

LEGACY OF THEIR OWN



MAN OF THE YEAR
DR. YANG, JWING-MING



WOMAN OF THE YEAR
ADDY HERNANDEZ



INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR
ADRIANO EMPERADO



COMPETITOR OF THE YEAR
JONATHAN WANG



GRAPPLER OF THE YEAR
RANDY COUTURE



WRITER OF THE YEAR
JOHN STEVEN SOET

THE LATEST CLASS OF *IKF* HALL OF FAME HONOREES HAS CARVED THEIR OWN MARTIAL ARTS NICHE

By Dave Cater

No year in recent martial arts history has robbed us of so many great names. From Lily to Larry, David to Daniel, Madame Yu to Bong Soo, they dropped like fallen warriors so quickly we barely had time to mourn one before the next was taken from us. One moment we were talking to them, the next minute we talking *about* them.

And these weren't your garden-variety martial artists, either; rather, these were legends in their own time — masters and sifu and sensei that spent lifetimes accomplishing great things and creating a better world through martial arts.

If there's any consolation, it's the realization that this year's group of *Inside Kung-Fu* Hall of Fame recipients is just as noteworthy for their martial arts accomplishments. "Man of the Year" Dr. Yang, Jwing-Ming and "Woman of the Year" Addy Hernandez have been industry leaders for years, while "Instructor of the Year" Adriano Emperado remains one of the most-respected teachers of his generation.

In 2007 alone, "Competitor of the Year" Jonathan Wang emerged as a force with which to be reckoned on the open circuit, while the great Randy Couture shocked Gabriel Gonzaga and Father Time to capture "Grappler of the Year" honors. And finally, long overdue "Writer of the Year" honors go to John Steven Soet, who has chronicled the lives and legacies of these past and present legends.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

<p>2007 Jerry Poteet Hui Liu Doc-Fai Wong Seming Ma Jennifer Tijong Jose Paman Matt Hughes</p>	<p>2005 Nick Gracenin Lily Lau Richard Lee Elaina Maxwell Collin Lee Terry Wilson Ronaldo "Jacare" de Souza</p>	<p>2003 Dennis Brown Graciela Casillas Glenn C. Hart Team Evergreen David Tadman Gerald Okamura Xande Ribeiro</p>	<p>2001 Hawkins Cheung Wang Jurong Tak Wah Eng Jeanne Chinn Pat Rice Ric Meyers Mark Kerr</p>	<p>1999 Wesley Snipes Lucia Rijker Pui Chan Cung Le Burt Richardson Jackie Chan Shannon Lee Kazuyoshi Ishii</p>
<p>2006 John S.S. Leong Ming Qiu Tiffany Reyes Samara Simmerman</p>	<p>2004 Henry Look Wei Qi He Carter Williams Tiffany Chen Jimmy Wong Jose Fraguas Dean Lister</p>	<p>2002 Donnie Yen Michiko Nishiwaki Lu Xiaoling Ziyi Zhang Angie Rivera Jeff Chinn Scott Coker Tito Ortiz</p>	<p>2000 William C.C. Chen S. L. Martin Mimi Chan Wallid Ismail Travis Wong Jou, Tsung Hwa Robert Dreeben</p>	<p>1998 Chuck Norris Michelle Yeoh Huang, Chien-Liang Maurice Smith Anita Lopez Martha Burr Gene LeBell Century Martial Arts</p>

MAN OF THE YEAR ► DR. YANG, JWING-MING ◀

He has been a martial arts and publishing giant for more than three decades. With Yang's Martial Arts Academy (YMAA) schools dotting every corner of the world, and senior instructors creating equally large names for themselves, Dr. Yang, Jwing-Ming could have easily called it quits, proclaimed a "job very well done" and quietly disappeared into the martial arts fabric.

No one would have blamed Dr. Yang for letting someone else handle the kung-fu reins. All the white crane and tai chi master has done since coming to America in 1974 is establish 50 schools in more than 16 countries, written more than 30 books and produced over 40 DVDs. That's a lifetime of service for even the heartiest of martial arts souls.

But for the man whom *Inside Kung-Fu* called "one of the 100 people who have made the greatest impact in martial arts in the past 100 years," going quietly into that good night was never his style. Nope. For the man who earned a doctorate in mechanical engineering from Purdue University, there were still plenty of goals to meet and promises to keep.

One such promise, made to the late, great tai chi master Jou, Tsung-Hwa, involved establishing a full-time martial arts retreat where young students with a desire to learn both the physical and spiritual aspects of Chinese martial arts could study day and night without the pressures of work or family.

For Dr. Yang, 60, his dream has turned into the YMAA Retreat Center, which sits on 240 acres of remote woodlands in Northern California, isolated from the distractions of modern society. The Center's established infrastructure includes a solar array for sustainable, off-the-grid power: a spring-fed well and facilities for living and training. Far from his home in Massachusetts, this quiet place in the forest is entirely dedicated to what Dr. Yang describes as his final mission: to transmit his complete knowledge to the next generation of teachers and preserve the Chinese martial and healing arts.

"Today's martial arts society, all they teach is martial arts. But part of martial arts training is morality—they ignore it completely," Dr. Yang said in a recent IKF interview. "It's a kind of self-discipline, and it's disappearing. So I need to use martial arts as an educational tool. To teach a new generation about what is morality. Morality is not only to yourself, but also to the people. It's a mutual relationship. These kinds of things are disappearing.

For 35 years, Dr. Yang has taught the benefits of Chinese culture and popularized traditional martial arts throughout the world. He is in a unique position: Carrying the legacy of the generation of the old masters and possessing a keen understanding of a new generation, he has dedicated his life to bridging the East and the West, and researching the ancient arts with a modern scientific perspective.

Soon he will marry the two philosophies and hope for the birth of a new generation of old-generation practitioners. Dr. Yang's legacy was solid long before he adopted the Retreat project. This just adds fuel to his already-glowing legacy.

