

State of the Website - June 2018

Background

When I prepared the website for the transition to WordPress, I looked at some of the most visited web pages and converted those first. Stephen Billias was excited about having his platform for publishing Body Dialogue quickly. With Connie Borden's approval we decided to switch to this new WordPress website with limited content on March 8.

I committed to continuing to grow the content of the new site to bring back everything we left behind in the switch. Unfortunately, between the March 8 introduction and now, I have to apologize because I have not brought over any significant new material.

Life Changes

In September 2016, I entered an apprenticeship to become a Pilates instructor. At this point in time, I have one more written test to pass to become a fully certified instructor. I mention this because I have been spending 5-6 days a week at the Pilates studio observing or teaching as part of this process. My time at the Pilates studio has greatly decreased the amount of time I have to devote to the website. One of the challenges this presents is that I need to be more realistic about making time estimates about when I can have tasks completed.

Moving Forward

Development Server

While I am a programmer, I am not a WordPress expert. Therefore, often times when I run into problems with the website, my first instinct is to solve the problem by writing code. To avoid writing my own code, I rely on WordPress Plugins. The easiest way to think of these is like apps for your phone. Just like mobile apps there's a "store" for Plugins, but often times I lose a lot of time trying to figure out which is the "best" Plugin to solve a problem I'm facing.

One of the biggest problems I am running into currently is fear of breaking our currently running site. Therefore, one of the next steps that I need to do is create a Development Server for our website where I can experiment with Plugins and try out new features without the fear of breaking what we have. This is a key step to implementing some of the new features below.

Next Features

- Bring over the Member Resources from the old website. This includes documents like Superkata and the Examination Book as well as a few different forms.
- Add new scholarship form to the Member Resources (if approved)
- Add MailChimp integration so people can sign up to receive e-mails from the website.
- Create a new version of the Instructors page as suggested by Connie Borden
- Improve the Events page. It is very spartan now.

What Else?

Please feel free to send me (robert@kedoin.com) e-mails like, “I went looking for such-and-so web page and couldn’t find it. When will it be back?” Or, “I really miss such-and-so feature of the website.” Knowing that people are looking for information on the website and finding it lacking is one of my best motivators for solving problems. When I don’t hear from folks, it’s easy for me to believe that everyone is happy with the status quo.