

Professor Barbara Gessner



Professor Barb Gessner, Shichidan in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu, Godan in Judo, began studying the martial arts in 1972 at East Stroudsburg University, Pennsylvania, where she received both B.S. and M.Ed. degrees in Health and Physical Education with an emphasis on teacher preparation. Her Master's Thesis was an application of teaching methodology to the martial art of Jujitsu. She has since completed a doctorate in Education at Rutgers University with an emphasis on the development of community in the classroom.

She received her Shodan in 1975 and in 1976 Barb took over her first dojo, Portland Kodokan in Pennsylvania, and in 1978 she became Sensei of her present school, Rutgers Kodokan in New Brunswick, New Jersey. In 1980 she began hosting an annual Jujitsu & Judo seminar at Rutgers which continues to this day. For 16 years she taught Jujitsu and Judo Coaching at several USJA Judo Camps along the east coast.

Barbara was a member of the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation Board of Managers/Operations Committee for over 20 years, and for several years on the AJJF Council of Senior Instructors. In 1988 she was the first recipient of that organization's Professor Bert Aspinall Award for Outstanding Member, and in 2012, was presented the Professor Ray Law Award for Outstanding Children's Program.

At Ohana 2010, Barbara was promoted to Professor by Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai. At Ohana 2014 she was promoted to Shichidan by the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance and Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai. Barb continues to teach Jujitsu seminars across the United States.