

# Our Senseis (Instructors)



## **Tom Gustin**

Tom began his Judo journey in 1963 at the Racine YMCA under the instruction of Sensei Ron Hansen. He moved up to Stevens Point and continued training under the instruction of Sensei Ed Happ. He was an active competitor earning medals in his weight division in most of the tournaments he entered. He believes that Judo is life outside the Dojo. Practice and perfect technique as you practice and perfect your work skills. This is how to advance in society and in the Dojo. Judo has many challenges to offer. Learning the basics was easy, yet the intricate aspects of techniques continue to make one a student of Judo. Tom is still learning Judo after five decades. He has been a guest coach at many Judo clubs throughout the United States. He currently holds the rank of Shichidan – 7<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt granted in July of 2013 from the United States Judo Association. He is a USA Judo National Referee, Regional Coordinator and Master Rank Examiner for the United States Judo Association. He would like to share his knowledge of Judo to the next generation of Judo Students. At a point in time, Judo was competitive for him. Today he finds competitiveness at a different level. Watching students learn Judo, find the courage to enter their first tournament, discover that it is fun and get bit by the “competition bug”. The success they learn in Judo will carry over to life in the real world.



## **Tony Truskowski**

In 1968 at the age of 33, Tony started Judo at Racine Kyu Dojo at the YMCA under the instruction of Sensei Ron Hansen. He earned the United States Judo Federation rank of Shodan in 1980. He has competed at the national level, taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in 1987 Masters and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1988 Masters.

In 1979 when Racine Youth Sports was founded, he approached the committee and volunteered to teach a judo class. RYS Judo Club was founded by Tony in 1981, almost 100 years after the founding of the Kodokan, the birthplace of Judo.

Tony has taught Kata to junior students during the last 15 years. He and Geoff Anderson, who was 15 years old at the time, did Katame-No-Kata in the 1999 Senior Nationals. Geoff was the first junior to do Kata in Senior Nationals.

During his judo career, Tony has earned 21 trophies, which include 9 First Place, 8 Second Place, and 4 Third Place. He is a certified State Coach with USA Judo, and

currently is the Chairman and Coordinator for Scorekeeping and Timing for the Wisconsin Judo Incorporated. He is also the recipient of the Robert Schneider Memorial Award, in appreciation for loyal support and dedication to the sport of Judo. He currently holds the USA Judo rank of Godan -5<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt granted in May 2010.



## **Tim Feest**

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Tim started Judo at UW-Parkside in 1974 under the instruction of Sensei Ron Hansen. He was 16 years old. For the next six years Tim trained under several great instructors, learning different techniques and philosophies from each of them. During his competitive career, he placed in the top three in local, state and regional tournaments. He was the 1979 State Champion. A knee injury while playing basketball ended competition for him. In 1992 he earned the rank of Shodan -1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt. In 1995 he earned his National Referee Certification. He recently retired from Officiating at the National Level tournaments. He firmly believes that refereeing local and National events is a valuable coaching tool. He currently holds the USA Judo rank of Yodan-4<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt, earned in May 2010. He is currently the lead instructor for RYS Judo Club.



## **John Peterson**

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John started Judo in 1973 at UW Parkside under the instruction of Sensei Ron Hansen. He was 20 yrs old. He was a well known and respected competitor. He placed in the top three in local, state and regional tournaments. He placed in the YMCA nationals hosted by the Racine YMCA in 1973. All ranks prior to Shodan were earned Batsugan. (This means he had to beat 5 players with higher rank than himself in the same tournament. His division in the state tournament had 16 competitors. The average was around 8.) He was an active competitor until 1980. He earned the United States Judo Federation rank of Shodan in 1978. He returned to competition in 2000 and in 2010 took a Bronze medal at the

World Masters Championships in Montreal. He currently holds the USA Judo rank of Yodan-5<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt, earned in February 2019. He is a Certified International and Visually Impaired Coach registered with USA Judo.



## **Cindy Peterson**

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Cindy started judo in 1969 at the YWCA Shushin-Kan Judo Club under the instruction of Sensei Ron Hansen. She was 15 years old. When judo was discontinued at the YWCA, she studied at Racine Kyu Dojo at the YMCA and at UWParkside. As a competitor, she earned recognition in both, Kata and Shiai. She placed in the YMCA Nationals in 1973 in Shiai. Prior to the early '70s Kata was the only recognized form of competition for women at the national level. The Kata team of Pat Adams as Tori, and Cindy as Uke, competed and placed in Katame-No-Kata, Nage-No-Kata, and Ju-No-Kata at the local and state level. In 1974 and '75 with Barb Hansen as Uke, Cindy as Tori, they placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Katame-No-Kata at the Wisconsin State Championships. She earned a United States Judo Federation rank of Shodan in December 1974. At the time, she was the youngest female in the state to do so. In 1974 Women's Shiai was introduced at the AAU-USJF Senior Nationals. Cindy competed in both Kata and Shiai at the State and National 1974 and '75 Championships. She placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 1975 USJF-AAU Senior Nationals in Shiai in the Under 110lb. division. There were 33 players in the division. A knee injury in 1988 put her Judo activities on hold. In 1999, she returned to act as assistant instructor for RYS Judo. She returned to competition in Kata with Tony Truskowski and Kathy Huff (Milwaukee) as partners In August of 2010, she and Kathy Huff (Milwaukee) competed in 2 Kata events at the World Masters held in Montreal Canada. She has coached a team from RYS Judo in Forms of Throwing to win a Gold Medal at the Tohkon Classic in Chicago, IL. She is a Certified International and Visually Impaired Coach with USA Judo and currently holds the USA Judo rank of Yodan-4<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt, awarded in February 2016.



## **Ryan Lojeski**

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Ryan started Judo when he was 9 years old under the instruction of Senseis Tony Truskowski and Tim Feest. He progressed through all the Junior Ranks and competed in Local and Regional Junior tournaments. In 2006 he began assisting with instruction for the Beginner's class as a Junior Green Belt. When he turned 17, he aged into the Senior Ranking System. Having gone through the entire Junior Ranking system, his Senior Rank became Sankyu, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Brown Belt. He is an active competitor and earns a place on the podium at Local and Regional Tournaments. In 2011 he became the lead instructor for the Beginning Class. Coming from a large family, he has a natural rapport with the new kids. In January 2014 he was promoted to the USA Judo rank of Shodan-1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt. During Opening Ceremonies at the Wahadachi Tournament, he was presented with his Black Belt by his instructor, Tim Feest. Ryan is the first student that has gone from Beginner to Black Belt through the RYS program. He is a certified State Coach with USA Judo.



**Taryn Brown**

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Taryn started Judo in 2008 at age 16 with Racine Youth Sports under the instruction of Sensei Tim Feest. She competed at Local and Regional tournaments and earned a place on the podium in most of them. At age 18, she aged out of the Racine Youth Sports program and continued her training with Racine Kyu Dojo. She switched her competitive focus from Shiai to Kata after an injury forced her to take a break from Shiai competition. She trained with another Racine Youth Sports Judo club student and the team of Taryn Brown and Marianne Rivers earned a place on the podium along with seasoned Kata competitors. She earned her Shodan-1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt with USA Judo in April 2015. During the opening ceremonies at the Welcome Mat Open tournament she was presented with her Black Belt by her instructor and Kata coach, Cindy Peterson. She believes it is important to be a positive role model for the young girls who come into Judo. She is a certified State Coach with USA Judo.