

## D'Arbonne Martial Arts 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team at South Central Regionals



The United States Karate Alliance South Central Regional Championship karate tournament was held at the Louisiana Tech Memorial Gym in Ruston, La. on Saturday the February 14<sup>th</sup>. The tournament featured competitors from 7 states and a wide variety of martial arts styles. Our students were strong in their individual competitions enabling our team to place 2<sup>nd</sup> the overall team final standings. Pictured are (from left to right, back row) Rodney McPherson – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Black Belt Weapons, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Black Belt Men's Advanced Forms; Brantley Turnage – 3<sup>rd</sup> 8 & 9 year old Chanbara, 2<sup>nd</sup> in 8 & 9 year old girls Sparring; Garrett Nyegaard – 1<sup>st</sup> place 10 & 11 year old Chanbara, 4<sup>th</sup> place 10 & 11 year old Int. Sparring; Bethany Rhodes – 4<sup>th</sup> place 12 & 13 year old girls Adv. Sparring, 3<sup>rd</sup> 12 & 13 year old int. Forms, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 12 & 13 year old Adv. Chanbara; Clay Thirdkill – 2<sup>nd</sup> place 10 & 11 year old Chanbara; Wesley Edwards – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Teen Chanbara, 4<sup>th</sup> place in 14 & 15 year old boy's Adv. Sparring; Georgia Booth – 3<sup>rd</sup> place 12 & 13 year old girl's Adv. Sparring, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 12 & 13 year old Int. Forms, 1<sup>st</sup> place 12 & 13 year old Chanbara; Aleck Nyegaard – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Adult Men's Beg. Sparring, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Novice Men's Forms, and 1<sup>st</sup> place in Adult Beg. Chanbara. (From left to right, front row) Lance Wilkins – 3<sup>rd</sup> place 8 & 9 year old Adv. Sparring, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 8 & 9 year old Chanbara; Tyrese Jones – 2<sup>nd</sup> place 8 & 9 year old Adv. Sparring, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 8 & 9 year old Int. Forms, 4<sup>th</sup> place 8 & 9 year old Chanbarra; Grace Nyegaard

– 1<sup>st</sup> place 8 & 9 year old Beg. Sparring, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 9 & under Weapons, 1<sup>st</sup> place 8 & 9 year old Beg. Forms, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Chanbara; Madison McConkey - 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 6 & 7 year old Beg. Sparring, 1<sup>st</sup> place 6 & 7 year old Beg. Chanbara, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 6 & 7 year old Beg. Forms; Zachary Bayless – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Beg. Forms, 1<sup>st</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Beg. Chanbara; Garrett Roberson – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Beg. Chanbara, 4<sup>th</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Beg. Sparring; Jake Odom – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Beg. Forms, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Beg. Chanbara; Gabe Ogden – 4<sup>th</sup> place 8 & 9 year old Adv. Sparring, 1<sup>st</sup> place 8 & 9 year old Chanbarra, 4<sup>th</sup> place in 9 & under Weapons; David Rhodes – competed in Weapons, Forms, and Sparring; Kristin McPherson – 2<sup>nd</sup> place 12 & 13 year old Adv. Chanbara. For this year’s event the new Grappling divisions were added. These divisions are similar to the popular mixed martial arts competitions which use Judo, JuJitsu, and Wrestling techniques. Several of our students competed and placed in grappling divisions including Garrett Nyegaard, Clay Thirdkill, Lance Wilkins, and Kristin McPherson. This was the time these students entered this type of event and they did very well. In order to prepare our students for the future of these types of competition we are incorporating grappling and ground fighting into our regular training schedule. Sensei McPherson and Sensei Gilmore have experience and previous training in JuJitsu and Judo. This is the best team placing for our school yet and we look forward to more success in the coming competitions. D’Arbonne Martial Arts is located at 1107 Marion Hwy and is open for classes Monday through Thursday nights, and we welcome experienced as well as new beginning students.