

# GROUND BREAKING NEWS

By Master Vaughn

A second masterpiece is coming to fruition in the life of Grandmaster Jae C. Shin. The first great accomplishment of this magnitude came on November 13th, 1982 when the World Tang Soo Do Association was formed under his leadership. The Association now boasts over 150,000 members world-wide. For most men, this would be a crowning achievement, but it was only part of a dream, a dream to produce a permanent legacy that would live on after our generation has passed. That dream is being realized in Burlington, North Carolina, the home of the new headquarters for World Tang Soo Do.

It has been a long time coming, but we are on the threshold of making another mark on the long history of martial arts. Grandmaster would be the first to say he did not get this far on his own, that it has taken the work, and dedication of many of the members of our beloved Association to get where we are now, but it has been his leadership that has kept the Association on course. It will take a renewed effort, and a higher level of dedication to see the completion of this project, this monument to Black Belt Excellence. Are we ready for the challenge?

The World Championship held in 2010 sparked enthusiasm in the WTSDA to bring members from around the world to Greensboro North Carolina. The World Championship was exciting in its own right, like all World Championships are, but for the membership to witness Grandmaster Shin, and the now Grandmaster Beaudion receive their new rank of 9<sup>th</sup> degree, and 8<sup>th</sup> degree respectively, there was no denying we were witnessing history being made. The Sunday after the tournament, the participants got together for a more casual time. The weather was great for a picnic, so we had one on the new Headquarters site. The picnic was a great way to observe the unity, the brotherhood/sisterhood, of World Tang Soo Do. Where else could one see folks who have just put forth their all into competition, who were now enjoying each other's company the very next day, filled with the spirit of martial art?

On May 12, 2011 a ground-breaking ceremony was held at the site in Burlington. In attendance was the mayor of Burlington, the honorable Ronnie K. Wall, Masters in Safety and Driver Education and Masters in Educational Administration. The construction of Phase One is scheduled for completion by March of 2012. Much work has taken place in the planning, the architecture, and the financing to put this project into play. We owe a debt of gratitude to Master Jim Mars and the building committee for their tireless effort in bringing this dream to light. Also, we owe thanks to Master Vince Melcorie, and to Mrs. Kristen Winsko for their unselfish legal work, and to all the behind the scene's people who gave of their time and energy for this cause.

Like achieving the rank of Black Belt, we are at the end of one phase of our martial arts journey, and are now at the beginning of a new phase in that journey.

The following is an article about the day of the ground breaking from the Times-News of Burlington, NC:

# The Times News.com

## Martial arts' international headquarters breaks ground



May 12, 2011

[Michael D. Abernethy](#)  
[Times-News](#)

The turning of the earth at the corner of Anthony and Hanford roads, soon to be the headquarters for an international martial arts organization, was two decades in coming.

Jae C. Shin, president and grandmaster of the World Tang Soo Do Association, reflected on the 20-year search for a proper location for the foundation at a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday. He envisioned a world headquarters that would serve as an office, school, health center, hotel and gymnasium for those who practice martial arts.

Finding a home for his vision wasn't easy. Larger cities' zoning laws and permitting processes were too restrictive. Others weren't near enough to large enough coliseums to hold the thousands of members who attend bi-annual world championships. The World Tang Soo Do Association boasts 150,000 members worldwide.

“For the last 10 years we have searched in every city we've been,” Shin said. “This city has been the most accommodating. They understand what we need.”



Sam Roberts / Times-News

**The World Tang Soo Do Association broke ground Thursday on their new headquarters in Burlington on Anthony Road near the intersection with Maple Avenue.**

“This city has been the most accommodating. They understand what we need.”

The finished headquarters will represent more than \$10 million invested in Burlington, said Jim Mars, Region 7 director of the World Tang Soo Do Association.

The first phase of construction, a two-story, 13,500-square-foot office with a small living space, should be completed by spring 2012, in time for the association's July 2012 world championship in Greensboro. Two more phases, including a 6,000-square-foot commercial building that will house healthcare offices and a gymnasium plus more living quarters will follow in future years.

The economic impact to Burlington and Alamance County is difficult to gauge.

Once the center is fully built and operational, members will visit in a near-constant stream to attend classes and sessions under Shin, or to participate in workshops and conventions. Even with rooms and a full-service dining facility planned for the headquarters, hotels should expect fewer vacancies after it opens, Mars said.

Though about 1600 members and their families attended last summer's Greensboro championship — the first the association has held in the Triad — word of mouth and the headquarters' opening should attract many more, Shin said. Typically about 1,600 attend the championships, but Shin said that number could grow into the thousands.

"We asked people what they thought about Greensboro Coliseum last year, and everyone said it was a great place, that they really enjoyed it," Shin said. "I think it will be even bigger (in 2012) than 2010 because everyone will come to see this dream."

Burlington Mayor Ronnie Wall welcomed the association Thursday, saying its values of respect, education, self-discipline, healthy living and spiritual growth will enrich Burlington and Alamance County.

Shin began the World Tang Soo Do Association in 1982 after his United States Tang Soo Do Federation — founded in Burlington, N.J., after he moved to American from Korea in 1968 — expanded to other parts of the globe. There are now Tang Soo Do programs in 33 countries.

Shin was born in 1936 in Korea. He began practicing martial arts at the age of 12, when a monk inspired him to take up the discipline. He then became a teacher at Central gym in Seoul, Korea. Shin also instructed American soldiers after he was recruited into the Korean Air Force in 1958. One of his students was actor Chuck Norris, then a soldier in the U.S. Air Force.

Tang Soo Do espouses integrity, focus, perseverance, respect, self-control, humility and spiritual growth. Programs are offered to children as young as 4 years old. Because of the emphasis on healthy living, many adults continue to practice Tang Soo Do well into their senior years.

The Burlington headquarters will also serve as Shin's home and house a museum.