



## **Michael Lee**

**student tenure: February 2001 – August 2006**

Although Michael participated in band during his junior high school years, his primary focus was drum set. Once he realized this was his passion as a musician, he decided to put his energies into that instrument and did very well indeed. He is the only student from this studio that can claim this unique distinction:

- Completed both volumes used in the studio specific to double bass drum technique

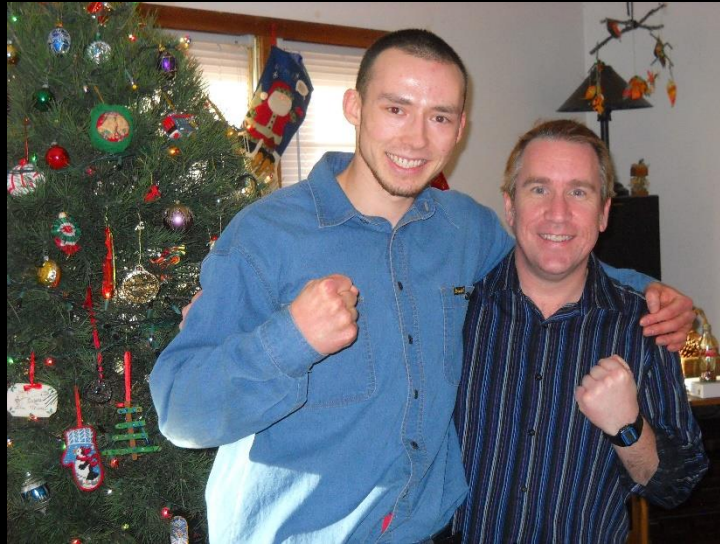
Michael did well with all styles of drumming, but his love was hard rock and metal. A devoted student, he worked hard and always had great respect for his studio lessons.

Following high school, Michael attended Cloud Community College and also flourished in martial arts. He also worked on wind turbines in various places around the United States and also became involved in solar energy work. He and his wife Jessi are the proud parents of daughter October, named after the month in which they were married. He now works as an electrician and has taught electrical technology part time at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas.

### **Some reflections about Michael from Steve Riley...**

***Michael was not the conventional type student who continued in school band and worked on keyboard mallet instruments and timpani, but he loved drum set and after the first couple of years of lessons, we decided that would be his focus. I was always impressed with how he worked hard, year after year on learning beats to his favorite songs, to taking on advanced***  
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**double bass drum technique. One of my favorite memories of Michael when he first started lessons in 6<sup>th</sup> grade was that he had a temper when he made mistakes and would often use, shall we say, some choice commentary! I'm no saint when it comes to colorful language (as several of my former college students will attest LOL), but I knew it was my duty as a teacher to not let him talk like a sailor (even though deep down I was smiling!) ☺ Michael was also one of the first students in my studio to take interest in recording (a service offered that students rarely take advantage of) a couple of cover songs on drums, to which I would later add guitar and bass tracks. I was never once disappointed in him for not continuing in school band- he had his own path with music and I respected that. Michael will always be one of my all-time favorite students.**



*This picture above is a perfect incapsulation of my continuing friendship with Michael. Some backstory: one Christmas when he was a student, he brought me a bag of pizzelle that his mom had made. Pizzelle are an Italian waffle cookie, and my own mother used to make them when I was a kid. I raved about how good they were and how they brought back some good memories. From then onward- even many years after he left the studio- Michael continues to come visit me every year around Christmas and brings me a bag of his mom's homemade pizzelle! It is one of the most cherished continuing traditions I have with a former student.*

*This particular picture (above) was taken at Christmas time 2010, and we're both striking a fighting pose as Michael was still pretty heavy into his martial arts practicing at the time. The picture below is from Christmastime 2019. Little did we know we were mere hours away from the beginning of the Covid pandemic!*

