



Academy for Five Element Acupuncture

passion • education • community



Summer 2018

Letter from the President

Happy Summer!

I hope you are enjoying these longer, warmer days, wherever you are. This summer marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of our school. What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate! In July 1988, the Worsleys founded the Worsley Institute of Classical Acupuncture (WICA). In the mid-1990s the school was purchased from the Worsleys, a board of governors was appointed, and under the leadership of Dorit Reznik, the school became a not-for-profit educational organization newly named Academy for Five Element Acupuncture. For 30 years this school has been dedicated to maintaining the Five Element tradition and graduating highly skilled, compassionate practitioners who make a tremendous impact on the lives of the patients they work with. We are proud to be going strong and we are committed to keeping this tradition thriving and growing.

process of identifying corporate sponsors and obtaining services, gift certificates, and items for the silent auction. If you are inspired to make a contribution or buy tickets, please contact me directly (misti.oxford@acupuncturist.edu). A Save the Date announcement is on its way and tickets for the event will go on sale soon. Please check the website for more information. I would love to see you there!

I am also thrilled to announce that **Niki Bilton** will be returning to the Academy, bringing her **Color, Sound, Odor, and Emotion Carnival**, October 5-7, 2018. The carnival provides a fun, informative, interactive way to review and refresh your Five Element diagnostic skills with one of the most senior practitioners in our tradition. Niki will also stay for a couple of days for faculty development. Please see the website for more information about the CSOE Carnival.

Lonny Jarrett will also return to the Academy in March 2019. Please keep your eye out for more information on that workshop in the coming months. One of our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan objectives involves offering high quality Five Element continuing education. I am interested to learn more about what kinds of workshops and seminars you would like to take, and what format would suit you best. Please feel free to contact me by email or phone with your suggestions.

The world of acupuncture education continues to grow and change. I keep my finger on the pulse of acupuncture education through my involvement at the national level as President of the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM). One of the

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We are excited to celebrate this huge milestone with a gala event on November 3, 2018 at the school. We'll have delightful refreshments, live entertainment, and a silent auction. I hope you will consider coming to Gainesville to help us celebrate and to support the school. We are in the

Color, Sound, Odor & Emotion Carnival October 5-7

CSOE are the tools by which we stand or fall as Five Element practitioners. From years of working closely with patients, students & graduates, I have developed a way of sharing CSOE that is fun, simple, achievable and repeatable in the treatment room.

-Niki H. Bilton



Letter from the President

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biggest changes has been the recent addition of a professional clinical doctorate. Post-Masters doctoral education has been in existence for over a decade. The Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) approved competencies for the professional doctorate in 2016, though there were significant hurdles. With recent changes to the process several schools have submitted applications to offer a professional doctorate (in place of their Master’s degree programs, for most schools).

Another of our Strategic Plan objectives includes thoroughly exploring doctoral level education. With the addition of **Valerie Razutis** as our Academic Dean, we are better equipped to begin that exploration. Valerie has a post-Master’s doctorate in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM), has written a professional doctoral program for another acupuncture school, and is working on an educational doctorate. You’ll find an article from Valerie regarding doctoral education in this newsletter.

Many of you have heard about the recent and surprising changes announced by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) - boy do we love our acronyms - regarding the elimination of pre-graduation examination. As President of CCAOM I am working with the Executive Committee to push back against those changes and to open dialog for better communication and problem-solving with NCCAOM. The Chief Executive Officer is taking our feedback to the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners next meeting and we hope to have more information soon. Stay tuned!

I hope in this summer season that you find the things that light up your heart.

With love, *Misti Oxford-Pickeral*

What is a Professional Doctorate?

Our beautiful, storied, historical medicine naturally doesn’t seem “new” to us, so it can be hard to remember that for the United States, this medicine has a history that doesn’t even span fifty years yet. There are people that refer to our profession as “New Age”, which always makes me laugh. We are as new as the mountains, as new as the air we breathe. We are the dirt that grows our food. There is nothing new about what we do, except perhaps, the ways we explain what we have always known.

In the beginning, acupuncturists in the US were the people trained elsewhere. We started having our own educational programs, first as a certification and then as a Master-level degree, which became the profession entry requirement in the late 1980s. In 1999, the first post-Master doctoral degree was started. In 2014, the first entry-level doctorate sat its first class in Southern California.

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Thank You Donors



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:

- Stephen Flores**
Martha Graziano
Terri Matson
Leslie Suskin

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.



Faculty & Alumni News



Job Opportunity in Michigan

It certainly is a prosperous time to be an acupuncturist. The Joint Commission which accredits over 21,000 hospitals has now made it mandatory that hospitals provide alternative modalities for pain patients. Employers across the country are hiring acupuncturists, and a quick glance at Indeed.com shows many hospitals having to hire to meet the new requirements. Due to the opioid epidemic even ethical physicians have to monitor and change their prescribing habits and the way they talk to patients about disease. For better or for worse, prescribing doctors are now forced to align themselves with integrative practitioners, and hospitals who employed acupuncturists before are finding they

have to hire more to meet the demands of increased patient volume.

While businesses in Michigan have been ahead of the curve (my employer, Henry Ford Health System has had integrative services for over 20 years), the state legislature is far behind in providing clear regulation of the practice of acupuncture. Currently, Michigan acupuncturists at best have a registration which provides title protection of the label "acupuncturist." The reality is far different and scary: ANYONE can put a filliform needle in someone, charge for the service, and be safe from regulatory agencies. I currently am the Membership Chair of the Michigan Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (MAAOM) and last year we introduced our bill SB683, which will move us from registration into full, independent licensure. At the time of writing this we have successfully passed the first round of votes in the Michigan Senate, with four more to go. The irony of practicing acupuncture in Michigan is always on my mind.

Currently, I'm one of four acupuncturists employed with HFHS. I am part of a team which includes a functional medicine physician, functional dietician, two massage therapists and two chiropractors spread out over eight locations around the Metro Detroit region. We are excited to announce we are hiring again for another acupuncturist. I'm privileged to be a part of a forward thinking team that offers comprehensive integrative care, and feel fortunate to represent Five Element practitioners here in Michigan. Please reach out if you have questions or ideas to help MAAOM push through our license bill SB683, mkulas1@hfhs.org.

-Mat Kulas
Class 28

Note from the Academy: Thank you, Mat, for all that you are doing to further our progression.



FIVE ELEMENT
ACUPUNCTURE
CHINESE HERBS

MARGARET HALLISEY L.A.C.
margarethallisey@yahoo.com
718.384.6626

Opportunity for Recent Grads

I have a busy practice in rural La Grande, Oregon, which I have run for 10 years. I graduated from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture in Florida in 2007. I am seeking a resident for my practice. As an Oregon acupuncturist, they would be able to have a provisional licence (be licensed under my license before they passed their NCCAOM exams) for six months. I would like a resident for one year, offering support while they grow their acupuncturist wings and a wealth of knowledge about how to run a busy clinic from a seasoned practitioner.

I serve many different kinds of clients, accepting health insurance, Medicaid and Veterans Choice. I receive medical referrals and work with many seriously ill patients. I also see pregnant woman, children, older patients, veterans- I have a varied practice. I will offer a reasonable pay package to be negotiated with the resident. I live in a beautiful small town with skiing, rafting, fishing, and hiking all within easy reach. The cost of living is very reasonable and it's a wonderful place for families. Please contact me at 541.910.2046.

-Jen Moore
Class 20



What is a Professional Doctorate?

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Now there are several schools with Professional Doctorates (PD) and a couple of options for “upgrading” your Master’s degree to the PD. There’s some confusion about what all these degrees mean, and it can be a challenge to figure out what’s right for you. At the Academy, we are also talking about what’s right for us.

The PD incorporates all the existing requirements for a Master-level education. Additional hours place emphasis on interprofessional collaboration, including clinical experiences. It also affords us the opportunity to expand areas of 5E where we might feel we don’t get enough time. Does it mean giving up the Five Element tradition? Not at all. Are we going to decrease emphasis on 5E medicine and increase emphasis on Western medicine? Not at all. Can an Acupuncture doctor even be considered a real doctor? You bet your pants. Our medicine has a role in the overall healthcare picture and one of the goals of the PD is to create avenues to increase access for the general population. The prestige of the title is part of what creates those avenues. For the Academy, creating a PD allows us to take advantage of those avenues to increase the opportunity for patients to be treated in the 5E tradition.

Naturally, with opportunity comes challenge. There is a higher clock hour requirement for the PD and with our

unique delivery model, it’s challenging to envision a manageable course load for the working adult. One of the great features of our program is that it is possible to work during the first two years of the program. For a more traditional schedule of weekly classes 45 weeks of the year, keeping a regular job is less possible. So we need to figure out ways to hold class while students are in their home states, and ways to restructure the Intensive schedule to make it possible to deliver more content. Our other challenge is cost. It will cost the Academy more to deliver a doctoral degree. Some of that interprofessional collaboration will cost us money to manifest. We’ll need some different teaching tools, especially if we decide to move some of the coursework to an online format. Our faculty need additional training to continue giving you the outstanding level of teaching, but in new formats. Additionally, they need doctorates of their own so we have to figure out how to make that possible. So you can see, this is no small undertaking.

That said, it is important for us to move our program in that direction. It may take a few more years, but eventually, an entry-level doctorate will become the profession standard. We cannot wait until that’s a reality to start making this transition. It’s important to me to make this transition now because there is no 5E doctoral degree in this country, even among the post-master options. We have something unique, something beautiful, and I think we need to share this with our colleagues, our patients, and our

healthcare system.

I’m a doctor. I love being a doctor. I chose to pursue the post-master DAOM in part because the title itself has meaning to me but more so because it more accurately reflects the level of work I do, and I want the recognition for that. As it happens, I am also the architect of the country’s very first Professional Doctorate, which has now graduated its first cohort. They are some of the best new graduate clinicians I have ever seen and I’m proud to have played a role in their existence. But you know what they aren’t? They are not Five Element doctors. We need those. The Academy for Five Element Acupuncture is who we need to create those doctors. It won’t be easy; I can promise you that. But it’s very possible, it’s very important, and it’s simply necessary. As we begin this planning process, we’ll be reaching out to various stakeholders and we’ll keep you all apprised as things progress. I’m excited by the possibility of a Five Element doctoral degree! I hope you all are as well. I’m always available to answer questions and hear concerns.

My love to you all,



Valerie Razutis, DAOM, L.Ac.
Academic Dean



Faculty & Alumni News

(continued)

Established Practice for Sale



Novi Acupuncture came to life eleven years ago following my graduation from the Academy and the herbal program. It has doubled each year into a thriving, lucrative practice in southeastern Michigan, between Ann

Arbor and Detroit. With an active and health-conscious population and a consistent referral base, the opportunity to have an abundant practice drawing from several surrounding cities is available from the moment you step in.

The office sits in a busy medical park complex. The 1,040 sf space includes a waiting room and reception area, three treatment rooms, and more. There is an abundance of free parking.

Imagine making over \$170,000 per year working 4 days per week (50

patients weekly). The reputation of this practice keeps a steady flow of new patients streaming in with no marketing. Low overhead, years of records, and consistent patient flow. Adding more hours, hiring an associate, subleasing some of your space, offering insurance, and engaging in social media could add more success to an already prosperous practice.

Specific details are available for individuals with serious inquiry. Please email: terrimatson@me.com

-Terri Matson
Class 19

Coming Events

Academy for
Five Element Acupuncture

You're Invited!

PREVIEW DAY

September 29, 2018
Time: 10am - 3:30pm

Five Element acupuncture treatment with pre-registration [Click Here to Register](#)

Coming Events

August 22
Next Master of Acupuncture Class

September 29
Prospective Student Preview Day

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

November 3
30th Anniversary Gala Event

Mark Your Calendars

March 2019
Lonny Jarrett



Thank You Donors

Our beautiful sign is finished! Thank you to all of our Buy a Brick donors for helping us make this possible. Bricks are still available. For more information, visit our website or contact us directly at info@acupuncturist.edu.

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Save the Date

 Academy for
Five Element Acupuncture



30th Anniversary Gala & Fundraiser

Live music & storytelling performances

Silent Auction

Award Presentation

Beer, Wine, and Hors d'Oeuvres

Ticket sales are open! For more information and to buy tickets, please visit our website or call us at 352.335.2332.

<http://acupuncturist.edu/event/30-year-anniversary-gala-concert/>

Saturday, November 3
7pm-10pm

