

On Saturday, February 26, a group of about 60 Isshinryu students, instructors and masters gathered together for the most recent workshop in the Warrior Seminar Series. Meeting at the Matthews Dojo of Carolina Isshinryu Academy, the seminar was split up into a morning session and an afternoon session.

The morning session saw around 40 black and brown belts working with Grand Master Kobylanski, Master Boykin, Master Grismer, and Master McLaughlin. With a Black Belt Tournament coming up on April 30, the focus was on sharpening up performance skills with weapons, as well as effective kumite techniques in a tournament setting.

During a pause in the morning session, two promotions were given out. After satisfying the requirements in formal testing earlier in the month, Mr. Justin Andre was promoted to Ni-Dan by Master Boykin and Mr. Vittorio Antonacci was promoted to Sho-Dan by Master Grismer.

After a short break for lunch, the group expanded with the addition of twenty more students below the brown belt rank. While the Masters supervised and added additional insight, the afternoon sessions were taught by Sensei Ciprich, Scott, Gyr, Holland, Stainback, Edinger, and Wilson.

Topics covered in the afternoon session varied wildly. Students worked outside in the unseasonably warm February sun on isolating the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of kata. Indoors, areas of focus ranging from self-defense and bunkai for several kata to proper body movement and sparring techniques were covered.

When the last kiai had sounded and the seminar was at its conclusion, the participants gathered together to enjoy an early pizza dinner and go over all the lessons that had been learned during the course of the day. Combining fellowship, detailed instruction and hardworking participation, the February installment of the Warrior Seminar Series was a great success.

Mr. Charlie Snearly

Sho – Dan Matthews

[Go to the gallery for photos of the event](#)