

To the Guild Academy,

To our guild members that have supported the guild for years, the Preceptors will never be the same. A part of your heart and soul lives with us forever. We developed an expansive, ambitious, and accepting guild together. Words will never suffice to express what we have gained from being your Preceptors. You entrusted us with translating foundational concepts and we are proud of your efforts and development. We have learned more from you than you may realize and that is one of the greatest gifts we could ever be given.

We intend to include as many of our previous Scholars in our new efforts as possible and invite you to participate. The bar will be raised and the nature of our relationship to you will alter and consist of a team effort. A focused, application intensive, group with revised leadership that is dedicated to helping guide everyone forward in that effort has been established. We encourage everyone to explore HEMA and venture out to interact with the community locally, nationally, and internationally. The curriculum will continue to be maintained as per the last revision. North and South branches will persist as well and greater changes are likely to be felt there.

Expect us to primarily focus on developing tournament competitors that will participate in maintaining physical conditioning, martial application, and personal and martial excellence in every way. Dedication and commitment are expected. Duties will include volunteering and supporting the local and national HEMA community. We will be accepting new students via our new sword fighter program but it is not our primary focus at this stage and those we do invite from that program will have a higher bar to meet. The same bar will be expected of the leaders and previous Scholars.

I have been honored to serve as your Guild Leader. It has been my privilege to train with you, stand beside you, and be tested by those I've instructed. There is no greater accomplishment than to witness blossoming abilities, the fierce dedication to yourself and the academy each of you has built over time. I am proud and humbled by all of you. Work beside us now and press ever forward. Hold me to the same standards as you would expect of yourself and if I begin to flag in executing those standards, be patient and remind me.

My last words to each of you are as follows. Don't forget the mindfulness and respect for our martial art in your activities (HEMA or otherwise) that we unrelentingly adhered and held you to. Explore and train earnestly. Be patient with yourself and others. Boldly challenge yourself, always.

Until tomorrow,

Aindreas