

Featured Dojo-cho, November 2017



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Division 1

I started my journey with martial arts when I was in primary school. At that time I began Kung-Fu and Karate. By 1998 I met a great Aikido sensei - Bogusław Rumas. He became my mentor, my teacher. Since then, aikido has become my passion and philosophy of life. I could only dream of learning all that I could learn through him, and through his sensei – Pat Hendricks Sensei. California was a world away, and a dream.

In 2006, that world was in front of me; the dream came true. I met Pat Sensei for the first time. Two months I lived as an uchideshi at Aikido of San Leandro in California. This was an amazing time, a lot of techniques, so much knowledge to absorb, and friendships maintained till this day!

In the meantime, Bogusław's club had to close. My sensei relocated to the United States. Then, In order to practice, I began to attend Przemek Gawroński's Tanren Dojo, and also went to BJJ classes in Copacabana, Poland. After a couple of years, finally, in the autumn of 2012 I started my own - Iwama Aikido Dojo in Warsaw, Poland. By opening up the club, I continued to develop my skills and I share

them with my students. In the private sector I am a financial analyst in one of the commercial television stations in Poland and, most of all, since 2014 I became a happy father.

My Most Memorable Aikido Experience

In 2012, I came to Aikido of San Leandro as uchideshi. Besides all the duties and responsibilities that had to be met while being uchideshi, I had been training in all the classes for two months. At the end of the last month, I was to take my 1st Dan test. The CAA MEETING was upon us, the dojo was being prepared to greet the guests. Because of my haste, I fell from the ladder and broke my toes. My thought was I cannot test, not like this. I went to the hospital, and it was verified I had broken toes and was to keep the weight off of them. The next day I spent preparing myself with injured foot and all. Pat Sensei allowed me to practice in a chair, to spare weight on my foot. Even with broken toes there are lessons to be learned, you pay more attention to the rest of your body. You feel your center even more carefully so. Suddenly the rush of all the lessons learned flashed in front of me. Moving through my emotions from dream, to reality, to nightmare. I did not come this far to not succeed. Armed with valor and giving my all, from a chair, I was able to succeed passing my 1st Dan test!