A Simple Visualization of the Danzan-Ryu Jujutsu Lineage Tree
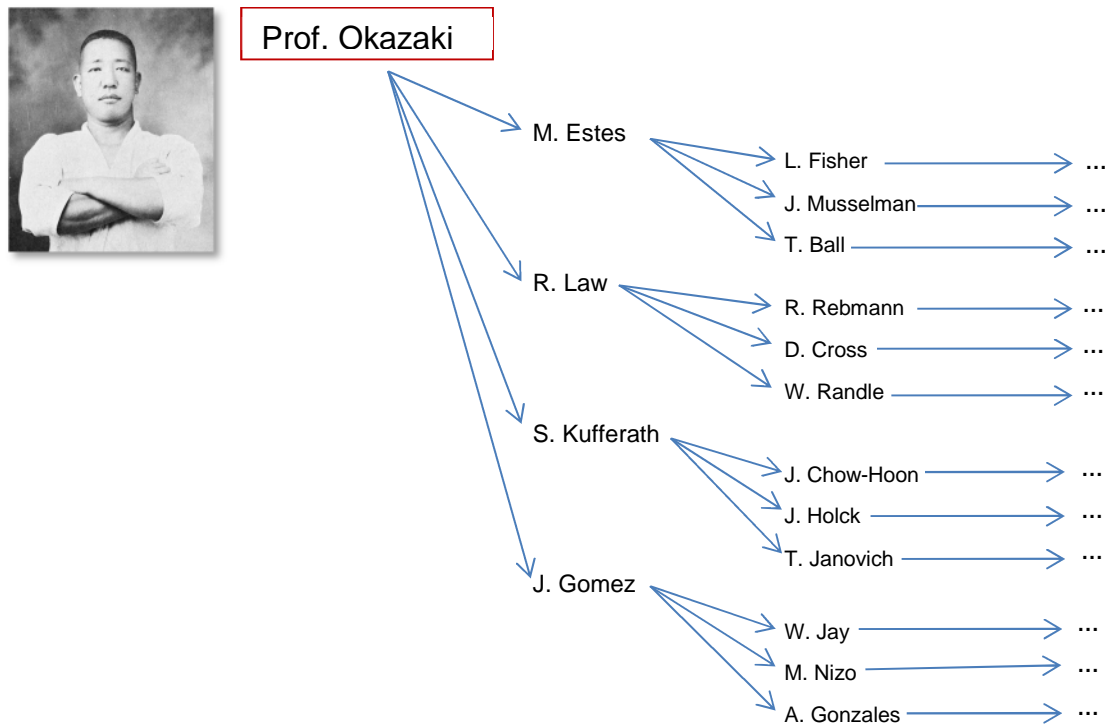
By Prof. George Arrington, Ph.D.

Extract

The martial art of Prof. Henry Seishiro Okazaki, which he named Danzan-Ryu to honor both his teacher Wo Chong and the Territory of Hawaii, constitutes one of the most widely distributed forms of Japanese-based Jujutsu in the world. His system has been spread throughout the world by several key instructors. This paper gives the reader a concise way to see how these individuals have been responsible for the system's dissemination. It does not ascribe any values to the branches of the tree other than number of Danzan-Ryu Jujutsu black belt holders.
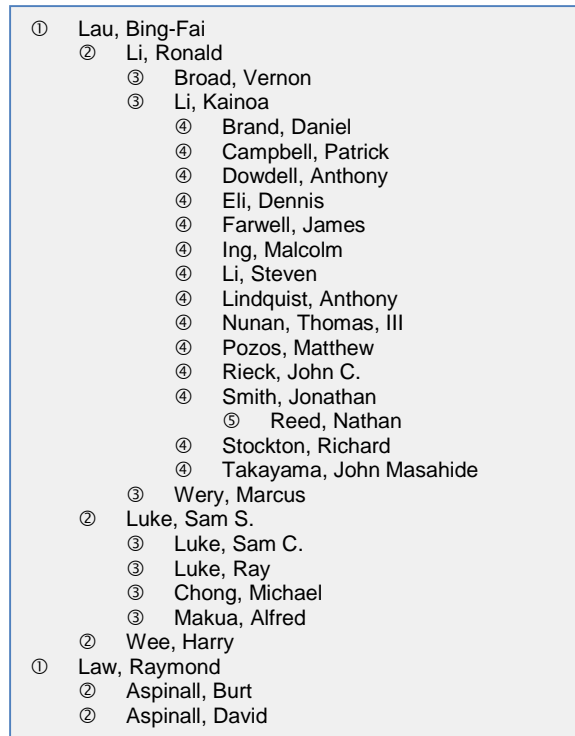
Background

Many of the Jujutsu students of Prof. Henry Seishiro Okazaki earned the black belt and later went on to be instructors themselves. Some of these instructors trained students of their own up to the black belt and instructor levels. In varying degrees, succeeding generations of students passed on their knowledge to new students who, in turn, continued this practice. For example, the illustration below shows a small sample of how this process forms a "*lineage tree*":

Data Collection

In 1995, I began work on the Danzan-Ryu Jujutsu Homepage (www.danzan.com) and one part of that project was to build such a lineage tree. This tree is an ongoing project that lists a number of teachers and black belt students of Danzan-Ryu. The idea for such a list was initially realized by Clyde Zimmerman who, upon hearing of my work, generously donated his data. This became the first large portion of the tree. The number of names rapidly increased over the next few years through personal outreach and people contacting me with their own lineages. Some contributions have also come from organizational publications, such as newsletters, that post information on promotions.

The data on the tree only shows the relationship of teacher and student. The teacher is that person who issued the student their first black belt. The tree does not give any vital statistics, dates of promotion or organizational affiliation. As of this writing, there are more than 2000 names on the tree which spans nearly 40 pages. Below is a sample portion of the tree. The students are indented under their instructor and the number bullets show the generation level from Prof. Okazaki. Specifically, ① indicates a direct student of the Professor; ② shows a student of one of these direct Okazaki students, and ③ - ⑩ indicate successive generations.

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①   Lau, Bing-Fai
   ②   Li, Ronald
      ③   Broad, Vernon
      ③   Li, Kainoa
         ④   Brand, Daniel
         ④   Campbell, Patrick
         ④   Dowdell, Anthony
         ④   Eli, Dennis
         ④   Farwell, James
         ④   Ing, Malcolm
         ④   Li, Steven
         ④   Lindquist, Anthony
         ④   Nunan, Thomas, III
         ④   Pozos, Matthew
         ④   Rieck, John C.
         ④   Smith, Jonathan
            ⑤   Reed, Nathan
         ④   Stockton, Richard
         ④   Takayama, John Masahide
      ③   Wery, Marcus
   ②   Luke, Sam S.
      ③   Luke, Sam C.
      ③   Luke, Ray
      ③   Chong, Michael
      ③   Makua, Alfred
   ②   Wee, Harry
①   Law, Raymond
   ②   Aspinall, Burt
   ②   Aspinall, David
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The complete tree may be examined at: http://www.danzan.com/HTML/dzr_lineage_tree.pdf

Data Error

In any form of statistical study, it is important to identify any known or suspected areas where the data may be flawed. The issue with this study is how accurate are the lineages under each instructor. Specifically, how complete is the list of names in each branch of the tree? For this paper, I acknowledge the two primary areas of data error:

1. Unknown Omissions – If one considers the students who received their black belts directly from Prof. Okazaki, it is likely that there are some that are missing from the lineage tree. It is likely, but not confirmable, that the number of missing names is smaller than those who have already been included on the tree. One reason I make this assertion is because Professor Okazaki usually had class pictures taken at promotions and the majority of the graduates of these classes have been identified. Even still, there are people that received their black belts from the Professor that are yet to be identified.
2. Known Omissions – There are a number of names that have been rejected and/or removed from the tree for various reasons. It is important to know that this amounts to about 2% of the total number of names and therefore has little impact on this study.

Given these sources of error, I maintain that a representative picture of how Danzan-Ryu has been spread is presented here. The omissions do not constitute any significant change in the overall picture. There is one anomaly in this presentation. A significant section of the tree is represented by a particular
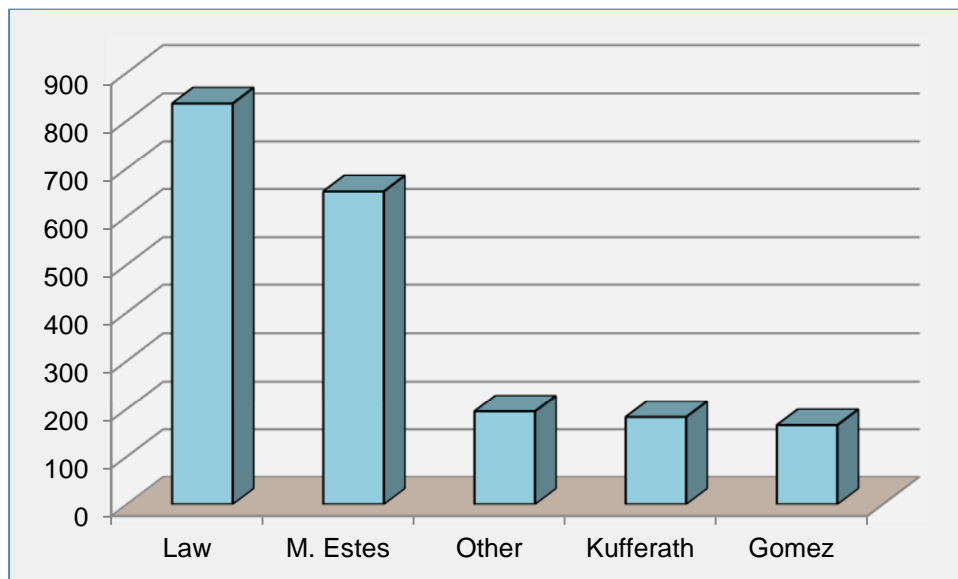
teacher who only had one black belt who then made a large contribution to the tree. This will be described later in this paper.

Data Visualization

When a large collection of data is presented as a whole, it is difficult to see interesting trends, categorizations, abstractions, etc. Data visualization techniques often uncover significant facts that may have obfuscated by the size of the data set. While some data visualizations may be quite involved, the ones shown here are the simple column graph and pie chart. The bar graph indicates absolute numbers, while the pie chart shows comparative percentages. This presentation is divided into three areas: the direct students of Prof. Okazaki and the top two lineages (by number of students) under him.

Direct Students of Prof. Henry S. Okazaki

This section deals with those students who received their first black belt directly from Prof. Okazaki and the number of students directly them. The lineage tree currently shows that the top two in this category are Ray Law (~840) and Merlin "Bud" Estes (~650). See the following column graph:
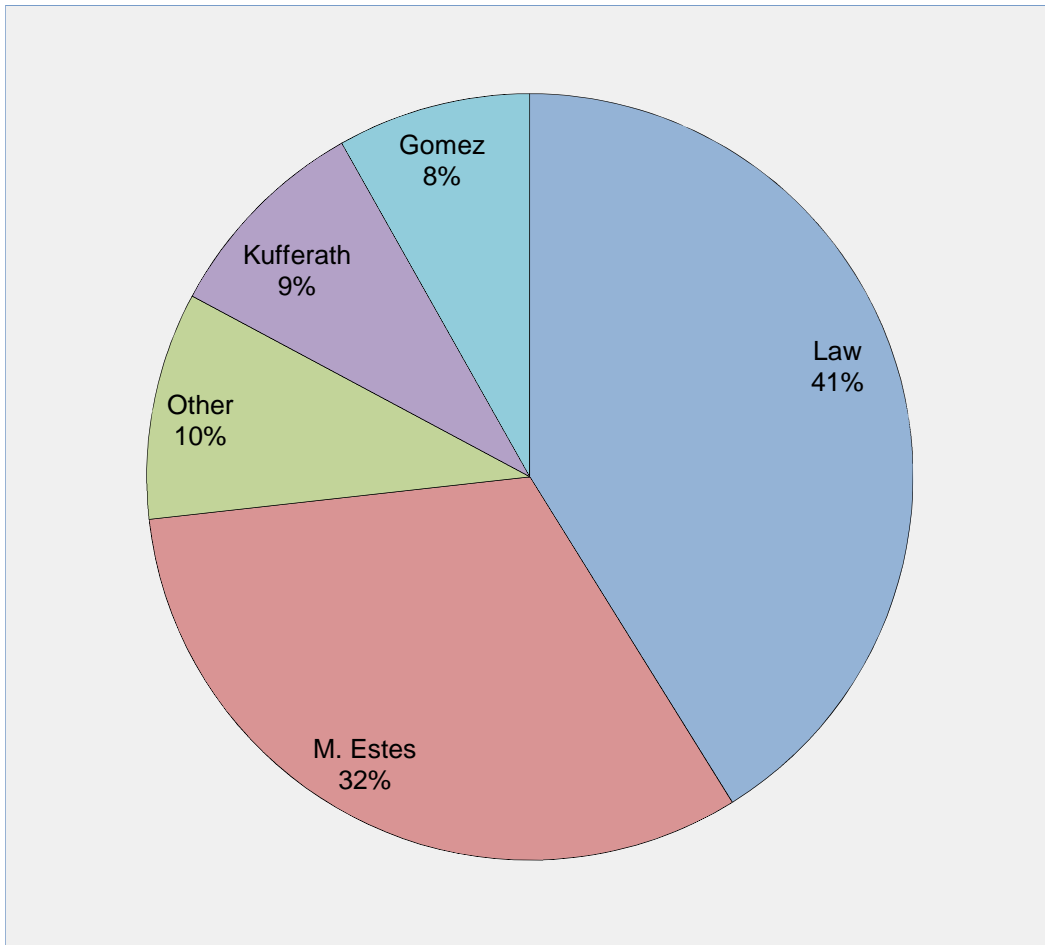
Sorted Enumeration of Black Belts Under Direct Students of Prof. Okazaki

The next two largest lineages that are under individual instructors are Sig Kufferath (~180) and Juan Gomez (~170). All other instructors shown on the tree have combined lineages of about 200 names.

As shown on the first page of this paper, Kufferath and Gomez both had students who made important contributions to the systems dissemination:

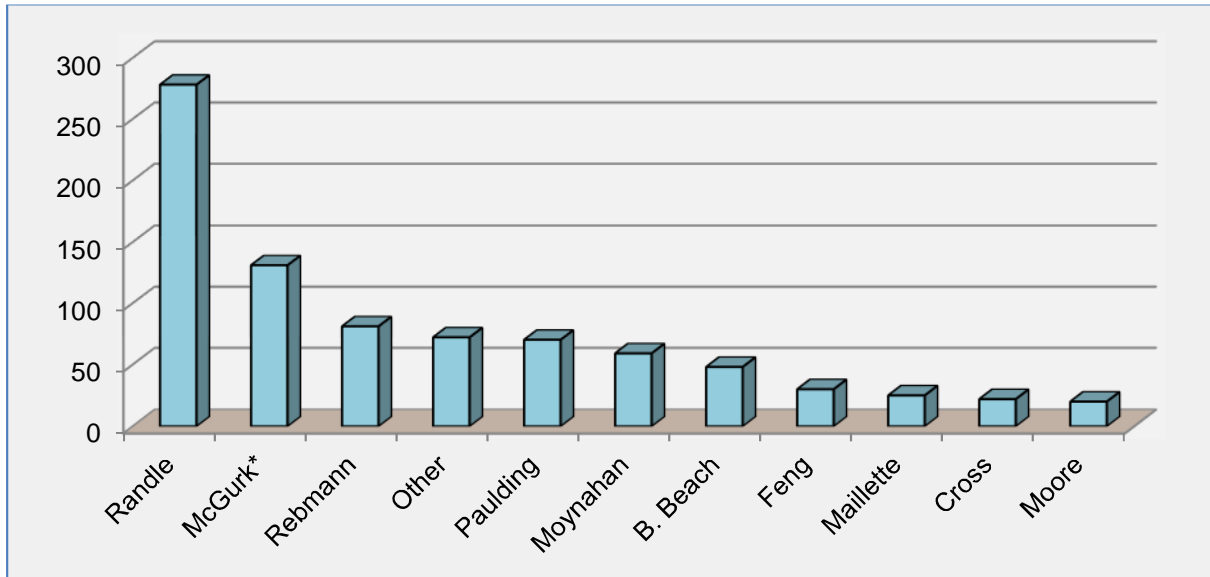| Sig Kufferath:	Juan Gomez:
John Chow-Hoon	*Wally Jay*
Joe Holck	*Michael Nizo*
Tony Janovich	*Antone Gonzales*

The following illustration is a pie graph of this same data except that percentages are shown:

Percentage Distribution of Black Belts Under Direct Students of Prof. Okazaki

<u>Students under Prof. Raymond L. Law</u>

The lineage under Prof. Ray Law, with 41% of all Danzan-Ryu black belts on the tree, is the largest of those for direct students of Prof. Okazaki. The column graph below shows the breakdown of the number of black belts attributed to the students of Prof. Law.
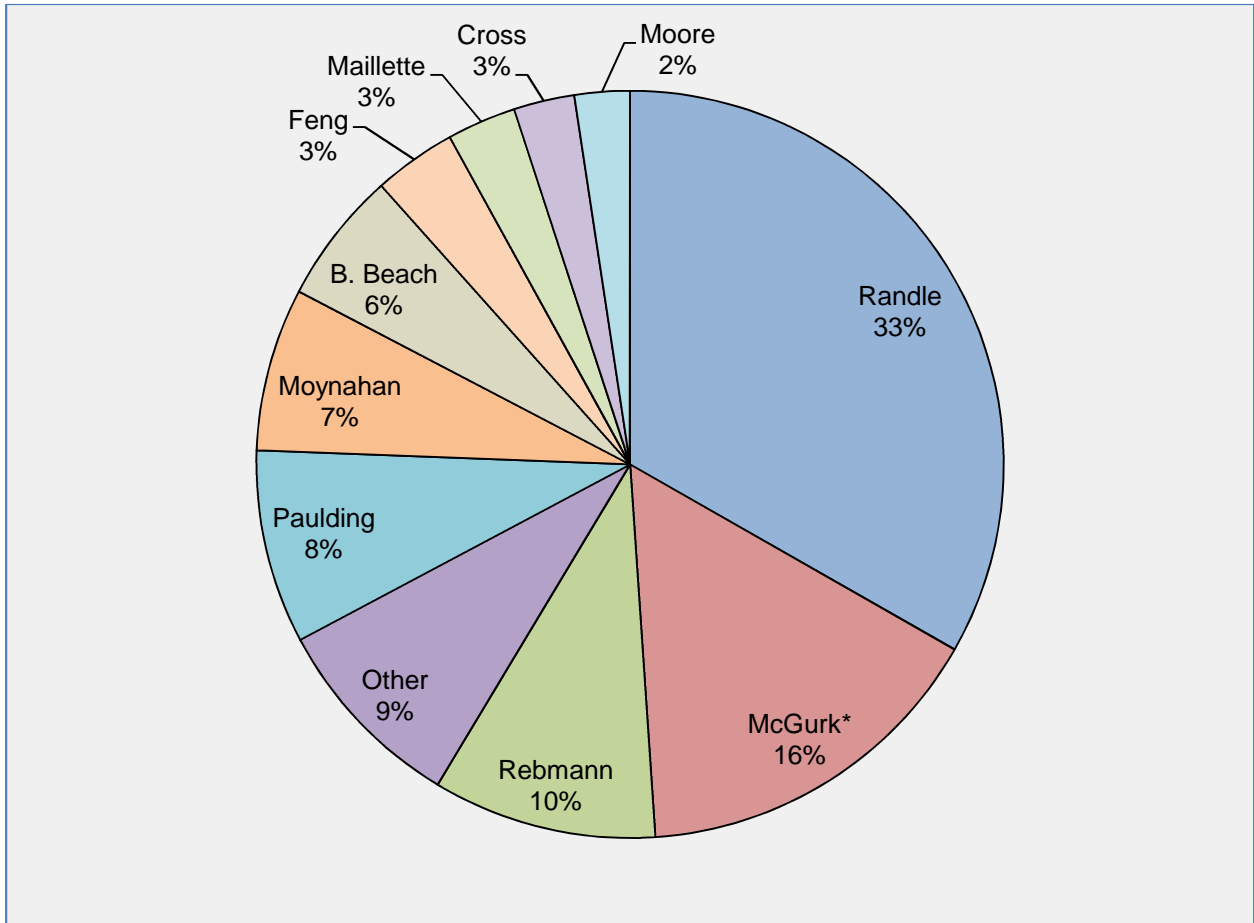

Sorted Enumeration of Black Belts Under Prof. Ray Law

The most striking detail that is seen in this graph, as opposed to the similar graphs for Prof. Okazaki and Prof. Bud Estes, is the number of significant contributors to this lineage; 11 for Law, 5 for Okazaki and 5 for Estes. Although it is not shown on the lineage tree, these contributors of Prof. Law's lineage constitute the dissemination of the system over a large geographic area. This includes: Prof. Rory Rebmann (northern California), Steve Paulding (Illinois/Georgia), Jay Moynahan (Utah/Colorado), Prof. Bill Beach (Florida/Texas), Prof. Betty Maillette (Oakland), Prof. Don Cross (Sacramento/Roseville).

The largest of these contributors, however, is Prof. William Randle of Santa Monica, CA. Upon examining the entire lineage for Prof. Randle, it is apparent that he is responsible for the majority of Danzan-Ryu black belts in southern California.

* The anomaly that was mentioned before is seen in this column graph and the following pie chart. The second largest branch under Prof. Law is attributed to Michael McGurk. McGurk was a student of Prof. Law and the dates of his Shodan promotion are not certain and may have occurred after Law's passing. Despite that, Prof. Robert Hudson gives McGurk credit for motivating him to attain the black belt level. This was McGurk's only such promotion. It should therefore be understood that this section of Prof. Law's lineage is solely due to the efforts of Prof. Hudson.
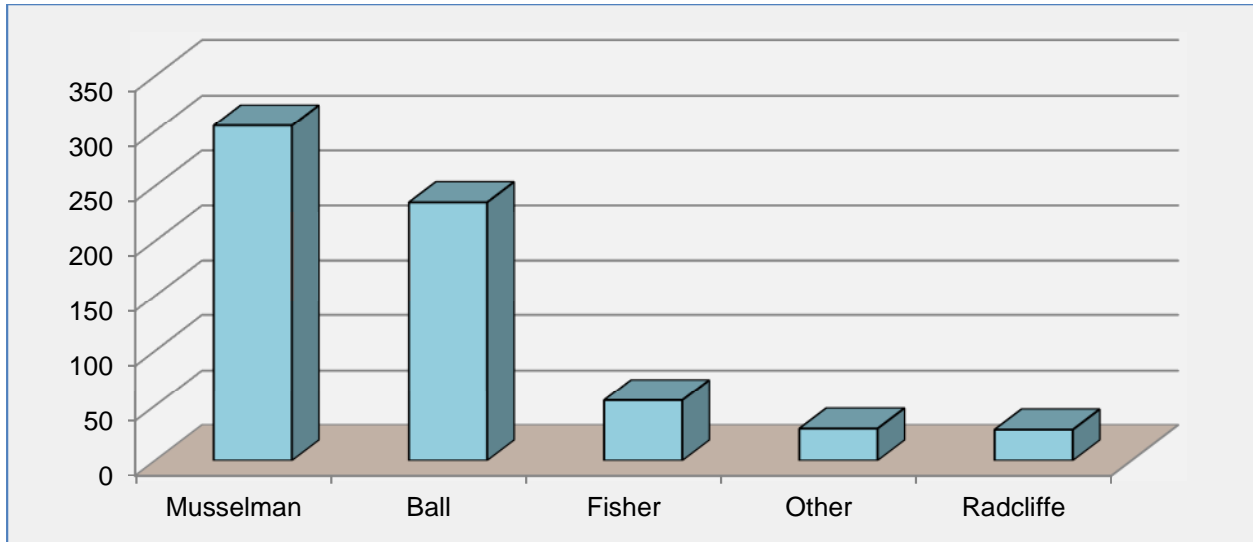
The following illustration is a pie graph of the same data for Prof. Law except that percentages are shown:

Percentage Distribution of Black Belts Under Prof. Ray Law

Lineage under Prof. Merlin F. "Bud" Estes

The second largest lineage for direct students of Prof. Okazak at 32% is that of Prof. Bud Estes. The column graph below shows the breakdown of the number of black belts attributed to the students of Prof. Estes.
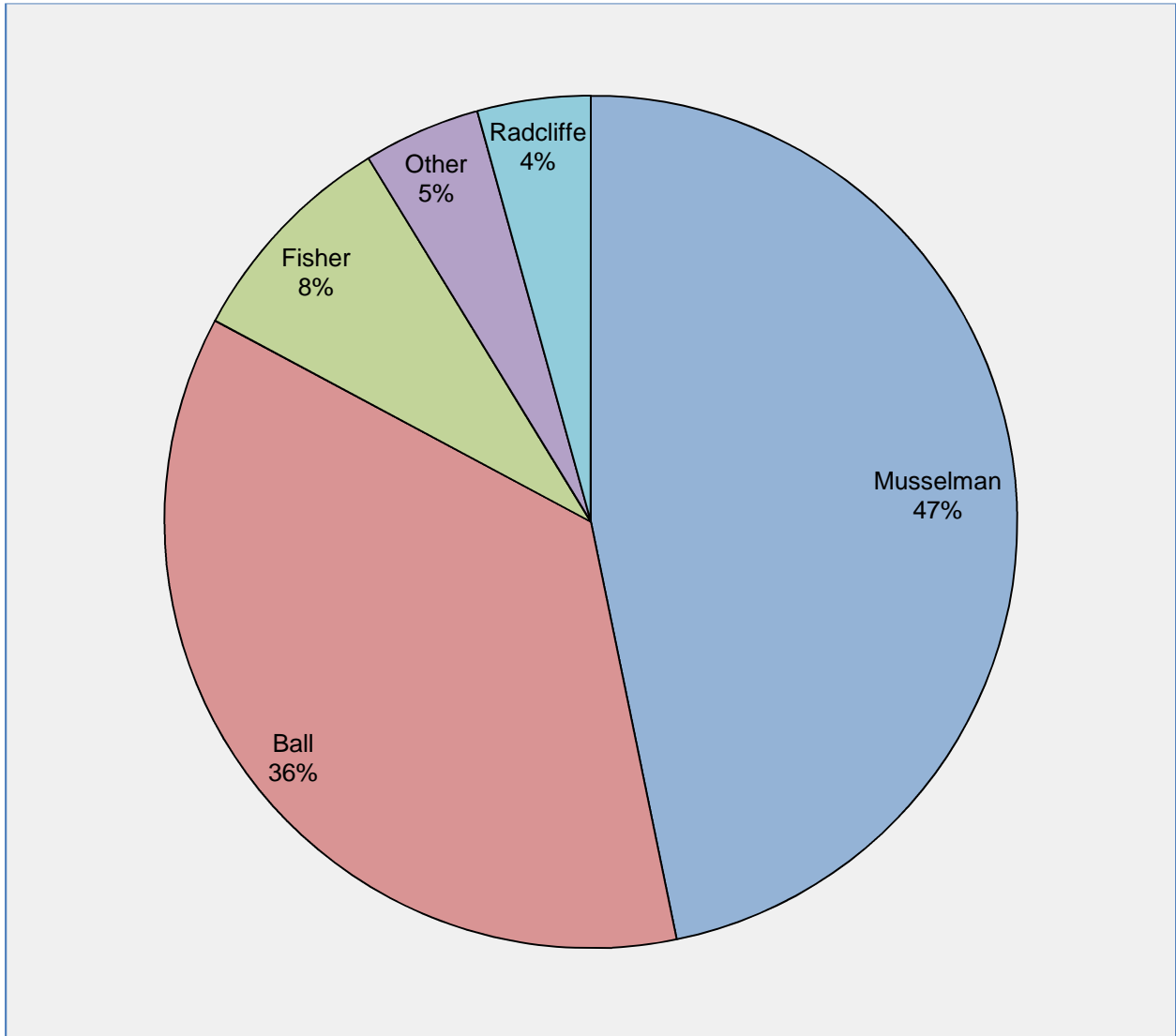

Sorted Enumeration of Black Belts Under Prof. Bud Estes

The above column graph shows that the dissemination of Danzan-Ryu under Prof. Estes was accomplished by a few key individuals; primarily James Musselman and Thomas Ball. The following chart shows some of key students of Musselman and Ball, along with the number and percentages of black belts (in parentheses) in their individual lineages:

J. Musselman: (305)	T. Ball: (235)
G. Edwards (51,17%)	M. Byrnes (176, 75%)
H. LaGue (148, 49%)	H. Shaffron (20, 9%)
L. Luster (21, 7%)	J. Watson (17, 7%)
B. Patterson (23, 8%)	

The nature of the Estes lineage might be categorized as "vertical". This means that large portions of his lineage are created by only a few people. This can be contrasted to "horizontal" nature of the Law lineage.

The following illustration is a pie graph of the same data for Prof. Estes:

Percentage Distribution of Black Belts Under Prof. Bud Estes

Observations

The Danzan-Ryu Jujutsu system has been and continues to be spread by a number of dedicated teachers and students. Those who have caught the vision of and value of Danzan-Ryu make the effort to share it with people across the world.

The brief view that has been presented here highlights some key individuals who went the extra miles to propagate Prof. Okazaki's system. This study serves to identify and point to those prolific teachers as well as give a general picture of how the system was and is being spread. To those in the Danzan-Ryu community who would do likewise, I might recommend studying the methodology and replicating the efforts of people like Bill Randle, Jim Musselman, Tom Ball, and Bob Hudson, et. al.

Afterword

After the initial publication of this article, I received some questions about placements and lineages. The Danzan-Ryu lineage tree has been constructed and peer-reviewed by those students and instructors who have contributed information about their promotions. When there are conflicting versions of the lineages, all sides are considered and an appropriate decision is made. It is important to recognize that these differences do not alter the overall picture of the lineage distribution shown here.

It should also be noted that this current state of the distribution is likely to change due to future promotions along with the revelation of names that were not previously included on the tree.

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George Arrington is a 7th degree black belt and Professor in Danzan-Ryu Jujutsu. He has trained in and teaches all aspects of the art and its associated healing methods.He is one of only a handful of people to be issued a doctorate degree in Danzan-Ryu from the American Jujitsu Institute. He is the author of seven books on the subject and is the producer of an independent film on the development of Danzan-Ryu in southern California. In his professional life, Prof. Arrington has been a high school and college educator in the fields of mathematics, physics and computer science.

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