujutsu and Silat.

In addition to several dozens of articles for a variety of martial arts publications, Borkowski authored Modern Shotokan Karate and co-authored the best-selling The Complete Idiot's Guide to Martial Arts. He also researched and edited The History and Traditions of Okinawan

GOLDEN ACHIEVERS

Martial Arts and is currently working on translating and editing *Mysteries of the Ryukyu Hand*, as well as a comprehensive take on state of Okinawa Karate.

Last of the true believers. Cezar's videotape credits include *Kobudo Weapons*, *Winning Point*, *Essential Okinawan Kobudo*, *The Master Class*, and the *Northern Karate System a 15 DVDs Series*. Cezar has been featured in international magazines (Japan, England, Germany, Sweden, India and France), in newspapers in many countries, as well as his radio and television appearances.

He lectures on a wide range of martial arts and related topics at events around the world. His greatest influences over the years have been Masami Tsuroka and Robert Dagleish. His principal teachers in the 1980s and 90s were Okinawa-based teachers, Nagamine Shoshin, Nakasone Jyoen, Hokama Tetsuhiro, Shiroma Kiyanori, Kinjo Masakazu, Kishaba Chogi, Tomimoto Yuko and Guru Mohamid Kamin of Singapore.

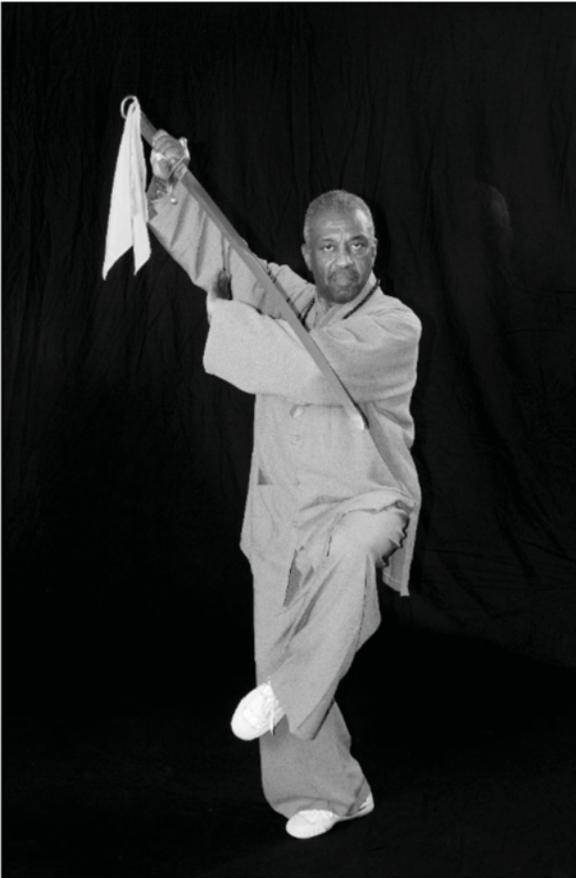
His senior students include Steve Oulis, Marion Manzo, Michael Walsh, Tony LaSelva, Cos Vona, Domenic Moscone, Vince Servello, Eric Vinagreiro and Sandro Siminetta.





DENNIS BROWN

“Grand Master Brown’s One life, One style integrity singles him out and in his unforced modesty, deep learning and positive attitude, a new generation is discovering that, even in the postmodern world, the classic Way of the Chinese Warrior matters more than ever.”



Grand Master Dennis Brown is the Founder and President of the Dennis Brown Shaolin Wu-Shu Training Centers just outside Washington, D.C. His martial arts career spans over 50 years. It is listed that he was the first African American to train in the People’s Republic of China, a feat that was considered historical at the time.

Because of his reputation, he became one of the few to shoot movies in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Bangkok, landing the lead role in a major Kung Fu movie and becoming the only non-Chinese to be directed by legendary director/producer Chang Cheh, who started the Kung Fu movie craze of the 60s. In June 2017, Grand Master Brown was honored to be appointed as Chairman of the Wang Qihe Taijiquan Association of Hebei Province, in The People’s Republic of China.

On August 13, 2007, at a simple tea ceremony rarely held in public, Grand Master Willy Lin passed along “The Robe and Bowl” of T’ien Shan Pai to his disciple of over 40 years, Washington, D.C. pioneer Master Dennis Brown, declaring him Grand Master of the system. Brown, weapons and forms star, trainer of champions and promoter of his long-running US



GOLDEN ACHIEVERS

Capitol Classics China Open international tournament, is now officially the yiban, or heir apparent, to the world-famous fighting system, which originated in the T'ien Shan mountains of northwestern China. He is also a master instructor in Tai Chi, Chin-Na and other internal systems.

Brown was cited by Black Belt magazine as one of the “25 Most Influential Martial Artists of the 20th Century.” In the early phases of the introduction of wushu to America, the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. recognized him as the official consultant of wushu for the People’s Republic of China.

Brown was the only non-Chinese featured in the 1998 Discovery Channel documentary, “The Secrets of the Warrior’s Power.” He also represented Kung Fu and wushu in the Wesley Snipes TNT documentary, “A Tribute to the Masters of the Arts.” He has been featured in several historical documentaries, “The Black Kung Fu Experience,” “Urban Dragons,” and “How I Made It In America.”

Grand Master Brown’s pioneering extended to broadcasting. He wrote, hosted and produced one of the first martial arts talk shows, “Martial Arts Showcase,” for Howard University that included special guest interviews and appearances from world renowned martial artists.

Brown was the first African American martial artist to appear on the covers of Inside Kung-Fu and Kung Fu Tai Chi magazines, and he has appeared on the cover of every major national martial arts publication of the last five decades. He is distinguished as one of the few martial artists to be inducted into Karate’s Black Belt of Fame and Kung Fu’s Inside Kung Fu Hall of Fame.

In the 70s, Brown was known for fighting on the back-channel China Town tournament circuit of Washington, D.C. and New York, including one famous bout at Washington, D.C.’s Uline Arena in which he won the full contact light weight tournament. As a weapons forms competitor, Brown won national grand championships for his staff work and sword forms and redesigned and revolutionized the rope dart – which is arguably the most exotic Chinese weapon to master and of which he remains one of the few living experts.



GOLDEN ACHIEVERS

Grand Master Brown has continuously developed all his skills through an ongoing lifelong study of the fighting forms, traditional weapons and training resources of classic external and internal wushu. Since his first visit to Mainland China in 1982, he has returned to do advanced studies in every decade since then, having achieved certifications from the Jiangsu Sport Center in Nanjing and the Beijing Institute of Physical Education.

Brown is a renowned seminar lecturer, convention speaker and international coach. He is active in the community preaching and demonstrating the benefits of martial arts as a way of life through demonstrations and seminars at hospitals, churches, civic groups, community and Outreach government health fairs, schools, street celebrations and is an annual guest speaker at Career Day for local schools. The city of Washington, D.C. proclaimed September 11, 1982 as Dennis Brown Day for his ongoing work in the community. He is a founding member of the board of directors for the North American Sport Karate Association (NASKA), one of America's oldest martial arts circuits and sanctioning boards; as well as Educational Funding Company, one of the leading business consulting groups for martial arts schools.

Grand Master Brown's one life/one style integrity singles him out. And in his unforced modesty, deep learning and positive attitude, a new generation is discovering that, even in the postmodern world, the classic Way of the Chinese Warrior matters more than ever.

