

Argo Dojo Times

The news of Argo Dojo, Volos – Greece

VOL. I

VOLOS, JULY 2016

ARGO DOJO'S FIRST SEASON IS REACHING TO AN END*! IT HAS BEEN A BEAUTIFUL YEAR!

****Season ends...The training continues...***

YON KYU PROMOTION IN RYU KYU KOBUDO FOR ANTONIS TZOUNIS

An intensive Ryu Kyu Kobudo training course under the supervision of Katherine Loukopoulos Sensei was offered to Antonis Tzounis in January 2016. The training sessions ended with a promotion test. Antonis Tzounis was successfully promoted to the rank of Yon Kyu. Dr. Dimitrios Zacharopoulos, also a student of Loukopoulos Sensei offered his valuable assistance making the whole event a big success. (more on page 4)

INTENSIVE TRAINING AND DAN PROMOTIONS IN BELGRADE, SERBIA

Vladimir Popovic Sensei organized an international intensive training seminar that was completed with Kyu and Dan promotions this April. From Greece, Antonis Tzounis, escorted by Katherine Loukopoulos Sensei, and Nikos Theodoridis traveled to the Serbian city to join the event. Antonis Tzounis was successfully promoted to San Dan. (more on page 5)

Argo Dojo Students Had Their First Kyu Test March 2016



Photo before the Kyu Test – From left; First row: Nikos Theodoridis, Antonis Tzounis, and Kostas Arvanitopoulos. Second row: Lazaros Zografopoulos, Georgia Rymenidi

Argo Dojo organized its first Kyu Test on the 26th of March 2016. Antonis Tzounis with the assistance of Nikos Theodoridis and Kostas Arvanitopoulos led the promotions testing, in which Georgia Rymenidi was successfully promoted to Roku Kyu and Lazaros Zografopoulos to Kyu Kyu. (more on page 2)

5 Year Anniversary of Sanchin Dojo

On the 23rd of April 2016, Milan Dimitrieski Sensei organized a beautiful event to celebrate the 5th anniversary of Sanchin Dojo. People from Serbia and practitioners from other countries who visited Belgrade to attend the intensive seminar of Serbia Hombu joined the event. Dimitrieski Sensei and his students gave a beautiful demonstration of Uechi-Ryu Karate and offered a wonderful party afterwards. (more on page 10)



Argo Dojo Students Had Their First Kyu Test

26th March 2016



*Photo before the Kyu Test – From left; first row: Nikos Theodoridis, Antonis Tzounis, and Kostas Arvanitopoulos.
Second row: Lazaros Zografopoulos, Georgia Rymenidi*



During the Test... Lazaros Zografopoulos and Georgia Rymenidi gave their best!

Argo Dojo organized its first Kyu Test on the 26th of March 2016. The event started 19:00 and lasted for almost 2 hours. The two students who took the test are Georgia Rymenidi and Lazaros Zografopoulos. They were tested in Hojo Undo, Tai-Kitae and Sanchin. Georgia was successfully promoted to Roku Kyu and Lazaros to Kyu Kyu. Nikos Theodoridis and Kostas Arvanitopoulos offered their valuable help and gave useful feedback to the two new practitioners. The event closed with a small party to congratulate the two students and say a big thank you to the two Sempai (Nikos and Kostas) who helped with the whole procedure.





Hojo Undo.



The two Sempai enjoying coffee and sweets after the successful testing!

Yon Kyu Promotion in Ryu Kyu Kobudo for Antonis Tzounis



An intensive Ryu Kyu Kobudo training course under the supervision of Katherine Loukopoulos Sensei (Matsubayashi Shorin-Ryu, Goju-Ryu, and Ryu Kyu Kobudo) was offered to Antonis Tzounis in January 2016. Antonis Tzounis had the chance to enjoy Loukopoulos' Sensei hospitality once more and receive more valuable knowledge and experiences. The training sessions took place at Loukopoulos Sensei's house and "Taratsa Dojo" ("taratsa" is the Greek word for rooftop). The sessions ended with a promotion test, on the 31st of January 2016, in which Antonis was successfully promoted to the rank of Yon Kyu in Ryu Kyu Kobudo.

Dr. Dimitrios Zacharopoulos, also a student of Loukopoulos Sensei, despite his busy schedule, offered his valuable assistance throughout the training, helping Antonis to correct his technique under the directions of Loukopoulos Sensei and being Antonis' partner during the Kumi Bo training. The whole event was once again an awesome experience which ended with a small celebration organized by Loukopoulos Sensei.

After the Kyu Test, Antonis Tzounis and Katherine Loukopoulos Sensei.



Dr. Dimitrios Zacharopoulos is always there to provide his help. Practicing Kumi Bo with Antonis Tzounis.



The training sessions included a short introduction to Sai basics.

Intensive Training and Dan Promotions in Belgrade, Serbia



After the Kyu/Dan testing on the 23rd of April. The happiness and satisfaction of the successful testing is apparent on the faces of teachers and students.

Okikukai Serbia Hombu and its head instructor, Vladimir Popovic Sensei, organized an international intensive training seminar this April. The seminar took place at Serbia Hombu Dojo from the 17th up to the 22nd of April 2016. Students from affiliated Dojos from Serbia, Greece, Ukraine, F.Y.R.O. Macedonia, and Italy attended the seminar under the guidance of Vladimir Popovic Sensei (Serbia Hombu) and Milan Dimitrieski Sensei (Sanchin Dojo). The event was completed with Kyu and Dan promotions on the 23rd of April. From Greece, Antonis Tzounis, and Nikos Theodoridis, escorted by Katherine Loukopoulos Sensei, traveled to the Serbian capital city to join the event. Antonis Tzounis participated in the Dan testing and successfully promoted to San Dan. After the Dan testing, Popovic Sensei expressed his gratitude to Loukopoulos Sensei for taking this long trip from Athens to Belgrade and congratulated all the participants for their attempts and the performance they presented during the testing. A small exchange of memorial presents and certificates of attendance was held afterwards. Looking forward to our next gathering...





During the testing, Zuievych Oleg (Ukraine) and Antonis Tzounis (Greece).



After the testing, Antonis Tzounis with Senseis: Vladimir Popovic, Katherine Loukopoulos and Milan Dimitrieski.



During the training.



*Loukopoulos Sensei Demonstrating
Hamahiga no Tunfa.*



Antonis Tzounis receiving his certificate of attendance.



Katherine Loukopoulos Sensei receiving her certificate of gratitude from Popovic Sensei.



*Katherine Loukopoulos Sensei is not only a teacher, but also a mother to her students.
Therefore, she always offers great snacks and cookies after an exhausting training session.
She did the same in Belgrade and everyone loved it!*



After the end of the testing.

Two wonderful ladies and fighters! Katherine Loukopoulos Sensei, Tatjana Zakic Sensei.



All the Okikukai family out for some drinks after the trainings...Tired but so satisfied!!!

5 Year Anniversary of Sanchin Dojo

An awesome event followed the intensive training and Kyu/Dan promotions in Belgrade this April. The multi-national group of participants, as well as the Serbian students and instructors, were invited by Milan Dimitrieski Sensei to the 5-year celebration of Sanchin Dojo. The event was organized on the afternoon of the 23rd of April 2016. Dimitrieski Sensei and his students made an outstanding demonstration of Uechi-Ryu Karate and offered a wonderful party with drinks and Serbian delicacies afterwards. It was a great chance for Uechi-Ryu fellows to get together and enjoy themselves and was the best way to end one more successful gathering in Belgrade.



The street outside Sanchin Dojo. Everything is ready for the celebration to start!



Sanchin Dojo kids made a very strong and impressive demonstration!!!





Sanchin Dojo students and disciples impressed everyone with their great demonstration!!!



Sanchin testing...in Sanchin Dojo!!!



*Dimitrieski Sensei demonstration
Sanseiryu Kata.*



*A wonderful moment with of the Greco-Serbian family.
Vladimir Djordjevic, Antonis Tzounis, Vladimir Popovic and Gojko Kisic.*



It was a wonderful night in Sanchin Dojo!



...we met many new friends from Serbia!!!





We drunk, ate, talked and received wonderful gifts!!!

Last Word



Sunrise at the Aegean Archipelago. View from Mountain Pelion.

Argo Dojo's first season comes to an end. We chose the 25th of October, the official Karate Day to start our Dojo. Therefore the 25th of October will be our Dojo's birthday. We chose that day because it is a very special day for all Karateka around the world and since it will be our Dojo opening anniversary, it will be a double celebration for us, for the years to come. Since October we had the chance to spend many hours of training and other parallel events. We hope to last in time and be able to make Okinawan Karate even more popular in Greece in the future.

Dear Masters and Okikukai family on the beautiful island of Okinawa, I never forget the wonderful moments and the valuable mentoring you offered to me during my visit. I hope to be able to meet you all again soon and I pray for your best health and spirit! Okinawan Karate-Do is our inspiration in good and in less good times, and for this, I wish to thank you once again for your teachings. On behalf of all the Argo Dojo students, I wish you a wonderful summer!

Best regards,

Antonis Tzounis

