

*Be glad there's one place in the world
Where everybody knows your name,
And they're always glad you came;
You want to go where people know, People are all the same;
You want to go where everybody knows your name.*

For those of you that don't know these lyrics, it was part of the theme song from "Cheers" – a popular TV show.

Over the last few months, my life has changed.... A LOT. I got a new job, a new schedule, a new addition to my family, new friends and got rid of a few old ones. But the one environment that has stayed the same is KMAC.

I walk into any class and I see the very familiar faces – the students, the parents, Grandmaster Jung and the other Masters, Jasmine complaining ;-), Thomas speaking slow and clear, Jose's boy webbing me and pretending to be Spiderman – and I'm happy to be there no matter what kind of day I've had.

And when I'm upstairs stretching, through the loud yelling and kihaps, you hear some faint, some loud "SinMoo" as another member enters the school.... Enta rushes to the window curious to see who will join the class for that night. If Enta doesn't spoil it for me, I like to wait – the anticipation of not knowing whose footsteps those are coming up the stairs. And whoever it is, a new member or someone from the past – we're always greeted with smiles, a handshake, a bow, a hug or, if you're Monica Lee, you get a smile and a nod.

On the TV show, all the usual members show up on a daily basis to discuss their day and enjoy each other's company. I wish this to be true for all of KMAC members as well. I consider each class to be a team – a team that learns with *and* from each other regardless of ability and skill. And when a member of the team doesn't show up, everyone is at a loss of something. That loss (usually) isn't spirit – but could be a partner, a voice or moral that creates synergy (the phenomenon in which two or more influences or agents acting together create an effect greater than that predicted by knowing only the separate effects of the individual agents).

So what am I babbling about? Come to class – any class and experience something new. If you have some spare time, come by and help. Remember all Black Belts have certain responsibilities; teaching and assisting to teach are one of them. Influence a fellow student and help bring them to another level – this will have endless positive results for the student, for KMAC and for you.

Don't give up on someone. Grandmaster Jung and the other Masters won't give up on you.

Cheers!