

Filipino Martial Arts



IMAFP

Digest

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Publisher

Steven K. Dowd

Contributing Writers

Jay de Leon

Edessa Ramos

Godofredo Fajardo

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The ideas and opinions expressed in this digest are those of the authors or instructors being interviewed and are not necessarily the views of the publisher or editor.

We solicit comments and/or suggestions. Articles are also welcome.

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From the Publishers Desk

Kumusta

The IMAFP is an International Organization that has committed itself, to higher goals. And that is to enable the art to serve the Filipino people and contribute to their progress.

There have been questions as to what is Modern Arnis, whether this is defined by the old techniques or the new. IMAFP declares that there is no Modern Arnis if the **OLD** is separated from the **NEW**... thus remaining true to Grandmaster Presas' vision of an art that continues to thrive, that does not remain stagnant, that continues to develop itself into higher and more advanced forms.

With practitioners, like Master's Rene Tongson, Cristino Vasquez, Rodel Dagooc, Samuel Dulay, and Godofredo Fajardo. And the International practitioners and promoters like Guro Jay de Leon, Dayang Edessa Ramos, and Guro Abner Anievas the IMAFP grows prosperous and carries on the dream of Professor Remy Presas.

With the **FMA Festival** just around the corner which will highlight many of these instructors and as part honor the memory of Professor Presas, and the **Tipunan Group** which brings together in it gatherings Practitioners to share their arts. Indeed the IMAFP is an organization that promotes nothing but the best in brotherhood and to bring out the Filipino culture throughout the world.

Maraming Salamat Po



The International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP)

Inspired By Tradition, Proven Through Innovation

By Edessa Ramos



The International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP) is an organization that thrives on the spirit of tradition. It is the spirit that guides the countless innovations and techniques that have been developed in modern times, as well as the many styles that have sprung forth from the genius of many masters.

The Council of Masters of Modern Arnis is the safe-keeper of this tradition as well as its guiding spirit. Many of the masters have been training in Filipino martial arts from childhood. They have been gifted with the knowledge passed on from generation to generation. In the olden days, the masters were not adorned with belts or ranks; it was not necessary. One proved oneself

not through promotional exams but in the field of actual battle or combat. It is this tradition that spurs the IMAFP masters to undertake the task of strengthening the classical roots of Modern Arnis.

The Council of Masters have several members, but most prominent are the following, for they are responsible for the fast spread of modern arnis both in the Philippines and in many countries around the world. These masters have developed programs, innovated, revealed their specialties in many continents, and returned home to share their experiences. They are:

Master Cristino Vasquez

Master Rene Tongson

Master Roberto Presas

Master Rodel Dagooc

Master Godofredo Fajardo

Master Samuel Dulay

A people's fighting art must exist through its commitment to the higher goal of defending freedom and the right of people to live in safety, peace and prosperity. The martial art that continues to adhere to these ideals will outlive generations and withstand the ravages of time and history. Not only that, it will continue to thrive and develop, to adapt itself to modern-day needs, and incorporate new methods of application. Such is the Filipino martial art, particularly modern arnis.

As far back as 1997, when the late Professor Remy Presas began to organize the International Modern Arnis Federation in the Philippines, this commitment to freedom and openness to change has taken on deeper meaning in the minds and hearts of Filipino arnisadores. And in 2000, when Grandmaster Remy Presas inaugurated the first IMAFP Board of Directors and officers, he had baptized the current generation of Filipino martial artists who understand and commit themselves to the goal of modern arnis.

Professor Remy had dreamed that his beloved art would flourish once more in the land of its birth. He had visions of arnis digging its roots into the hearts and minds of his

countrymen, the way it did ages ago when arnis was the Filipino people's instrument for liberation. The grandmaster was not disappointed, although he did not live long enough to witness the actual realization of his great dream. He did, however, see the seeds he had planted sprouting into life. Seeds that were planted by his former students to whom he had returned in 2000, seeds nourished by the new generation of black belts and modern arnis practitioners who as of today are growing by the numbers all over the islands. The professor's dream had come true. His art had come home and is now in the care of its people.

Had he still been alive, Professor Remy would have been proud to see how IMAFP is committed to modernization. This process was begun by Grandmaster Remy Presas, who installed, standardized and enforced a modern-day standard of safety, the rules of play, and relentless promotion for Modern Arnis. He innovated the method whereby arnis can be taught and practiced with safeguards and rules. With the help of his students and other masters, particularly Master Rene Tongson, the present day rules and standards of play in Modern Arnis have been developed and documented to guide the conduct of sport competitions and tournaments, including the Point System, the padded body armour/guard and helmet, and the length and weight of weapons.

IMAFP continues to grow. Since its inception in 2001, it has grown to its current sizeable membership spread throughout the islands. Here is but a partial list of IMAFP chapters and affiliate clubs in the Philippines:

Metro Manila: 26 Chapters

Luzon: 3 chapters in Baguio City, 2 in Meycauayan, and 8 in Cavite

Visayas: 6 chapters in Iloilo, 1 in Cebu City, 3 in Bacolod City, 2 in Hinigaran

Mindanao: 3 chapters in Zamboanga, 2 in Davao, 2 in Koronadal

This data does not take into account the huge numbers of Philippine schools, colleges and universities, which now teach arnis as part of their physical education curriculum. In Metro Manila, 38 schools/colleges/universities already implement regular training programs in Modern Arnis, with estimated total of 40,000 students. Several IMAFP instructors have been sent out to these institutions in order to train local teachers and develop them into becoming instructors.

In the international arena, IMAFP has chapters in the following countries: Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Italy, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Korea, Saudi Arabia, USA, Mexico, and Brazil. IMAFP has 3 international commissions that coordinate its regional international work, each one headed by a commissioner who is appointed directly by the Council of Masters in Manila.

The regional commissions are:

Europe: Guro Edessa Ramos

North America: Guro Jay de Leon

Middle East: Master Godofredo Fajardo

IMAFP is an organization of innovators. The IMAFP masters believe that the only way to honour the art of their ancestors is to enable it to evolve. Through their efforts and leadership, more ancient styles and weapons usage are being uncovered, studied and adapted to modern use. This is the inspiration that feeds the spirit of innovation in IMAFP. The masters and their students are culturally and historically aware. They know that deep inside the archipelago and within the pages of its fighting history, there lie more truths in fighting just waiting to be re-discovered.

The diversity of the Filipino people - from the Igorot communities in the northern Cordilleras, the indigenous villages scattered around the Sierra Madre and Caraballo Mountain ranges, down to the Central Plains, and further south to the Tagalog regions, lay a vast diversity of fighting styles. And that is just the island of Luzon. More is to be found further south to the Visayan islands, which saw some of the most numerous and fiercest combat, whether tribal wars of ancient times or armed resistance against the Spanish colonizers. And even further south to the land of the Muslim nations and the non-Muslim Lumad peoples of Mindanao, where the art of the blade and steel reached the highest levels in Philippine history. The Philippines is so rich with the history of war, that a martial researcher will need an entire lifetime to unearth this knowledge.

The IMAFP masters, instructors, black belts and students are aware that the Filipinos' rich history of warfare is, ironically, fed by the fervent desire for peace. Wars were fought to protect villages from encroachers, the shores from marauding pirates, the entire archipelago from invaders. Arnis therefore is the fighting art of freedom. This is the very same spirit that fires the fervor of most Filipinos to learn arnis. In many other countries where the FMA has spread, Arnis is easily used as a venue to gain personal satisfaction, even fame and fortune. In the Philippines, however, it is a cause. Anyone who joins any Filipino martial arts organization knows. Any arnis athlete who joins any competition knows. Any Filipino who seeks to learn and use the Filipino fighting arts in combat knows. Learning the techniques is inspired by the willingness to preserve freedom, strengthened by knowledge of the people's culture and history, and made honorable by always paying tribute to the ancestors and masters who had developed the various styles of the Filipino martial arts.

Thus it is ingrained in every modern arnis master to innovate and develop further techniques. To lead in the research and recovery of lost aspects of the Filipino martial arts. And above all, their most important contribution to the preservation and development of the art is to continuously and selflessly teach it to several generations of students.

Training with the Professor, The Second Time Around

By Godofredo Fajardo

Master Godofredo Fajardo is the current Commissioner for the Middle East for International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP), stationed in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He is also my Modern Arnis guro and co-founder of our organization, Filipino Fighting Arts, Int'l. But more than that, Master Fajardo enjoys a unique position in the history of Remy Presas Modern Arnis. He was a personal student and protégé of Remy Presas, and was an active instructor, officer and tournament official for the various Modern Arnis organizations during and after Remy's time (including NARAPHIL, Arnis Philippines, MAACOP, and others). In addition, he was able to train with Remy even after Remy immigrated to the United States. He was also instrumental in helping form IMAFP, Inc. and continues to serve as a Commissioner and a member of its Council of Masters.

Here, in his own words, he describes that training with Remy and his role in the formation of IMAFP, Inc. At my request, Godo wrote the original piece below in

Tagalog, and I took the liberty of translating it. I also left it without any annotations (describing the persons and places mentioned here), and any future historian can have the pleasure of quoting this piece and supplying their own annotations, with the proper acknowledgement, of course.

Jay de Leon

Remy went back to the Philippines after a long absence either in 1986 or 1988. At that time, I was teaching Modern Arnis in a gym for Raymond Velayo, on E. Rodriguez Ave in Quezon City. I was overjoyed to be able to train with Remy again. On that first visit, I trained together with Rodel Dagooc at the hotel where Remy was staying, the Silahis Hotel on Roxas Blvd. in Manila.

On his next visit in 1997, we continued our training, both at the hotel where he was staying in Binondo, Manila, and subsequently, at his house in Marikina. I believe that they have sold this house since.

The Professor made several more visits after this. The training got a little bit more intense and more advance. In addition to the advance Modern Arnis techniques, he introduced tapi-tapi, which was new material for most. He stayed in a house, which they had converted into a gym. Located near Taft Avenue behind De La Salle University, the house was owned by Shishir Inocalla. By this time, Bambit Dulay also joined us in our training.

On one of these visits around the year 2000, Remy also gave a seminar for the Department of Tourism (DOT), which I attended.

It was also during this time that Remy formed the International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP). Bambit Dulay and I were entrusted with getting Modern Arnis masters to meet with Remy, as well as the actual legal formation of IMAFP. Remy, Bambit and I met with these masters wherever we could - during training, in beerhouses, in the office of Atty. Salvador Demaisip, at the Pamantasang Lunsod ng Maynila (PLM) and anywhere else we could find them.

The meetings could be contentious at times, with so many masters and so many personalities and egos to contend with. But eventually IMAFP, Inc. took shape and was registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) at EDSA Greenhills in Mandaluyong with Atty. Demaisip as the first president.

Other Board members included Roberto Presas, Cristino Vasquez, Rene Tongson, Bambit Dulay, Noel Penaredondo and myself. In addition to being PRO, I was also designated the International and National Training Officer for IMAFP, and Remy entrusted me with various VHS tapes of his seminars in the U.S.

On August 1, 2001, I left for Saudi Arabia, not knowing that my last training session with Remy was the final time I would see him alive. Within the month, Remy



Back in the days of Camelot The Professor (right) with an even younger Godo Fajardo.

was dead. When I learned of his passing, I felt a great sense of loss, just like when I lost my first Modern Arnis teacher, Willy Annang.

Farewell, teacher and father, till our next training.

Godofredo Fajardo
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
March 19, 2006



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The Day Remy Presas Died

By Jay de Leon

Just like many Americans, I learned of Remy's passing in an Internet posting. For one thing, I was shocked. I knew he had had surgery, and was having complications during recovery, but I did not know he was at death's door. I was deeply saddened. I could not help shedding tears as I read the rest of the news.

Professor Remy Amador Presas was no abstraction to me. I was not at his bedside when he died. I was not a ranking student who was part of the Modern Arnis inner circle in the United States. I did not even deem myself worthy of calling myself a student of Remy Presas.



I remember buying that same "anniversary" t-shirt at Remy's seminar. I still have and wear this t-shirt.

But Remy and I had a connection.

Maybe it was because I met him when he was new to the States, and not too many people knew who he was. I met him via correspondence while he was still in San Francisco, and I did not personally get to meet him until he started teaching and giving seminars at Dan Di Vito's Taekwondo Academy in Los Angeles in the mid-seventies.

Maybe it was because we were both middle-aged immigrants from the Philippines trying to make a successful life here in the States, who also happened to have a common passion for arnis.

Maybe it was because we would chat together in Tagalog during those seminars I attended over a span of three decades. One time we were eating seminar lunches. I was eating teriyaki chicken with rice and he was chowing down on several hotdogs. I kidded him that the hot dogs were bad for him. He looked at my food and said, "Sawa na ako diyan." (I am tired of that kind of food.)

Maybe it was because we had a common friend, Master Godofredo "Godo" Fajardo, in the Philippines. Godo was my Modern Arnis instructor in the Philippines.

Godo was a direct student of Remy in the Philippines, and together with many other Modern Arnis stalwarts in the Philippines, became caretaker of the style when Remy left for the United States, and would carry on the Modern Arnis torch after Remy's passing.



Master Godofredo Fajardo (right)
And Jay de Leon do sinawali drills in
Binmaley, Pangasinan in the late 80's.

It was probably all of the above, which gave me such a pang of sadness knowing there would be no more Modern Arnis seminars and friendly banter with the charismatic yet friendly Father of Modern Arnis.

That night, I had to teach my regular arnis class in Laguna Hills, California. I decided to do something a little bit different. I wore my official Modern Arnis uniform to class, when normally we just wore our Filipino Fighting Arts T-shirts. At the start of the class, I announced Remy's untimely death. I asked the students present that night to offer a silent prayer, and dedicate the night's

workout in his memory.

At that time, I thought that that was my symbolic final goodbye to Remy and Modern Arnis. Other than regular correspondence with Godo, I had no official standing or connection with the Modern Arnis hierarchy.

Little did I know that Remy was not done with me yet. This must be the circle of life that Mufasa talks about in "The Lion King". Godo and I are involved again with Remy's organization as Commissioners at both ends of the world, with Godo in Saudi Arabia and me in California.

So far it has been gratifying working with the likes of Masters Rene Tongson, Cristino Vasquez, Rodel Dagooc and Roland Dantes in promoting Modern Arnis. It will be a long road ahead, it will be a challenge, and the obstacles will not be minor, but I am happy to be a utility player in a star-studded team that will ensure that Professor Remy Presas's beloved style and his memory will live on forever.



Grandmaster Bobby Taboada (seated, left),
Jay de Leon (center)
And Grandmaster Roland Dantes (seated, right) in a
photo op in Las Vegas, NV.

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Where in the World are the Guro of “International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines”?

By Jay de Leon

Professor Remy Presas



In 2001 Professor Remy Amador Presas, Founder of Modern Arnis, died after a battle with brain cancer. His death not only created much sadness and consternation among his students across the globe, but also touched off an ugly, internecine scramble for succession of his system. The pretenders spanned both sides of the globe, from the Philippines to the U.S. and Canada.

In the Philippines, one of the influential groups that quietly coalesced after the death Prof. Remy Presas was the International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines or IMAFP, formed at the direction of Professor Remy Presas himself before his death. Its Council of Masters included the most senior students of Remy who had been actively teaching Modern Arnis in the Philippines as Remy was propagating Modern Arnis in the U.S., including Masters Rene Tongson, Cristino Vasquez, Roberto Presas, Rodel Dagooc, Godofredo Fajardo and Samuel Dulay.



Masters of Modern Arnis, from left to right, Masters Rodel Dagooc, Samuel Dulay, Rene Tongson and Cristino Vasquez.

Together with other Modern Arnis organizations in the Philippines, this organization has stepped up to oversee the development of Modern Arnis in the Philippines, as well as in almost all parts of the world. To date, IMAFP has over 50 Modern Arnis chapters established in the Philippines. IMAFP has also appointed several Commissioners to form IMAFP chapters in other parts of the world. Most of these Commissioners were also direct students of Remy Presas, including Edessa Ramos

(Europe), Godofredo Fajardo (Middle East), and Jay de Leon (North America). An affiliation relationship also exists with the German Modern Arnis group Deutsche Arnis Verband (DAV) headed by Dieter Knüttel. While most of these instructors operate independent schools, they look to the grandmasters in the Philippines and IMAFP for leadership and guidance in matters relating to Modern Arnis. .

Here then in no particular order is the current leadership of IMAFP:

Rene Tongson - Philippines



Master Rene R. Tongson is one of two most senior Masters of IMAFP with a rank of Lakan Walo (8th degree), and a member of the Council of Masters of Modern Arnis. He trained with Grandmasters Remy and Roberto Presas in Modern Arnis, and with Grandmaster Ernesto in Filipino weaponry. He is known for his unique “Tres Puntas” style and form in classical arnis, helped formulate the standard rules now being used in arnis tournaments worldwide, and travels worldwide regularly where he has a strong following in Australia, Europe and the U.S. He is an engineer by profession with a Master in Business Administration (MBA) and holds several executive positions as well as political office. He is the point man in the current preparations for the 3rd World FMA Festival in the Philippines in July 2006.

Edessa Ramos – Switzerland



Edessa Ramos is a senior student of Master Samuel “Bambit” Dulay with a Dayang Tatlo (3rd Degree) and serves as the Commissioner of Europe for IMAFP. Born and raised in the Philippines, she immigrated to the U.S., and now lives and works in Switzerland. Dayang Edessa Ramos has taught or performed in numerous prestigious Filipino martial arts events such as the Second Filipino Martial Arts Festival in 2003 held in Dortmund, Germany, the Swiss Budo Masters Gala in Bern, Switzerland in 2005, and the Tipunan sa Disneyland seminar in Anaheim, California in 2005. For these and other accomplishments, she has received numerous awards, including “Woman of the Year 2005” by FMA Digest and “Instructor of the Year” by the Martial Arts Hall of Fame held Sept. 2-3, 2005 in Orlando, Florida. She is also a world-renowned writer, theater producer, scuba diver, mother and activist. She works as a marketing manager and lecturer for the University of Business and Finance, Switzerland.

Samuel Dulay - Philippines



Master Samuel "Bambit" Dulay is the External Vice President for IMAFP with the rank of "Lakan Antas Pito" (7th Degree). In addition to training under Prof. Presas in Modern Arnis, he holds instructor rankings in judo, jujitsu, Ernesto Presas arnis, and "Tapado Dequerdas," an FMA style. It was to Masters Dulay and Godofredo Fajardo that Professor Remy Presas entrusted the task of organizing the IMAFP. Master Dulay has established Modern Arnis chapters in the Philippines, Hong Kong and other parts of the world. A dynamic performer, he has performed demos and exhibitions in prestigious events such as the South East Asian Games in 2003, the 8th Asian Kyokushinkai Tournament, and the 2nd Filipino Martial Arts Festival in Dortmund, Germany in 2003.

Cristino Vasquez - Philippines



Grandmaster Cristino "Cris" Vasquez is currently the Vice Chairman of the Promotion Board of the IMAFP with a Lakan Siyam (9th degree), and a member of the Council of Masters of Modern Arnis. He has trained with two generations of Presas's, starting with Jose B. Presas in "abanico" arnis, and subsequently with Grandmasters, Roberto, Remy and Ernesto Presas. He is a true student of martial arts, with instructor credentials in kendo, jiu-jitsu, judo, karate and tapado, and is highly skilled in weaponry such as sai, tonfa, bo, balisong and other arnis weapons. As his most valuable contribution to the art of arnis, Master Cris created the techniques of "Ipit-Pilipit" (lock-and-twist), the result of many years of experience in different forms of martial arts. Over the years, he has conducted numerous seminars and organized many arnis tournaments in the Philippines, Australia and the U.S.

Godofredo Fajardo - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Master Godofredo “Godo” Fajardo is the Commissioner of the Middle East for IMAFP, with a rank of Lakan Pito (7th degree). He had the good fortune of studying with Professor Remy Presas in the Philippines even up to the time Remy was already residing in the U.S. He has been an instructor, official and tournament referee for NARAPHIL (National Arnis Association of the Philippines), and “Arnis Philippines.” Eventually, Master Godo founded his own organization, Filipino Fighting Arts Int’l, establishing numerous schools in the Philippines, U.S., Brunei, Australia, Saudi Arabia and Dubai. A human dynamo and indefatigable traveler, Master Godo is currently based in Saudi Arabia, and travels to other countries in the Middle East like Jordan, Brunei and Dubai, as well as to the Philippines and U.S. to conduct seminars and training camps.

Jay de Leon - U.S.A.



Jay de Leon is a senior student of Master Godofredo “Godo” Fajardo with a rank of Lakan Apat (4th Degree), and a friend of Professor Presas who attended many of his seminars in the U.S. over three decades. He serves as Commissioner for North America for IMAFP, and chief instructor for Filipino Fighting Arts USA, teaching Master Fajardo’s system. In 2005, he hosted the IMAFP seminar Tipunan sa Disneyland at the Hilton Hotel in Anaheim, California, featuring grandmasters of various styles including Christopher Ricketts, Rey Galang, Abon Baet, Roger Agbulos and many others. He has instructor ranking in several Filipino martial arts styles as well as other martial arts styles such as Shorin-ryu, Parker kenpo, Kodokan judo, jiu-jitsu, jeet kune do and Muay Thai boxing. He is also a financial executive, entrepreneur, sports coach, historian, free-lance writer and martial arts columnist.



Jay de Leon ((center) is flanked by Gat Puno Abon Baet (left) and Grandmaster Ramiro Estalilla in Anaheim, California in 2005.

Roberto Presas - Philippines



Grandmaster Roberto “Berting” Presas is the third brother (Remy, Ernesto and Roberto) of the Presas Modern Arnis clan. He is a member of IMAFP with a rank of Lakan Walo (8th degree), and a member of the Council of Masters of Modern Arnis. While his two older brothers have spread FMA throughout the globe, Roberto has quietly and ably held the fort in the Philippines. He has been active with Masters Tongson, Dulay and Vasquez in the promotion of Modern Arnis in the Philippines as well as the growth of IMAFP worldwide.

Abner Anievas - Hong Kong



Abner Anievas is a senior instructor of Modern Arnis, and currently the Commissioner of the International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP) chapter in Hong Kong. He initially learned FMA from a Sikaran master, and subsequently earned a third degree lakan (black belt) from Master Fajardo’s Filipino Fighting Arts International. IMAFP Hong Kong was formally established August 5th, 2004, in Fanling, Hong Kong. Since then, it has not only been promoting Modern Arnis in Hong Kong, but also Filipino pride, heritage and culture.

Sinuhe Martinez - Mexico



Professor Sinuhe Martinez is a senior instructor of Modern Arnis, and currently heads the IMAFP chapter in Mexico. He operates his dojo and is headquartered in Vera Cruz, Mexico. He is active in the seminar circuit, and has hosted several IMAFP seminars in Mexico.

Dieter Knüttel – Germany



Dieter Knüttel carries the rank of “Datu” conferred on him by Professor Remy Presas as well as a Lakan Pito (7th Degree), and heads Deutsche Arnis Verband (DAV), the leading arnis school in Germany and one of the largest FMA organizations in Europe. The DAV is the German affiliate for IMAFP. To date, Dieter has organized two huge, very successful arnis training camps called “Filipino Martial Arts Festival” in Germany, the first in 2002, and the second in Dortmund, Germany in 2003, where the top arnis grandmasters from the Philippines, U.S., and Europe got to display their skills. Dieter has also made serious inroads in Russia, conducting Modern Arnis seminars and belt promotions there.



**Senior Master
Rene Tongson
8th Dan
Philippines**

**Master
Jorgen Gydesen
6th Dan
Germany**

**Master
Hans Karrer
6th Dan
Germany**

**Datu
Dieter Knüttel
7th Dan
Germany**

Dieter Knuttel (right) poses with Master Rene Tongson and two ranking Modern Arnis instructors in his system after a seminar conducted by Master Tongson in Germany.

This list represents the senior instructors of IMAFP who have stepped up to the plate after Remy's death to promote his art, expand his vision, and foster the spirit of brotherhood and humanity that was the essence and the soul of Remy. It is indeed a tribute to Professor Remy Presas's skill, charisma and vision, that so many talented followers, with differing personalities, opinions and agendas, from different parts of the world, have united in spirit to pull together and keep the spirit of Modern Arnis alive in the name of its founder, Professor Remy Amador Presas.

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The Renaissance Man of Modern Arnis Master Rene Tongson

By Jay de Leon



Philippine Modern Arnis Master Rene R. Tongson is the embodiment of the martial arts warrior, businessman and scholar of the twenty first century. His initial experience in Filipino martial arts consisted of intense, extensive training from the whole Presas clan, progenitors of Modern Arnis and other arnis styles.

His formal training started with Grandmaster Roberto Presas. Grandmaster Remy taught him the classical arnis techniques and forms that would eventually be the basis of Modern Arnis.

Grandmaster Ernesto rounded off his training with weaponry. Master Rene also credits a young Cristino Vasquez, cousin to the Presas and now another prominent Modern Arnis grandmaster, for developing his stances and postures. Master Rene would also later earn high-ranking Black Belt Dans in karate and kendo.

Eventually, he founded his system known as Tres Puntas as inheritor of Grandmaster Mateo D. Estoloso's Abaniko Tres Puntas Estilo. As a traditionalist, Master Rene is known for his fluidity and grace in classical arnis. His students include Master Bambit Dulay, Datu Dieter Knuttel, Dayang Edessa Ramos and many other arnis guros in the Philippines and other parts of the world.

Presently, Master Rene is one of the highest-ranking Modern Arnis masters with the rank of Lakan Antas Walo (Blackbelt 8th Degree) and titular head of International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP). He also presides over the international chapters of the IMAFP in the Middle East



headed by Godofredo Fajardo, North America headed by Jay de Leon and Europe headed by Edessa Ramos.

Together with about a dozen like-minded, stouthearted men, Master Rene also belongs to a council of Modern Arnis grandmasters that is trying to keep the legacy of founder Remy Presas alive. Some of these venerable masters include many personal students, longtime friends and blood relatives of Professor Remy Presas including Roland Dantes, Rodel Dagooc, Vic Sanchez, Cristino Vasquez, Godofredo Fajardo and Roberto Presas. This year 2006, Master Rene is the point man in the formidable task of organizing the 3rd Filipino FMA (Filipino Martial Arts) Festival, an international gathering of Filipino martial arts practitioners (www.fmafestival2006.com).



Official Logo of FMA
Festival 2006

At least one hundred fifty masters of Filipino martial arts from different styles and from different parts of the globe and several hundred more local eskrimadors are expected to participate in several venues in the Philippines over a period of ten days. Fortunately, Master Rene's extensive business background, organizing experience and diplomacy skills should serve him in good stead in orchestrating and managing this logistic nightmare.

He graduated from college with a degree of Bachelor in Science in Industrial Engineering and a Degree of Master in Business Administration (MBA). He is used to the political arena, holding incumbent positions in the Philippine government as an elected local legislator. He is comfortable in the executive boardroom, as he is presently a Director of the National Coffee Board and consultant to various Philippine business companies.

In addition to his technical skills in arnis and the other martial arts, his administrative abilities were tested when he spearheaded the formation and development of Arnis Philippines, now the governing body for arnis under the Philippine Olympic Committee. In 1987, he authored the original version of the Philippine National Standard for the conduct and practice of competitive arnis; the basis of standard rules now being followed in local and international padded arnis competitions.

A recent widower, having lost his wife to cancer in 2005, he is now faced with raising four wonderful children on his own. He claims this personal aspect of his life together with his faith give him balance and perspective in addition to his responsibilities in the martial arts, business and political world.

For this Renaissance man of arnis, the challenges ahead, both personal and professional, are daunting and numerous. But like the Renaissance men of Europe centuries ago, he is fortified by his scholarly acumen, his quiet diplomacy, his indefatigable leadership and the legacy of Prof. Remy Presas who told him in January 6, 1999, "Go and spread the word, Arnis is Filipino, Arnis is for the world."

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IMAFP - Hong Kong



The International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP) - Hong Kong was formally established August 5th, 2004, in Fanling Hong Kong. IMAFP Hong Kong's goal is to promote Filipino culture, its heritage, sports and history. One of IMAFP Hong Kong's contributions is the preservation and development of the art and to continuously and selflessly teach the art of Modern Arnis.

Modern Arnis is a very adaptive, pragmatic, and complete martial art system equally based in weapon and empty hands. An ancient art primarily practiced for self-defense, it is designed to be simple and easy to learn.

Modern Arnis is an eclectic (made up of elements from various sources) style. There are empty hand forms, stick forms, Filipino Jujutsu, grappling, kicking, sinawali boxing, stick and dagger, knife, double stick, single stick, anti-stick grabbing, as well as combinations of all the parts mentioned.

Modern Arnis was devised to be a complete system, integrating the cultural connection of the Filipino arts and the ability to adapt and make your foundation art more functional for self-defense. It has as its functional value, traditional Filipino concepts such as Abaniko (fanning of the stick), Palis-Palis (passing of energy), Banda y Banda (horizontal slashing or striking), Rompida (diagonal slashing or striking), Sungkite (thrusting), and other principles extracted from the working of the baston, offering a great deal of adaptable translation and flow based qualities. All these concepts are interactive, depending if the intent is to strike, lock, throw, control, disarm, slash, stab, attack, or disengage.

IMAFP Hong Kong in its teaching and training provides leadership, growth, and comprehensive mental and physical training in the art created by Remy Presas, "Modern Arnis" system in its entirety. The IMAFP Hong Kong student arnisadors learn to embrace and apply the Way of the Flow in life.

Ultimately the Modern Arnis practitioner will learn

1. Self-discovery and self-control
2. Achieve personal excellence
3. Gain self-mastery, in the face of Life's daily uncertainties, challenges, and opportunities.

Guro Abner Anievas, Chairman/Founder of the IMAFP Hong Kong, was born in the farmland area of Rizal besides Laguna Lake. Tending the family's rice field, Guro Anievas grew up with a bolo in his left waistband and a stick in his right.

During his youth, fighting was a part of his teenage years. Having a small physique, he started studying martial arts at the age of 10. His first teacher was his grandfather, a member of USAFFE who fought against the Japanese during World War II.



Living in a small barrio with no doctors available for miles, Guro Anievas's family acted as one of the healers (albularyo) in their town and he grew up learning oracion (encantation) and anting-anting (amulet).

Guro Anievas also obtained instruction from a Sikaran teacher, who lived in the area, who incorporated stick fighting in his teaching structure. This training and knowledge helped Guro Anievas establish a good basic foundation in Filipino Martial Arts. With his talent in dancing and a sharp mind, his movements complement any weapon put into his hand. He also has and continues to study Kuntao, Sikaran, Aikido and Muay Thai.

He is currently receiving advance instruction from Master Samuel "Bambit" Dulay, Chief Instructor of IMAFP in the Philippines. Guro Anievas was appointed Ambassador of Filipino martial arts, East Asia by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Sports. He has been entrusted to propagate the Filipino Martial Arts in Hong Kong and other countries in East Asia.



Senior Master Samuel "Bambit" Dulay
and Guro Abner Anievas

He runs his own Arnis organization in Hong Kong under the guidance of IMAFP. He received his 1st Degree Black Belt in Modern Arnis through the IMAFP, and a 3rd Degree Black Belt in Filipino Fighting Arts International under Master Godofredo Fajardo.

Guro Abner Anievas ensures that the IMAFP Hong Kong commits itself to higher goals: to enable the art to serve the Filipino people, to spread the art to foreign lands, to contribute development progress and above all to promote the pride of the Filipino people.



Daga y Daga



Espada y Daga



Sangot y Daga

“ The best weapon is your mind...the best technique is deception...power comes from within” - **Guro Abner Anievas**



**International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines
Hong Kong [IMAFP-HK]**
Guro Abner P. Anievas
Founder/President
Quarry Bay, Hong Kong
Email

Modern Arnis in the Middle East

By Jay de Leon



Master Godofredo Fajardo (second from left)
leads his Modern Arnis class
amidst the date trees in Saudi Arabia.

arts take root and spread just like the date trees that dot the landscape there since the time of Abraham and antiquity.

It is hard to imagine that an Asian martial arts would take root and find acceptance in the Middle East, itself steeped in its own martial arts and currently embroiled in several regional warfare involving modern armament. But that is exactly what Master Godofredo Fajardo is trying to do--propagate arnis or Filipino martial arts (FMA) in the Middle East, hoping that the seeds of this ancient martial

Godofredo Fajardo is a master of Modern Arnis, a direct student and friend of Professor Remy Presas, Founder of Modern Arnis. In 2001, he was appointed Commissioner for the Middle East by his mother organization, the International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP), an appointment sanctioned by Arnis Philippines, the governing body for arnis in the Philippines, including the Olympics. Godo set up headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and proceeded to teach arnis under the aegis of his own school, Filipino Fighting Arts International (FFAI).



Master Godofredo Fajardo,
Modern Arnis Lakan
Antas Pito (Blackbelt 7th Degree).

Since arriving in Saudi Arabia, he has established several chapters and promoted several dozen lakans (black belts) as well as one dayang (female blackbelt), in arnis. He now has a thriving independent organization in Saudi Arabia called Filipino Fighting Arts-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or FFA-KSA. Ghazi M. Al-Turaifi, a Saudi national, is currently president and a guro (instructor) of FFA-KSA. In addition to Guro Al-Turaifi, there are four other guros in the organization - Manuel Maer, Noel Dayawon, Nathan Walker and Wail Irshaid.



Filipino Fighting Arts KSA in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

FFA-KSA regularly conducts seminars, tournaments and workshops all year round. On November 17, 2005, for example, FFA-KSA conducted a Modern Arnis workshop for Practical Self-Defense with Guro Nathan Walker, an American, as instructor and coordinator. On September 25, 2005, FFA-KSA participated in an open martial arts tournament, the Second Invitational Tournament hosted by the Philippine International Martial Arts Association (PIMAA) held at the Riyadh International School (RIS) in Riyadh. Master Fajardo acted as chief judge and referee, and an FFA-KSA blackbelt, Nelson Selso, garnered first place in his division, the lightweight division.



Guro Manuel Maer, Master Fajardo, and Guro Wail Irshaid, from left to right, pose with award plaques from Jordan carved from camel bones.

This year, through personal travels and utilizing local FFA-KSA lakans, he has made serious inroads in establishing Modern Arnis in other Middle East countries. In 2005, for example, arnis was officially accepted as a martial art sport in Jordan by the Jordan Arnis Committee composed of Messrs. Sulaiman Qablan Al Shawarbi, Dr. Basil Yusif Al Shair, Wael I. M. Yahya and Mohammad Issa Yousef Kawash. In September of 2005, IMAFP hosted a Modern Arnis basic and advanced seminar headed by Guro Wail Irshaid, an FFA-KSA instructor and a Jordanian national.

This seminar was held at Sports City, a sports stadium in Amman, Jordan. A total of five (5) countries (Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Palestine) and more than a hundred practitioners participated.



Modern Arnis seminar held at Sports City stadium in Amman, Jordan, on September 2005 headed by Guro Wail Irshaid, an instructor under Master Godofredo Fajardo of Filipino Fighting Arts (FFA).

If his Modern Arnis is as hardy and life giving as the date trees in his surroundings, Master Godofredo Fajardo has no cause to worry. Just like the date trees, his art and their practitioners will indeed grow and multiply, and be part of the Middle East landscape for years to come.



Master Fajardo (third from left) and students proudly display their twin banners of Filipino Fighting Arts-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (FFA-KSA) and International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP) among the date trees and sands of Saudi Arabia.

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This article is an autobiographical account of my early martial arts training in the Philippines. To date, I have not published it anywhere. The reason is that I started writing a second part, which remains unfinished for two reasons. One is, I have not had the time, and secondly, I philosophize that I am still having fun living it. Be that as it may, here is the first part, as finished and as complete as it will get.

Remembrance of Dojo's Past

By Jay de Leon

Bruce Lee is reported to have issued this mandate to Taky Kimura, "Get a nondescript little place and work out there; have a good time, develop strong friendships and a good philosophy."

Well, my martial arts odyssey through the Philippines and the United States did take me to countless nondescript little dojos; it is true, but also to colorful, unforgettable teachers. I had a good time, made many friends, and in the process, evolved my own martial arts philosophy. Here then is a collage of several dojo's in the Philippines I trained in, from school gyms to parking lots, as well as the hardy and venerable, Masters who presided over the training.

Judo

The very first martial arts system I trained in was in Kodokan judo, which in the 50's was the premiere martial arts system in the Philippines. In fact, one of the biggest judo schools (called "clubs" in the Philippines) was run by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the counterpart of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The head of the NBI, Col. Lucban, was at that time the highest-ranking Filipino judoka in the Philippines.

It was school summer break, and for a couple of months I trained at their school somewhere near Taft Avenue in Manila. This is where I got to wear my very first gi (called kimono back then) and my only accomplishments at this point consisted of

learning how to tie my white belt properly and making my first acquaintance with “tatami” mats. The highlight of the class was always the “randori” or free-style sparring. All the black belts knelt in front of the class, and any lower belt student who wanted to spar would bow before the black belt of his choice, thus requesting the honor of sparring with him.

A few years later, I was one of the first students at my high school judo club, the Ateneo de Manila High School Judo Club in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Every afternoon, after class, we would proudly don our gi’s, and roll out the judo mat at one of the corners of the huge school gym, called the “covered courts,” so called because there were rows of basketball courts with basketball hoops along the side. There we shared space with dozens of other students playing basketball, volleyball, chess and other intramural games.

Our first instructor was Jose “Pinggoy” Asuncion, a ruggedly handsome athlete and national judo champion many times over. Unfortunately, we enjoyed his martial arts expertise for only a few months. At that time, he was also co-hosting a TV show on Channel 7 (Bob Stewart’s channel) called “Judo and Quick Draw.” Judo and quick draw (yes, just like the westerns, except you cleared leather against an electronic clock, not a desperado) were not strange bedfellows since the host, Eddie Limjap, was an NBI agent, a judo black belt, a handgun instructor and a quick draw aficionado.

Anyway, Pinggoy was “discovered” and recruited into the movies. After a blockbuster debut titled “Diegong Tabak” wherein he showed off his ripped physique, martial arts prowess and histrionics, he found fame and fortune in the celluloid world as one of the nation’s top action stars with the screen name of “Vic Vargas.” Other top action stars of this period included Joseph “Erap” Estrada, the former disgraced President of the Philippines, karate Master Tony Ferrer, former stuntman Jess Lapid and others. Sadly, I was informed a few years ago that Vic Vargas had passed away.

Back at the judo club, he was ably replaced by Master Florencio Arambulo, a Kodokan-trained judoka and veteran police officer of Quezon City, a suburb of Manila. When we asked him if he ever had to use his martial arts skills in his work, he answered matter-of-factly, “Many times.”

Which leads me to an observation at this point. While Kodokan judo is strictly a dojo sport, the judo masters I knew were far from one-dimensional. Most of them cross-trained in either jiu-jitsu (called “combat Judo” in the Philippines), karate, arnis, or were active in law enforcement or military service. They were true warriors, street-wise and battle-tested, and developed the practical aspect of their art.

Kung-Fu

Most of the Chinese kung-fu schools in the Philippines in the 60’s were closed societies, open only to Chinese and usually ensconced deep in the heart of Chinatown. I was able to train in this style in two private dojo’s, one in a sports club across my college, De La Salle College on Taft Avenue, Manila, the other in a company-sponsored martial arts school.

The first school was taught by a sifu named Lito Vito. Together with his brother Teddy, Lito Vito was one of the first Filipinos to train in the closed kung-fu school of Hong Shi in Chinatown. Other than his tremendous kung-fu skills, I remember Lito Vito for being armed with small metal weapons he had in his pockets. They looked like finger

rings with spikes or protrusions. One of the students in this school, a fellow student from La Salle named Manny Pleno, eventually became a noted kung-fu fighter and competitor in the 70's in the Philippines. Eventually, I also got to train privately with Lito's brother, Teddy.

In the second dojo, we had several thousand square feet for training - the company parking lot during the dry season and the warehouse during the rainy season. The sifu was a Chinese-Filipino named Wilson Yap, who worked as a warehouse supervisor for the company and who also, happened to be a bodybuilding champion. If you had the image of a slight kung-fu master doing balletic, flowery motions unsuited for street fighting, Wilson would have quickly dispelled this notion. He was built like Arnold Schwarzenegger, and fought like Don "The Dragon" Wilson.

In addition, he revealed to us that his original school had a "breaking" requirement. Each one had to specialize in breaking with a specific technique, e.g., downward knife hand, straight knuckle punch, and so on. Wilson chose the rear roundhouse kick with the ball of his right foot. He showed us his right foot. Outwardly, it looked like a normal foot. But when he curled his toes up and "balled" his foot, the ball of his foot swelled to about three times its normal size. I have seen a lot of karate-toughened hands, but his was the only instance I had ever seen of a karate-toughened ball of the foot.

Wilson claimed that he could break an adobe block (a solid natural stone weighing at least 50 lbs. used in construction in the Philippines, usually for walls or fences) held head level. Unfortunately, I never got the chance to see him do this feat, but I have absolutely no doubt in my mind he was capable of such a feat.

Shorin-Ryu Karate



I finally got to train in a commercial karate school a couple of years before I immigrated to the United States. The school was a branch of the "Philippine Combat Karate Judo Association" or "PHICKAJU" for short. It was located in a commercial building in the heart of Cubao in Quezon City, a suburb of Manila, and its core instruction included Shorin-ryu (Latino Gonzalez style), Kodokan judo and arnis. Its clientele ranged from high school students to law enforcement officers to bouncers and personal bodyguards. I still have my original PHICKAJU I.D. #5452 signed by the chief Instructor, Ranie P. Henson, 4th Dan Black Belt.

There was one word to describe the training there - brutal. To begin with, classes were for two hours in the tropical heat without air conditioning. The first half hour was for warm-up (as if we needed it) and conditioning, after which time everyone would be sopping wet. Training was on a cement floor, which at some spots would be rough, chipped or uneven, sometimes wet and slippery, and at all times punishing on unshod feet. Instructors regularly hit students in the stomach. One of their favorite tricks was to hook a kick (using the heel) to an unsuspecting student's stomach from behind him. This physical contact was not meant to hurt a student but to remind him gently to tense his stomach muscles upon delivery of a technique, and to maintain his balance. I went to a

morning class and was fortunate to have a young, tough but easygoing instructor named Morris Dolores.

There were two kinds of sparring - “controlled” and “uncontrolled.” They actually used these English words to differentiate the sparring. “Controlled,” meant you could deliver medium contact kicks or punches anywhere below the neck and above the belt. “Uncontrolled” meant full contact blows to the same area. Some of you are probably thinking, “That’s not so bad.” I hasten to mention that, at this time in ancient history, protective equipment was unheard of—that’s right, not even a cup or a mouthpiece. Quite frequently, a blocked punch got deflected to the face, and an errant kick into the groin.

Which brings me to two sparring stories. While I was “uncontrolled” sparring one time, I took a kick to the stomach. The bad news was the kick was thrown full force, and it hit me a couple of inches below the belt line. The good news was, I tensed my stomach muscles upon impact (as trained), felt minimal pain and stayed on my feet with no ill effects. A few minutes later, though, I tasted blood in my mouth. I was convinced I was bleeding internally and my young life would ebb and end on that concrete arena.

When I sat down after sparring, the guy next to me said, “You have a split lip.” You can’t imagine how relieved I was to have a split lip. As they say in Tagalog, not to worry, “malayo sa bituka” (it’s far from the vitals).

The second sparring story is about the young cigarette vendor who peddled his goods at the entrance of the building of the dojo. For those who never been to the Philippines, cigarette vendors are those itinerant daredevils who carry their wares in an open box and sell individual sticks of cigarettes, gum or candy to pedestrians and passing motorists, oftentimes jumping in and out of speeding jeepneys and busses.

Anyway, this particular cigarette vendor told me he used to be a student at the school. When I asked why he quit, he stuck out his left arm to show me. His hand, instead of being on the same plane as his forearm, was at a 90-degree angle, and the wrist area was withered and scarred. Using a downward block, he had blocked a front kick thrown by Chief Instructor Rannie Henson during an uncontrolled sparring match, and the kick shattered his wrist. Either the doctors botched the job, or I suspect that he was too poor to get the proper medical attention.

Finally, there was the matter of belt promotions. PHICKAJU was member of a Shorin-ryu confederation named “Siete Pares Association” which convoked its seven schools every year for belt promotions and, somewhere along the way, some camaraderie and brotherhood. For the belt promotions, the usual kata and self-defense requirements were easy enough. Sparring was an entirely different story, however. Seven candidates from the different schools squared off against each other, not one on one, but one against everybody else. In other words, when it was your turn, all you had to do was spar (uncontrolled, of course) against six other high-strung, adrenaline-pumped karatekas from other schools out to impress the judges, their sensei’s, their schoolmates, the other school members, as well as any casting agents who happen to be around.

To this day, I do not know what enabled me to survive that test with just minor bruises, not even a split lip. I wish I could say it was superior skill. Right. Most probably either luck or fear. But I would like to think that, after years of arduous training, I had developed into a real Karateka in a real, hardcore karate school in the Philippines.

This was my last dojo before I left for a new life and uncertain future in the United States. Little did I know that my martial arts education with Filipino masters was far from over. But that's another movie.

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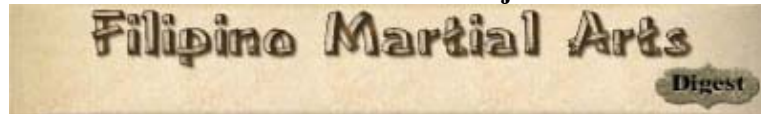
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Master Godofredo Fajardo



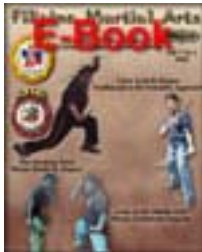
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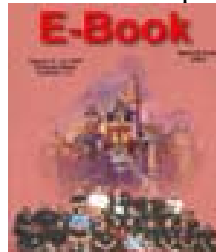
Tipunan and IMAFP



Special Issue



Special Issue



Special Issue Tipunan



Special Issue Tipunan

Vacation Secret: Filipino Martial Arts Group to Combine Arnis Training and Water Sports in the Philippines

As Commissioner of the International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP), an organization teaching the Filipino Martial Arts of arnis, kali and eskrima, Jay de Leon wanted to bring as many students as he could with him to a huge annual training camp in the Philippines called the 3rd World FMA Festival. "I knew the arnis training and the exotic locale were incentive enough, but I wanted to up the ante. So I threw in some surfing, scuba diving and fishing together with the package."

The 3rd World Filipino Martial Arts (FMA) Festival will be held in several venues in the Philippines from July 11-21, 2006. The venues include scenic Tagaytay, its historic environs and Manila. Participation from over 28 countries is expected.

The Festival includes training, tours, social events and a Gala Night of Dinner and Awards. There will be eight full days of unlimited training covering Modern Arnis and applied techniques, practical and combat lessons, lectures and demonstrations. Filipino grandmasters from the Philippines and all over the world will display an amazing array of weaponry and empty hand techniques including tapado, sanggot, balisong, dulo-dulo, bangkaw, daga and baston.

Nightly events and special tours will also bring martial artists together in a spirit of camaraderie and cultural exchange. A grand finale in an unforgettable Gala Night attended by martial arts luminaries and government dignitaries will crown the festival.

As for their water sports, Jay de Leon is considering his hometown, Pangasinan or possibly some resorts like Boracay or some of the newer resorts in Bohol. Needless to say, his students are excited about the whole trip. "I'm really stoked. I can't say which I am going to enjoy more - the arnis, the beach, the food, or the ladies," enthused Sam Sadler, a long board surfer from Dana Point in Orange County, California and long-time student of Filipino Martial Arts.

There is no question that Jay de Leon's vacation package of sun and sand, martial arts and water sports, with good old Filipino hospitality thrown in, should provide an experience these arnisadors will not soon forget. To follow their adventures, or to find out more about the FMA Festival, go to **www.filipinomartialartsmuseum.com**.

How to Look Stylin' at the FMA Festival 2006



3rd Filipino Martial Arts Festival
Manila, Philippines
July 11-21, 2006

But to really stand out in the crowd and look stylin', wear a unique, event T-shirt. Wear a T-shirt that is officially approved by the FMA Festival. In addition to owning a good-looking shirt, you will be helping the FMA Festival since part of the proceeds will go to the Festival. Other stylish apparel with the event logo are also available, like golf shirts and rain jackets (a must at this time of the year in the Philippines).



Tipunan Golf Shirt
modeled by movie star,
model and arnis Guro,
Bruce Ricketts.

So you have decided to go to the FMA Festival 2006 in Manila, the Philippines this July, sponsored by the International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP), www.fmafestival2006.com. Congratulations! You will learn a lot of Filipino Martial Arts (FMA), you will meet scores of interesting and exciting like-minded people, you will see many spectacular sights, and experience amazing cultural events enough to last you a lifetime, or until your next trip to the Philippines anyway.

Just like any event, you need to be dressed appropriately. Leave your Homer Simpson or Ashley Simpson T-shirts at home. Your FMA School T-shirt is not a bad idea, or even a generic FMA shirt. You may even wear an old FMA shirt from another seminar a couple of years ago.



FMA Festival T-shirt modeled
by, movie star model and arnis
Guro Bruce Ricketts.

To order, go to the online store - ([Click Here](#))

Or visit the online store at the following websites:

Filipino Martial Arts Museum - www.filipinomartialartsmuseum.com

Filipino Fighting Arts International - www.filipinofightingartsintl.com

Tipunan Group - www.tipunan.com

Too busy to attend the Philippine FMA Festival this year? Well, maybe next year. In the meantime, you can still purchase a couple of these items, wear them to other seminars and have your friends' think you actually went to the Festival. Psst, your purchase is confidential.

Tipunan International Announces

Upcoming Tipunan sa Los Angeles Seminar 2006

Tipunan International, a Filipino Martial Arts (FMA) organization headed by Jay de Leon based in Los Angeles, California, announced its upcoming Tipunan Sa Los Angeles 2006 seminar to be held on September 16, 2006 in Los Angeles, California. Details of the seminar are posted below.

In August of 2005, Tipunan International held a successful FMA expo called Tipunan sa Disneyland held at the Hilton Hotel in Anaheim, California. Prominent masters of the art gave exciting demos and seminars, including grandmasters and masters such as Rey Galang, Gat Puno Abon Baet, Bram Frank, Christopher Ricketts, Roger Agbulos and many others. Several celebrity guests also attended and performed.



Featured instructors Jerome Barber, Roger Agbulos and Abon Baet at Tipunan sa Disneyland at the Hotel Hilton in Anaheim, California on August 2005.



Participants go through drills at the Tipunan sa Disneyland at the Hotel Hilton in Anaheim, California on August 2005.

Tipunan International also sponsors many other seminars and mini-seminars during the year.

Tipunan sa Los Angeles 2006 (Gathering in Los Angeles 2006)

Date: September 16, 2006, Saturday
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM with lunch break

Venue: Los Angeles, CA. Address, directions and other details at the website.

Description: Seminar and training in Filipino martial arts (arnis, kali, eskrima) featuring masters of the art in different styles including Kali Ilustrisimo, Lameco, San Miguel Eskrima, Modern Arnis and Inosanto Kali.

Host Organizations: International Modern Arnis Federation of the Philippines (IMAFP) and **Tipunan** International

Scheduled Instructors:

Christopher Ricketts - Bakbakan
Bruce Ricketts - Bakbakan
Roger Agbulos - Lameco
John Jacobo - Bakbakan
Ramon Rubia - San Miguel Eskrima
Jay de Leon - Modern Arnis

Master of Ceremonies: Roger Agbulos

Cost: \$95.00
Includes FMA Festival T-shirt

Pre-Registration:

Cost by Aug. 31, 2006: \$75.00
To pre-register, go to **www.tipunan.com** or **www.filipinomartialartsmuseum.com**

Contact Info:

Jay de Leon
IMAFP
40485 Murrieta Hot Springs Road, #358
Murrieta, CA 92563
951-834-3386
jaydeleon@worldblackbelt.com



www.imafp.com

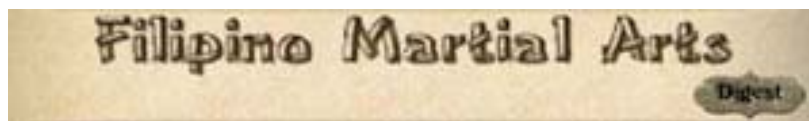
The IMAFP commits itself to higher goals.
To enable the art to serve the Filipino people and contribute to their progress.



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Maharlika-Enterprizes



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