

Reflection : Gashuku Fall 2009



Now that we are several weeks removed from our latest gashuku, it has allowed time for reflection on our momentous day.

Though the weather may have been melancholy, the Will of the Phoenix burned true and bright as friends greeted with a hearty OSU and the readiness to train hard! No doubt the flames were fed by the passion and intensity of our newly appointed *Dai Sempai Jason Franklin; OSU Jason on this honorable appointment! Dai Sempai has always been a distinguished figure out on the floor, remaining the epitome of a Kyokushin Karateka.

As we moved into the day's kumite testing, the camaraderie amongst our seventy members shone true as testers were pushed to their limit time and again to enheartening cheers of their fellow karateka. There is no doubt that the spirit of OSU was present, emulating the Phoenix philosophy of the importance and necessity of community and fellowship.

In the words of Goethe, we must "treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you'll help them to become what they are capable of becoming." I personally have integrated this into my training mentality and though some may not have heard this proverb, it is evident in all our karateka. The dedication and respect we Phoenix karateka hold for each other demands such an attitude so that we may push each other towards perfection of body and mind.

I urge everyone to seek the strength and confidence that our community grants us under the guidance of our dedicated Yudansha. We are each other's strength, we are each other's drive, we are each other's dedication; we are all Phoenix Karateka, and we are the Will of the Phoenix.

Train hard and train often, OSU!

Jacob Yohn, Phoenix Hombu Club President

Hombu notes:

Jake Yohn is an honors student at Mount St. Mary's University and majors in Communications. He serves as President of the Mount Karate Club.

*Jason Franklin is the fourth Dai Sempai in the history of the Phoenix Karate-do Association. His appointment, approved by the Kancho and endorsed by the Shihankai USA, was announced by Deputy Chairman Shihan Reburn at the 2009 Fall Gashuku.