Letter from the Executive Director

Winter Greetings!

At long last, we at the Academy are entering a time of slowing down to allow us to enjoy the benefits of the winter season. Fall and early winter were bustling at the Academy. After our wonderful 25th Anniversary Celebrations in late October, we had quite a bit on our plate to wind up the year. We welcomed back our first year cohort in December. Kimberly Bonde, Robie Murdoch, and Alexander Love came to teach during their intensive. It was wonderful to have them back at the Academy. We were also putting the finishing touches on enrolling a brand new Master of Acupuncture cohort. They started their journey with us on January 7, 2014. Small but mighty, we are excited to welcome them into our family. Our pre-clinical year class returned in early January; Alexander Love came to teach during their intensive. Our clinical interns moved to level two of their clinical training when they returned from winter break on January 6th. And last but not least, we welcomed Master Ou back again this year for almost a week’s worth of courses in various aspects of Pangu Shengong. It was quite a full house! Since I last wrote, I have had the pleasure of attending three wonderful conferences.

In mid-October, Joanne Epstein (Vice President of Administration) and I attended the Building Bridges of Integration conference in Chantilly, VA. The conference brings together acupuncture students and practitioners, qi gong students and practitioners, holistic nurses and physicians, physicists, world renowned spiritual teachers, and more. Building Bridges has something for everyone: qigong exercises, medical qigong treatments, interesting lectures, networking luncheons, and qi dancing. We had the pleasure of hearing Lama Surya.

We unveiled the design for a new Academy sign at the 25th Anniversary celebration. For $250, you can purchase an engraved brick. You can commemorate a loved one, share your inspiration with future students, or get together with your class and buy a brick as a group. Donations may be made over the phone (352.335.2332) or on our website, acupuncturist.edu.

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Welcome Class 31B

Pictured here during their first intensive (l. to r.) are Susan Lee, Laura Lynn Powell, Promise Evans, Katie Cook-Bretson, Hillary Leonzio, Allison Osborne, Vu Hoang, and Monica Nolan (center)

Executive Director’s Letter

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Das speak, as well as attending lectures on a variety of interesting subjects and networking with amazing practitioners. I encourage you to look into the 2014 Building Bridges of Integration conference.

Finally, I also attended the fall meeting of the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM). At this meeting, I was elected to the Executive Committee of the CCAOM as a member-at-large. I am excited about this opportunity to serve the council and to represent the school at the national level. Though we spend a good amount of meeting time on educational issues, we also look at state and federal issues impacting the practice of acupuncture and oriental medicine. One of my take-home messages from the last couple of CCAOM meetings is that each of us must get involved politically in our profession. We have to be our own advocates. In order to protect and promote the practice of acupuncture, we have to make our voices heard. Other interest groups are infringing on our profession right now. We have a say and that can be powerful. Please consider this a call to action.

Join your state acupuncture board, go to meetings, stay informed. Find your local representatives and your congressional representatives and go talk to them. Let them know who you are and what you do and the benefits of acupuncture performed by the people highly trained to do it. We can shape the future of acupuncture or we can allow it to be shaped for us. Get involved... and remember that the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Wishing you an exciting and prosperous Year of the Horse,

[Signature]

Upcoming Events

June 7
Prospective Student Open House

June 27-28
Spirit of the Herbs
Thea Elijah

August 17
Class 29 Commencement

September 4
Next Master of Acupuncture class begins

May 2015
Elisabeth Rochat de Valle
Details TBA

Visit our website for more information: ACUPUNCTURIST.EDU
Alumni News

Well Established Practice for Sale in Billings, Montana

Take over, buy or work in a beautiful Billings, Montana office, within minutes of the city airport and downtown business district. Office has three large sized treatment rooms (12x14), two smaller massage treatment rooms, and one larger room adjoining a full kitchen and bathroom, which can be used as an apartment.

For more information call Ravi at 505.450.2496 or email rmgor@hotmail.com.

- Jerrie Lynn Nelson
  Class VIII

Practice for Sale for June 2014 in Sunny and Warm Coral Springs, FL

I am selling a fully furnished renovated clinic with four large treatment rooms with floor to ceiling windows providing natural light. My clinic is in the heart of the city, in a beautiful upscale community.

Contact me at 954.755.1292 or email jtolob31@hotmail.com if interested in more information.

- Jack Tobol
  Class 15

I have a new website for my practice in the Oldsmar area of Tampa, Florida. Visit www.optimallivingclinic.com and say hello!

- Sam Cheever
  Class 25

Entering into this year, I am proud to announce the opening of Foxheart Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine in New York City. My office is opening on February 16th. I invite you to share my contact information. My practice is part of SoHo Health Arts. No website yet, but you can find me on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/foxheartacu.

- Julia Holloway
  Class 27

Congratulations Recent Graduates on your Licensing

Mat Kulas
(ClassName=28) FL

Julia Holloway
(ClassName=27) NY

Kim Klingele
(ClassName=28) OR

Carlos Sessler
(ClassName=27) FL

Elizabeth Stewart
(ClassName=26) FL, MI

Marcia Eskridge
(ClassName=28) AK

Laura Hartley
(ClassName=27) NC, SC

Erica McLaughlin
(ClassName=28) FL

Gina Hamlin
(ClassName=28) MD

Jennifer Sawyer
(ClassName=26) NY

Bart Beckermann
(ClassName=26) NY
The new Moon on January 30 at 11:20 pm PST (but listed as January 31 in many calendars) begins the year of the Wood Horse. Chinese New Year is a spring festival that begins on the second new Moon after Winter Solstice, with the Sun and Moon in Aquarius. This new Moon also starts the month of the Fire Tiger making energy very strong and lively as Horse year begins, a clear departure from the slower energy of the previous Water Snake year 2013.

The Wood Horse year is a time of fast victories, unexpected adventure, and surprising romance. It is an excellent year for travel, and the more far away and off the beaten path the better. Energy is high and production is rewarded. Decisive action, not procrastination, brings victory. But you have to act fast in a Horse year. If you are not 100% secure about a decision, then don’t do it. Events move so quickly in a Horse year that you don’t want to gallop off in the wrong direction.

Casual and outdoorsy Horse year is about freedom, returning to nature, and enjoying life and life’s adventures. You won’t always want to focus on work because it’s easy to be distracted by fun, good times, and parties in sexy Horse year. Because Horse can be impulsive, act now and think later, avoid the mistakes of overspending, enabling others, and denying when there is a problem. Overspending is easy in a Horse year because if you feel you deserve something or want a reward, the impulse to buy is strong. Horses often buy what they feel they deserve without realizing how their purchases effect their long-term planning because Horse rarely plans for the future.

Also in Horse year, it’s easy to make a snap decision, especially business decisions that are not planned but “just feel right.” Denial that there is a problem is another Horse trait. It’s easier to move on to the next adventure than face reality or clean up a mess. So don’t ignore details this year while being an optimist that things will all just work out on their own.

Horse doesn’t care about money and lives large, so in Horse year you might be tempted to overspend on entertainment, going out, fun festivities – anything to keep up with the Horse good times and spirit of live today. Horse year ends in triumph or tragedy, and more businesses will fail than succeed. So learn from what you see around you. You don’t have to act, but you do have to know. In the year of the Horse, you can let others lead the way then follow in the footsteps of their success – but you’ll have to act fast. The Horse, Tiger, Dog, or Sheep benefit the most from Horse’s strong and spirited actions.