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RE: SAT 11/29/2014 Eibu Kan Goju Ryu Karate Dojo – ESGVJCC
2014 Hokubei Shihankai Master's Seminar hosted by Eibu Kan Goju Ryu Karate Dojo at ESGVJCC

On Saturday, November 29, 2014, the Eibu Kan Goju Ryu Karate Dojo had the honor of hosting the 2014 Hokubei Shihankai Master's Seminar in the ESGVJCC gymnasium. The Hokubei Shihankai is a prestigious organization comprised of Japanese born, traditional martial arts masters, who are dedicated to preserving the art of traditional Japanese and Okinawan Karate. Eibu Kan Karate has the honor and distinction of having senseis Takafumi Hamabata and Katsuhide Kinjo representing, as both senseis are recognized as one of the original thirty-six nationally recognized founding members. The experience and knowledge of these senseis in the Hokubei Shihankai represent the collective wisdom of generations and centuries of traditional martial arts in Japan and Okinawa which has established a foothold here in the United States.

This year's seminar included the participation from multiple styles including, Wado-Ryu, Shotokan , Shito-Ryu, Ryuei-Ryu, and Goju-Ryu, which are all traditional styles of karate with roots in Okinawa. However, the highlight of the Hokubei Shihankai event was the surprise visit from Shito-Ryu Master, Fumio Demura. Demura Sensei is most known for his traditional karate contributions to Hollywood, by way of famous movies such as, *The Warrior Within (1976)*, *The Karate Kid (1989)*, and *Rising Sun (1993)*; however, is considered by many to be the first karate sensei to be able to bridge the gap between traditional practitioners and pop culture. Through sharing his knowledge on the silver screen, of not only karate but kobudo (traditional weapons), he met many notable martial artists and action stars such as Bruce Lee, Chuck Norris, Steven Segal, Billy Blanks, Michael Jai White, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Pat Morita. It is documented that Pat Morita based his "Mr. Miyagi" character on Demura Sensei and that Bruce Lee requested for his tutelage in his attempt to master the nunchaku. It was a rare occasion for the Hokubei Shihankai as Demura Sensei shared some insight on his life experience as well as his depth of knowledge of karate.

If you are interested in joining our group, the Eibu Kan Goju Ryu Karate Dojo currently meets on Wednesday nights in the ESGVJCC Gymnasium at 7:00pm. For any questions please feel free to visit and ask any black belt or contact the ESGVJCC Office for details.

Kay Sakaue