Spring Greetings!

Spring has definitely sprung in North Central Florida. Gainesville is abloom and temperatures are climbing. In our carport at home, we found a little wren nesting in a basket. We are all fascinated and charmed by her tiny babies and beautiful singing! We are all appreciating the cool mornings and warm afternoons that spring is offering.

At school, we have had a brief lull and time for preparation for a busy spring. Brendan Kelly was here in February to teach a Practice Management course for the clinical interns. The interns have hit their stride in both acupuncture and herbal clinic and they continue to do wonderful work with their patients. The local faculty and supervisors are enjoying working with them as they grow into highly effective, compassionate, and successful practitioners. Our next class of clinic interns will return in May for their final intensive session before clinic begins for them in August. Our first year students will be here in June for their third session and their first herbal studies session.

We are pleased to announce that our Spring Preview Day (formerly called Open House) will take place on Saturday, June 20th. If you have someone in your life who you believe would be a wonderful, gifted Five Element acupuncturist, please encourage them to come to our Preview Day. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet faculty and staff, learn about Five Element acupuncture, and meet current students. You can find more information about Preview Day on our website. We are currently accepting applications for the next Master of Acupuncture class. Their journey begins with us on August 11, 2015. Thank you for your personal referrals. We are deeply grateful for your support.

I am very excited and pleased to announce the addition of a new track for the Chinese Herbal Studies program. Beginning in June 2015, we will offer a Chinese Herbal Studies program geared toward graduates and licensed acupuncturists who are looking to add herbs to their practices. This completely intensive-based program will start June 29, 2015. More information is available on our website.

Elisabeth Rochat de Vallee will be at the Academy May 1-3. On Friday, May 1, Elisabeth will offer a day-long workshop on the Patient-Practitioner Relationship, followed by a reception and book signing. On Saturday and Sunday, May 2-3, Elisabeth will present a workshop on Qi and Their Various Manifestations. Florida CEUs are available and we are anxiously awaiting approval from the NCCAOM to offer PDA points as well. Please visit the website for more information and to register online. If you have any questions, please contact Andi Houston (352.335.2332 or andi.houston@acupuncturist.edu).
Letter from the Executive Director

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Thea Elijah will be here June 19 and 20 for Spirit of the Herbs. Please come visit the school and spend a wonderful weekend basking in the spirit of herbal medicine. For those of you who already practice herbs, this course is a unique reminder or perhaps a new exploration of the herbs you have worked with for years. Taking the healing qualities of the five elements out of the treatment room and into the larger world, Thea will also offer a one-day workshop titled Whole Heart Connection on Sunday, June 21. Visit our website for details.

Renovations on the new building are underway and progressing beautifully! We will launch a fundraising campaign soon. Be on the lookout for opportunities to support our growth. Our intention is to have the space ready for Class 31’s clinical residency. We met with the builder for our new sign incorporating the five elements. With our newly expanded campus, we have chosen a lovely spot for the installation. Construction will begin soon! We are still accepting donations, if you would like to purchase a commemorative brick for yourself or someone you love.

A gentle reminder now that it is tax season again, please remember to use the term “acupuncturist” to describe your profession. That simple act will help support our profession as we seek recognition with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

May your spring be filled with hope and renewal (and lots of leafy greens),

Misti Oxford-Pickeral

Welcome Gale Mowry

The Academy proudly welcomes Gale Mowry to our Governing Board. Gale is a graduate of Class 12 and has been in practice in Helena, MT for 13 years. She is devoted to Five Element theory and practice. She is an experienced teacher and is at home as both a leader and a team player. Gale excels in being constructive and productive, accomplishing whatever job needs to be completed with thoughtful consideration, creativity, and a tenacious will. As a friend and colleague, she is deeply caring, reliable, selfless, and compassionate. We have always been able to count on Gale for straightforward advice, loving support, effective help, and a good laugh! We are thrilled that she has agreed to serve the school community in this important way.

Congratulations Misti Oxford-Pickeral, Executive Director, on her election to Vice President of the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine in November, 2014.

It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart.

-Rainer Maria Rilke
I am happy to announce moving my practice from many years in Denver, Colorado to Overland Park, Kansas to be closer to my family. This year begins my 24th year in practice. I have named my practice Center for Classical Acupuncture in Overland Park. I am one of two classical Five Element practitioners in Kansas so I look forward to introducing people to this wonderful style of acupuncture.

-Kerry Fremerman
WICA Class 2

We opened Beaches Acupuncture & Wellness Center together and just celebrated our one year anniversary and official ribbon cutting ceremony with the Chamber of Commerce. The office was expanded and renovated to accommodate a larger herbal pharmacy as well as two additional mental health practitioners. We now have three acupuncturists and two mental health therapists - one who specializes in EMDR with veterans and the other holds a PhD in nutrition. The Chinese herbal pharmacy now holds over 300 individual herbs! See photos here: http://beachesacupunctureandwellnesscenter.com/event/1-year-anniversary-ribbon-cutting-and-expansion/

-Rachel Buchanan and Sandy Bennett
Class 28

A special thank you to Teresa Bruggeman for her generous donation of acupuncture and alternative health books to our library.

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

This month I opened my practice in Miami, FL. My clinic is located in the lush Coconut Grove neighborhood at Treehouse Acupuncture and Wellness Center. I am happy to be offering Five Element acupuncture, along with a full herbal pharmacy. For more information, visit fiveelementmiami.com.

-Catherine Hollingsworth
Class 29

I am excited to announce that Rootstock Acupuncture, LLC is now located right near the heart of downtown Bozeman, MT. My practice is located in The Health Collective which also houses practitioners of naturopathic medicine, chiropractic, counseling and massage. Whether you are near or far, let’s connect: facebook.com/rootstockacupuncture.

-Angie Kociolek
Class 28
Elisabeth Rochat de la Vallee  
_The Patient/Practitioner Relationship_  
May 1  
_The Various Expressions of Qi in the Body_  
May 2-3  

Thea Elijah  
_Spirit of the Herbs_  
June 19-20  

Prospective Student Preview Day  
June 20  

Thea Elijah  
_Whole Heart Connection_  
June 21  

Class 30 Commencement  
August 29  

Mark Fortney  
_Ten Thousand Things: Delving Deeper into the Spirit of the Points_  
September 19-20

Sharon Poston passed away on April 2, 2015 in St. Elias Hospital in Anchorage, AK, after battling ALS for three years. She was surrounded by loved ones including Christopher, her 17 year old son. She was 58 years old. Sharon completed her Master of Acupuncture degree at the Academy with Class 22. She was a gifted practitioner and her brilliant smile and generous spirit will never be forgotten. Sharon was honored at a memorial service on April 9th at First Presbyterian Church in Anchorage. We will miss her beautiful presence. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to an account set up at the Anchorage Wells Fargo Bank to benefit her son Christopher.