



# Academy for Five Element Acupuncture

*passion • education • community*



Winter 2020

## President's Report

Winter Greetings!

Happy Year of the Metal Rat! In the Chinese zodiac, the rat is the first animal in the sequence of twelve animals and starts a new rotation of the cycle of elements. Rats represent wealth and surplus. Year of the Rat energy is more yang in nature and represents the beginning of a new day. Rats are quick witted, resourceful, and intelligent with strong intuitive capabilities. May this Metal Rat year deliver new experiences and endeavors that yield success.

Speaking of success, we started a wonderful new class on January 21<sup>st</sup>. We had 13 students begin their Five Element acupuncture journey that day, welcomed in by their community. The new students are a diverse and interesting group and we look forward to getting to know them better as they progress through the program. **Chuck Graham** traveled from Baltimore to welcome and orient the new class and to spend a day with them on Inner Development of the Practitioner. **Gary Dolowich** traveled from California to spend three days with the new students to lay the foundation of their

studies with an introduction to Five Element theory. In addition, **Ki Ennes** traveled from Richmond, VA to teach. I also want to give a big thank you to our amazing local faculty for all of their hard work in January and February. We really hit the ground running at the beginning of the year and we could not do it without their talent and skills. Our local faculty include **Ruby Bienert, Jim Brooks, Teresa Bruggeman, Erika Chase, Jennifer Downey, Joanne Epstein, Patty Getford, Mindy Rohrbacher, Janet Rucker, Pam Smith, and Joon Thomas.**

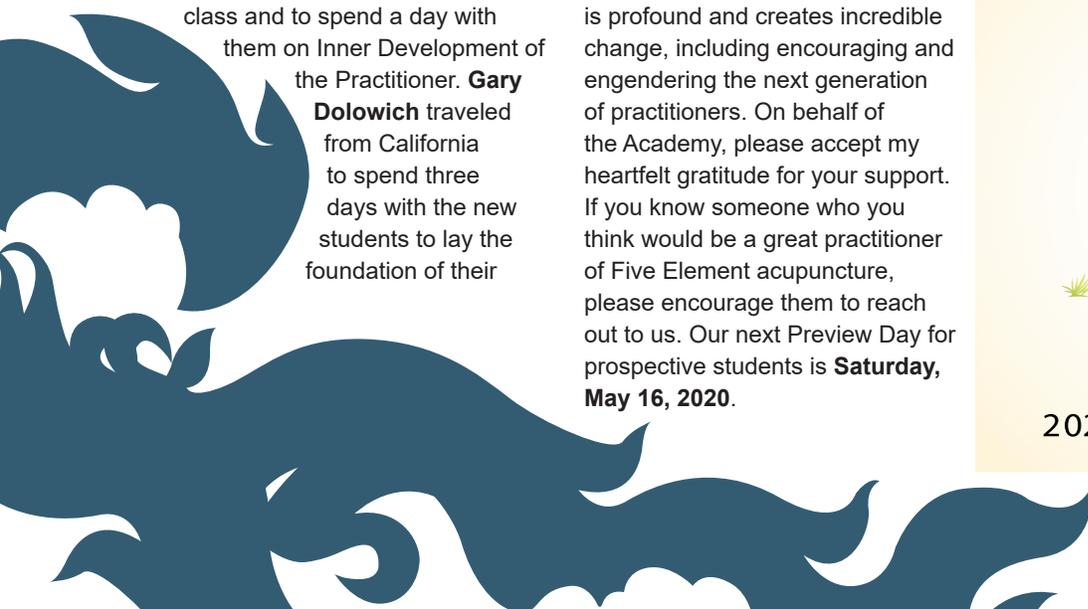
Before we went on winter break in December 2019, **Alexander Love** traveled from Colorado to spend a couple of days teaching.

Thank you for your referrals to our program. Easily half of the new students who come to the Academy find us because of your direct referrals. The work you do with this medicine is profound and creates incredible change, including encouraging and engendering the next generation of practitioners. On behalf of the Academy, please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your support. If you know someone who you think would be a great practitioner of Five Element acupuncture, please encourage them to reach out to us. Our next Preview Day for prospective students is **Saturday, May 16, 2020.**

No report would be complete without an update on our amazing interns. The interns started Level 2 of their clinical training in January. They are engaging with the treatment planning process and seeing more patients. They continue to do excellent work in the clinic and the patients are thriving under their care. As I mentioned before, under **Niki Bilton's** expert guidance, we are focusing on improving clinical educational competencies, which entails making adjustments to the clinical year. Change is rarely easy! I want to acknowledge the Class 35 interns for their positivity, helpfulness, flexibility, and determination.

We took advantage of having three classes on campus and held our annual Chinese

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## Alumni & Faculty News



I recently moved my practice, Rootstock Acupuncture LLC, to a new home! I offer Five Element acupuncture integrated with other styles when appropriate, Mei Zen Skincare, gua sha and herbal medicine. Through Cancer Support Community Montana, I teach an "Intro to Acupuncture" class and offer a four-week pro-bono clinic for those experiencing cancer or for their loved ones. Rootstock Acupuncture is located at 81 W. Kagy Blvd. Bozeman, Montana 59715, [www.rootstockacupuncture.com](http://www.rootstockacupuncture.com).

**-Angie Kociolek**  
Class 28



Hello everyone! I recently started my own wellness collective, The Seed to Star Collective in Decatur, GA. I offer private acupuncture sessions, group acupuncture for moms (with childcare!), workshops, and meditations. We have a team of practitioners offering services such as family therapy, reiki, hypnotherapy, herbal medicine and more. Check it out at [www.seedtostar.com](http://www.seedtostar.com)

**-Laura Greiner**  
Class 21

It is with joy and gratitude that I announce the opening of my acupuncture and herbal medicine practice in NE Gainesville, FL. My practice is rooted in ongoing study and exploration of classical Chinese medicine, Shen-Hammer pulse diagnosis and human development. I prescribe and dispense customized herbal formulas by sourcing the highest quality plant materials and combining them in gentle yet potent doses that reinforce and support acupuncture treatments. My website is [www.angelicamordec.ai.com](http://www.angelicamordec.ai.com). If you are local to Gainesville and connected to folks who might benefit from this medicine, spread the word by sharing my website!

**-Angie Mordec.ai**  
Class 34



Greetings and blessings to the Academy community. Oh how I miss our years together. Since graduating in 2012 (Class 27) I have had a private practice in Delray Beach FL, with the focus being Five Element acupuncture. Recently, I moved to a new location also in Delray. It is a magnificent space that everyone agrees is very tranquil. I am so grateful to have found this shangri-la.

In addition to acupuncture, I am happy to announce that I am practicing Functional Medicine. I am in a year long training with Chris Kresser of the California Institute for Functional Medicine. I love

it with every cell of my being! I am specializing in gastrointestinal disorders at the moment. I am using the most highly tested and validated diagnostic techniques for stool, blood and urine analysis. The goal is to help my patients master the effective use of nutrition and lifestyle to prevent and reverse chronic disease. I would love to see you if you are in the area!

**-Liz Newman**  
Class 27



## Opening the Circle



Our new Master of Acupuncture class. Pictured here (top row, l. to r.) **Symone Milev, Nicole Renzulli, Nancy Elberty, Georgia Hill, Greta Pursley, Jason Macko, Margaret Mulvaney,** (bottom row, l. to r.) **Angela Renzulli, Earthly Augustin, Ashley Wu, Katrina Fears, Jun Wang, and Jodi Lefkowitz.**

## Upcoming Events

March 28-29, 2020  
The Fertility Seminar  
with Daoshing Ni

May 16, 2020  
Prospective Student  
Preview Day

May 29-June 1, 2020  
Zero Balancing  
with Jim McCormick

August 19  
Next Master of Acupuncture  
class begins

October 24-25  
Lonny Jarrett

 Academy for  
Five Element Acupuncture



*You're Invited!*

**PREVIEW DAY**

May 16, 2020

Time: 10:30 am - 4:00 pm

*Five Element acupuncture treatment with pre-registration*

[Click Here to Register](#)

## Behind the Scenes

Behind the scenes in every organization are unsung employees whose work is critical to the health and successful function of that organization. The Academy is no different. In our case, **Joanne Epstein** is a shining example of such an employee. Joanne has worked for the Academy since 1996, when the school was located in Hallandale, FL. She holds the title of Vice President of Administration, and though the title itself is impressive, it may not make clear all that Joanne does for our institution.

With a background in radio and television, and a master's degree in Public Affairs, Joanne went on to study Five Element acupuncture with JR Worsley in Miami Lakes. She earned her Licentiate in Acupuncture in 1996 and was awarded a Master of Acupuncture degree from the Academy in 2001. Joanne has maintained a private acupuncture and herbal practice. She began working for the school in 1996 as Special Projects Director, faculty member, and clinical supervisor. As Special

Projects Director, Joanne was responsible for reports to licensing and accrediting bodies, public relations writing, and the creation of promotional materials including the school's catalog, as well as many additional administrative duties.

In 2006, Joanne was promoted to Vice President of Administration and she moved to Gainesville with the school in 2007. Joanne continues to keep us in compliance with the state Department of Education, the Commission on Independent Education, ACAOM (the accreditation commission), and the VA. She is also our safety officer, staying abreast of OSHA, HIPAA, and FERPA standards, and creating the appropriate trainings for staff, supervisors, and students. As a critical member of the Executive Administration, Joanne is a master creator of institutional policies and procedures. She excels at identifying and developing new systems, processes, and technologies to improve the school's performance and compliance with state and federal

standards (think Populi and Practice Fusion). She is our legal liaison, works closely with the academic dean on issues of professional conduct and academic standing, attends and prepares minutes for governing board meetings, and helps to maintain all of our marketing and promotional materials, including the website. I am certain there are dozens more things associated with the daily running of administration that I am leaving off this list. The bottom line is that Joanne's work is never done, and we would be lost without her. It is with deep respect and gratitude that I give thanks for her dedication and tireless attention to so much critical yet often frustrating and thankless work.

The next time you are on campus or receive a mailing or a seasonal newsletter, please give a moment of thanks for **Joanne Epstein** for all she has done and continues to do to keep our beloved institution moving in the right direction. (Love notes are always appreciated, too.)



## President's Report

(Continued from page 1)

New Year Party on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed our entire community to come celebrate the Year of the Metal (White) Rat and we had more than 100 people in attendance. Thanks to **Andi Houston** for planning and organizing the event and for **Robbie Milam** for all of her help setting up and helping to make sure things went smoothly. **Celebrations Catering** provided delicious finger foods and desserts. **Joon Thomas** gave calligraphy lessons all evening. **Angie Mordecai** (Class 34) offered herbal teas and herbal conversations in the granular dispensary, and **Jessica Babapour**, our intrepid Registrar, was the bartender. Thanks to **Ashley Guevara** (Class 34) we ended the night with a spontaneous dance party. It was a fun and festive evening to ring in the New Year.

I have a few upcoming events to mention. You can find information on

them in this newsletter and on our website. On March 28 and 29, we are pleased to welcome **Dr. Daoshing Ni** for "The Fertility Seminar", a workshop on fertility from a Taoist perspective (FL CEUs approved and NCCAOM PDAs pending). In late May, **Jim McCormick** will come to the Academy to offer Core Zero Balancing (FL CEUs approved and NCCAOM PDAs pending). For more details and to register, please visit the website. Looking ahead, we have **Lonny Jarrett** returning for a CEU workshop the weekend of October 24-25, 2020. Stay tuned for more details.

Finally, I want to give you an update on our property tax battle with Alachua County. Unfortunately, we lost the legal battle when the Florida Supreme Court refused to hear our case. The ramification is that we are responsible for several years' worth of property tax. The most frustrating thing about this

situation is that it boils down to one small phrase in the legislation that has been interpreted differently by different groups. Therefore, our next strategy is to work with our state representatives to change the language of the legislation. I am in the process of contacting our state representatives to get started. If you live in Florida and have a connection with state representatives, please contact me directly. I welcome your input. Having spent more than \$100,000 defending our exemption as an educational institution, this is an extremely important matter to us.

Wishing you a successful start to the Year of the Metal Rat,



"Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance." Yoko Ono

## The Fertility Seminar

Saturday, March 28 8:30 am- 5 pm

Sunday, March 29 8 am- 4 pm

Up-to-date clinical information on the practice and treatment of fertility and fertility related problems with Traditional Chinese Medicine by Dr. Daoshing Ni, Doctor of Oriental Medicine, founder of Yo San University and author of Tao of Fertility

Participants will be able to acquire knowledge that they can apply in their clinical practice immediately and will have a more advanced understanding of TCM reproductive medicine, including fertility qigong, acupuncture, herbs, and nutrition. Workshop will be case-based when appropriate so participants can become immersed with real life patient situations.

### Registration

Before March 9:

Academy students & faculty: \$200

Alumni & non-Academy students:

\$240

Everyone else: \$290

After March 9:

Academy students & faculty: \$240

Alumni & non-Academy students:

\$280

Everyone else: \$330

This course is approved for  
14 NCCAOM PDAs or  
14 FL CEUs.

Register by phone at 352.335.2332

Or online on our website:  
[acupuncturist.edu](http://acupuncturist.edu)

[Click here to register online](#)