



Academy for Five Element Acupuncture

passion · education · community

Spring 2023

Letter from the Board

Spring Greetings!

Spring is fully underway in North Central Florida. The days are lengthening, temperatures are climbing, and the renewing energy of the Wood element is in the air (along with the pollen!). We hope that wherever you are, you are starting to feel the urge to shift, move, and grow.

The Academy is happy to announce the return of in-person continuing education events. While we are still operating with the utmost care and caution for everyone's health and well-being, we are delighted to once again offer continuing education classes as well as community education events.

- Senior faculty member **Pam Smith** will be teaching an **I-Ching** class March 23
- **Jim McCormick** will be on campus to teach a special 3-day **Zero Balancing** 1, April 14-16 (details pg. 3)

We are developing additional courses and events, so please stay tuned to our website and future newsletters for more details.

Meanwhile, the student clinic is humming along. Class 38, our current intern class, continues to do excellent work in the acupuncture and herbal clinics. They are getting closer to their final level of clinical training, which means more autonomy and shorter appointment times as they work towards independent practice.

Class 39 will be in Gainesville in April for their final intensive before their clinical residency begins in July. Class 40A and Class 40B will be back at the end of May for their third intensive. This year, the two first year cohorts will merge in session 3 so they will have more time together before year one exams. We are excited to welcome back new visiting faculty members **Patricia Johnson** and **Chris Whyrick** to teach both classes.

As the official end of the pandemic nears, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the lessons of these few, intense years.

“Resiliency” is a key word in this, the Year of the Rabbit, and we look toward the future with cautious optimism.

We are grateful for the continued hard work of our administrative staff, supervisors, and faculty who continue to dedicate themselves to the work of keeping the tradition of this medicine alive in the world.

And we thank you, our community, for your continued support, from staying up with our latest news, to making financial donations and library donations, to referring clinic patients and prospective students. On behalf of the Academy, please accept our heartfelt thanks. We wouldn't be here without you.

With gratitude,
The Academy Board of Governors

Heartfelt Gratitude to Merry Gerard

Dear Members of the College Community,

On behalf of the Academy's Board of Governors, I want to extend our sincere collective thanks to Merry Gerard. As you may know, Merry volunteered her services to the college as a board member for many years, while maintaining her busy acupuncture practice in Newton, Massachusetts. She was a 1981 graduate of the Traditional Acupuncture Institute (TAI) and was a long-time student of J. R. Worsley.



Merry first joined our board in 1999, shortly after the college was incorporated as a non-profit. She served for several years as the Board's Vice-Chairperson and then served as Chairperson of the Board from 2005 to February of 2023 when she stepped down from the Board.

Merry provided leadership for the college during challenging times, including the 2008 financial crisis

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Opening the Circle



Please welcome our new Master of Acupuncture cohort!

(l. to r.) Jeffrey Ring, Nikki Peterson, Gina Barzaga, and Eduardo Hernandez.

Our new Master of Acupuncture class starts May 4. The application deadline is April 14 for this cohort. If you know someone who would be a great acupuncturist, please encourage them to contact us at admissions@acupuncturist.edu.

Clinical Interns



Our year three students are halfway through their clinical internship. Clinic appointments available!

(back row, l. to r.) Ryan Callahan, Cerise Harbour, Claire Chen, Jodie McAllister, Gianna Masi, Michelle Smith, Ashley Korenkiewicz, Emily Rooney-Bryan, Karla Archambeault, Matthew Adair, Kemisola Lofinmakin, David Kruse, and Matthew Olson. (front row, l. to r.) Emilie Sheridan, Heather Conners, Gretchen Moore, Kate Hemingway, Meghan Hedley, and Thomas Gersh.

Recognition of Misti Oxford-Pickeral

The Academy community was thrilled to recognize Misti Oxford-Pickeral for her 12 years of service as President of the Academy at our Year of the Rabbit New Year Celebration in January.

Misti received a beautiful custom calligraphy by Joon Thomas, faculty member and owner of Palmstone Calligraphy & Design. The acupuncture point chosen for the calligraphy was Inner Frontier Gate.

Misti is now guiding clinic curriculum and education in both the Master of Acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine programs as the Director of Clinics. She is still a prodigious clinical supervisor and teacher in both programs.

This move reflects the desires of Misti's heart and we hope that she will continue to guide the clinical education here at the Academy for many years to come.



I Ching Class in March



Pam Smith, Senior Faculty

March 23 and March 30, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Registration fee: \$50

I Ching, the “Book of Change”, has been used by the Chinese to explore the meaning of human affairs for thousands of years. It is now a source book of insight and wisdom for people around the world.

- Learn how to formulate a question
- How to throw and read the coins
- How to find the Hexagram that the coins have shown us.

Each person will get their own Hexagram, guiding their understanding of their private question. Textbooks are not required, but will be available for purchase at the class.

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Zero Balancing 1 Workshop in April

Jim McCormick, L.Ac.

April 14-16 9am-6pm each day

Registration fees before March 20:

Students & Faculty \$300

Alumni \$340

General Public \$595

Zero Balancing 1 is the first half of the Core Zero Balancing program: technique, theory, touch skills and history of the art and science of Zero Balancing. In these hands-on workshops, you will learn how to perform Zero Balancing sessions and experience what it feels like to receive a Zero Balancing session.

This class was developed to teach acupuncturists how to work with body structure. It has proven to be a valuable asset for acupuncturists for helping clients and for learning how to experience and work with energy. Coursebook included in registration, signed copies of Jim McCormick's new book available at the link.

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)



Gratitude to Merry Gerard

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and the relocation from Hallandale to Gainesville. She also led us through significant periods of subsequent growth and success. During her tenure as Board Chair, the college completed the purchase of the current campus complex and successfully negotiated multiple reaccreditation cycles. Merry also served over many years at the Academy as a beloved senior faculty member, teaching and mentoring many generations of Academy and WICA students. In all these endeavors, her service has always embodied the spirit and heart of the Five Element tradition.

We deeply appreciate Merry's significant history of service to the college. Although she will no longer be serving on the Academy's Board of Governors, we are thankful that Merry will continue to be engaged at the Academy as both a faculty member and as the parent of an incoming Academy student.

With appreciation,
Barbara Ellrich
Chairperson, Board of Governors
Academy for Five Element Acupuncture

Stay Connected with the Academy



Thank you to our generous donors:
Rosemary Driscoll
Tim and Ray Chapman-Wilson

Your financial support enables us to prepare the next generation of Five Element acupuncturists. Our gifted graduates touch the lives of hundreds of people in their communities across the country. When you make a gift to the Academy, you are making an investment with an everlasting impact. Your generous gift is appreciated today.



All faculty and graduates of Academy for Five Element Acupuncture and WICA in good standing and currently practicing acupuncture are eligible to be listed in our practitioner database at no cost. Dozens of people search our practitioner database every month!

To add your acupuncture practice to the list, click the link above and fill out the brief form. As always, practitioners listed in our searchable database also get free advertising on social media.



We love receiving library donations from our community. Big thanks to **Jennifer Downey** for her generous donation to our academic library.

If you have books, audio recordings, or DVD documentaries on Taoist philosophy, Tai Chi, Qigong, acupuncture, Traditional Chinese Medicine, herbalism, business management, or any other subject that you think would be a useful addition to our library, please contact the library coordinator at liana.simon@acupuncturist.edu.

Events Calendar

March 9	Info Session for Prospective Students
March 23	I Ching Class with Pam Smith
April 14	Zero Balancing 1 with Jim McCormick
May 4	New Master of Acupuncture class



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