

MOVERS & SHAKERS

ON THE JOB WITH ...

Edward Niam, president, Institute for Self Healing



ROADELL HICKMAN | THE PLAIN DEALER

Age: 58

Lives in: Hudson

Responsibilities: He teaches wellness classes and conducts seminars for adults and children based on Tai Chi, Qi Gong, Shaolin Kung Fu, meditation and traditional Chinese medicine.

Experience: He founded the Institute for Self Healing four years ago. Before that he ran Corporate Solutions Inc., an employment and background screening company in Hudson, for 10 years. Earlier, he spent 10 years running Niam Investigations Inc., a white-collar crime investigation firm in Independence. During eight of those years he also owned and operated the Shan Sing School of Chinese Martial Arts in Akron. He started his career as an investigator for the Summit County prosecutor's office and became director of investigations during his five years there.

Education: Bachelor's degree in history and political science, University of Akron,

1976; Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, 1977; Shaolin Kung Fu training, 1978. "I started studying traditional Chinese medicine, including acupuncture and Shaolin healing touch, in the late 1970s and I've continued to refine my skills."

Worst job experience: Discovering that a job applicant had a serious felony record after his former background investigations company reported that his record was clean. "A day later, we learned that the applicant had been convicted of a child sex crime and our court record searcher had missed it. It was embarrassing, but I had to call the client and explain the weaknesses of the system."

Best job experience: Healing a client who suffered from Crohn's disease by using traditional Chinese medicine. "When he told me that he was symptom-free and his life had been changed, the emotion I experienced was beyond words."

Best advice: "You will walk many paths

in the course of your life. Be open to all and find the one that blends with your mind, body and soul and follow it to the exclusion of all others."

Best stress buster: Working out using the traditional program of the Shaolin warrior and finishing with Tai Chi. "It's the most beautiful and elegant form of moving meditation ever created."

Mentor: Lao Tzu, a philosopher of sixth century B.C. China and author of the Tao Te Ching. "His writings are as relevant today as they were 2,500 years ago. Lao Tzu speaks of the Tao, which covers the gamut of the human experience, the delicate balance of yin [negative] and yang [positive] energies."

Career goals: To continue to teach his wellness program and create training DVDs.

Hobbies: Reading, writing and spending time with his teenage daughter and son.