▶DOC-FAI WONG◀ INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

Grandmaster Doc-Fai Wong was born in Wangshan village of Wushan area, Doumen district of Zhuhai City, Guangdong province in 1948. In April 1960, when he was 11 years old, he immigrated to San Francisco with his mother to be reunited with his father. Because of obvious language difficulties in his first few years in this country, he was taunted, teased and bullied.

It is because of those difficulties that he sought out his first kung-fu teacher, great-grandmaster Lau Bun, the founder of the Hung Sing Kwoon of choy li fut kung-fu in America. After Lau Bun died in 1967, a 19-year-old Wong opened his own school. He has been teaching martial arts in the San Francisco Bay Area ever since.

Today, his Plum Blossom International Federation has over 100 schools, making it one of the largest kung-fu organizations in the world. Branch schools are located in the United States, Canada, Central and South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the Philippines and even Tahiti.

Grandmaster Wong was the tai chi chuan instructor at San Francisco City College from 1974 to 2003. In 2004, he became the head instructor of the Tai Chi Club of the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center in San Francisco. He has written a column for *Inside Kung-Fu* on and off for more than a decade.

Doc-Fai Wong was the coach for the United States team competing in the Republic of China International Tai Chi Chuan Federation's World Championship Push Hands competition. It is an international tournament held every few years in Taiwan. In 1987, his team was the first and only U.S. team to win anything at this tournament, placing Second only to Taiwan. The next time the tournament was held in 1990, Doc-Fai Wong's team again placed Second. In October 2004, grandmaster Wong took a U.S. contingent of 40 students to compete in the First World Traditional Wushu Tournament held in Zhengzhou, China. Wong and his son, sifu Jason Wong, each won gold and silver medals. Overall, the team collected 20 gold, 38 silver and 14 bronze medals.

A California state certified acupuncturist and holder of a doctorate degree in Allied Health Sciences, grandmaster Wong was selected as one of the top 50 most influential martial arts personalities in the world by *Inside Kung-Fu* in 1986 and was inducted into the Martial Arts History Museum's Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2003.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

2006
John S.S. Leong
Ming Qiu
Tiffany Reyes
Samara Simmerman

2005
Nick Gracenin
Lily Lau
Richard Lee
Elaina Maxwell
Collin Lee
Terry Wilson
Ronaldo "Jacare" de Souza

2004
Henry Look
Wei Qi He
Carter Williams
Tiffany Chen
Jimmy Wong
Jose Fraguas
Dean Lister

2003
Dennis Brown
Graciela Casillas
Glenn C. Hart
Team Evergreen
David Tadman
Gerald Okamura
Xande Ribeiro

2002
Donnie Yen
Michiko Nishiwaki
Lu Xiaoling
Ziyi Zhang
Angie Rivera
Jeff Chinn
Scott Coker
Tito Ortiz

2001
Hawkins Cheung
Wang Jurong
Tak Wah Eng
Jeanne Chinn
Pat Rice
Ric Meyers
Mark Kerr

2000
William C.C. Chen
S. L. Martin
Mimi Chan
Wallid Ismail
Travis Wong
Jou, Tsung Hwa
Robert Dreeben

1999
Wesley Snipes
Lucia Rijker
Pui Chan
Cung Le
Burt Richardson
Jackie Chan
Shannon Lee
Kazuyoshi Ishii

1998
Chuck Norris
Michelle Yeoh
Huang, Chien-Liang
Maurice Smith
Anita Lopez
Martha Burr
Gene LeBell
Century Martial Arts