

Darrell C. Simms, Sr.

Martial Arts Title: Shihan Master

Place of Birth & Growing Up: Chicago, Illinois

Martial Arts Style and Belt Rank: Universal Shorei-Goju Karate System, 7<sup>th</sup> degree Black Belt

Year Started Martial Arts: 1968

Years Teaching Martial Arts: 45

Professional Organizations:

Professional Karate Commission

Martial Arts Karate Association

Universal Shorei-Goju Karate System

Martial Arts History:

I was introduced to the Goju (Japanese) style of Karate in 1968 by first Degree Black Belt Roderick Hawkins. I was so impressed with the power of martial arts, that I never missed a day of training and if necessary would walk to class in rain, sleet or snow. It was this initial training that inspired me to increase my knowledge and understanding of the martial arts. At that time Karate became a key factor in my ability to rise above the negative influences experienced by young men of color on the southside of Chicago. It became a personal tool for mental and physical development. During this period, I also had the privilege of meeting and visiting the Dojo of John Keehan (AKA Count Dante).

When Sensei Hawkins left the city, I began searching for a Dojo where I could receive comprehensive training in Karate, I discovered JJ School of Karate, Ltd. There, I trained under Master James A. Jones and Sensei Benjamin Peacock who was the Chief Instructor at the school. During this period I experienced the most dramatic development as a karateka (karate student). Under the diligent oversight and intense training of Master Jones and Sensei Peacock I developed my knowledge and skill of theory, Kata, Sparring, Self Defense and martial arts weaponry. While attending JJ School of Karate, Ltd., I won several awards and championships, including: Special Award for Outstanding Demonstration at the National Karate League Martial Arts Expo in 1975, an event that featured notable martial artist such as Jim Kelly and Ron Van Clief; Won First Place sparring at the National Karate League Championships in 1976.

After returning from school to complete my college education, I joined Shihan Benjamin Peacock at the Three Circles School of Karate and Physical Fitness. It was there that I experienced the most extensive Black Belt training. Under Shihan Peacock, became Head Instructor and received the "Instructor of the Year Award" in 1992. In addition to winning several Black Belt competitions, I've taught Karate and self-defense at the City Colleges of Chicago; the Chicago Housing Authority; the South Suburban YMCA, and Governors State University. I am currently a Board of Director for the Universal Shorei-Goju Karate System; a Regional Promoter for the Professional Karate Commission and the Head Karate Instructor and Assistant Director for Hazel Crest Park District. Throughout the years, Karate has not only been a tool for changing my life but it has also served as a tool for empowering others. Consequently, I have created M.A.N.U.P, a martial arts mentoring initiative designed to empower at risk youth with life skills and principles of martial arts that build character and integrity. This endeavor, among many other deeds and contributions will constitute my legacy to the proud tradition of martial arts.

Major Achievements:

National Karate League Championships

Chicago Metro Championships

Tri-State Championships

AKA National Championships

Featured in a 2010 documentary on martial arts produced by Grand Master James A. Jones Jr.

Promoter/Director: The Traditional Warrior Karate Championship and Martial Arts Exhibition

"Simms Traditional Warrior" tournament videos are on YouTube

Outstanding Demonstration Award at the National Karate League Martial Arts Expo, 1975

Instructor of the Year (1992)

Universal Shorei-Goju Karate System, Board of Director

Professional Karate Commission, Outstanding Leadership Award (2017)

AMAA Who's Who in the Martial Arts Hall of Fame Award (2017)

Action Martial Arts Magazine Hall of Honors, Esteemed Martial Artist Award (2018)



Personal Achievements:

Bachelors of Science in Business Administration

Master of Business Administration

Public Administrator:

City of Chicago (1984-88);

Chicago Park District (1989-91);

Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority (1994-98);

Chicago Housing Authority (2001-05)

Business Owner (2005-14)

Assistant Director, Hazel Crest Park District (Present)

President, Martial Artist Networking with Urban Professionals (MANUP)