

AKA Staff

Grandmaster  
Danny Chapman  
8th Dan, Chief Instructor

Master Mike Hoyal  
6th Dan, Senior Instructor

Sensei Tim Bowles  
4th Dan, Senior Instructor

Sensei Matt Stonerock  
3rd Dan, Instructor, Lil'  
Dragon Instructor

Sensei Cam Chapman  
3rd Dan, Assist Instructor

Sensei Michael Culbreth  
3rd Dan Assist Instructor

Sensei Lindsey Grant  
3rd Dan, Assist Instructor

Sensei Lori Lynn  
Chapman  
3rd Dan, Assist Instructor

Sensei Jeff Morrison  
2nd Dan, Assist Instructor

Sensei Charles Williams  
1st Dan, Assist Instructor

Sensei Lenny Ramirez  
1st Dan, Assist Instructor  
Publisher of Front Kicks

Trainee Instructors  
Eric Donahue  
Luke Donahue  
Kelley Qualman

Junior Black Belts  
Caroline Williams  
Kyle Starr  
Savannah Fiedor  
Mac Sweeney

Junior Assist Instructors  
Sarah Conley  
Austin Hamill  
Matthew Conley  
Michael Aguon  
Stuart Stankevich  
Matthew Donahue



# FRONT KICKS



The Newsletter for the American Karate Academy

## AKA Adds 4 New Black Belts!

During the last 3 months of 2009 four new black belts were added to the AKA. On October 17<sup>th</sup>, **Mac Sweeney**, 11, and **Savannah Fiedor**, 13, tested for their black belt. Their 7 hour test consisted of katas, sparring, self defense, a written test, and several endurance activities. It was a long day for them but well worth it. After successfully passing all aspects of the test they were awarded their black belt by Master Chapman. "Mac and Savannah did outstanding on their test", said Master Chapman. "I am very proud of both of them. I look forward to working with them for several more years." The testing panel consisted of Master Chapman and 7 AKA black belts.



On November 21, 2009 **Charles Williams** endured a grueling 12 hour black belt test. The test consisted of a written test, sparring, self defense, katas, and various endurance activities. The testing panel consisted of Master Chapman and 5 AKA black belts. "Charles did great on his test," said Master Chapman. "We pushed him hard and he came through like a champ". At his black belt ceremony his parents presented him with his two black belt team gis. "We are very proud of him," said his father Robert (an AKA green belt). "I would like to thank Master

Chapman and all of the black belts for all the time and work they have put in to get Charles to this point". After presenting Charles with his black belt and certificate.



Master Chapman announced that Charles would be given the title of Assistant Instructor.



On Dec 19th **Lenny Ramirez** passed his black belt test and was awarded the title of "Sensei". An AKA panel of 9 black belts administered the test. The former Sempai was tested on sparring, self defense, katas, and endurance. He also had to pass an extensive written exam which lasted about 4 1/2 hours.

"I have known for a long time this day was coming for Lenny," said Master Chapman. "He is very dedicated and passionate in his study of the martial arts." Sensei Ramirez, who was also awarded the title of "Assistant Instructor", will continue to train and will be given additional teaching responsibilities at the dojo.

## Important Dates!

Here are some tentative dates for karate events in 2010:

- Mar 6-Camp Sidekick
- Mar 13-Master's Karate Tournament (Brentwood)
- Mar 25-Karate Demonstration Night
- June 24-27-Karate College
- Sept 24/25- IKSA National Training Seminar



## New Club Members

**Corina Crowe** is the newest member of the Full Splits Club. **Austin Hamill** recently made the commitment to training all the way to black belt by joining the Black Belt Club.

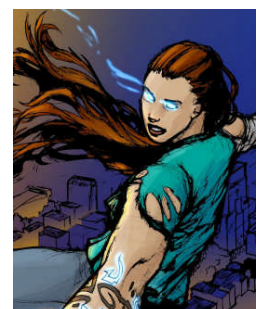
Congrats to both!

## New Students

Welcome to all the new students who have recently joined us in the study of martial arts.

They are:

- Sean York
- Cameron Richards
- Alan Abbu
- Trent Holloway
- Cat Barber
- TJ Roberson
- Peyton Phillips
- Drew Dorsey
- Haley Love Gaw
- Jeff Griffin
- Ayden Lynch
- ...and Kristen Ramirez





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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.americankarateacademy.com](http://www.americankarateacademy.com)



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## Haven: The Graphic Novel Releases in May!

The Dante family line has been in the fires of an ancient war between humanity and the nine circles of hell for generations. As a self-proclaimed "Aristocracy" the circles have set their sights on the one who now holds the key to thwart their plans.... Haven Irena Dante.

Haven: The Graphic Novel was written by Sensei Ramirez and features an appearance by our Chief Instructor...

**Grandmaster Chapman!**

That's right! Master Chapman is a character in the novel!

Visit [facebook.com/armyofhaven](http://facebook.com/armyofhaven) for more info and stay tuned!

## Levels of Instructors

With the addition of new black belts in the fall there are now 15 black belts on the AKA staff. There are 8 separate levels of instructors. They are:

**Junior Instructor**-member of advanced children's class who assists with Lil' Dragons class

**Junior Black Belt Assistant Instructor**-Black belt member of children's class who assists with Lil' Dragons class and beginner's children's class

**Trainee Instructor**-Purple-Blue-Green-Brown belt member of adult class who assists with children's class

**Sempai**-Brown belt who teaches classes and assists instructors in running the dojo; Black Belt who helps teach classes but has not earned the Sensei title.

**Assistant Instructor**-Black Belt who assists with all classes and may be called upon to teach class.

**Instructor**-2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Black Belt or higher who assists with all classes and is capable of leading their own program

**Senior Instructor**-3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Black Belt or higher who plays an advisory role to the Chief Instructor in making decisions that affect the dojo

**Chief Instructor**-Assumes responsibility as leader of the dojo in all areas.

*The best martial arts magazine around is "Black Belt". It has been around for 48 years. The March edition (out in January) has a news article on the promotion of IKSA founder Floyd Burk to 10th degree black belt. It also has a story on board breaking by Master Burk as well. Get a copy (or better yet, subscribe) and read these two stories. Master Burk has been Master Chapman's teacher since 1985.*



## Students of the Year

On December 29th Master Chapman announced the students of the year for the AKA. The winners were chosen by the black belt instructors. The winners in the children's class are **Sara and Matthew Conley**. "It came down to a tie between those two so we decided to give the award to both," said Master Chapman. "They are both equally deserving." The Conley siblings both had excellent attendance records in 2009. They also served as Junior Instructors in the Lil Dragon class. "Sara and Matthew are great with the little guys," continued Master Chapman. "They were an invaluable aid to Sensei Stonerock" Sara and Matthew are brown belts and members of the Black Belt Club. Both are on track to test for black belt in 2010.

The Student of the Year in the adult class is **Sensei Cam Chapman**. In 2009 Sensei Chapman attended Karate College, Camp Sidekick, and the IKSA National Training seminar. He assisted in classes in the Brentwood, Franklin, and East Nashville dojos. Sensei Chapman represented the AKA in a tournament in Brentwood in the Spring. He began attending the University of TN at Chattanooga in Aug and joined a nearby dojo to continue his training. "I am glad that Sensei Chapman's hard work and dedication was recognized by the black belts," said Master Chapman. Sensei Chapman is a 3rd degree black belt who has been training for 12 years.

## Recent Promotions

The following have recently earned belt promotions:

Drew Dorsey-YI	Kristen Ramirez-YI
Annalise Barber-BI	Mackenzey Ramirez-BI
Jimmy Wall-P	Kelley Qualman-YI
Trevor Phillips-BI	Tyler Hamilton-P
Sean York-YI	Sam Phillips-YI
Matthew Conley-Br	Tomas Starr-YI
Jeff Bennie-Gr	Daniel Errico-YI
Matthew Carrico-BI	Peyton Phillips-YI

**Congratulations!**

