

## DMA Students Incredibly Successful at the USKA World Championships – Team Ranks 8<sup>th</sup>!



This year's United States Karate Alliance World Karate Championship tournament was held at the Hilton Riverwalk Convention Center in New Orleans, La. from Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup> through Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup>. D'Arbonne Martial Arts sent a team of 16 competitors and every single member of our team placed in at least one event. This is an unbelievable occurrence; to have every student place in an event featuring the level of competition at this tournament. The tournament included competitors from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Jamaica and Trinidad and a wide variety of martial arts styles. This year's overall Forms World Champion was Dominic Laureano from Los Angeles, California and the overall Men's Sparring World Champion was Josh Quayhagen from Many, Louisiana. The Women's overall World Champion was Tracie McAlister of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Some of our students are gaining experience on a World or National level and this is their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> competition at this level, while others are trying this level of competition for the first time. Our students did very well and this year we had several gain World or National titles. We look forward to some more big winners in the future. Pictured are (from left to right) Brantley Turnage – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Ippon Sparring, 4<sup>th</sup> place in Koshiki Fighting, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Youth Team Kata, 4<sup>th</sup> place in Continuous Sparring, 4<sup>th</sup> Place in 8 & 9 year old Beginning Girl's Sparring; Aleck Nyegaard – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Adult Intermediate Sparring, 4<sup>th</sup> place in Adult Team Fighting, 4<sup>th</sup> Adult Men Chanbara, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Adult Intermediate Continuous Sparring, 1<sup>st</sup> place in Adult Team Kata, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Ippon Sparring, 4<sup>th</sup> place in Adult Intermediate Forms; Dee Nyegaard - 1<sup>st</sup> place in Adult Team Kata, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Adult Women's Intermediate Forms; Lance Wilkins 1<sup>st</sup> in youth Team Kata, 1<sup>st</sup> place in Team Sparring, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Team Weapons, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in 8 & 9 year old Intermediate Sparring; Georgia Booth – State and national awards below; Gabe Ogden - 5<sup>th</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Intermediate Forms, 5<sup>th</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Intermediate Weapons, 5<sup>th</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Intermediate Chanbara, and 1<sup>st</sup> place in Team Kata; David Rhodes - 3<sup>rd</sup> in Chanbara; Melissa Rhodes - 4<sup>th</sup> place in Adult Intermediate Women's Sparring, 1<sup>st</sup> place in Adult Team Kata, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Adult Women's Chanbara, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Women's Continuous

Sparring; Wesley Edwards – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 14 & 15 year old Intermediate Sparring, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in 14 & 15 year old Intermediate Forms, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Continuous Sparring, 5<sup>th</sup> Advanced Weapons, and 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Teen Chanbara; Bethany Rhodes - 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 12 & 13 year old Intermediate Sparring, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Intermediate Forms, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Continuous Sparring, 3<sup>rd</sup> Team Kata, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Chanbara; Jake Odom -1<sup>st</sup> place in Team Kata, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Team Weapons Forms, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Beginning Forms; Garrett Nyegaard – 4<sup>th</sup> place in Continuous Sparring, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Youth Team Kata, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 10 & 11 year old Intermediate Forms, and 4<sup>th</sup> in 10 & 11 year old Intermediate Sparring; Grace Nyegaard – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Continuous Sparring, 4<sup>th</sup> in Youth Team Fighting, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in youth Team Kata, and 4<sup>th</sup> Place in 8 & 9 year old Girl’s Intermediate Forms; and Rodney McPherson – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Black Belt Master’s Weapons. Not pictured here: Jacob Hicks – 1<sup>st</sup> Place in 12 & 13 Intermediate Fighting, 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Koshiki Fighting, and 1<sup>st</sup> Place Ippon Fighting; Sam Rhodes – 4<sup>th</sup> place in Adult Intermediate Sparring, 4<sup>th</sup> place in Adult Team Fighting, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Adult Men Chanbara; and Kristin McPherson – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in 12 & 13 Advanced Girl’s Fighting, 4<sup>th</sup> Place in 12 & 13 year old Advanced Forms.

In addition to the awards won at the tournament, several national and state awards were given to deserving students based on the entire past year of competition. Brantley Turnage – ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state and 5<sup>th</sup> nationally in 8 & 9 year old Beginning Girl’s Sparring; Aleck Nyegaard – 1st place in Adult Beginning Sparring and Forms Statewide, and National Runner-up in Adult Beginning Sparring and Forms. Lance Wilkins; Georgia Booth – 4<sup>th</sup> place nationally in 12 & 13 Intermediate Forms and national Runner-up in 12 & 13 Intermediate Sparring; Gabe Ogden – State Champion in 8 & 9 year old Chanbara, and 10<sup>th</sup> nationally in 8 & 9 Chanbara, 5<sup>th</sup> place in 8 & 9 year old Beginning Sparring. Wesley Edwards – National Champion in both 14 & 15 year old Intermediate Forms and Sparring. This double national championship earned Mr. Edwards a nomination to the National Jr. All American Award which was granted by the Hall of Fame. Wesley also received the school Young Patriot’s Award for this year and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> nationally in Chanbara and 10<sup>th</sup> in Weapons. Bethany Rhodes – State Champion Intermediate Forms, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Intermediate Girl’s Sparring, and 4<sup>th</sup> in Chanbara; this earned her a ranking of 5<sup>th</sup> nationally in Forms and 8<sup>th</sup> in Sparring. Garrett Nyegaard – State Champion in 10 & 11 year old Beginning Sparring. Rodney McPherson – National Champion in Black Belt Men’s Weapons, and national Runner-up in Black Belt Men’s Forms. Kristin McPherson – national Runner-up in 12 & 13 Advanced Girl’s Sparring.

As a result of the great success that our students have had in tournaments across the country – D’Arbonne Martial Arts ranks as the 8<sup>th</sup> Place Team Nationally in the United States Karate Alliance.

Our students will be competing in the Professional Karate Commission International tournament in Indianapolis, Indiana over the Labor Day weekend, as well as several other state and local tournaments throughout the year.

Come and join us at our new location – 108 Main Street in Farmerville of for more information visit us on the web at [www.darbonnemartialarts.com](http://www.darbonnemartialarts.com)