

Greer Family Adds Yet Another Black Sash

The Greer family of Pasadena lives on a quiet street where the neighbors have no idea how much they like to fight. Unlike other families, however, their fighting doesn't lead to calls to the police; it more likely leads to winning medals.

In 2004, the Greers took ownership of the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi in Arnold and the whole family is involved with classes there. Billy, who will turn 50 this summer, studies both kung fu & tai chi, Nancy studies tai chi, Glen, 21, studies kung fu, and Lane, 17, studies kung fu and tai chi.

Glen recently became the third Greer to earn a Black Sash in kung fu at Jing Ying. After six years of training, which culminated in six months of tests, he was awarded his Black Sash on June 27, just days before his 21st birthday. At his final test he received the award for "Best Form" and also entertained the crowd during an exciting two-against-one sparring match. In his acceptance speech, he credited his kung fu training with helping him overcome a fear of speaking in public and with helping him be flexible and resourceful in facing the challenges of life.

A Summa Cum Laude graduate of Anne Arundel Community College, Glen will be transferring to Towson University in the fall.

Lane graduated a year early from high school and will be entering the nursing pro-



Glen Greer (rear, second from left) is joined by the other black sashes who attended his final test on June 27th. Glen is now the third member of the Greer family of Pasadena to achieve the black sash distinction.

gram at AACC this fall. The day after she and her father sat at the judges table for her brother's final Black Sash test, they went to Washington with other Jing Ying students for a tournament. Jing Ying brought home 22 medals, with the Greers accounting for 12 of them. Billy and Lane competed together in the two-person fighting set, advanced empty-hand division, and took first place.

Individually, Lane earned

a total of seven medals including first place in girls advanced sparring, first in women's advanced push hands and first in women's advanced tai chi.

Billy earned five medals and took second in men's advanced tai chi forms, second in men's advanced restricted step push hands and third in men's advanced moving step push hands despite being in an unlimited weight class where most of the competitors had a 100 pound weight advantage.