





The tiger is symbolic of the physical world and the dragons signify the mental or spiritual world. Together the symbols represent a harmony between both worlds. The Chinese symbol Yin/Yang (Oom/Yung) stands for balance of life.

International Level Training

One of the many personal achievements of Grandmaster "Iron" Kim is the Kyong Gong Sul Bope (flying side kick). Above is Grandmaster jumping from the top of a building. (The roof is visible in the lower right corner.) In 1970, Grandmaster "Iron" Kim demonstrated Kyong Gong Sul Bope by jumping from the equivalent of an 11-story building. In 1972, Grandmaster "Iron" Kim again demonstrated the Kyong Gong Sul Bope movement by jumping from the equivalent of an 8-story building both times landing without injury onto a sloped surface below.

My name is Colin Orr. I am a second year MFA student in fiction writing at the University of Pittsburgh, a graduate student researcher, and Assistant Instructor at the School of Oom Yung Doe in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. I wanted to share a small portion of the benefits that I've received from my training as it might relate to other students at the university.

When I was an undergraduate student, I was successful at my studies but I often felt that I was slow and unfocused. This was before I started training in Moo Doe and, while I received high marks, studying and writing seemed to take longer than it should for me. I often found myself turning down opportunities to study things I was interested in but which I believed to be too challenging. As well, I usually required 8-10 hours of sleep a night to feel fully rested and ready to study again.

A year after graduating college I started training. I noticed considerable benefits immediately. My sleep schedule naturally decreased to the point that I felt rested after just five hours of sleep. This occurred after only a few months. I also noticed that my confidence and discipline increased a great deal. I found these two qualities to be absolutely essential in getting accepted into the graduate program in fiction writing at Pitt, a program that annually accepts 7-8 students.

The first semester of my graduate program I was unfunded. This meant that I had to work at night and during the weekend at a restaurant to afford my studies. At this time, I was taking a regular class load and assisting at the Oakland school. My day was essentially non-stop, allowing for about five hours of sleep, the rest of the day devoted to practicing, writing, assisting, reading, and working.

My second semester I was given a temporary teaching assistant position in the philosophy department. This allowed me to cut down on the time I worked at the restaurant but, since it was not permanent, I could not quit the job entirely. My sleep schedule was cut down to about 3 hours a night. As well, since I worked on the weekend, there was no time to catch up there. What I found was, due to my training, I was actually far more focused in class and in my studies than most of my classmates. I found, if I practiced bagwa walk or yuk kun kyung before sitting down to study, I could read 100 pages of extremely dense theoretical material in one sitting, reading quicker and retaining more than I ever could before I started training. This is not to mention the considerable improvement made in my creative writing from meditating regularly.

As a result of the experience I had from teaching Moo Doe, I was also extremely successful my first semester as a teacher. This I owe entirely to the principles that were passed in the school which I simply applied to my teaching at the university.

This testimonial touches on only a portion of the benefits I've received from training. When I was younger, becoming a writer was always a dream of mine. I know for a fact that if I had not stepped into the schools, I would never have had the confidence and the discipline to pursue it as far as I have. I am very thankful for these changes in my life as well as for my opportunity to teach Moo Doe as an Assistant Instructor. If others see just a portion of the benefits I have received from my training, I know they will be happy for the investment they have made in improving themselves.