Professor Maureen Browne



Maureen Browne began the study of DanzanRyu Jujitsu in 1970 at the age of 16at the urging of her brother, the late Prof. Pat Browne. As a student at NIU, Maureen began training in Aikido as a founding member of the NIU Aikido club. She also trained and competed in Kodokan Judo as a member of the NIU Judo Club.

In 1975 Maureen continued her Aikido training as one of the founding members of the Midwest Aikido Center, which was established under the direction of Akira Tohei Shihan. In 1978 Maureen moved to Tokyo to train intensively at the Aikido Hombu dojo. Upon arrival at Hombu, Maureen had the privilege of meeting and training with T.K. Chiba Shihan. It was at Hombu in 1978 that Maureen received her Shodan in Aikido from Aikido Doshu, KisshomaruUeshiba.

After returning to the US in 1980, Maureen continued both her study of Aikido and Danzanryu Jujitsu.

In 1986, Maureen and her husband John Gussman founded the Fox Valley Judo and Jujitsu Club. Classes were held at the Aurora and Naperville Park Districts.

In 1992 Maureen and John opened the Martial Arts Training Service and began teaching classes in Judo, Jujitsu and Aikido, which led to the creation of the Fox Valley Aikikai. In 1994 the Fox Valley Aikikai affiliated with T. K. Chiba Shihan.

Maureen Currently holds the ranks of 8th Dan, Professor in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu from Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai and Pacific Jujitsu Alliance and 6th Dan, Shidoin from Birankai North America.