



Academy for Five Element Acupuncture

passion • education • community



Autumn 2015

Letter from the Executive Director

Autumnal Greetings!

We've had our first taste of fall weather in Gainesville with 50 degree nights and 70 degree days. It has been heavenly! I hope you will come for a visit and get a tour of our new building. We have CEU courses geared toward Florida license renewal with **Amy Sear** coming up in December and **Elisabeth Rochat de Vallee** is coming back in April. Consider taking advantage of the fabulous Florida weather and come visit.

The weather change provides a nice setting for taking a deep breath after a hectic late summer season. We held a beautiful commencement ceremony for Class 30 on August 29th (see the photos in this newsletter). Commencement is such a special time for the school and a lovely way to show our support for the graduating interns as they head out into the world to do their good work. I was thrilled to see alumni in attendance, as well as clinic patients, family members, and current students. Faculty member and

alumnus **Brendan Kelly** was the keynote speaker. Brendan, who lives and practices in Vermont, has recently published his first book, *The Yin and Yang of Climate Crisis*. **Merry Gerard**, Chair of the Governing Board, made

a special trip to be part of the ceremony. I am grateful for our wonderful community.

I had the opportunity to be part of grand rounds with the new interns as they began their clinical journey in September. I was impressed by their level of practice, their presence with their patients, and how well they supported each other. I am excited by such a wonderful beginning and I look forward to watching them grow throughout the year. The new clinic is bustling with the activity of 24 eager interns.

Another cohort was here for session 4 which included first year exams and merging of the A and B classes. I had the pleasure of working with Chuck Graham to create a meaningful day for the 32s. Their appreciation of the day and deeper connection with each other bodes well for

their next two years together.

A little over a year ago, I announced that we were offering a new class called Transformative Communication as part of our curriculum. Based on our observations and student feedback, we determined that the program we designed with Satvatove Institute is not a good fit for the school. I am deeply appreciative of Class 32 and Class 33A for being willing to share their honest feedback with Chuck Graham and me about their experiences in Transformative Communication. We have learned a lot from the experience of bringing in an outside curriculum and have a much better sense of where we are heading in the future. It is clear that inner development of the practitioner is necessary and valuable to the students

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Letter from the Executive Director

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and we discovered that we have the tools within our organization to design a curriculum that meets the needs of the students and addresses the gaps we have noticed. I believe one sign of health is the ability to try new things and self-assess. Taking some risk is critical for growth and that isn't always easy. We took the risk to try something new and found that it wasn't exactly right for us. From what we learned, we are creating something better for our institution. I am grateful for Chuck Graham and Jim Brooks for their help in creating new coursework in this area.

We toasted the completion of renovations in the 315 building on October 9th with an Open House. Our community turned out in force to show their support. Alumni, faculty members, staff, supervisors, students, clinic patients, and other Academy supporters attended the evening festivities. Please see page 5 for photos and a link to our online photo gallery.

So much hard work and effort went into finishing our new building. I would like to recognize the Academy staff for going above and beyond the call of duty for the last six months to create such a beautiful space that captures the essence of who we are. It is truly a dream come true. You all have my sincere gratitude.

I would like to add a note of welcome to our new Registrar, **Sarah Thompson**.

Our previous registrar, Christina Nagy, was accepted to graduate school and started at Georgetown University this fall. We met Sarah through our work with Transformative Communication. Sarah has a background in human and environmental interfacing and architecture and in transformative communication and coaching. We are pleased to have her as part of our team.

We held our fall Preview Day on October 17th and had a great turn out. **Jennifer Downey**, Assistant Director of Chinese Herbal Studies, led an informative and interactive qigong class and gave a delightful show-and-tell introduction to Chinese herbal medicine. Senior faculty member **Pam Smith** presented a captivating lecture and Q&A on the Five Elements. Admissions coordinator and faculty member **Jim Brooks** not only brought in the prospective students for Preview Day, he also gave tours and talked them through the admissions process. All of our visitors commented on what a great day it was and what great energy the school has.

The Academy will hold its **At-Large Faculty Meeting and Strategic Planning** session the weekend of **November 13-15, 2015**. We have invited faculty members, governing board members, student representatives, and alumni to create the next long range plan for the school. These events are a wonderful time of community, personal connection, and vision. I look forward to the great

energy we create as a community.

We are in the midst of our fundraising campaign, **Receiving Fullness**. Please join us in celebrating the expansion of our school by contributing to our campaign. I encourage you to make your best gift; all donations are greatly appreciated. Also, remember that we have naming opportunities available. Your donation to our Receiving Fullness campaign helps ensure the future of the Academy and the future of Five Element acupuncture. Please visit our website and make your contribution today.

May you find the diamonds in your life and let go of what no longer serves.

Misti Oxford-Pickeral

A special thank you to
Dan Sachs

for his generous donation of
acupuncture, Chinese philosophy,
and qigong books to our library.

Donations to our library are
always welcome! Contact Andi,
library coordinator, at andi.
houston@acupuncturist.edu



Special Thanks

We are grateful for your ongoing support in the form of student referrals. Over half of the students who come to the Academy are directed to us by their practitioner. Student referrals are a precious gift and show a deep dedication to preserving the Five Element tradition.

Thank You for Referring New Students!

Scott Beat
Marlow Brooks
Lachlan Cooke
Matt Goolsby
Isaac Goren
Mary Huse
Jill Keil
BangHan Kim
Audra Sexton
Lee Zeitlin

If you recognize the potential of healing presence in one of your patients, friends, or family members, the desire to help someone find their true nature again, to alleviating suffering, to deeply connect with another person in life changing ways, please encourage them to contact us. We would love the opportunity to inspire them to take the next step.

Our next Master of Acupuncture class is scheduled to begin January 25, 2016.

Our admissions coordinator, Jim Brooks, can be reached at admissions@acupuncturist.edu.

Alumni News



I now have two Atlanta locations to choose from! In addition to my primary practice located in the Buckhead area of Atlanta, I am also providing Acupuncture services one day a week in the Vinings area, at Vinings Massage and Wellness. I'm the only Acupuncturist in that area and the first non-massage practitioner to be added to their Wellness Team!

-Jennifer Myers
Class 28

Are you a graduate of the Academy or WICA practicing acupuncture and/or Chinese herbal medicine? Are you listed on our practitioner referral list? Our Practitioner Referral page gets over 100 hits per week and it's free to advertise with us!

To see if you are listed or your information is correct, search your city here:

<http://acupuncturist.edu/practice-locations/>

If you are not listed and you would like to be, or you need to update your information, you must submit a Contact Update form. The form is found here:

<http://acupuncturist.edu/practice-locations-information-change/>

If you have any questions, email andi.houston@acupuncturist.edu.

The Academy is once again offering **ACI Locators** for sale! These sturdy ACI Locators are hand-made with metal grommets and designed to be healing tools for decades of practice. ACI Locators are made in Seattle, WA.



**High Quality Delrin
ACI Locator
with metal grommets
\$150**

**Hard Wood Maple
ACI Locator
with metal grommets
\$135**



To Order your ACI Locator- call us at 352.335.2332
or email us at info@acupuncturist.edu

Upcoming Events

FLORIDA LICENSE RENEWAL INTENSIVE

AMY SEAR, A.P., DIPL. O.M.

December 5-6, 2015
9 am- 5 pm

Wondering how you're going to work all those classes into your busy schedule? Stop worrying and come to the Academy! Registration is available for one day or two days. Plan now to fulfill your license renewal requirements in a live class at the Academy over one weekend.

Registration

Early registration ends November 6th
1-day \$125.00
2-days \$215.00

After November 6th:
1-day \$175.00
2-days \$265.00

14 CEUs available for Florida licensed acupuncturists



Amy Sear is a member of the Florida State Oriental Medical Association (FSOMA) and the Society for Integrative Oncology (SIO). She is a frequent lecturer on Integrative Medicine (the utilization of the best of Eastern

and Western Medicine, combined), and is considered a specialist and well recognized expert in Integrative Oncology, especially relating to Breast Cancer. Amy teaches at two schools of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Florida, and a frequent presenter of Continuing Education for the Chinese Medicine professional community.

Day One

"Adaptogens: Modern Biomedical Understanding of Ancient Herbs"
3 hrs credit in Biomedicine

"A Practical Presentation of FL Laws and Rules"
2 hrs credit in FL Laws and Rules

"Increasing Safety, Decreasing Risk"
2 hrs credit in Medical Errors

Day Two

"Ethics in OM Practice"
4 hrs credit in General (FL) and/or 4 hrs credit in Ethics (NCCAOM)

"Inflammation and Herbal Strategies for Reducing It"
3 hrs credit in Biomedicine



Academy for
Five Element Acupuncture

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER: ACUPUNCTURIST.EDU

Academy Calendar

Strategic Planning & Faculty Meeting
November 13-15

Five Element Graduate Program
Niki Bilton
Registration Deadline
November 30

Florida License Renewal Weekend Workshop
Amy Sear
December 5-6

New Master of Acupuncture Class
January 25, 2016

Elisabeth Rochat de la Vallée
April 15-17, 2016

About Niki Bilton

Trained at the College of Traditional Acupuncture in Warwickshire, England (1979-1988), Niki Bilton has maintained a private practice since 1982 and a clinical consultancy service since 1989. She served for many years as a lecturer, clinical supervisor and Dean of Graduate Studies at the UK college, currently teaches in England, Europe and the USA, and is the Academic Dean at Ongiara College of Acupuncture and Moxibustion, Ontario, Canada. Niki is one of the most experienced international tutors of Five Element Acupuncture, able to transform the magic of Daoist classical theory into 21st century clinical application.

The Academy is hosting Niki Bilton's two-year program designed for practitioners who wish to significantly deepen their understanding and application of the theory and practice of Five Element acupuncture. The Five Element Graduate Program is co-sponsored by TendingShen & Ongiara College of Acupuncture and Moxibustion. This program is open to all practicing acupuncturists with a background in Five Element acupuncture. It is crafted to encourage awareness of what you already know, stimulate recognition of what you do not know, and allow you to mature as an instrument of Nature. We are the only venue in the southeastern United States offering this program and the registration deadline is coming soon. If you are interested, please contact Misti Oxford-Pickeral directly at misti.oxford@acupuncturist.edu.

Class 30 Commencement



Congratulations to our most recent graduating class! Please welcome your new colleagues: Sheila Calhoun, Greg Carder, Quincy Davisson, Bethany Gray-Shaw, Noe Hernandez, Patrick Miller, Michaela Parks, CC Pike, Jacqueline Plachta, Audra Sexton, Katie Smith, Beth Spencer, Alexis Wilson, Sarah Zwieg

Thank You Donors



Classrooms are filling in our new building! Commemorate a loved one, share your inspiration with future students, or get together with your class and make a donation. Donations may be made by phone (352.335.2332) or on our website, acupuncturist.edu. Thank you to our most recent donors:

- Louis Bornstein
- Rong Lin
- Melissa Maki
- The Wonder Fund

New Clinic Grand Opening



Ready to make formulas in our new dispensary!

We toasted the completion of renovations in the 315 building on October 9th with an Open House. Our community turned out in force to show their support. Alumni, faculty members, staff, supervisors, students, clinic patients, and other Academy supporters attended the evening festivities. We had excellent food and drinks, great live music, and tours of the building.

The highlight of the evening was showcasing the new art work. One of our long time clinic patients and advocates, **Arnall Downs**, designed and helped create (along with our beloved **Patty Getford**) beautiful framed batik fabric art pieces. Patty and Arnall created over 20 pieces of art for the clinic and we discovered that we need a few more to make all the treatment rooms feel complete. Arnall donated a stunning piece of Mia indigo batik textile art that is matted and framed and proudly displayed in the lobby. We are all very grateful for the love and dedication Arnall has given the school throughout the years and especially now.



The treatment rooms are complete!

Please visit our online photo gallery for more photos of our new clinic spaces:
<http://acupuncturist.edu/new-clinic-grand-opening/clinic-grand-opening/>