



my words echo the sentiments of the many other who have done the same.

Sensei **Paul Lopresti** continues to wow onlookers with his dynamic approach to BJJ and the Cage-style competition with Aiki Kenpo Jujutsu. Continuing to burn up the mat on every tournament they enter, we congratulate his team: Danny Pol [3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Gi Beginner], Mike Fields [4<sup>th</sup> Youth Beginner No Gi], John Schlosser 3<sup>rd</sup> Mens No Gi Intermediate], John DiPatri [3<sup>rd</sup> Mens Blue Belt Gi & 3<sup>rd</sup> mens no gi Absolute], Larry Navarro 2<sup>nd</sup> Mens Blue Belt Gi] and Korye Czyzewski [2<sup>nd</sup> mens beginner gi & 1<sup>st</sup> Mens beginner No gi]. Well done everyone.

**Marco Forti** continues blazing new trails for KU in Italy. In December he travelled to Parma where he delivered a successful KU seminar with the help of his own students [from the Cesena and Bologna dojo] to more than 50 enthusiastic participants.

Photos here...

[http://www.seishinkai-cesena.it/ssk\\_plug/autogallery/autogallery.php?show=Karate%2F11\\_-\\_Stage\\_Nazionale\\_KDIK\\_dicembre\\_2010](http://www.seishinkai-cesena.it/ssk_plug/autogallery/autogallery.php?show=Karate%2F11_-_Stage_Nazionale_KDIK_dicembre_2010)



## FYI...

### On tradition, style & ambiguity...

Over the past few months I've posted the following comments on-line in connection with several key historical issues we've discussed in the past. Because it addresses common interests and add to the nature of our previous dialogue I felt it particularly important for it to be openly shared with you here.

### The Fujian [Crane] styles of quanfa and the connection to Okinawan kata:

My research experience led me to conclude that much of the so-called karate tradition handed down in and around Shuri, Naha and Tomari between the mid-1800's and the VERY early 1900's represented a smattering of Fujian-based quanfa *kata* [xing 型/形] and related training practices. Originating from several locations in Fujian and arriving haphazardly in Okinawa at different places with local and foreign enthusiasts, what is currently regarded as "style" in karate can best be described as eclectic. In spite of the fiercely protective attitude surrounding these modern traditions, it's virtually impossible to trace any of these lineages back to a single Chinese source. That said, it remains obvious, if only to me at this time, that much if not all of the Chinese-based traditions [i.e. Kata & associated practices] in Okinawa either come from, or were based entirely upon, 19th century Fujian quanfa, with Yongchun Crane heavily influencing the Naha-based traditions.

### Huang Xingxian

Concerning the late Fujian crane master, Huang Xingxian; In spite of his early beginnings as a youth with Xie, I believe that he always was much better known as a Taiji instructor than for his "hard style" boxing. A perfect example can be seen here with his Nepai [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rv\\_biLRRY5Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rv_biLRRY5Y)

Even though he's obviously quite aged here, the performance does not exemplify the dynamics which I witnessed from Jin Jinfu, who remained faithful to the single style until his untimely passing a few years ago. A colleague of mine from New Zealand, Patrick Kelly, was a personal student under Huang Xingxian [the only non-Chinese student I believe] and carries on his tradition to this day. As I understand it, however, much of this is Taiji and not White Crane.



**Cosmetic Appearance** - *What is obvious to some remains either totally confusing or completely mystifying to others.*

It takes a clever eye, a dispassionate enthusiast, or a VERY experienced person to clearly see the similarities between Chinese forms and Okinawan kata. More importantly, understanding the evolutionary process [not just with regards to Okinawan karate but also with Chinese quanfa] plays a big part in "getting it." Considering the different costumes and footwear [and sometimes no costume at all...just street clothes], body dynamics [or lack thereof], training environments [the Chinese don't typically use a dojo in the same way the Japanese/Okinawans do] practice etiquette and protocols, it's not entirely surprising that even the most ardent enthusiast misses the obvious. Rather than looking for a kata that looks EXACTLY LIKE xxxxxx [just insert the name of any orthodox kata here] I found more promising rewards by identifying similar templates, irrespective of

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**Writer of the Year**  
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**Historian of the Year**  
Gary Lee [USA]

**Yudansha of the Year**  
Marco Forti [Italy]

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Zoriana Tchaban [Finland]

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Jesse Enkamp [Sweden]



# Around the World



Italy's most visible KU force is headed up by Marco Forti seen here with many enthusiastic seminar participants

