



AOMA

ANNUAL
REPORT

2019 – 2021

Transforming Lives
and Communities

AOMA
GRADUATE SCHOOL *of*
INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

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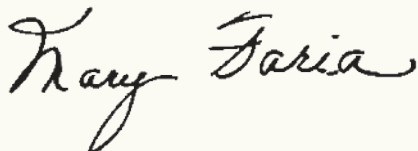
2019-2021 PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

In 2019 we had no idea what we would face in 2020 and into 2021. We hoped by the end of 2021 we would be at the end of the Pandemic, unfortunately that was not the case. The global Pandemic changed our lives. During this time other shocking events in our country forced us to confront the issue of racism more directly than ever before. Undoubtedly this has been one of the most remarkable times in the history of AOMA. It has required a collective commitment to continuously and effectively manage change through great uncertainty and to support the physical and emotional needs of our academic and clinical community, more than ever before.

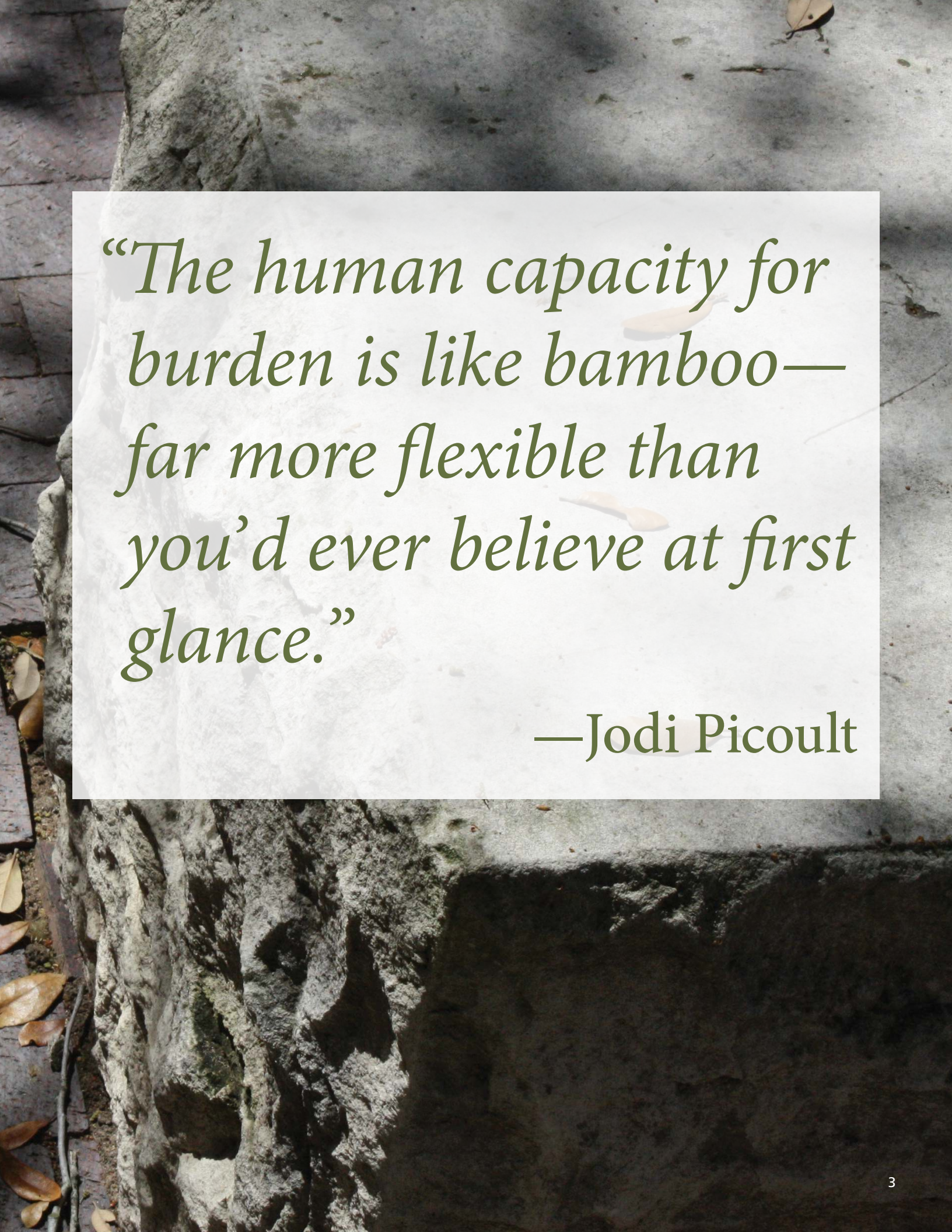
Despite these challenges, including learning to effectively work remotely, we were able to continue to carry out our mission, effectively address our strategic goals, and demonstrate amazing resolve, innovation, creativity, and resilience. These times bring out the worst and the best in us all. I'm so proud to say that in the years 2019 through 2021, only the best came forward in everyone at AOMA. Everyone working to support and protect one another, everyone putting our values into action. A testament to the quality of those who are part of our AOMA community. A reason our school will be able to sustain itself and continue to be one of the best, if not the best!

A quote comes to mind as I reflect on 2019 – 2021 — “Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it's less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you've lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that's good”. Elizabeth Edwards. Over the past three years I've witnessed courage, endurance, strength and good at a level I've never seen before and it is what makes this place we call AOMA so very special. I continue to be humbled by the goodness in our team. I am hopeful that the coming year will be more reasonably challenging for us all, and I'm faithful in my belief in our mission.

With Love and Gratitude,



MARY FARIA, PHD, FACHE
PRESIDENT & CEO
AOMA GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE



“The human capacity for burden is like bamboo—far more flexible than you’d ever believe at first glance.”

—Jodi Picoult



DR. PHIL GARRISON
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF MAC
PROGRAM AND DISTANCE
EDUCATION

Academic Programs Update

MAc(OM) AND DAc(OM) PROFESSIONAL DEGREES

In an attempt to streamline entry-level degree titles, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAHM) put forth a proposal on Degree Structure and Naming Conventions in April of 2019 that designated new titles at the Masters and Doctoral levels (MAc and DAc respectively). The subject was debated at the 2019 Council of Colleges (CCAOM) meetings, and ACAHM agreed to open up a period of public comment before the changes went into effect. AOMA participated in this public comment process, espousing a position that could be summarized as: “we agree with the desire to streamline the degree names and will comply with whatever ACAHM decides.” Most recently, in May of 2020, ACAHM finalized their position on degree naming, stating that as of January 1, 2022, “the only program names that ACAHM will recognize and accredit” are “Master of Acupuncture (MAc)” and “Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc)”. In addition, since AOMA offers herbal training as part of its program, the phrase “with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization” will appear on degrees and in our literature, per ACAHM policy. As such, AOMA’s program catalogs have been revised to reflect this change, and documentation has been submitted to ACAHM.

In late March of 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic forced AOMA to rapidly adopt a distance-education model for course instruction. With the limited notice, AOMA deftly adapted, moving all didactic courses and clinics to synchronous Zoom instruction. On April 2, 2020, ACAHM approved AOMA’s request for an emergency distance education waiver. Then, in May of 2020, ACAHM issued a statement that: “all currently issued emergency distance education waivers supporting both didactic and clinical training will be extended until 31 December 2020.” As part of this process, academic leadership investigated a number of Learning Management Systems (LMS) and settled on D2L’s Brightspace. Faculty were added to Brightspace using a phased approach. Some MAc and DAc faculty utilized Brightspace in a limited capacity during the Summer-20 term, and questions for two of the MAc Competency exams were imported, but the majority of the academic department did not fully utilize the platform until the Winter-21 term.

There have been two additions to the academic leadership team since the last report: Dr. Violet Song and Dr. Phil Garrison. Beginning in early 2020 Dr. Song took over as DAOM Program Director. Dr. Garrison joined AOMA in September, 2019 as both a faculty member and the Program Director of MAc and DAc Programs. In 2020 Dr Garrison also took over leadership for our Distance Education.

Due to the Pandemic, AOMA graduation ceremonies in 2020 and 2021 were held virtually. The 2020 graduating class consisted of 57 Masters students, 19 professional doctorate students, and 10 DAOM students. The 2021 graduating class consisted of 23 Masters students, four professional doctorate students, and two DAOM students.

OTHER 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Beth Howlett hired as Vice President of Academics
- AOMA participates in the CCAHM (Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine) ad hoc DAOM Committee and designs a survey instrument to collect data on preferred alternative to DAOM title, perception of the DAOM degree, and demographic information. Six schools voluntarily participated and sent surveys to current DAOM students and graduates. (May-July 2021)
- Brightspace training course created for all faculty; President’s Cabinet approves compensation for successful completion of the course. (July-August 2021)
- Members of AOMA administration participate in the CCAHM conference (November 2021)
- Successful ACAHM (Accreditation Commission of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine) site visit (November 2021)

Academic Programs Update

DAOM POST-GRADUATE CLINICAL SPECIALTY DOCTORAL DEGREE

AOMA's vision of Chinese medical scholarship includes developing advanced clinical specialists, integrative team practitioners, educators, researchers, and leaders. The clinical specialty post-graduate doctorate (DAOM) program at AOMA provides masters graduates an opportunity for continued study and career development.

DAOM ACCREDITATION

ACAHM Site Visit for the DAOM accreditation was successfully processed in May, 2019. The full accreditation of the DAOM program has been reaffirmed.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

By the first of 2019, Dr. Robyn Sodders joined AOMA as the director of doctoral program. She brought her experience in this medicine and in higher education administration to support AOMA's culture of continuous improvement of programs and processes.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

DAOM faculty continued to be active in the presentation and publication of their research and scholarly work. The following research projects were reviewed and approved, or are in review, by the scientific review committee and institutional review board:

- Fan, J., AOMA-CARE: AOMA Case Reports
- Hamilton, L., Mann, M., The treatment of glomus below the heart: A comparative analysis between Zhang Ji and Li Gao
- Fan, J., Jin, Z., The Longitudinal Data Collection for Patient with Chronic Pain: A Feasibility Study
- Hamilton, L., Zachary, W., PICS: Palpation Intensive Cohort Study (DAOM, Zachary)
- Song, Y., Bey, S., HEYA (The Human Experience and Ayahuasca): A Quality of Life Assessment
- Sodders, M., Phillips, J., Post-Natal Essence, Neurogenesis, and Neuroplasticity in Chinese Medicine
- Downie, P., Fuller, J., The Efficacy of acupuncture on macular degeneration: A literature review

STUDENT RESEARCH

The Fifth DAOM cohort gave their final research presentations in May 2019 and continue to work on them towards completion. Student research projects include clinical trials, qualitative studies, as well as educational, ethnographic and historical research. 2019 completed projects include:

- James Brandon Fuller (2015 cohort) – "The Efficacy of acupuncture on macular degeneration: A literature review"
- Simel Bey (2015 cohort) – "HEYA (The Human Experience and Ayahuasca): A Quality of Life Assessment"
- William Zachary (2016 cohort) – "PICS: Palpation Intensive Cohort Study"
- Justin Phillips (2017 cohort) – "Post-Natal Essence, Neurogenesis, and Neuroplasticity in Chinese Medicine"
- Zhenni Jin (2017 cohort) – "The Longitudinal Data Collection for Patient with Chronic Pain: A Feasibility Study"
- Matt Mann (2018 cohort) – "The treatment of glomus below the heart: A comparative analysis between Zhang Ji and Li Gao"

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE 2020 & 2021 DOCTORAL PROGRAM

- Collaboration with Jiangsu Provincial TCM Hospital was established. Experts in various TCM specialties were invited to lecture for our Doctoral program.
- Collaboration with Nanjing TCM University Jing Fang Institute was established. Professor Huang Huang lectured in TCM Classics.
- Collaboration with FSN was established and representatives were brought in to lecture on Fu's Subcutaneous Needling.
- Established Doctoral Externship program with Concordia Language Villages.



DR. VIOLET SONG
SR. DIRECTOR DOCTORAL
PROGRAMS, HERBAL STUDIES,
CLINICAL EDUCATION/
EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH

AOMA's Strategic Plan and Accomplishments

Just prior to the Pandemic in 2020 AOMA's Governing Board's met to develop a three-year Strategic Plan 2021-2023. Despite the challenges of the Pandemic much significant work was accomplished to begin to fulfill the new plan. The following describes the achievements of AOMA's Five-Year Strategic plan that ended in 2020. This is followed by an updated report of the goals for 2021-2023.

1. ***AOMA remains committed to its community and will grow in a way that improves student achievement, alumni success, staff satisfaction, faculty retention and development, and patient outcomes.***
 - Continued development of Student Services with a new Sr. Director of Student Services, Dr. Dami Tokoya. The role was expanded to include Alumni services and Inclusion and Diversity.
 - The tragic George Floyd event highlighted the need to re-examine the role we all play in combating racism in this country. AOMA responded and continues to respond to the national tension regarding historical racism. Among other initiatives, a course in healthcare disparities is now offered. This was an important first step in our commitment to create awareness and support of the elimination of racism. We have also made a commitment to better diversify our Governing Board and began the expansion in 2020. Our Admissions department is also doing more focused recruitment with undergraduate programs that serve more diverse student populations.
 - Distance learning and a formal Learning Management System (D2L Brightspace) were launched in 2020 through waivers provided by our accreditors during the Pandemic.
 - Through federal government grants AOMA was able to update much computer technology in our classrooms and for our faculty and staff. This greatly enhanced the satisfaction of faculty, students and staff.
 - In 2019 and 2020 we continued our pursuit of an electronic medical record (EMR). Work progressed with the identification of a vendor that could position us to launch an EMR in 2021.
2. ***AOMA will develop a research infrastructure that is capable of performing research studies.***
 - A new Sr. Director role was created to oversee our doctoral programs and research. In addition a Director role was created to provide direct support to our DAc program and research coordination, including enhancing our Institutional Review Board.
 - DAOM students successfully achieved completion of doctoral projects and publications.
 - We continued our pursuit of external partnerships to enhance research capabilities and growth. These included; Dell Medical School, People's Community Clinic, Concordia University, Veteran's Administration, St. Augustine's University, a clinic collaboration with Maryland University of Integrative Medicine and a very new partnership in 2020 with Jiangsu Province Hospital of TCM in China.
3. ***AOMA will be strategic and inclusive in its facilities and space planning while utilizing appropriate technological innovations.***
 - As mentioned previously the federal funding provided during the Pandemic allowed us to advance the technology used in our classrooms and technology used by faculty and staff. This provided faculty and staff the opportunity to work remotely more effectively during the Pandemic.
 - The Pandemic helped us understand that there is tremendous opportunity through technology to grow virtually. The opportunity for distance learning, continuing education, even community offerings expanded through technology that allows us to work remotely. This significantly expands our ability to better reach out nationally and internationally.
4. ***AOMA will increase the number and quality of its educational programs.***
 - In 2019 and 2020 a Sr. Director role to include Clinical and Educational Excellence was established as was a Council devoted to clinical excellence. Another role was created that reports up to this Sr. Director role. The Director of Clinical Readiness oversees the preparation of students to transition effectively from classroom to clinic. All this was done in an effort to strengthen the existing excellence in the classroom and in our clinics.

- Because of the Pandemic there was not the opportunity for an in-person educational opportunity in China but through our relationship with Jingsu Province Hospital of TCM we were able to offer a virtual opportunity. This virtual offering allowed for many more students to participate in clinic observation and case study review with some of the top TCM practitioners in China.
- Virtual learning began during the Pandemic using the Zoom platform. This was a good interim solution but emphasized how critical it was to move to a full learning management system. The purchase and implementation of Brightspace has positioned us to offer outstanding distance learning. The Director role overseeing our Masters program was expanded to oversee distance learning so we have an outstanding individual leading this important strategic initiative.

5. AOMA will seek community and national partnerships that provide increased opportunities for students, alumni and faculty.

- In 2019 and 2020 key partnerships continued and in some cases strengthened. With some of our partners we had to jointly develop strategies to continue working in-person during the Pandemic. This was especially true with the School of Pharmacy at UT Austin, People's Community Clinic, the VA, and Ascension/Seton McCarthy Clinic.
- The relationship that was established with our agreement with Jiangsu Province Hospital in China is a wonderful example of going beyond national partnerships to international partnerships. This opens the door to many more international opportunities for our school.

The Board of Governors is deeply appreciative of the committed leadership, faculty, staff, and students who have teamed together to create another successful year at AOMA.



Strategic Goals 2021-2023 and Updates

Strategy	Goal(s)	Update	Status
Partnerships	Foster Clinical, Academic, and Community Partnerships to promote research, influence, and financial sustainability.	Good progress with Academic partnerships which include UT Austin, Concordia University TX. Clinic partnerships with PCC, Seton, VA and other new opportunities for our students. All with opportunities for research partnership.	In Progress
Growth & Stability	Develop/create an appropriate online program in the next three years.	The Pandemic launched us into on-line learning and a formal Learning Management System (LMS).	Complete
Marketing/ Branding	Strengthen Marketing Infrastructure.	This is in progress. We've expanded the talent within the Marketing department and strategies to strengthen our brand, especially with social media. Still much work to do.	In Progress
Infrastructure	Improve student diversity and create on-line courses.	Good work in this area with a real focus on recruitment of students of color. We are in a good position to achieve the on-line courses.	In Progress
Academic Excellence	By last quarter of 2023 AOMA will have developed and executed a plan to enhance scholastic and clinic facilities to include diversity in locations for clinical services, broaden collaboration with community partners, and establish appropriate outcome measures.	Progress with this goal as we expand clinical opportunities for our students.	In Progress

Strategy	Goal(s)	Update	Status
Operational Excellence (Infrastructure, Processes/ Procedures)	By Summer of 2021 update school/ academic technology to increase student and staff productivity and user ability.	We took advantage of special funding to schools during the Pandemic to achieve this goal.	Complete
Student and Alumni Success	#1 Demonstrate student success and educational competency through timely graduation and licensure in Chinese Medicine by first quarter in 2022.	Despite the challenges posed by the Pandemic we have achieved this goal.	Complete
	#2 Cultivate alumni success in the establishment and maintenance of a career and leadership in the field of integrative medicine by first quarter in 2022.	This has become a difficult one to measure. We may not have expressed this goal as specifically as needed to achieve it.	Still determining if this is achievable
Healthcare Excellence/ Patient Care	Working with key stakeholders, better define, enhance, and distribute healthcare excellence through integrative care models (western and traditional, East Asian Medicine) by first quarter in 2023.	We continue to make progress with this as more western providers embrace the value we can bring to their clinical settings.	In Progress

Student Services Update



DIANE STANLEY
DIRECTOR OF DAC
PROGRAM, INSTITUTIONAL
EFFECTIVENESS, AND
RESEARCH COORDINATION



DAMI TOKOYA
SR. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT
SERVICES, ALUMNI SERVICES
AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY
AND INCLUSION

2019 and 2020 crystallized the true meaning of challenges and opportunities. We piloted a new survey schedule, which doesn't sound exhilarating but it allowed for focused questionnaires called the "Seasons of Assessment." The new survey format allowed for AOMA to assess class climate more comprehensively as we launched and were subject to significant change. The Student Life Survey administered each fall was able to look at student experience of physical and emotional safety relative to self-reported identification with gender, race and year in the program.

The goal was to evaluate whether or not we are providing an inclusive environment that truly felt safe. This data set the stage for understanding the effects of COVID-19 and societal upheaval on campus. We are happy to report high levels of reported physical and emotional safety, but to push further, in January 2021, we welcomed Dr. Dami Tokoya and transferred Student Services from Dr. Stanley to Dr. Tokoya.

As we faced uncertain times, the AOMA student website expanded to AOMA Life and served as a hub of resources and a means of easy access to communication. It provided quick access to resources during the winter storm, quick access to weekly briefings and town halls, and quick access to study tools as students' learning environment rapidly shifted to online delivery. AOMA Life further allowed access to Acutools interviews and self-care resources. The Acutools Series has continued onward in 2019, including interviews on how to properly support the transgender community, featuring the KIND clinic and a local physician who supports a large patient base undergoing transition. These interviews were a key first step to understanding how we as practitioners can support the transgender community in the clinic. The AOMA Life site further offers a page devoted specifically to personal and professional growth, including a resource share for learning to better navigate inequality. In 2020, a special town hall featured one of our alumni who walked our students through her insight on starting a successful practice.

The Pandemic certainly had an impact on education. To that end, in 2021, our major focus was to enhance the support services offered to our students. We concentrated on the areas of communication, academic advising, tutoring, mentoring, career development, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

As we adjusted to the virtual learning environment, there was a need to improve our method of communication with our students. To achieve this, we implemented the use of an upgraded software system to send out our weekly student newsletters – and better serve our students. We also continued hosting our special town hall each week to keep our students informed and up to date with important information.

To fully cater to the academic needs of our students as they matriculate through our programs, we introduced a personalized approach with academic advising by assigning each student to an academic advisor. Therefore, to ensure we were able to meet the demand with this new approach, we welcomed two new academic advisors to our advising team. We also expanded our team of tutors to provide tutoring services in a wider range of subjects and developed our peer mentors to support the needs of our student body.

To improve our services within the area of career development, we hosted some career sessions to give students and employers a chance to meet one another, establish professional relationships, and discuss potential job and/or internship opportunities. Similarly, the Acutools series progressed to include interviews with speakers in specialized areas, to include a practitioner that specializes in reproductive acupuncture and supports a wide range of men and women facing issues with fertility. We look forward to maintaining these workshop offerings for our students and alumni.

Throughout the year of 2021, we were committed to prioritizing our goal of developing an environment that truly felt safe for all, by consistently offering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training opportunities to our campus community. We also launched our 1st Diversity and Inclusion Speaker Series titled, “Addressing Healthcare Disparities and Promoting Health Equity Through Acupuncture.”

Another key survey started in 2019 was the Alumni Voice and Professional Growth Survey. This survey is a bidirectional assessment tool to allow us to see how our alumni are doing and allow for our alumni to learn from each other to grow their practices. This data is available later in this report. In 2020, many practices struggled compared with 2019.

ALUMNI DATA

In the most recent alumni survey for 2019, 97% reported they were either providing direct patient care or working in the field of TCM. Moreover, we were able to stratify alumni by income bracket, and we had some interesting findings! The higher income brackets were those who either took longer to get licensed or hit the ground running. As well, in the first 6-figure income bracket, 72% had only been in practice ≤ 5 years! Beyond that, we had interesting findings relative to growing your practice. For example, the number of new patients is fairly consistent across all income brackets. An increase in the number of returning patients consistently correlates with a rise in income except in the highest income group. We also found that practices were more likely to carry herbal medicine in higher income groups, while many of them carried a limited variety and utilized drop ship companies for specialized prescriptions. In 2020, many of these characteristics held true. However, many saw significant decreases in income due to the Pandemic. Coming into 2021, providing resources for growth and student loan debt will be invaluable. There was a rose among the thorns. In 2020, alumni were able to ask questions for the first time. One question was how fulfilled were alumni with their profession. Alumni responded with a 3.7 on a 5-point scale, indicating strong levels of fulfillment.



Alumni Statistics

EMPLOYMENT AND LICENSURE

85% of graduates get their license within two years of receiving their diploma



AVERAGE RETURNING PATIENT FEE
\$85



AVERAGE NEW PATIENT FEE
\$105

CAREER FULFILLMENT

61% of AOMA Alumni reported feeling Fulfilled or Very Fulfilled in their line of work



DATA SOURCES
* Results from the 2019 Alumni Voice and Professional Growth Survey



LESLEY HAMILTON, DAOM,
MACM (MED), LAc
ACCREDITATION LIAISON

Faculty Spotlight

LESLEY HAMILTON, DAOM, MACM (MED), LAc

You've been an integral part of AOMA for many years, as a student, practitioner, faculty member, Academic Leader, Accreditation Liaison. Tell us how this journey in TCM began for you and why you've been dedicated to AOMA for the duration of your career?

I began at AOMA as a Masters student in the winter 2000 term. In 1998, my family had a major upheaval with the sudden death of my first husband making me a single mom for our two teenagers. A year later we moved to Austin. Just before Thanksgiving, I saw an AOMA advertisement in the newspaper. I became curious — I had acupuncture for upper back, shoulder and arm pain and tightness with remarkable results. Perhaps this could be my new career! I was

lucky to be able to devote my time to studying, and became very interested in Chinese herbal medicine.

So, this is a long-winded account to say that I have been inspired by the quality and dedication of the AOMA faculty body and by the leaders that came before and after me. The current leadership team is truly amazing and also very dedicated to the student body and the institution. It is my honor to work at AOMA.

As you've seen the evolution of TCM over the last many years, what worries and excites you about what's happening in the US as we attempt to better integrate western and eastern medical approaches?

The recent years have shown amazing changes in the US in regards to acupuncture. It is now coded in the bureau of labor and statistics, it is categorized as a profession by the VA and not just a modality, it is seen by different physician groups as a front-line treatment for pain and the opioid epidemic, and is increasingly accepted by insurance carriers — even Medicare!

So-called turf wars are still a problem with other healthcare providers doing acupuncture with minimal training. That is not only a public safety concern, but also undermines the robust quality training it takes to be a licensed acupuncturist. And the COVID-19 Pandemic shows the inequity between states — some have identified acupuncturists as “essential” and some have not. In China, Chinese herbal medicine was used in conjunction with modern biomedical approaches in the vast majority of cases, whereas this has not been the case in the US.

Although you plan to retire, we are so very happy that you plan to work part-time in your retirement and dedicate time to accreditation at AOMA. You clearly are a master at accreditation, tell us about that journey, what do you love about it and what are the challenges?

It was Dr. William Morris who encouraged me to do the master of academic medicine program at University of Southern California. This is an education degree focused on medical education that also exposed me to synchronous online education. I started the program wanting to learn active-engagement learner-center teaching methods. While I did gain in that area, I surprisingly picked up on program assessment and accreditation. While in that program, I took on the position of director of clinical education when Dr. Shen stepped down. I also moved my personal professional practice to AOMA, and took on more teaching assignments in the herbal department.

When AOMA's second provost left, I took on the task of leading faculty into the creation of the DAOM program. Under the guidance and leadership of AOMA's COO, Anne Province, the DAOM was accepted by SACS-COC in 2011 and ACAHM in 2012. That was my closest encounter with accreditation writing to-date, and I learned so much from Anne, Dr. Morris, and Linda Fontaine about what it takes to write a quality submission that truly reflects the institution. After Anne left, I led the team in the Masters self-study submission and successful site visit, and assisted the then-DAOM program director, Dr. John Finnell, in its self-study and successful site visit. An accreditation application went in to ACAHM at the beginning of 2020 for the professional doctorate, and a fifth-year interim report went to SACS-COC just as the Pandemic started to take hold. While the earlier accreditation gurus have left AOMA, I now have Dr. Phil Garrison as an excellent writer and editor who is also knowledgeable about ACAHM accreditation. And this year, Dr. Diane Stanley is leading the teams of staff and faculty on a new self-study for all three programs, to be submitted next spring.

It takes a dedicated team to get and keep accreditation status — which is essential to all educational institutions. Accreditation processes are focused on what are the institutional achievements and what can be done better — every step of the way, AOMA has improved its programs and services.

You've touched countless lives as a practitioner, faculty member, Academic leader, and as a parent with a daughter following you in the medicine. As you look back, what makes you most proud? Anything you would have done differently?

When I was in a professional development course at USC, we wrote our own personal mission statement. In essence, my mission is to provide support to others to be all that they can be. I am very proud of both of my children who are happily married and have successful careers, and of my husband whose creative energy is a bonus in our already wonderful relationship. I am proud to be working with the faculty and staff who inspire me regularly. I am proud of the current student body and alumni of AOMA: I enjoy reading their final reflections of transformation and hearing how they are transforming lives and communities where they live and work. I can always improve my communication styles — I can come across a bit harsh. Perhaps more importantly, I can always improve my own self-care. After all, if you don't take care of yourself how can you take care of others?

We all wish you the very best in retirement, or semi-retirement. What will you be doing when you are not helping with accreditation at AOMA?

Travel is high on the list. We would like to get an RV to see much of the US and Canada. And fly to parts yet to be determined! In day-to-day life, we have a large vegetable garden to tend, olive and fruit orchards, and pond with its own wildlife to enjoy.

“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.”

—Dalai Lama XIV

Clinical Outcomes: 2019

TOTAL NEW PATIENTS 2019

North Professional Clinic	691
North Student Clinic	223
South Professional Clinic	327
South Student Clinic	288
	1,529

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTITIONERS SEEING PATIENTS IN 2019: 9

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENT INTERNS TREATMENT ROTATIONS IN 2019 BY TERM:

	North	South
Fall	568	820
Spring	745	825
Summer	423	575
Winter	601	863
	2,337	3,083

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLINIC OFFERINGS IN 2019: 8

North Austin	Austin Recovery Clinic
South Austin	Texas Star Recovery Clinic
Seton McCarthy	(partial year)
People's Community Clinic	Veterans Affairs Austin
Cureville at the Kerrville Folk Festival	Outpatient Clinic

TOTAL CLINIC VISITS IN 2019:

North Student Clinic	2,899
North Professional Clinic	5,937
South Student Clinic	3,128
South Professional Clinic	2,219
	14,183

TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENT VISITS CONDUCTED BY STUDENT INTERNS IN 2019 BY TERM:

	North	South
Fall	730	813
Spring	851	851
Summer	521	567
Winter	852	905
	2,954	3,136

2019 PATIENT-TO-INTERN RATIO BY TERM

	North	South
Fall	129.3%	99.2%
Spring	123.2%	103.2%
Summer	114.2%	98.6%
Winter	141.8%	104.9%

TOP 5 CHIEF COMPLAINTS IN 2019 BY PATIENT

	Percentage	Number
North Professional		
Back pain	13.5%	217
Neurological issues	10.0%	156
Stress, anxiety, depression	8.0%	129
Shoulder pain	7.0%	111
Neck pain	6.0%	103
North Student		
Back pain	14.5%	118
Stress, anxiety, depression	11.0%	93
Neurological issues	7.0%	59
Shoulder pain	6.5%	55
Neck pain	6.0%	50
South Professional		
Stress, anxiety, depression	12.0%	81
Back pain	11.5%	79
Neurological issues	8.0%	56
Shoulder pain	6.8%	46
Neck pain	6.6%	45
South Student		
Back pain	15.0%	128
Stress, anxiety, depression	13.0%	110
Neck pain	7.0%	60
Neurological issues	5.8%	49
Shoulder pain	5.4%	45



Clinical Outcomes: 2020

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTITIONERS SEEING PATIENTS IN 2020: 8

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLINIC OFFERINGS IN 2020: 6

- North Austin
- South Austin
- Seton McCarthy (Jan-March only)
- People's Community Clinic (Jan-March only)
- Austin Recovery Clinic (Jan-March only)
- Veteran's Affairs Austin Outpatient Clinic (Jan-March only)

TOTAL CLINIC VISITS IN 2020:

North Student Clinic	1,070
North Professional Clinic	2,317
South Student Clinic	1,110
South Professional Clinic	526
	5,023

TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENT VISITS CONDUCTED BY STUDENT INTERNS IN 2020 BY TERM:

	North	South
Fall	468	371
Spring	0	0
Summer	239	219
Winter	375	484
	1,082	1,074

TOP 5 CHIEF COMPLAINTS IN 2020 BY PATIENT

	Percentage	Number
North Professional		
Back pain	13.2%	70
Neurological issues	10.7%	57
Hormonal/reproductive issues	8.8%	47
Stress, anxiety, depression	7.5%	40
Neck pain & digestion (tie)	6.6%	35
North Student		
Back pain	13.0%	26
Stress, anxiety, depression	12.5%	25
Neurological issues	7.0%	14
Digestion	6.5%	13
Hormonal/reproductive issues	6.5%	13
South Professional		
Stress, anxiety, depression	7.0%	17
Hormonal/reproductive issues	6.0%	14
Back pain	5.5%	13
Neck pain & allergies (tie)	5.0%	12
Shoulder pain	4.0%	10
South Student		
Stress, anxiety, depression	13.5%	41
Back pain	11.0%	33
Neck pain	8.5%	26
Hormonal/reproductive issues	7.0%	21
Neurological issues	7.0%	21



Clinical Outcomes: 2021

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTITIONERS SEEING PATIENTS IN 2021: 10

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLINIC OFFERINGS IN 2021: 5

- North Austin
- South Austin
- Seton McCarthy
- People's Community Clinic
- Veteran's Affairs Austin Outpatient Clinic

TOTAL CLINIC VISITS IN 2021:

North Student Clinic	3,091
North Professional Clinic	3,473
South Student Clinic	2,473
South Professional Clinic	875
Total	9,957

Total Professional Clinic 5,564

Total Student Clinic 4,393

TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENT VISITS CONDUCTED BY STUDENT INTERNS IN 2021 BY TERM:

	North	South
Fall	1,042	742
Spring	905	695
Summer	619	500
Winter	525	536
Total	3,091	2,473

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENT INTERNS TREATMENT ROTATIONS IN 2021 BY TERM:

	North	South
Fall	647	428
Spring	642	647
Summer	457	321
Winter	425	536
Total	2,171	3,136

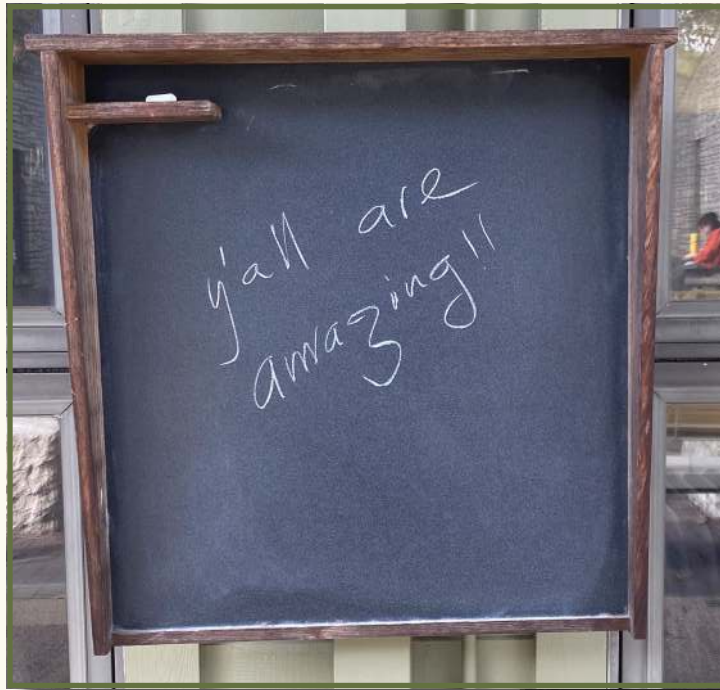
2021 PATIENT-TO-INTERN RATIO BY TERM

	North	South
Fall	161.1%	173.4%
Spring	141.0%	107.4%
Summer	135.5%	155.8%
Winter	123.5%	100.0%

TOP 5 CHIEF COMPLAINTS IN 2021 BY PATIENT

	Percentage	Number
North Professional		
Back pain	18.2%	144
Stress, anxiety, depression	7.8%	62
Gastrointestinal issues	7.6%	60
Neck pain	6.8%	54
Neurological issues	6.7%	53
North Student		
Back pain	17.0%	80
Stress, anxiety, depression	11.8%	55
Neck pain	8.4%	39
Gastrointestinal issues	7.5%	35
Hormonal/reproductive issues	6.9%	32
South Professional		
Stress, anxiety, depression	12.7%	65
Back pain	7.4%	38
Hormonal/reproductive issues	7.0%	36
Neck pain	5.8%	30
Allergies	5.7%	29
South Student		
Back pain	17.3%	91
Stress, anxiety, depression	13.9%	73
Neck pain	8.2%	43
Hormonal/reproductive issues	7.2%	38
Shoulder pain	6.8%	36





*“In the middle
of difficulty lies
opportunity.”*

—Albert Einstein



Alumni Spotlight



DR. JAZMINE COLLINS
DOM AT THE AUSTIN
ACU DOC

JAZMINE COLLINS

**DOM, LAc, AUSTIN ACU DOC, AOMA MAcCHM GRADUATE '19 AND
AOMA DAcCHM GRADUATE '20**

What led you to TCM and Acupuncture? AOMA has clearly been part of your journey but tell us about the role AOMA has played in your career.

My grandmother raised me using herbs and traditional medicines, so for me herbalism has really been ingrained in my daily life. In my late 20's I became actively involved in my late father's care. He was chronically ill and a veteran. During that time, I witnessed how fractured our healthcare model was, particularly for veterans. When my father passed, I decided that the best way to honor him was to become part of the solution. I chose AOMA specifically because of the externship opportunities at the VA Outpatient Clinic and for its reputation for being one of the top schools in the nation. AOMA has equipped me with the skill set and knowledge to make that a

reality. My time at the VA Outpatient Clinic is very special to me and I've been blessed to work with amazing practitioners there and at all of AOMA's clinical locations.

You successfully completed your Masters and are now working on your doctorate. Why did you decide to pursue the doctorate? What do you feel this will mean for your career?

Over the course of the Masters program, I've been so humbled by how incredibly comprehensive Chinese Medicine is. The Masters program really set the stage for a journey of lifelong learning and pursuing my Doctorate is naturally the next step in deepening my understanding of the medicine and honing my skills as a doctor. The doctoral program has made me much more confident in practicing in an integrative setting, which has been invaluable as we work toward building our integrative wellness center.

You have a career focus and a clear passion for dermatology and skin care, what drives that passion?

There are a lot of challenges to treating skin conditions, many of which don't have lasting solutions using our sister model. Chinese Medicine is incredibly powerful in mitigating and oftentimes, resolving a lot of these painful, chronic conditions. I've been an Aesthetician for over 12 years, and I've witnessed firsthand how improving one's skin and outward appearance can make such a positive impact on a person's life and that is very rewarding.

You have joined a Western Physician practice that is building a great integrative wellness model, how did you get involved with this and what are your ultimate goals?

Dr. Linebarger and I met early this year. We had several conversations about our goals as practitioners and both realized that our visions lined up almost identically. In February, we partnered to take the initial steps toward developing Direct MD Wellness—an integrative wellness center and medspa that provides direct primary care alongside East Asian medicine.

Our goals are to establish this multidisciplinary wellness center with a heavy emphasis on preventive medicine. The long-term plan is to have other practitioners of different specialties join us in growing the practice. I look forward to having this practice serve as a model for other medical practices looking to establish integrative care. This will open up more opportunities for Chinese Medicine doctors in a way that really exposes our skill sets and abilities to the general public.

What would you like others to know about you, your interests, your hobbies, your family life, etc.?

What I love about being in practice is the flexibility of my days. When I'm not in the office seeing patients, I'm spending time with my family and my three boys. We do a lot of outdoor biking and enjoy being out on the Austin area trails. On my downtime (which is rare these days), I really value stillness. I enjoy spending my evenings sitting outside with a book in hand, while enjoying a warm tea.

Alumni Spotlight

ROCIO LOPEZ

**LAc, WHITE PEARL ACUPUNCTURE AND HERBAL CLINIC,
AOMA MAcOM GRADUATE '19**

Tell about your journey with TCM and Acupuncture and how your education at AOMA made a difference.

I was first exposed to TCM when I was treated for migraine headaches years ago. Back then; my intention was to obtain a graduate degree in psychology so studying alternative medicine was not in my plans. However, the experience I lived as a TCM patient was very transformative. I felt a drive to help others the same way I was helped. When I decided to pursue my career in TCM, I researched programs and AOMA stood out from the rest. It is a highly ranked school and the compact number of students in the classroom gives the opportunity for one-to-one guidance. When I visited the school, the beautiful and tranquil courtyard really was the icing on the cake. At AOMA, I learned so much in and out of the classroom. Our professors were always willing to share their knowledge and experience with us. Today those teachings have proven to be invaluable in my everyday practice.



ROCIO LOPEZ
LAc AT WHITE PEARL
ACUPUNCTURE & HERBS

You chose to serve in South Texas where you are from. Tell me about that decision and how you are building your practice there.

When I decided to pursue my career in Chinese Medicine, one promise I made myself was to come back to the Rio Grande Valley, or RGV, a region that consists of four counties and nine cities located along the Texas border with Mexico. My decision to build my practice in Brownsville was mostly influenced by the love I have for my hometown and because I wanted to bring the RGV more accessibility to this medicine. I am currently practicing in a private space with two treatment rooms in a centric part of Brownsville. I see patients who are from Brownsville and the cities surrounding it. I am very grateful for my patients who have put their trust in what I do. I hope my practice continues to grow to give more individuals an opportunity to receive TCM treatments.

You do some impressive missionary work at the borders of Texas and Mexico. Please share why you do this and what the experience has meant for you.

The reason why I have volunteered with Acupuncturists Without Borders is because I love to help others. The populations living in the Matamoros camp are experiencing very difficult living conditions. They are living in what it is referred to as a "tent city" therefore they are affected by climate changes, violence, poor hygiene, and abuse. We go and offer NADA treatments outdoors on lawn chairs. At first, most individuals do not believe that needles can do anything other than sting. However, we are always fortunate to have a brave and willing individual to try out our treatment. When others notice how relaxed and how individuals sink into the treatment, they begin to show interest and slowly one by one sit on our chairs to receive treatment. It is a beautiful experience. Even though we as acupuncturists are not receiving the NADA treatment, we can definitely feel the relief and the peace these individuals are feeling during the treatment. It is very gratifying.

Please share anything you'd like us to know about you, your interests, passions, hobbies, etc.

One thing my fiancé and I love to do as a hobby is to plant. We started with a mango seed and we now have over 20 kinds of plants of which are mostly fruits. It helps that we live in a very tropical and humid environment because our plant babies love it.

2019



COLONEL KEVIN GALLOWAY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATIONS AND POLICY DEFENSE
& VETERANS CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE
PAIN MANAGEMENT (DVCIPM)

2020



DR. JOHN FINNELL
N.D., M.P.H., L.A.C.
PROGRAM MANAGER, WHOLE HEALTH
SOUTH TEXAS VETERANS
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

2021



DR. SHARAD KHOLI, MD
FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN,
PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC
AUSTIN, TX

2019, 2020 and 2021 Commencements

When we held our 2019 commencement, we had no idea that the two years to follow would be so shaken by a global Pandemic that an in-person graduation ceremony would not be safe. We yearn for the time when we can come together again for this most special occasion that marks the start of a new path for our graduating students.

2019 commencement was held on July 13, 2019 at the Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark. We celebrated 21 students who received Master, MAcOM degree, 11 who received the Professional Doctorate , DACom degree and three who received the Advanced Practice Doctorate, DAOM degree.

We were honored to have Colonel Kevin Galloway as our keynote speaker. Colonel Galloway is a career Army Nurse Corps officer with over 25 years of service. He is currently assigned to the Office of The Army Surgeon General and serving as the Program

Director for Army Pain Management following his role as Chief of Staff of the Army's Pain Management Task Force. He is employed by the Veteran's Administration (VA) and the Department of Defense. He is one of the key individuals working to combat the Opioid crisis in this country. He is a friend of AOMA and an advocate for acupuncture. He sees acupuncture as an important part of the battle against Opioid addiction and an effective means of treating addiction. His speech was both impressive and inspiring.



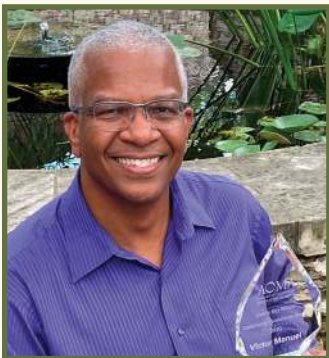
AINGE LIN
2019 CALVIN KEY AWARD

The 2019 Calvin Key Wilson Community Leadership award was presented to Ainge Lin. This award is bestowed upon a student nominated by her/his fellow students. It recognizes outstanding leadership, collegiality, and personal qualities that exemplify the values and mission of AOMA. Ainge was an outstanding choice.

2020 commencement was a virtual event presented on July 12, 2020. It was a well-designed event that is a special keepsake for all the graduates. It can be viewed on the following link: [AOMA 2020 VIRTUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY](#) — YouTube. We celebrated 21 students who received a Master, MAcOM degree, one student who received the DAcOM degree and three students who received a DAOM.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. John Finnell. Dr. Finnell ND, MPH, LAc, is the Whole Health Program Manager in the Division of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System (STVHCS), one of 18 Whole Health Flagship sites leading the implementation and dissemination of the VA Whole Health Initiative. Prior to this work, Dr. Finnell served as the Director of the Doctoral Program and Research at AOMA Graduate School of Integrative Medicine, from 2013 to 2018.

Dr. Finnell has an interdisciplinary background as an educator, practitioner and researcher in the fields of naturopathic and Chinese medicines, epidemiology and environmental engineering. He completed NIH pre- and post-doctoral research fellowships and went on to secure AOMA's first NIH award, funded by the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health. He is continuing his scholarship in research as a student in the PhD in epidemiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health. It was indeed an honor to have Dr. Finnell serve as our keynote speaker.



VICTOR MANUEL
2020 CALVIN KEY AWARD

The 2020 Calvin Key award was presented to Victor Manuel. During his time working on his Masters, Victor was an outstanding leader serving as our AOMA's Student Association President, volunteering for a variety of important school activities and supporting his cohort in any way he was able. Victor was an outstanding choice.



The 2021 commencement was also a virtual event. It can be viewed on the following link: [AOMA 2021 VIRTUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY](#) — YouTube.

The 2021 keynote speaker was Sharad Kholi. He is a national leader in integrative health who has dedicated his career to working with underserved populations. He believes that integrative health is the best approach to advance health equity and justice. His areas of expertise include comprehensive integrative pain management, interprofessional collaboration, culturally responsive care, and addressing upstream determinants of health.

Dr. Kholi's experience includes serving as a family medicine physician at People's community Clinic. Prior to that he was the Director of Clinical Affairs for the Texas Association of Community Health Centers, and the Associate Medical Director for El Buen Samaritano.

He was cofounder of IM4US (Integrative medicine for the underserved), and still serves on their advisory board. He is intimately involved in the vision, planning, and growth of IM4US, a collaborative, multidisciplinary group committed to culturally responsive, accessible integrative health care for all. Through various means including an annual conference, the organization supports those dedicated to promoting health and wellness in underserved communities. Emphasis is placed on innovative ways of caring for complex patients in a more effective and cost-efficient manner. Dr. Kholi co-founded and co-organized the first two annual conferences, and continued to be involved in aspects of the conference planning while on the Board. He was also the 2019 IM4US Award Winner.

He served in a leadership capacity for IHPC, Integrative Health Policy Consortium for a non-profit consortium consisting of 27 organizations and institutions representing over 600,000 state-licensed and nationally certified integrative health care professionals working corroboratively through education and advocacy to remove barriers to health and promote a full measure of health creation for individuals and communities. Recent efforts have been to shift the paradigm for chronic pain away from opioids to an interprofessional integrative model utilizing non-pharmacologic therapies.



Justin Long was selected by his cohort for his integrity, warm welcoming personality, and his willingness to serve in so many ways to support his fellow students and the causes and events important to them. For much of his time at AOMA he did an outstanding job serving in the Student Services department as a student worker. He ensured the student newsletter was informative but also engaging. He was supportive of the AOMA student association throughout his time at AOMA. He was very much loved and respected by his fellow students as evidenced by being selected for the Cal Key award!

Continuing Education Update

In 2019 AOMA was able to offer a broad array of Continuing Education Coursework despite not holding our annual Southwest Symposium. This included the following classes:

- November 2nd Treating Emotions with Elisabeth Rochat
- November 3rd Pregnancy and Postpartum Care with Elisabeth Rochat
- October 5th Acupuncture on Musculoskeletal Disorders – Soft Tissue Injuries with Dr. Yongxin Fan
- July 27th Battlefield Acupuncture with John Howard
- June 8th Acupuncture Emergency Response and Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Training with Rachelle Lambert (AOMA Alum)
- April 27th Introduction to Master Tung's Points & Treatment Methods with Elizabeth Fordyce
- March 2nd Feng Shui Design for Healthcare and Clinical Settings with Dr Wu
- January 26th Intro to Shaku Ju Therapy with Aaron Rubinstein

In 2020 AOMA's Continuing Education offerings were curtailed both by turnover and the COVID-19 Pandemic. As a result, only Dr. Fan's Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine for Facecare was held.

As the Pandemic continued through 2021 CE was limited, but we were able to offering the following courses.

- October 23rd Acupuncture Treatment on Muscular Injury
- June 16th Starting a Practice with Limited Resources





“If you can’t fly then run. If you can’t run then walk. If you can’t walk then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”

—Martin Luther King

Income & Expenses

AOMA MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of AOMA is to transform lives and communities through education, patient care, leadership and research in Chinese and other integrative medicines.

VISION

AOMA's vision is to be a leader in Chinese medicine education by engaging our communities and by preparing compassionate and skilled practitioners who embody the art and spirit of healing.

OUR CORE VALUES

We recognize that the outcomes we produce result from the collective activities that are consistent with the following core values:

- **Sustainability:** Our programs and community engagements are sustainable and effective.
- **Integrity:** We do what we say we will do. In our communication, we are honest and complete.
- **Inspiration:** We are called into action by a spirit of purposeful aliveness.
- **Flexibility and Openness:** We conscientiously choose our actions in consideration of all the parties involved.
- **Professionalism:** In all that we do, we are impeccable, clear and complete.
- **Compassion and Service:** In word and action, we look for opportunities to benefit others.

2019 EXPENSES

Payroll & Related	64%
Rent	13%
Utilities, Depreciation & Supplies	9%
Educational/Student Services	7%
Administrative Support	3%
Financial Expense	2%
Marketing	2%
Accreditation Costs	1%

2020 EXPENSES

Payroll & Related	63%
Rent	15%
Utilities, Depreciation & Supplies	8%
Educational/Student Services	6%
Administrative Support	3%
Financial Expense	2%
Marketing	2%
Accreditation Costs	1%

2021 EXPENSES

Payroll & Related	65%
Rent	14%
Utilities, Depreciation & Supplies	8%
Educational/Student Services	6%
Administrative Support	3%
Financial Expense	2%
Marketing	2%
Accreditation Costs	1%

61%

REVENUE SOURCES

From 2020 and 2021 tuition provided an average of 61% of AOMA's income. Clinic fees and AOMA Herbal Medicine also support the institution's mission.

2019 INCOME

Tuition	64%
Patient Clinic Fees	25%
Bookstore/Retail	8%
Continuing Education & Other	2%
Grants	1%

2020 INCOME

Tuition	69%
Grants and PPP Loan Relief	15%
Patient Clinic Fees	10%
Bookstore/Retail	6%
Continuing Education & Other	1%

2021 INCOME

Tuition	53%
Grants and PPP Loan Relief	30%
Patient Clinic Fees	13%
Bookstore/Retail	3%
Continuing Education & Other	1%

AOMA BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Kenneth H. Beck — Chair

Co-founder, The Crossings - Austin, Texas
Former Senior Vice-President, Dell Computer Corporation
BS, Electrical Engineering, University of Minnesota



Glenda J. Flanagan

Former CFO & EVP , Whole Foods, Austin, TX 1988 –2022
BBA, University of Texas at Austin



Leslie Lynn Myers, JD, MSOM, LAc

Consultant—Texas Institute of Continuing Legal Education
MS, Oriental Medicine, AOMA
JD, St. Mary's University



Richard D. Pomp, Esq

Professor of Law - University of Connecticut, School of Law
JD, magna cum laude. Harvard Law School
BS, summa cum Laude, University of Michigan



Dr. David Ring, MD

Associate Dean for Comprehensive Care, Dept of Surgery & Perioperative Care,
University of Texas, Dell Medical School
MD, University of California, San Diego School of Medicine
PhD, University of Amsterdam



Sharad Kholi, MD

Family Medicine Physician, People's Community Clinic, Austin, TX
Residency Family Medicine, Oregon Health Sciences University
MD, University of Oklahoma, College of Medicine
BA, Dartmouth College



Jimmy Yen

CEO of Achieve Integrative Health & Acupuncture Wealth Technologies
BA, Biochemistry, University of Texas at Austin
MSOM, Oriental Medicine, Texas Health & Science University

“Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it’s less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you’ve lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that’s good.”

—Elizabeth Edwards

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All statistics reported herein are accurate as of October 2021.

AOMA

GRADUATE SCHOOL *of*
INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

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