

## Featured Dojo-cho, May 2003



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Division 3

I started in January, 1982, after I had moved to San Jose. My first teacher was Jack Wada Sensei at Aikido of San Jose. In January, 1983, I moved to Sonoma County to finish college, and there I practiced for two years with Dennis Tatoian Sensei. In the spring of 1985, I returned to San Jose, and resumed practicing with Wada Sensei, who is still my Sensei today.

I began teaching Aikido in a community education setting around 1988. By 1993, we were also renting space from West Coast Tae Kwon Do. In 1997, we opened at our current location on Bollinger Road in Cupertino. We have 20 adult and 7 children members. We offer 5 adult classes, and 2 children's classes per week.

### ***My most Memorable Aikido Experience***

My most memorable Aikido experience actually happened off the mat. When walking alone one night several years ago, I suddenly became aware of a group of men right behind me. Subconsciously I perceived them as attackers. Instantly, I was about 8 feet in front of them, and was facing them, whereupon I realized they were not a threat. I cannot explain how this happened, and physically it seems an impossibility. I attribute this to the practice of Aikido. It

is this inexplicable quality of Aikido that continues to amaze me.