



Academy for Five Element Acupuncture

passion • education • community



Winter 2018

President's Report

Winter Greetings!

Happy Year of the Earth Dog!

Characteristics of Dog years are loyalty and a focus on ethics and morals, especially as they apply to society. This year we may see high value placed on societal relationships and what is good for our communities. This is a Yang year, so we may see people forming "packs" and stepping up to confront controversial issues. Especially in Earth Dog years, integrity and honesty are the values that will lead to success.

We welcomed in the Year of the Dog with a fantastic Chinese New Year party on February 16, 2018! The school looked beautiful and the catering was delicious. We had interesting herbal soups in the dispensary for guests to sample, plus Qigong with **Jennifer Downey** and Chinese calligraphy sessions with **Stewart Thomas**. I am grateful for this lovely and festive opportunity to celebrate our medicine and our community.

Thanks to our wonderful clinic patients, students, faculty, and supporters for coming to the party. Special thanks to the party

planning committee **Andi Houston, Casey Halwani, Jessica Babapour, Valerie Razutis**, and **Isabelle Winzeler** for their party planning and decorating prowess! You can see some photos from the party in this newsletter.

In Administrative news, I am thrilled to introduce our new Academic Dean, **Valerie Razutis!** Valerie started with us on January 3, 2018. She comes to us from California with a Doctoral degree in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine from Oregon College of Oriental Medicine and is completing an Education Doctorate through St. Augustine University. In her short time here, Valerie has already found her footing and started to make the position her own. I am excited to have Valerie on our team and look forward to all she has to offer. Please join me in welcoming her to our community.

Of course, having a new Academic Dean join the team means that our beloved **Chuck Graham** is no longer serving the school in that position. I am pleased to let our community know that Chuck will continue to work for the school in curriculum development, as a consultant for the new Academic Dean, and he will remain on the faculty. I know I speak for the entire Academy

Administration when I say that Chuck will be sorely missed. Please help me wish Chuck the best as he works on building up his private practice in Baltimore.

In January, the Academy hosted Acupuncturists Without Borders (AWB) for a training on treating community trauma. It was an honor to donate space to this organization who does so much to help communities in need. The founder of AWB, **Diana Fried**, is one of our alumni and we are so proud of the work she does in the world. When they contacted us about hosting a training, we were thrilled to make it happen. AWB relies on donations of all kinds to continue their work. Please consider making a contribution if you are able. Visit their website for more

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Alumni & Faculty News

I graduated from WICA IV in 1994 while living in western Massachusetts.

During my Five Element training several serendipitous events, facilitated I believe by my own Five Element treatment, led me to connect very deeply with my Jewish roots. So after less than two years of practice in Great Barrington, MA, I headed to Israel on a one way plane ticket. Today my clinic, Chen Va'Chesed (which means Grace and Kindness) is located in a residential, mostly orthodox section of northern Jerusalem.

My practice is an integration of the extensive bodywork skills I had acquired before my acupuncture training; Trager, Cranio-Sacral, Visceral Manipulation, Zero Balancing combined with Five Element acupuncture and Classical Homeopathy. Along the way I have also learned the fundamentals of Network Spinal Analysis, trauma resolution techniques, dietary guidance and various verbal counseling approaches.

My patients are primarily from the religious population and I often have the pleasure of treating three generations in one family. They come with a wide range of difficulties; back pain, emotional problems, ADD, etc. Except for the children, most patients receive AE and CF treatment on the first visit and then I add in other approaches as needed. Among the exciting things that I have discovered integrating acupuncture and homeopathy is that the correct remedy placed on the patient will affect the acupuncture



pulses even while it is still in the bottle. Also I occasionally use my knowledge of the correct remedy to confirm my choice of the CF. My extensive bodywork experience often allows me to needle the one point that corresponds to the structural imbalance, elemental picture and the current psychospiritual challenge. I love everything I do but among my favorite is to work with those patients who have some understanding of the five elements and are actively/consciously exploring their relationship personal growth.

-Yaakov Wieder
Class IV

The Fight for Acupuncture Licensure in Oklahoma

Somewhere along the way, I just knew that I'd end up in Oklahoma. Call it walking the Tao or gut instinct - here I am. The wind really does go sweeping down the plains, by the way. When I first became interested in the "Sooner state", it was really unclear what the rules were for practicing acupuncture. The reality is that there is no license for acupuncturists in the state of Oklahoma.

I was lucky enough to land a job at a hospital in Oklahoma City right after I graduated. Even they had to assemble a team to figure out what the deal was. The conclusion was- it's a free for all. This may sound like a wonderful alternative to license fees, CEU requirements, NCCAOM tests, and all that but let me tell you- when they say free for all, they mean chaos. Do you want malpractice insurance? How about supplies? Do you want to take insurance? You need a license to do these things. In fact, only after I was hired and had moved did my employer find out that they could not file insurance for acupuncture services at all, which put my job in jeopardy. The difficulties I experienced in addition to the eventual understanding that I was one of very few people in the state who was even eligible to sit for the National Board Exams, led me to produce a bill for the licensure and safe practice of Acupuncture in Oklahoma.

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Elisabeth Rochat in April

Elisabeth Rochat de la Vallée

Friday, April 27
*Upper Kidney
Points*

Saturday &
Sunday, April 28-29
*The Eight
Extraordinary Meridians*

Visit our website www.acupuncturist.edu for more information or to register online or call us 352.335.2332 to register over the phone.

Thank You Donors

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RECEIVING
Fullness

Commemorate a loved one, share your inspiration with future students, or get together with your class and make a donation. Thank you to our most recent donors:

**Louis Bornstein
Deborah Lemont
Marilyn Mesh & Susie Westfall
Charles Miller
Caroline Schultz**

The gift of the Five Element tradition is needed in our world now more than ever. Thank you so much for helping the Academy to create more powerful agents of change in the world. Donations may be made by phone (352.335.2332) or on our website, acupuncturist.edu.

Coming Events

April 18
Free Seminar Series
*Exploring Careers in
Acupuncture*

April 27
Elisabeth Rochat de la Vallée
Upper Kidney Points

April 28-29
Elisabeth Rochat de la Vallée
*The Eight Extraordinary
Meridians*

June 9
Prospective Student
Preview Day

August 22
Next Master of Acupuncture
class begins

October 5-7
Niki Bilton
*Color, Sound, Odor, and
Emotion Carnival*

Spring 2019
Lonny Jarrett



President's Report

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information (acuwithoutborders.org).

In other exciting news, we started 12 new students in Class 35B on January 25, 2018! This group has an interesting mix of backgrounds and talents, and we look forward to being on this journey with them. **Gary Dolowich** came from California to teach their first days of Five Element theory. **Dan Sachs** is in Gainesville for the winter and spent several days with the new class, as did our other amazing local faculty.

I offer my deepest thanks to those of you who have referred students to the Academy this past year: **Patricia Dorris**, **Dan Howard**, **Deborah Lemont**, **Nancy Lipman**, and **Melissa Maki**. (I apologize

if I missed anyone!) We are grateful for your support. We are taking applications for our next class in August 2018. We would love to talk with your friends, family, and patients about a career in acupuncture. Our next Preview Day for prospective students is June 9. Preview Day provides an excellent opportunity to learn more about our school and our programs and to meet students and faculty.

We have a few upcoming events at the school. In April, we welcome back Élisabeth Rochat de la Vallée to share her knowledge of the classics. She will offer a one-day seminar on the Upper Kidney chest points followed by a two-day seminar on the Eight Extraordinary Vessels. I am thrilled to announce newly

confirmed dates for Niki Bilton's CSOE Carnival, October 5-7, 2018. We'll have more information about that workshop soon. And be on the lookout for Spring 2019 Lonny Jarrett dates. Please visit the website to learn more about the upcoming continuing education opportunities at the Academy.

I wish you all the best in the coming year. May we find a way to come together to support those who need it most.

With love,



Farewell Chuck Graham

It has been an overwhelming honor and privilege to have served for the past thirteen years as academic dean at Academy for Five Element Acupuncture, the country's leading Five Element acupuncture school. In my role as academic dean, I bid farewell, not goodbye, to faculty, staff, and students. I am excited to continue with the Academy as faculty and as curriculum development consultant.

It seems like only yesterday that I was flying down to Hallandale for my first week as academic dean. At that point, my entire academic career had been as a graduate of the wonderful Class XII and as a faculty member. I never imagined that I might become the Academy's dean, although, I always knew I wanted to give back to the medicine and the school that had given so much to me.

My expectations have diverged in many different and exciting paths over the past thirteen years, including the school's move from Hallandale to Gainesville. This experience has been an important part of my professional life, deeply rewarding in many ways. When I arrived, I thought I had a good idea of what the Academy was and meant, but I quickly learned that it is far more complex, and far more remarkable, than even I had understood as a student and faculty member.

One of the privileges of being dean is the unique perspective and understanding of all the components that make the school thrive and make it so great. These components include the program, its unique intensive structure, and the beautiful campus, including our amazing clinic, which is the heart of our education, research, and care of patients.

But more directly, and importantly, the Academy is the people with whom I have had the honor to work, day in and day out, as dean. These are the innumerable people who bring credit and honor to the Academy and account for its peerless reputation. And, these are the people I'd like to thank.

First, President Emeritus **Dorit Reznik**, who appointed me, and with whom I have always admired for her joyful and indomitable spirit, as supervisor, cheerleader, and trailblazing leader of the Academy.

Thank you to the board, especially **Merry Gerard**, Chairperson, who has always been passionately dedicated to the school and supportive of me personally. Her advice and sense of humor have

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Welcome Valerie



My name is **Valerie Razutis** and I am the new academic dean. I'm so happy and excited to be part of the Academy family. This school is unlike any I have ever worked with before. The atmosphere of inclusiveness and the true intent to excel in education and healthcare is wonderful to experience. I came here from Los Angeles and I am loving Gainesville so far. Even my hair is finally starting to get on board. I love the accessibility to outdoor activities and the interesting cultural events. Plus, farmers markets! I am looking forward to learning more about Five Element acupuncture and offering my skills and perspective to the curriculum. My door is always open, please come visit me anytime.

Thank you,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be 'VR', written in a cursive style.

In Memoriam



Barbara Ann Davis, compassionate and loving friend, passed away peacefully at her mountain home surrounded by her loved ones on Saturday evening, December 9, 2017, six days short of her 65th birthday. Barbara was a tireless advocate for and supporter of the Academy. As a lawyer specializing in mediation and collaboration, she was instrumental in negotiating the purchase of the school from the Worsleys in the 1990s and helping the school achieve non-profit status. Barbara served on the Governing Board for the Academy until 2013.

Her working life embodied her compassion and values as an advocate and supporter to others. She inspired trust and confidence through her words and her actions. She leaves the world a much better place. Barbara will forever be loved by her husband, Art Shuster, her daughter Laurel Willoughby, and many wonderful friends and family across the country.

We will miss her dearly.



Barbara Davis at an Academy faculty meeting in 2013.

Farewell Chuck Graham

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always helped me, and thereby the Academy, to grow and succeed.

To the dedicated Academy faculty, past and present, I extend my gratitude. I am doubly grateful to many of them who taught me when I was a student. Taken together, there is no comparable group of herbalists and Five Element academics and practitioners on the planet. And I surely can attest to the truth of that statement more knowledgeable than anyone else.

I'd like to thank the leaders of Meridian Behavioral Health Care, Inc., an affiliated institution that partners with the Academy to promote the health, recovery, and well-being of those affected by mental illnesses and substance use disorders through prevention, coordinated treatment, and supportive services while providing our interns alternative ways of treating and reaching the community.

I owe a great debt to our remarkable team of administrative staff, past and present, without whom nothing would be accomplished, especially my classmate and dear friend **Patty Getford** and the heart of our program, **Ruby Bienert**, Clinic Director. The administrative staff represent me, and the Academy, at the highest level. These people are all consummate experts and leaders in their own rights, and our friendships will persist long after I leave this office.

And thanks to our students, who are the core reason we exist as a school. They inspire us and make us proud, both for what they do when they are here, during the course of their careers, and as alumni of this great institution and ambassadors of this medicine.

My gratitude would not be complete without thanking two outstanding women: **Joanne Epstein**, Vice President Administration, and **Misti Oxford-Pickeral**, President. The Academy is incredibly fortunate to have them as

leaders of our institution. They have been my co-worker, supporter, and mentor. We have laughed and cried, sweated and celebrated, and worked late into the wee hours of the morning in service to the Academy. I will miss our daily interactions, yet, am happy and grateful in the knowledge that I have made two life-long friends.

Finally, I must thank my husband, **David Burdick**. He has always been there for me while away from home and when, as is almost unavoidable, I brought the Academy home with me. Thank you, David, for everything.

Running a school like the Academy requires a shared vision and teamwork across all of the many dimensions that make up the school. That shared vision cannot be evident at every moment—that would be beyond the realm of the possible. I am fortunate to have been at the center of those times when our vision became distinctly manifest and am proud of what we have jointly accomplished on behalf of the Academy over the past thirteen years, sometimes against great odds.

I treasure the friendships I have made along the way, and I expect to continue them during the next phase of my career, as I return to the faculty from which I arose, and for which I have such respect.

I wish **Valerie Razutis** the best of luck as academic dean. I am relieved and elated to have such an exceptionally accomplished person take over the role of academic dean and raise us to the next level. And I can assure her that she will have the opportunity, as I did, to lead the greatest Five Element school in the world.

Farewell,



Upcoming Events



Free Seminar at the Academy

April 18, 2018
Exploring Careers in Acupuncture

Academy for Five Element Acupuncture
305 SE 2nd Ave. Gainesville, FL 32601
RSVP by phone: 352.335.2332 Email: info@acupuncturist.edu
More info: WWW.ACUPUNCTURIST.EDU

April 18th 6:30-8:30pm
Exploring Careers in Acupuncture

Learn about the wide range of rewarding career options available to licensed acupuncturists. Conversations with successful, experienced acupuncturists who have chosen different ways of approaching their practices and careers. You can have the career you have dreamed of.



Alumni & Faculty News

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Shortly after moving, I found that an acupuncturist in Oklahoma City was offering a 12 hour class that he states on his website leads to licensure in Acupuncture. Another "school" with zero accreditation states that they teach, "licensed Acupuncture in Oklahoma." There is no license though. These same people are the ones who do not want a license as it will end their fleecing of those who learn their claims of "licensed acupuncture" are false at best.

In 2015, I submitted a bill to the state senate that was basically the Florida Acupuncture Practice Act. The acupuncturists here panicked. They fought the bill tooth and nail, stating that it was designed to put everyone out of business that wasn't NCCAOM eligible, although it clearly grandfathered in everyone who was currently practicing.

Last year massage therapists gained a license in Oklahoma. They sought licensure because there were 'rub and tug' places all over Oklahoma and that has lead to human trafficking issues in Oklahoma City. When the license went into effect, all those less than spa-like massage businesses magically became acupuncture offices.

After over five years of debate, a group of acupuncturists in Oklahoma recently submitted a bill that establishes a license but requires no training for acupuncturists and no accreditation for acupuncture schools. Who are they protecting? Does this bill best serve and protect the people? Does it protect the profession?

My state representative, A.J. Griffin took on my bill. Representative Griffin has garnered a great deal of support for our State Bill 1523. This bill protects both the public and the profession as it sets a high standard of training of education, as well as requiring accreditation of acupuncture schools. It grandfathers those who are practicing in, but also only allows those who have the nationally

established minimal training to become licensed acupuncturists. SB 1523 will help us do our part to end the opioid crisis as acupuncturists in Oklahoma will be able to accept and file insurance, giving the public greater access to effect and natural healthcare administered by highly trained professionals. Acupuncture will also be held in higher regard once the the 'rub and tug' establishments are shut down and the public understands the training that goes into becoming a licensed acupuncturist. I believe that SB 1523 is what's best for the state of Oklahoma.



Pictured: Left: Dr. Seneca Dewbre, M.Ac., Ph.D., Right: Dr. Toni Twitty, M.Ac., Ph.D.c

We have teamed up to support Oklahoma State Bill 1523 to establish a license for acupuncturists in Oklahoma.

We need the support of acupuncturists all over the country to protect the people of Oklahoma and the profession of acupuncture. Please call, email, mail, and go to social media to help us support Oklahoma SB 1523. You can follow me @bewellokc on instagram or Be Well Acupuncture on Facebook. Sharing, liking, and commenting help posts gain more local visibility and that really helps us get the word out! We will also be posting a form letter for people to simply print, sign, and mail to Senator Griffin's office to show support for SB 1523.

Thank you for your help!

-Toni Penery Twitty
Class 28



Optimal Living Clinic, LLC
Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine for Your Vital Well-Being

Practice for Sale

Optimal Living Clinic was founded in 2011. We have over 800 past and present patient records, a Google rating of 4.8 stars, and a BBB A+ rating. Located on the cusp of Pinellas and Hillsborough counties in the Upper Tampa Bay area, we are accessible by many patients from Clearwater to Tampa. Last year's gross income was \$39,000. Profit and Loss statement and other business info will be available to serious buyers only.

Current lease is \$985 per month for 918sf clinic with waiting area, front desk, and 3 private treatment rooms. Owner is traveling, but wishes to transfer the lease, and be available as needed for practice questions until Summer 2018. Offer \$25,000. See website, pictures, and video tour at www.optimallivingclinic.com. Serious inquiries only please. Call Sam 813-843-9799, leave vm and best time to confer or email optimalliving83@gmail.com.

-Samantha Cheever
Class 25

Thank you
Jacqueline Plachta
for your generous
donation to our library