

The Importance of a Picture

By
Bryan Stanley



Seated: Professor Wally Jay, Professor Antone Gonzalez, Professor Carl Beaver. **Standing:** Professor Jack Wheat, Sensei Bernice Jay, Professor Sig Kufferath, Professor Joe Holck, Professor Francisco Limbago, Professor David Nuuhiwa

Allow me to reminisce for a moment or two.

The picture to the left was taken at the first Ohana in 1990. For those of you who were not around then, here is an explanation of what this picture is all about: Professor Okazaki taught seven these eight people. They were the closest link to Professor Okazaki, outside of his daughter Imi, that existed in Danzan Ryu.

They came to Ohana '90 to reconnect with, to share their arts with, and to have fun with the Danzan Ryu community. In

order to understand the importance of that event, you really needed to be there.

Like many people, I was there. All of us who were there made the choice to attend and be part of the experience.

We were at the clinics. We participated in the contest. We were at the banquet. It was at that banquet where Professor Wally Jay told his story about how Antone “Tony” Gonzalez defeated a monstrous judo player, a story he would tell again the next year and the next. At that banquet, Professor Limbago spoke several times, each time it was more heartfelt. The banquet lasted for FOUR hours. At the time it seemed a little tedious, looking back, I wish it had gone on longer.

They took that picture twenty years ago. Much has changed in the world and with these people during that time.

Bad health prevents ninety-one year old Professor Wally Jay from getting on the mat any more. He is still the technical director of Jujitsu America and shows up at their convention. Professor Antone “Tony” Gonzalez died in 2001. Professor Carl Beaver died in 1995. Professor Jack Wheat died in 2004. Sensei Bernice Jay is, like Professor Wally, getting older and seldom on the mat. Professor Sig Kufferath died in 1999. Professor Joe Holck is in poor health. Professor Francisco Limbago and Professor David Nuuhiwa died in 2005.

Many people were able to attend clinics that these professors taught. At every Ohana that he attended, Professor Jay taught a Small Circle Jujitsu clinic. He got one of my students twice (See **Picture** on page **Three**)

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Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame

Professor Patrick Browne Inducted 2002

Professor Patrick Joseph Browne was born in Berwyn, Illinois, on November 9, 1947. After he graduated from St. Joseph's High School in 1965, Pat received a B.A. in biology from North Central College in Naperville. It was while he was a student there that he began to study jujitsu. In the fall of 1967, Pat visited the Naperville YMCA and saw Danzan Ryu Jujitsu for the first time. Sensei Steve Paulding, a longtime student of Professors Ray and Marie Law, taught the class. Sensei Paulding had a class full of beginners and he urged an enthusiastic Pat to join and help him.

Professor Browne was promoted to the rank of shodan in 1969. He also took over the Naperville Judo Club from Steve Paulding in July of that year and during that those years he founded the Explorer Post 187 Judo Club, where he taught until 1972. Professor Browne was promoted to nidan in 1970 and Sandan in 1973. In 1974, he moved his jujitsu club to the Downers Grove YMCA and renamed it the Suburban Kodenkai. His class remained there until 1990. In 1983, Pat Browne was promoted to Professor by the AJJF. He was promoted to Shichidan on June 25, 1994. In 1990 he moved his dojo to downtown Chicago. He taught at that location until his death in 1996.

The legacy that Professor Pat Browne left behind had an effect on Danzan Ryu in the Mid-west. He promoted seventeen black belts and his students are currently running twelve Danzan Ryu dojos. Starting in 1984, Professor Browne sponsored many AJJF massage certification programs, which helped to spread Professor Okazaki's Long-life Massage across the Mid-west.

Yudansha Notes

Where are you Dave Williams?

Shoshin Ryu professor and Army Captain Dave Williams is still in Afghanistan. He has not been on television, but we keep waiting. There has been some talk of sending him a care package. If you are interested in getting some "stuff" to Dave, talk to Professor Jon Jacques.

Kata Contest April 24

It went off without a hitch. Two mats, upwards of forty competitors, and a whole lot of fun.

The kata contest at the Downey YMCA could really only be called a success. Even after all the kids went – and it took almost two hours – the crowd got to see kata demonstrations from Sensei Michael Mares, Professor Kevin Dalrymple and Sensei KC Bui, and Professor Jon Jacques.

Promotion of a Different Kind

Sensei Steve Davis of the Orange YMCA was recently promoted. Sargent Davis of the Orange Police Department was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. This just goes to show that hard work and doing a good job pays off in more places than the dojo. Congratulations, Lieutenant Davis.

Ohana 2010

The hotel is filling up. Time to get that registration in. The clinics have been set. This is going to be two days of awesome instruction and learning. Hanshi Joe Carslake is coming from Ireland, "Judo" Gene Labell is going to be there. This is going to be an event you will not want to miss. Go to www.ohana2010.webs.com for more information.

Words of Wisdom

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." -- *Winston Churchill*

"It is not length of life, but depth of life." -- *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment." -- *Buddha*

(Picture, Continued from Page One)

with his handshake take down. My student was just too trusting or too oblivious or both to realize not to shake Professor Jay's outstretched hand.

Professor Beaver taught more than a few clinics, but his massage clinic was always a favorite. He showed us his notes and went through the massage process. He was a good man.

Professor Wheat was there the night I got promoted to shodan. I talked with him in the hospitality suite for about forty-five minutes that night. He was humble and interesting. He taught a shinin clinic at one of the Ohanas. Many of us were there for that.

Professor Kufferath was at one of our Shoshin Ryu weekends, and among many things he taught, it was how simple he made kote gaeshi, that remains unforgettable. He was as nice a man as you could ever meet. He was also a true martial artist.

Professor Limbago was a funny guy. It even came out when he taught Oku. We smiled and laughed during his clinic in '94, and it was great fun going over those techniques with him. He taught other clinics that many of us attended, but that one really sticks out as a special time.

I had the good fortune to interview Professor Nuuhiwa for the Shoshin Ryu Newsletter. I talked with him for three hours. I went through a couple of tapes in my recorder. He was a real no nonsense kind of guy. He got to the point. If he knew you, he would open up his home and be incredibly generous. If he didn't know you, good luck. He was the one person in the picture who had only fleeting contact with Professor Okazaki.

Had it not been for Ohana '90, many of us would never have had the opportunity to meet and know those professors. The chance to talk with someone who learned from Professor Okazaki was a special occasion. Because of Ohana, they were right there for all of us to interact with.

The photograph of those eight people is on more than a few webpages. It is in a few memory books. It is a kind of iconic picture. I was there when they took that picture. The sad part is that I did not understand the significance of that photograph.

Many of the eight people in that photo had not talked in years. They had had squabbles and disagreements years before that put an end to their friendships. It took a lot of politicking to get them all at the same event. It only took a gentle nudge to get them to sit down together. It was during Ohana '90 that those eight people figured out that they were a family.

What probably escaped a lot of us then was the concept of time. What we did not see was that life has a limit and that these people were not getting any younger. As pointed out earlier in this article, five of the eight are gone, the other three are seldom on the mat. All we have left from them are the memories that they helped create.

Ohana '90 was an event. It may be one of the seminal events in the history of Danzan Ryu. It was a true gathering of the Danzan community.

Ohana 2010 is just around the corner; it is shaping up to be the event that people talk about for the next twenty years. In order to be a part of it, you have to make a decision to attend. Do what many of us did in 1990: take the clinics, do the contest, and go to the banquet.

Who knows, maybe a group of professors will sit down for a portrait, and you will be the person twenty years from now who says, "I remember that Ohana. I got to know all those people."

Professor Ray L. Law Mokuroku

Professor George Arrington has done all of us a great service. He has put Professor Law's Mokuroku scroll on-line with a translation. If you want to see it, go to the addresses below:

Download scroll translation: <http://www.danzan.com/HTML/ESSAYS/RayLawMokuroku.pdf>

Download scroll image: <http://www.danzan.com/images/Documents/RayLawMokuroku2.jpg>

The Influences of Musashi's Book of Five Rings on Martial Arts

(Part 1)

By Michael and Christopher Chubb

In the last years of his life, Miyamoto Musashi (surname first, in Japanese tradition) set down in writing the tenets of his *Nito-ryu* (Two Sword Style) as a guide for his current students and those that would follow. He titled his work Book of Five Rings after the five elements found in Nature: earth, fire, water, wood, and metal. During his lifetime of dueling Musashi never lost a battle. He lived a relatively long lifespan (sixty years) and engaged in over two hundred challenges most of them to the death. He was admittedly self-taught although he did come from a family of samurai.

Musashi lived a life of austerity choosing to avoid social contact whenever possible. He devoted himself to a daily regimen of training, both mind and body, and meditation. He studied the techniques of the leading *ryu-ha* (styles) and devised ways of defeating them. He especially studied the techniques and training habits of his next opponent often days before the scheduled event.

As for his own repertoire, Musashi left no trace. His arsenal of techniques changed daily. One might say his “style” was adaptability. Opponents could not study his methods as they were constantly evolving and ever-changing. Training in complete seclusion and without pre-conceived notions of strategy allowed Musashi to be spontaneous and impossible to prepare against.

But there was another facet of Musashi's style that was both “cutting edge” (please forgive the pun) and provocative. He was a master of unorthodoxy. In a time when samurai trained en masse, and to a set syllabus, Musashi introduced what could only be described as psychological warfare. If a duel was scheduled for sunrise on a certain day, Musashi would show up two hours late. This often aggravated the opponent to the point of complete rage that he was unable to control his actions and was thus defeated by a much calmer and unperturbed Musashi.

A particularly strong samurai noted for using a sword longer than the conventional size was defeated by Musashi, who had carved a wooden sword out of an oar several inches longer than his opponent's.

Even his first encounter with dueling at the age of thirteen ended in victory. A samurai posted a written challenge in town inviting all comers to a duel. Musashi read the challenge and scribbled his acceptance in not so complimentary terms. The samurai was incensed by the blatant lack of respect and, on the day of the bout, was further embarrassed by the age of the youngster and the fact he only had a stick by which to engage him. Musashi rushed forward and, without the customary protocols, began beating the samurai to death.

The use of this psychological *kuzushi* (unbalancing) allowed Musashi to defeat opponent after opponent. But he also studied the terrain, time of day, and even the direction of the sun's path relative to the contest site. He would go days without bathing or grooming just to assault his opponent's senses. More, he studied his opponent's breathing patterns, timed their blinking, and assessed posture and stances for potential openings. He would watch sweat trickle down the forehead of his adversary and attack at the precise moment it entered his eye. He took all of these things into account prior to the first strike. He was, indeed, a master of his milieu.

Years passed and Musashi's reputation and skill grew. His self-imposed isolation caused him to seek other outlets for his energies. He took up painting (which he also mastered) and writing poetry. Hours of introspection tempered his zeal for victory. The mantras of “Hit first; hit hard,” (See **Musashi**, page **Five**)

(Musashi, Cont. from page Four)

and “Fight to win” gave way to strategies designed to defeat an opponent merely by a “command presence.” In latter engagements he used only the *bokken* (wooden sword) to defeat his opponents. The legendary Musashi had mellowed.

When he wrote Book of Five Rings in 1643, Musashi was literally at the end of his life. His health was failing and those piercing eyes that so unnerved his latter opponents had grown dim. His mind, however, was as sharp as ever. As he pondered the question of what kind of legacy he would leave behind (he never married nor fathered any off-springs) he settled for writing about Life’s lessons as only a true *budoka* (student of the “Warrior Way”) saw and lived them.

Musashi’s insights into mortal combat and his strategies for winning, understanding your opponent, and developing the discipline, self-denial, and the rigorous regimen necessary for implementing them influenced more than just the few die-hards at his dojo; it became an essential part of the Japanese psyche. No greater example of this truth is the influence his teachings had on Takeda Sokaku, Headmaster of Daito-ryu Aikijujutsu.

Look for Part Two of this article in the next newsletter.

Martial Arts Jokes

You might be a martial artist if....

You find yourself casually standing in a cat stance.

You trip, go into a roll and come up in a fighting stance. In church.

You answer your boss Ussss.

You put your hands together in a martial arts bow position (one hand open the other closed) after grace at the dinner table.

You tie your bathrobe belt in a square knot. Then check to make sure the ends are exactly even.

You accept change from the cashier using a perfect knife hand with the thumb carefully tucked in.

When you are outside doing landscaping/gardening you "practice" with all the neat weapons.

Shamelessly stolen from:

<http://www.martialarm.com/information/martial-arts-jokes.html>

The Literary Ninja

“Success is Counted Sweetest”

By

Emily Dickenson

Success is counted sweetest
By those who ne’er succeed
To comprehend a nectar
Requires sorest need.

Not one of all the purple host
Who took the flag today
Can tell the definition
So clear of victory

As he – defeated – dying
Upon whose forbidden ear
The distant strains of triumph
Burst agonized and clear.

What exactly does Emily Dickenson have to do with martial arts? Well...nothing. She did write a cool poem about the nature of commitment and the understanding of success.

How many of us have been at the dojo, working out and thought, “I am never going to get this.” Dig deep and you’ll find Emily Dickenson’s message.

On the Literary Ninja’s scale of white to black belt, “Success is Counted Sweetest” gets a *Green Belt*.