



For Immediate Release    September 21, 2015

RE:        Eibu Kan Goju Ryu Karate Dojo – ESGVJCC  
              2015 Eibukan Seminar and Black Belt Grading at ESGVJCC

The Eibu Kan Goju Ryu Karate Dojo had the honor of inviting Soke Shihan Yoshihiro Hisanaga, 8<sup>th</sup> Dan Hanshi, from Kagoshima Prefecture in Japan, for their bi-annual Dojo Seminar and Black Belt testing in September. Shihan Hisanaga, was received enthusiastically by many students he has had under his care including Chief Instructor, Takafumi Hamabata, 7<sup>th</sup> Dan Kyoshi, and Senior Instructor, Katsuhide Kinjo, 6<sup>th</sup> Dan Renshi. This year, the Eibu Kan Dojo had a record number of students testing for their Black Belts, including 3 women, with ages ranging more than 40 years from 18 to 60 years young.

To emphasize that earning your Black Belt is a lifelong pursuit and not an objective or a material acquisition, Shihan Hisanaga focused not only on teaching “kihon” or basics, but also lectured that the individual’s training should permeate their lives beyond the dojo doors. He shared that Karate is about developing your “kokoro” or your inner spirit. This includes on how you conduct yourself in public or how you handle difficult situations.

Shihan Hisanaga also spoke on “de ai” or a Japanese term for (personal) encounters. He shared that in life you need to treat each encounter special because you never know how that encounter will affect you in the future. Similar to our English saying “don’t burn bridges,” he communicated that in Karate; the encounters you have can have long lasting effects to one’s training and in life. Building long lasting relationships inside and outside the dojo will only be beneficial to the individual.

Even though Shihan Hisanaga’s stay with the Eibu Kan Dojo was relatively short, the seminar attendees and the grading applicants diligently attended the seminar at the ESGVJCC this week. Each session ran for 2 hours with the testing finale which concluded on Sunday, September 20, 2015.

While the verdict is still out with regard to testing results, the participants should be commended for their hard work and effort!

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.

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