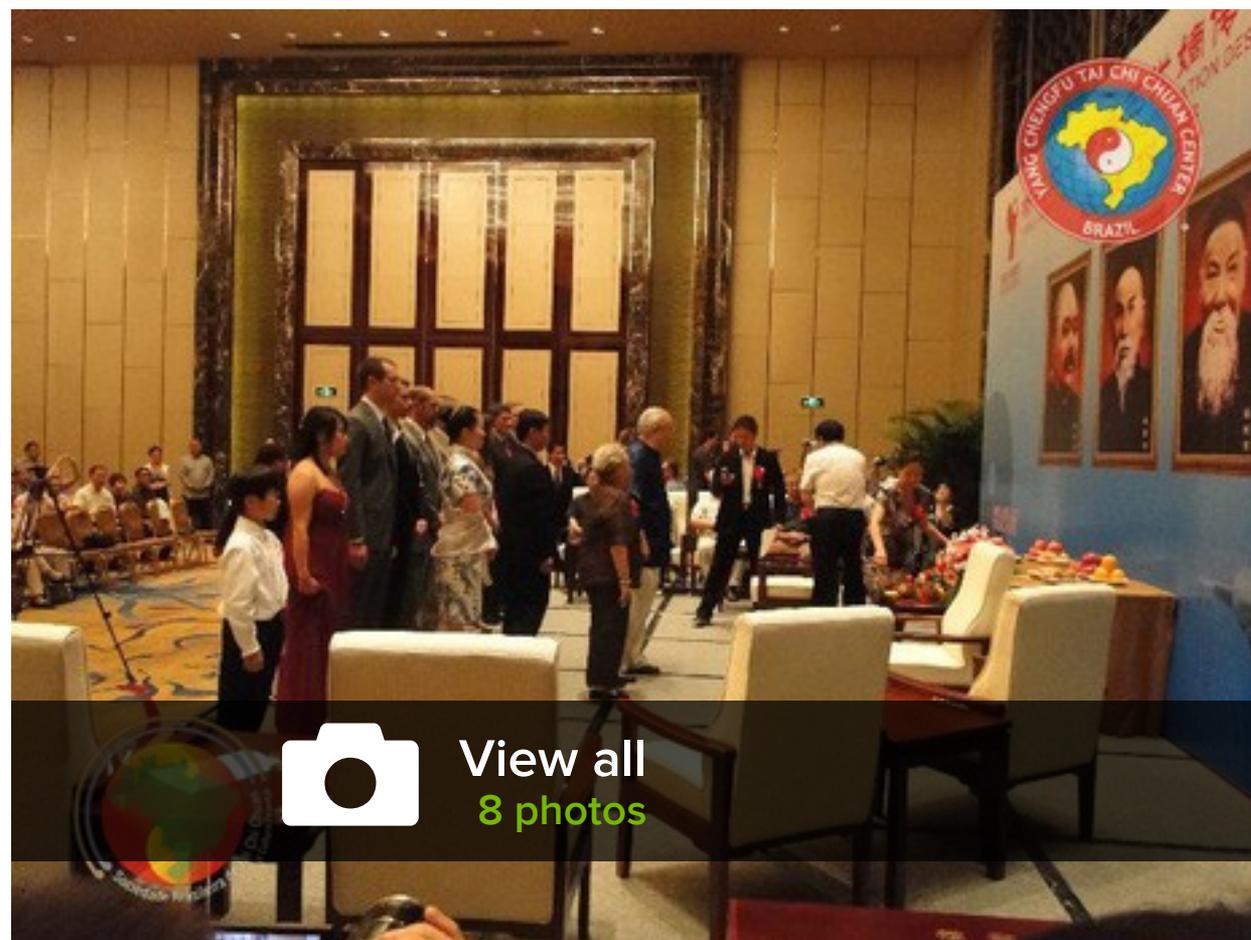


Master Yang Jun accepted his first disciples

September 5, 2012

4:32 PM MST

In [Martial Arts](#), the discipleship is a major milestone. A student can learn from a teacher for life and never get accepted as a disciple and most students do not become disciples. At the same time, not every instructor who teaches is qualified to accept disciples. Master Yang Jun is a 6th generation of the Yang [Tai Chi](#) family and the future bearer of the Yang Style Tai Chi. After studying Yang Style Tai Chi for almost 40 years at age 44, with the blessing from Grandmaster Yang Zhen Duo, Master Yang accepted his first group of disciples on Aug. 5, 2012 in Taiyuan, Shanxi, China. This important ceremony also known as Bai Si Li was supervised by Grandmaster Yang Zhen Duo and witnessed by Grandmaster's wife, Sun Style Grandmaster Sun Yongtian, Wu Style Grandmaster Ma Hailong, Chen Style Master Chen Juan, and Yang Style Masters Yang Bin and Fang Hong along with other dignities and 300 hundred Tai Chi enthusiasts from around the world.



Grandmaster Yang Zhen Duo led Master Yang and new disciples to pay respect to the Yang ancestors.
Yang Chengfu Tai Chi Chuan Center São Paulo



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The new disciples are Roque Severino and Angela Soci of Brazil, Sergio Arione of Canada, Claudio Mingarini and Giuseppe Torturo of Italy, Eric Madsen and Edward Moore of the USA, Nina and Jason Yang (Master Yang Jun's 20-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son). The oldest disciple is 60 years old. Except Jason Yang, all disciples have a long history of learning Tai Chi. Brazilian Roque Severino and Angela Soci are dedicated Tai Chi practitioners and they have been teaching Yang Family Tai Chi in Brazil since 1978.

The ceremony followed traditional protocol and it was beautifully prepared with all necessary arrangements. In the grand ballroom, there were photos of Yang Style creator Yang Lu Chan (1799-1872), Yang Jian Hou (1839-1917) and Yang Cheng Fu (1883-1936). In front of the photos, an altar was elegantly set up with offerings of flowers, candles and food. At the beginning of the ceremony, Master Yang asked Grandmaster Yang's permission to present his disciples and to accept them into the family. Once agreed, Grandmaster Yang addressed the forefathers to accept Yang Jun's disciples. While Grandmaster Yang addressed his ancestors, behind him stood Master Yang Jun and his wife Master Fang Hong, followed by the nine new disciples. Afterwards all of the disciples made a prostration to Grandmaster Yang and his wife. Then one by one, new disciples presented the formal discipleship invitation, made prostration and offered tea to Master Yang Jun and his wife. Each of the new disciples was given a Yang Family Sword engraved with their martial art name on it and the discipleship certificate. All disciples' Chinese martial art names start with Yang as the family name, the middle name Ya (means "grace" and "elegance"), and their personal name.

Master Yang Jun began his training with Grandmaster Yang Zhen Duo at age 5. He is proficient in Tai Chi Chuan, Sword, Saber, Push Hands, and many other forms. In 1982 Grandmaster Yang started to

teach abroad. Master Yang Jun accompanied him all over the world and assisted him teaching. After nearly twenty years and dozens of seminars around the world, Yang Jun has become a true master himself. In recent years, Master Yang has been hosting seminars himself worldwide and received warm welcome and respect from Tai Chi enthusiasts.

Master Yang Jun graduated from Shanxi University in 1989 with a degree in physical education. In 1995, the Chinese [Wushu](#) Academy recognized him as a famous Wushu master in Shanxi Province. In 1996, he was certified as the highest-level national judge and served as the head judge at the 1998 National Tai Chi Chuan Competition in China.

Yang Jun has served as the Vice President of Operations and Training of the Shanxi Province Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan Association since 1995. In 1998, Yang Jun created [the International Yang Family Tai Chi Chuan Association](#) and has served as President since. In 1999, Yang Jun and his family moved to the U.S. and established a school in Seattle. With his strong leadership skills, Master Yang Jun organized the first International Tai Chi Symposium in 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee. Five Grandmasters and lineage holders of five major Tai Chi families attended the weeklong symposium along with prominent scientists and 400 Tai Chi advanced practitioners around the world.

With all his hard work and accomplishments, Grandmaster Yang Zhen Duo finally recognized Master Yang Jun's contribution, skills and knowledge and accepted him as an inner disciple and further made him the future Yang Family Tai Chi lineage holder in 2009. You can watch Master Yang's own Bai Si Ceremony via the video on the left. Still, it took another three years before Master Yang Jun accepted disciples of his own. We want to congratulate all the new disciples as well as Master Yang Jun. We are also glad to see how other Tai Chi families came together to celebrate this important event with the Yang family.

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Violet Li

Tai Chi Examiner

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