

Maria Wong

The Journey from White to Black

In the beginning (when I first joined Tae Kwon Do), I can honestly tell you now that I didn't think I was going to make it this far. It's not as if I didn't have any ambition to try my best when I joined KMAC; sometimes I just don't see the bigger picture. My dad, however, was the one who really knew what he was doing. Hell, he was the one who decided to sign me up for TaeKwonDo out of the blue. Reason being that he knew I was going to make it very far because he has always believed in my capabilities and the capacity I have to succeed. He knew that signing me for TaeKwonDo will benefit me more than anything.

My experiences from being a white belt till now have been educational. Scratch that, the word "educational" cannot do justice to what I have experienced throughout this short period of time with all my instructors and classmates. It was ENLIGHTENING more than anything, a meditation that seems to be never ending; countless episodes of moral improvement through sweating, frustration, ruminating on what I have done right but more importantly, things I have done wrong. Whether I am learning new techniques or forms, now I know that you cannot be perfect, or even CLOSE to perfect without the adequate training that is required for everybody who is serious about self-improvement. Also when I am teaching a form, I now know that even though I feel adequate in certain forms I may teach others, my fellow colleagues shed some light on certain things that I do not know.

From all the episodes of being in class learning and teaching others in return, I also notice a great change in others besides myself. The attitude of the whole school today is like a ball of energy, I feel everybody's drastic improvements and that is enough to inspire me to try even harder to improve myself and become a part of this school's everlasting vitality. When I look at how hard the younger belts are working, seeing them come in the room with a "SinMoo!" really energizes me because I know they are not only here for themselves but for everyone else who has attended. I truly feel like we are all a cohesive force when we work together, although I may get frustrated at times with myself, Master Jung and my colleagues would always let me know that we all make mistakes and are here to learn HOW to improve.

KMAC has become a haven for me; I have grown so used to seeing you all every week and I know that this is the support system I have wanted all my life. Today, I can happily tell anybody and everybody that I have TWO families, both of them which I love very much.