

# College Karate Clubs from Throughout the Southeast Gather for the 2023 JKA/AF Intercollegiate Karate Shiai

Kaitlin Baudier

24 October 2023

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, Southern Miss hosted the first annual Japan Karate Association / American Federation Intercollegiate Karate Shiai. The event brought together competitors and instructors from universities throughout the region. In attendance were members of the Auburn University Karate Club, the University of New Orleans Karate Club, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Karate Club, Vanderbilt University Medical Center Karate Club, and the Chop to the Top Karate Club at the University of Southern Mississippi. Of these participants there were a total of 12 student competitors that participated in the tournament from three different universities: ULL, USM, and Auburn. Students ranged in experience level from white belts to black belts, which made for an exciting day competition.

Events began with a one-hour clinic given by 4<sup>th</sup> dan Kellan Lyman, sensei of the UNO Karate Club and recent member of team USA at the JKA Pan-American Karate Championships. Following the clinic, students took to the ring and competed in a total of 4 different events: beginner kata, beginner kumite, intermediate / advanced kata, and intermediate / advanced kumite.



Sensei Lyman leading university students in a series of kumite drills during her clinic, which took place before the tournament on Payne Center basketball court 4

For beginner kata, gold went to Christopher Ned from ULL, silver went to Dasia King from ULL, and Huong Le from USM took home bronze. In intermediate / advanced kata, Pritam from Auburn took gold, Meaghan Trahan from ULL took silver, and Andrew Mayers from USM narrowly beat Pankaj from ULL in a tie-breaker round to earn bronze. Dasia King from ULL won gold in beginner kumite, with Javion Comby from USM taking silver, and Christopher Ned (ULL) and Samuel Hill (USM) sharing bronze. In advanced kumite, gold went to Pritham from Auburn, silver went to Pankaj from Auburn, and bronze was shared by Andrew Mayers from USM and Mynmayh Khamvongsa from ULL. The ULL Karate club was declared the 2023 JKA/AF Intercollegiate Shiai Champion Club, for winning the most victory points by amassing one bronze medal, 2 silvers, and 2 golds among the four events. Discussions are already underway regarding which university karate team will host the next Intercollegiate Shiai and



Team ULL being named 2023 JKA/AF Intercollegiate Shiai Champions.

how to recruit even more collegiate clubs to join in! In the meantime, intercollegiate students set their sights on preparing for the Collegiate division of the All-South Karate Championships in New Orleans this spring.



(Left) Beginner Kata medalists: 1<sup>st</sup> Christopher Ned (ULL), 2<sup>nd</sup> Dasia King (ULL), 3<sup>rd</sup> Huong Le (USM).  
(Right) Intermediate / Advanced Kata medalists: 1<sup>st</sup> Pritam (Auburn), 2<sup>nd</sup> Meaghan Trahan (ULL), 3<sup>rd</sup> Andrew Mayers (USM).



Beginner Kumite medalists: 1<sup>st</sup> Dasia King (ULL), 2<sup>nd</sup> Javion Comby (USM), 3<sup>rd</sup> Samuel Hill (USM) and Christopher Ned (ULL).



Group photo of the “Chop to the Top” Karate Club at USM, hosts of the event. Members not only represented USM in competition, they also helped run the event from behind judging and check-in tables. From top left: Robert Green, Patrick Belcher II, Samuel Hill, Andrew Mayers, Javion Comby, Javin Keys, Kaitlin Baudier, Mia Acaya, Huang Le, Sandra Cordova, & Michiah Keyton



(Left) Shiai judges consisted of Senseis that coach four different universities in the Southeast. From left to right: Dan Ayers from VUMC, Eric and Brendan Jefferson from ULL, Kaitlin Baudier from USM, and Kellan Lyman from UNO. (Right) Tournament photo showing competitors, judges, and members of the USM Karate Club who helped set-up and run the tournament.