

Aikido Kobayashi Dojo Live-in Training Program

Yasuo Kobayashi – Dojocho

From spring to fall (March - October) every year come men and women from all over the world to experience the strict uchideshi (live-in training) program of Kobayashi Dojo. They leave many different impressions and things to talk about.

In this photograph are two Japanese trainees and three trainees from oversea pictured here with me. The overseas trainees were here April through the end of July.



1. *Yuji Kasahara, instructor (trainee from Feb., 2003 – July, 2006).*

2. *Ukai Yamawaki (associate trainee from Feb., 2006).*

3. *Michael Black, 3rd dan, from Houston, Texas, U.S.A.*

Head of the 80-mat Shinjinkan Dojo, also teaching aikido at local colleges and elementary schools.

After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, he studied youth counseling and worked for a time in that profession, but decided to become a full-time aikido instructor after he began teaching aikido to children.

Since he is used to military discipline, it seems that he does not find the

uchideshi training so harsh. While he complains how hard the Kobayashi Dojos mats are, he throws himself enthusiastically into practice. He is thriving in his uchideshi life.

4. Yasuo Kobayashi shihan.

5. Bak Laszlo, 2nd dan, from Esztergom, Hungary.

Head of Shinbukan Dojo in Esztergom.

(<http://www.aikidojo.hu/>)

Studied aikido from his student years at Buddhism University in Budapest. This is his 5th visit to Japan as an uchideshi. He has a bold nature and never varies from his own pace.

He loves the life of an uchideshi in Kobayashi Dojo. He will soon to be a father, loves sake, has a 100-mat dojo built on an expansive hillside overlooking the Danube.

I went for his dojo opening ceremony. He is grateful to his father for his financial assistance.

6. Corey Johnson, shodan, from Hawaii.

Presently the vice president of Harvard Aikikai.

(<http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~aikido/01HOME/HOME.htm>)

I did not realize until this spring that there was a club at this prestigious university with over 40 members. Jeff Bayliss, who practiced at Kobayashi Dojo and who is a graduate of Harvard, now teaching university courses in Japanese history, acted as a go-between.

With a Rockefeller grant, Corey was able to come to Japan and is diligently training in financially more relaxed way.

A fourth-generation Japanese from the big island of Hawaii, he speaks fluent Japanese.

I did not ask what his major is. The other uchideshi's said that although he is very intelligent, he is not good at keeping his own thing tidy. Other uchideshi's said, "We need to teach him how to tidy up things."