



Academy for Five Element Acupuncture

passion • education • community

Late Summer 2014

Letter from the Executive Director

Late Summer Greetings,

This time of year we get to harvest and bask in the fruits of our labor, both inside and outside of ourselves. At the Academy, we are squarely in the season of transition. We celebrated the commencement of Class 29 in a beautiful ceremony at Gainesville Woman's Club on August 16th. Senior faculty member, **Dan Sachs** was the keynote speaker. **Merry Gerard**, chair of the Governing Board, attended the ceremony, along with our fantastic local faculty and many of our wonderful clinical patients. Class 29 has raised the bar for intern classes in terms of delivering exceptional, personalized patient care and becoming effective, compassionate, and successful Five Element practitioners. We will miss them very much. Congratulations, Class 29! On behalf of the Academy, I wish you the very best as you start the next phase of your journey.

And as we say goodbye to one intern class, we get to welcome in another!

Our next group of interns (Class 30) arrived in late August for their clinical residency. We kicked things off with a Welcome Breakfast on August 27th and will celebrate the start of their internship with the school community on September 3rd at Rainbow River State Park. They will see their first

patients the week of September 15th. We are excited to work with them on the final leg of their journey to becoming Five Element practitioners. Please join me in wishing them good luck as they start their internship.

I am also pleased to announce that a new cohort begin their Master of Acupuncture program on September 4th. We have 16 students in the new class. This will be the first class to take our new course titled *Transformative Communication*, which is designed to set the groundwork for the inner development work of becoming a practitioner. Senior faculty member **Gary Dolowich** will share some of his knowledge and experience with the new class in a three-day introduction to Five Element theory to kick off the session.

I've said this before, but I believe it bears repeating – one of the most inspiring parts of my job is participating in the opening circle of a new class. I am newly infused by the fresh energy and enthusiasm the new students arrive with and I am deeply moved and grateful for the love and support that the interns, recent graduates, alumni, faculty, and administration bring to the opening circle for a new cohort. The feelings of community and passion remind me why we do this work and why we care so much about keeping this tradition alive. Doing this work, helping people rediscover their true natures, alleviating suffering, deeply connecting with another person – it makes a profound difference and I am honored to be involved. We look forward to even more future

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Learn About Breast Cancer Treatment with Amy Sear



Breast Cancer: Integration on All Levels

The Academy is excited to announce that renowned Oriental Medicine practitioner **Amy Sear** will be presenting in partnership with the school a two-day seminar, **Breast Cancer: Integration On All Levels**. Her new and completely updated course covers the full spectrum of information and insight needed to understand and treat today's patients with breast cancer. This comprehensive seminar will cover everything from the biomedical dynamics of breast cancer initiation and development to Oriental Medicine treatments that can be enormously beneficial during and after other medical treatment.

This seminar is absolutely appropriate and valuable to clinicians of any style or tradition of Oriental Medicine. While the course does include information about the use of herbs for the treatment of breast cancer, attendees are not required to have any formal training in herbs. Please join Amy and the Academy on December 13 – 14. CEUs awarded.

Congratulations to Our New Graduates



Class 29 Commencement on September 16, 2014 was a joyous occasion for the Academy community, as evidenced by all of the smiling faces pictured here. Our Class 29 graduates as pictured above upper left (l. to r.): **Marcy L'Hommedieu, BangHan Kim, Erika Chase, Claire Castanedas, Catherine Hollingsworth, Summer Elder-Thornton, Dowe Morrison, Jodie Agee, Veronica Sanpere, Lucy Marsh, Zac Levine, Kate McCarthy, James Berry and Elizabeth Roper.**



Letter from the Executive Director

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generations of Five Element practitioners making a difference in the world. Thank you for your referrals; you make the difference for the school and for the future of Five Element acupuncture. Our next Master of Acupuncture class begins in February 2015 and we are actively taking applications. Please continue to send referrals our way.

To round out our full house, our year two students (Class 31) will return in September for their Year One exams, after which the A and B groups will merge into one, big, beautiful class to complete the program. We are looking forward to having them back at school and we have a special day planned for their merge. We have so much to be thankful for.

Be sure to stay current with our upcoming events. As you read earlier, we will be hosting **Amy Sear** in December for her seminar, *Breast Cancer: Integration On All Levels*. Amy is a teacher in our Chinese Herbal Studies program and has been teaching lecturing in Florida and all over the U.S. for more than 12 years. Amy's practice specializes in working with women who have had breast cancer and she has a tremendous wealth of knowledge to share. More about Amy and the upcoming workshop can be found on our website.

Last but not least, I am thrilled to announce that **Elisabeth Rochat de Valle** will be at the Academy next year

on May 1 – 3, 2015. That gives us all plenty of time to mark our calendars and save the date. Stay tuned – more details coming soon!

May the good work you do nourish and sustain you. All the best,

Misti Oxford-Picheral

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Master of Acupuncture class
September 4

Prospective Student Open House
November 8

Downtown Festival & Art Show
November 8-9

Breast Cancer: Integration On All
Levels with Amy Sear
December 13-14

New Master of Acupuncture Class
February 4, 2015

Elisabeth Rochat de Valle
May 1-3, 2015

Visit our website for more info
ACUPUNCTURIST.EDU

New Director Named to Herbal Studies Program

Carrie Chauhan has been promoted to Director of Chinese Herbal Studies at the Academy after having served in the position of Assistant Program Director. She continues to develop, guide, organize and enrich the program as well as teach and supervise our students. Her love for herbs is evident in all that she does. We are happy to include here Carrie's own words about the program:

I became interested in complementary medicine when I started looking for a healthier lifestyle in my 20s, and began taking yoga classes. I became a yoga teacher, completing additional certification and training in therapeutic yoga, the basics of Ayurveda, and the herbal medicine of that tradition. Growing up on a farm, I had always been around plants, and learned on my own about home herbal remedies. After working in yoga therapy for a few years, and dabbling with herbs at home, I decided to study Chinese Medicine. After two semesters at a TCM school, I transferred to study Five Element acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine at Academy for Five Element Acupuncture.

I love Five Element acupuncture, but herbal medicine holds a special place in my heart. Patients and students can see that, and my private practice has evolved to be increasingly more herbal. While my focus is on Chinese herbal medicine at the Academy, I have also continued my

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Alumni News



We are happy to announce that after running our own independent practices for years, we have merged to create Bodies In Balance Acupuncture. We opened in our new office location in the heart of Gainesville, FL on August 4, 2014. Find us on Facebook and Google+.

–Melissa Feigel & Carlos Sessler
Class 27

New Herbal Studies Director

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study of Ayurveda and Western herbal medicine. In private practice I use herbs from different traditions and locations depending on the patient – world or global herbalism.

The Herbal Studies program is already a wonderful program. My vision is to continue all of what is working well, and to re-connect students with the living plants and the legacy of being an herbalist. As Chinese herbalists, we often do not have opportunities to work with the plants before they are processed and shipped to us. I also plan on bringing into the curriculum components of environmental awareness and stewardship around how we source our herbs, and how we can foster sustainable practices in the future.

As more states add herbal study requirements to their licensing process, the Academy welcomes the opportunity to help already licensed acupuncturists learn and incorporate herbal medicine into their practices. Given our expertise and experience in intensive format learning, we are presently at work developing an herbal studies curriculum which can be completed in the intensive format throughout. This program will be an excellent fit for those already in practice, and in some cases acupuncture students. We will keep you posted.



I am excited to announced that I have joined Treasure Coast Community Acupuncture in the beautiful downtown of Stuart, FL. We are a group of practitioners coming together to provide affordable healthcare for community. We provide treatments in a group setting on comfortable sofa chairs and a very relaxing atmosphere. Come visit soon. www.stuartca.com

–Natalie Shea Giusti
Class 28

Last Chance to Buy a Brick



Construction begins soon on our new sign. If you want to buy an engraved brick, the time is now! 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 by phone (352.335.2332) or on our website, acupuncturist.edu. Thank you to our most recent donors:

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Matthew Blank
David Bole
Joanne Epstein
Manny Halpern
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Bob Schlitt
Beth Treadway

Welcome to the Clinical Year



Welcome Class 30 on the first day of clinic residency – after two days of comprehensive exams. Pictured here: (front row) Patrick Miller, (second row l. to r.) Jacqueline Plachta, Alexis Wilson, Audra Sexton, Katie Smith, Sheila Calhoun, Beth Spencer, (back row l. to r.) Michaela Parks, Quincy Davisson, Bethany Gray-Shaw, Greg Carder, Sarah Zweig, CC Pike, Noe Hernandez.