



WESLEY JENKINS

Career choices and personal principles combined with hard work and a high moral code of ethics molded this Maryland Tang Soo Do practitioner and instructor into the well-respected and admired Master that he is today.

What events in your childhood had the greatest influence on your life?

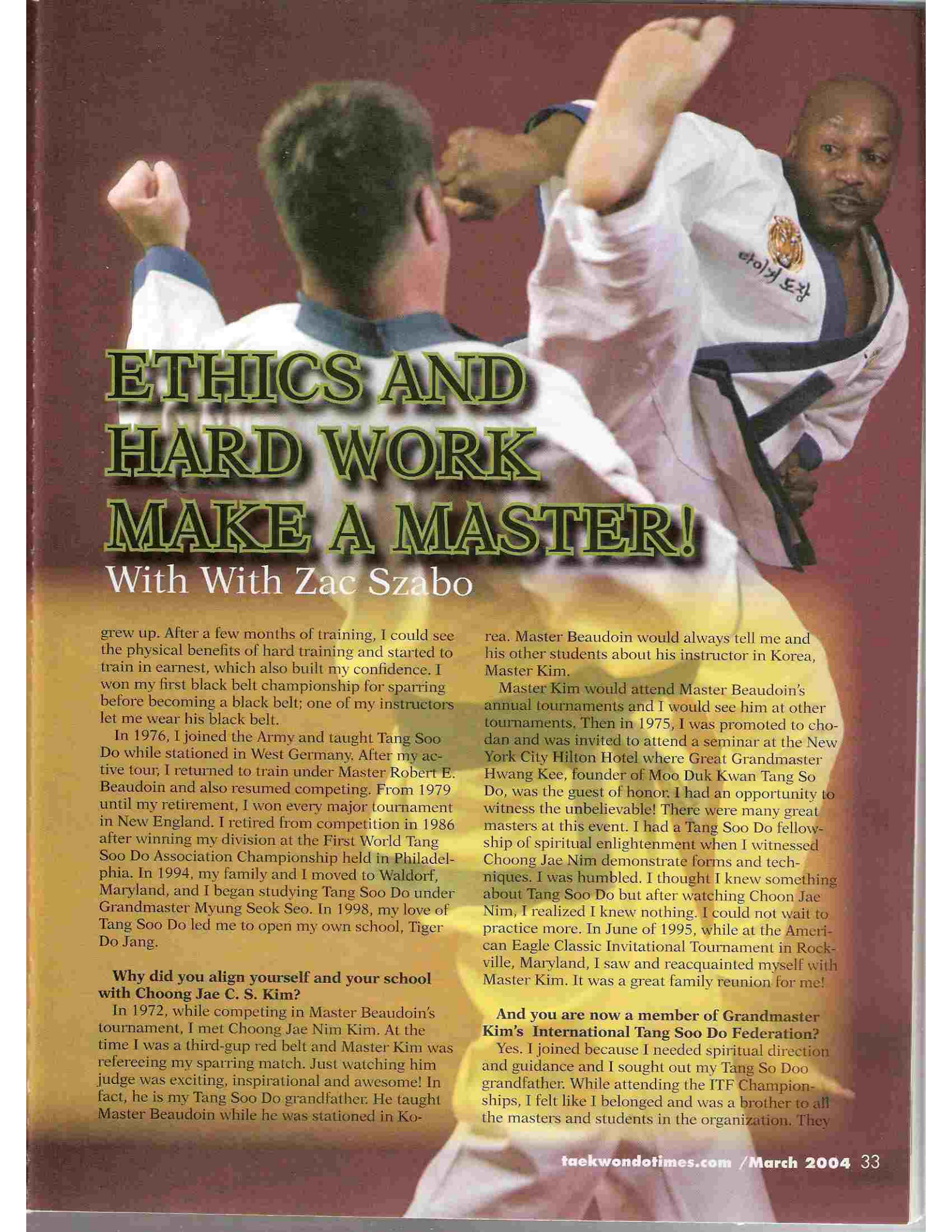
I was born on July 9, 1956, in Waterbury, Connecticut. I am the fifth of six children. As a child growing up in Waterbury, I loved the 1960's TV show, The Green Hornet, and was fascinated by Bruce Lee who played the Green Hornet's side-kick, Kato. However, it was my mother, Dora Mae Jenkins, who had the most powerful influence over my life. She set high ethical standards for herself and her children. While growing up, I observed how hard my Mom worked and recognized that she was determined to provide opportunities for her children. While she has passed, my mother continues to be a positive role model in my life, particularly when it comes to my family and my professional goals.

Your family is very important to you?

Yes, I have a rather large extended family. My wife, Leslie, and I have three wonderful children. I am so very fortunate to have them. My family provides me with so much joy and is the balance in my life. My students are my extended family, and every one of them is so very important to me and they are the fruit of my happiness. My International Tang Soo Do Federation family is very special. When my mother recently passed, I can recall so very clearly sitting in the bleachers during a tournament when a few of my ITF brothers came and expressed that they were happy to see me and offered their sincere condolences. I felt loved and appreciated.

When did you begin martial art training?

I began training in traditional Tang Soo Do in 1969 at 13 under the direction of Master Robert E. Beaudoin; I earned my black belt in 1975. Initially, I became interested in Tang Soo Do for self-defense because the streets were tough where I



ETHICS AND HARD WORK MAKE A MASTER!

With With Zac Szabo

grew up. After a few months of training, I could see the physical benefits of hard training and started to train in earnest, which also built my confidence. I won my first black belt championship for sparring before becoming a black belt; one of my instructors let me wear his black belt.

In 1976, I joined the Army and taught Tang Soo Do while stationed in West Germany. After my active tour, I returned to train under Master Robert E. Beaudoin and also resumed competing. From 1979 until my retirement, I won every major tournament in New England. I retired from competition in 1986 after winning my division at the First World Tang Soo Do Association Championship held in Philadelphia. In 1994, my family and I moved to Waldorf, Maryland, and I began studying Tang Soo Do under Grandmaster Myung Seok Seo. In 1998, my love of Tang Soo Do led me to open my own school, Tiger Do Jang.

Why did you align yourself and your school with Choong Jae C. S. Kim?

In 1972, while competing in Master Beaudoin's tournament, I met Choong Jae Nim Kim. At the time I was a third-gup red belt and Master Kim was refereeing my sparring match. Just watching him judge was exciting, inspirational and awesome! In fact, he is my Tang Soo Do grandfather. He taught Master Beaudoin while he was stationed in Ko-

rea. Master Beaudoin would always tell me and his other students about his instructor in Korea, Master Kim.

Master Kim would attend Master Beaudoin's annual tournaments and I would see him at other tournaments. Then in 1975, I was promoted to chodan and was invited to attend a seminar at the New York City Hilton Hotel where Great Grandmaster Hwang Kee, founder of Moo Duk Kwan Tang So Do, was the guest of honor. I had an opportunity to witness the unbelievable! There were many great masters at this event. I had a Tang Soo Do fellowship of spiritual enlightenment when I witnessed Choong Jae Nim demonstrate forms and techniques. I was humbled. I thought I knew something about Tang Soo Do but after watching Choon Jae Nim, I realized I knew nothing. I could not wait to practice more. In June of 1995, while at the American Eagle Classic Invitational Tournament in Rockville, Maryland, I saw and reacquainted myself with Master Kim. It was a great family reunion for me!

And you are now a member of Grandmaster Kim's International Tang Soo Do Federation?

Yes. I joined because I needed spiritual direction and guidance and I sought out my Tang So Doo grandfather. While attending the ITF Championships, I felt like I belonged and was a brother to all the masters and students in the organization. They



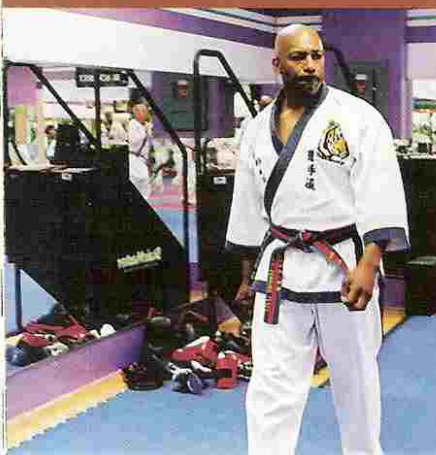
greeted me and my students with respect and honor.

Belonging to the ITF is a good fit for you and your school?

Yes, membership offers my students and me international acknowledgement of being a legitimate practitioner of Tang So Do. And, it further enhances the knowledge of traditional Tang Soo Do for my students and myself.



ABOVE LEFT: Master Jenkins was a fierce competitor and still enjoys the competition ring as a coach and as a natural bodybuilding competitor. **ABOVE:** Personal instruction for all students is the rule and not the exception.



In addition to teaching Tang Soo Do, Master Jenkins also is a Certified Personal Trainer, which he states: "Has taught me to better understand the correct and safe way to exercise and that helps me improve my martial arts technique."

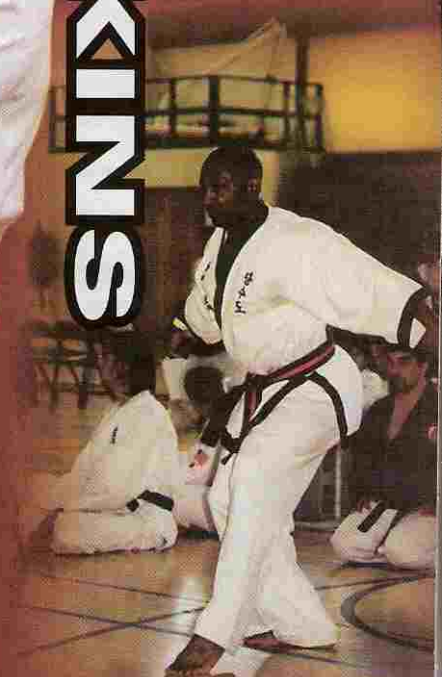
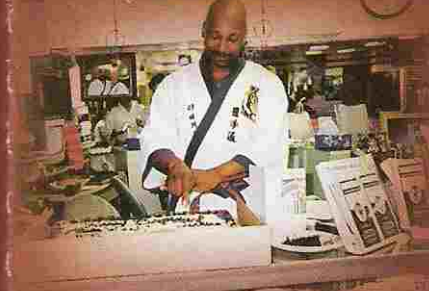
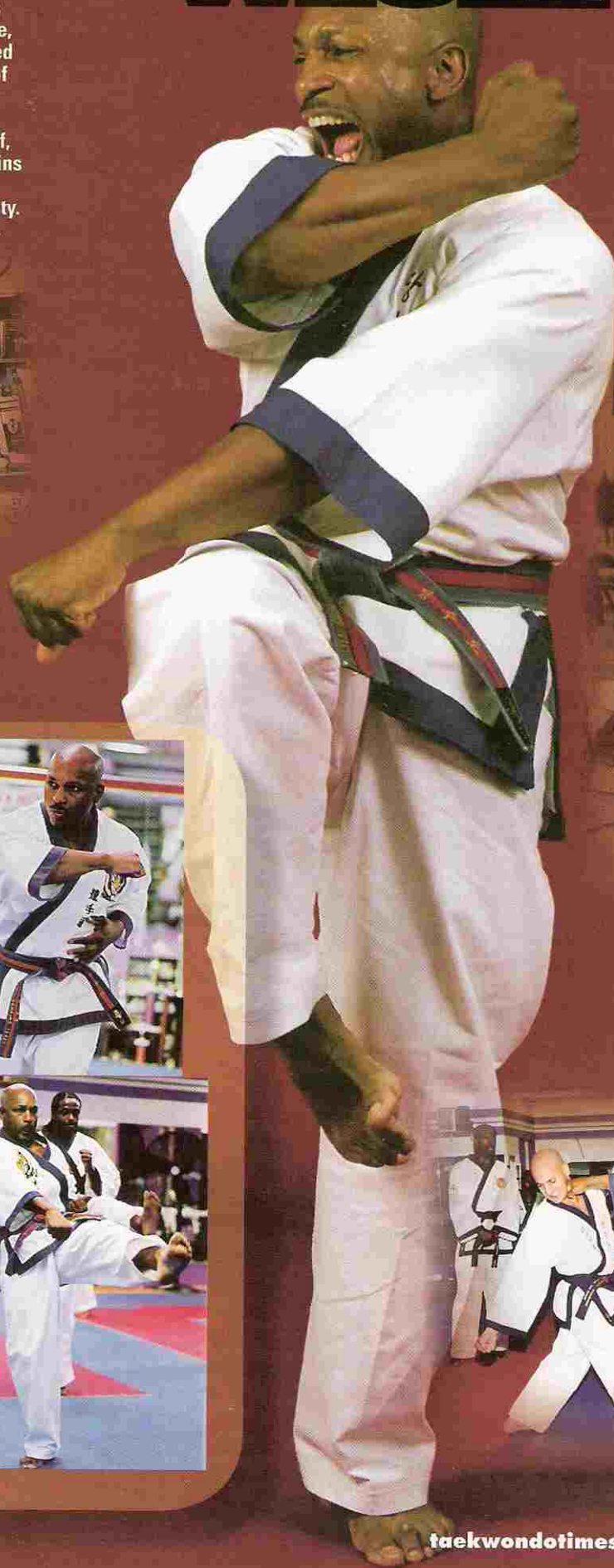


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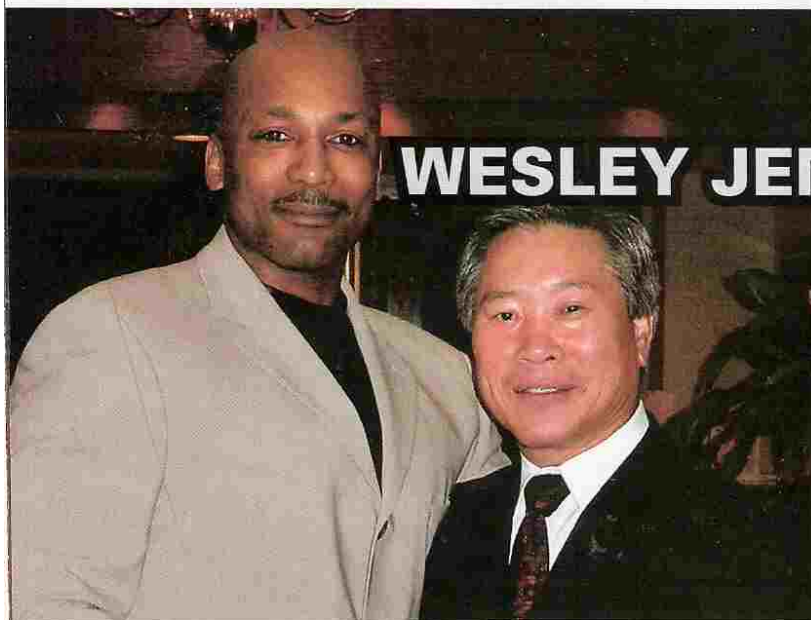
JENKINS

FAR LEFT: With his class in 1969 at 13-years of age, Master Jenkins is seated in the upper right hand of photo (No trim on uniform.) **LEFT:** Students of Tiger Do Jang in Waldorf, Maryland. Master Jenkins students praise him as a man of honor and integrity. **BELOW:** Happy Birthday, Master Jenkins!

What began as a fantasy for a young boy watching Kato in the "Green Hornet" developed into a life long passion of commitment to martial arts.

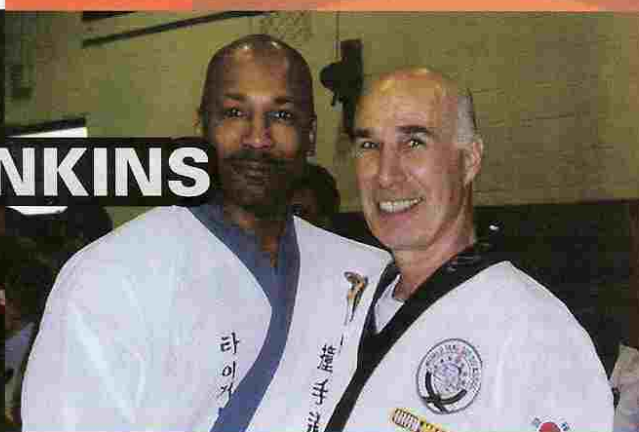


A student of Master Jenkins commented about her instructor: "He is loved and respected by all his students."



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Choong Jae Nim C. S. Kim spoke about his relationship with Master Wesley Jenkins: "Master Jenkins is a great person, and I have always had a great feeling about him. It doesn't matter to me whether he is in the International Tang Soo Do Federation or not, he is just a great person no matter what. Don't get me wrong, I'm glad he is with us, but my feeling about him and my respect for him go deeper than him being a member of the International Tang Soo Do Federation."



Master Jenkins with his first instructor, Master Robert Beaudoin.

I understand you have an extensive background in bodybuilding and in the fitness industry. Does this background assist you in martial arts?

I am a staff member of Gold's Gym in Waldorf, Maryland. The owner, Scott Campbell, encouraged me to compete in natural body building competition. Bodybuilding is a great way to tone and to build muscle, get stronger and lose fat while improving your health and flexibility. Being a Certified Personal Trainer has taught me to better understand the correct and safe way to exercise and that helps me improve my martial arts technique.

When did you open Tiger Do Jang?

I opened Tiger Do Jang in August 1998, at Gold's Gym in Waldorf. By offering traditional martial arts as life learning skills, we out soon out grew Gold's Gym. However, we maintain a proud partnership with them. Tiger Do Jang is a traditional Tang Soo Do martial arts school with old world values and progressive programs. We have traditional classes, body sculpting classes and cardio Karate classes. Also we offer one-on-one personal weight training and private martial arts lessons. Monthly black belt classes are also available.

Any tips on fitness and exercise with regard to combining weight training and martial arts training?

I have extensively read articles written by Thomas Kurz of the "Tae Kwon Do Times." He has also written on the subject of martial arts resistance training for martial artist. I find his knowledge to be very effective and unquestionable.

What is your personal exercise regimen?

My day starts at 4:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday, with weight training and cardio vascular exercises, such as running, stair master machine and elliptical training. During the day I have personal training clients. In order to motivate



ABOVE: Master Jenkins won the grand champion trophy at Master Seo's first championship in 1996.



them, I actively participate in their training. This is an opportunity for my clients and students to have me demonstrate the exercises and show them my true commitment to their success; if I can do it, you can do it!

What are your personal goals and your goals with the ITF?

To touch as many people as I can by being a positive role model by helping to shape and to mold their lives through martial art. Another one of my goals is to be emotionally, physically and spiritually fit, and to be a better practitioner of Tang Soo Do; to share my knowledge and experiences with all regardless of their background. To live forever! When my body is at eternal rest, my teachings of honor, courage, strength, and patience will live in the hearts and minds for generations to come. ●

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Mr. Zac Szabo is a fourth degree black belt instructor under the direct supervision of Choong Jae Nim C S Kim in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Szabo is also a freelance writer and radio personality in Pittsburgh.

Wesley Jenkins also competes in natural bodybuilding and contends that it compliments his martial art training and has made him a more disciplined person.

