

## TOP STORY

# Congratulations CLASS OF 2023!



Group photo of the 2023 graduates.

Wongu held its 6th annual Commencement Ceremony on June 17, 2023 at the International Peace Education Center (IPEC). A total of 9 graduates were celebrated by about 150 guests composed of friends, family, Wongu faculty, staff and fellow students. It was led by Dr. Susan Wellman, OMD, as the Master of Ceremonies and a short but sweet president's remarks by Dr. Lee, OMD. Dr. Lee made a point to thank everyone who made the graduation ceremony possible and explained why the honeysuckle (known as Jin Yin Hua in traditional Chinese

medicine) was chosen as the motif for this year's graduation. Jin Yin Hua is sweet and delicate but also resilient and grows on a vine which reaches up to the sky, representing this year's graduating cohort well.

The student speech was given by Dr. Brandt, who was not only a student but also a Western medicine professor at Wongu. She gave an emotional speech expressing her passion in wanting the traditional Chinese medicine to grow and become more widely accepted in the community.

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## New Librarian



Librarian: Sophia

Sophia Fernandez brings experience in academic libraries and a passion for supporting dynamic digital learning environments to her role as virtual librarian. Her passion for technology-driven educational support led her to specialize in virtual librarianship, focusing on digital collections. She is excited to be developing the online library with the addition of Open Access and digital resources, and plans to offer remote research assistance to support students and faculty. She received her BA in English from Loyola Marymount University and her MLIS from San José State University.

### FACULTY FOCUS

## Welcome New Faculty

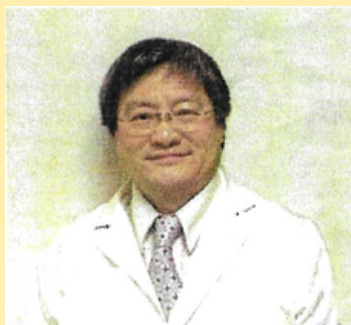
**Dr. Joel Rios** is a Las Vegas native, raised on the Sunrise Mountain side of the Vegas Valley. He attended TCM school at the Colorado School for Traditional Chinese Medicine located in Denver, Colorado, graduating in 2012. Dr. Joel also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management with a minor in Psychology from Nevada State College.

Dr. Joel is the founder and operator of Desert Ridge Acupuncture, located in East Las Vegas. Since its inception in 2018, Desert Ridge Acupuncture has steadily grown to become one of the valley's preferred and well received clinics. He has now joined Wongu as a supervisor at the Wongu Health Center.

When not practicing TCM, Dr. Joel enjoys traveling, going to Golden Knights games or any sporting events, catching a Broadway show at the Smith Center and trying new restaurants.



Dr. Joel Rios



Dr. Frederic Wong

**Dr. Frederic Wong** is a California Licensed Acupuncturist (LAc) and a Diplomate of Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM). He graduated from South Baylo University with a Master of Science (MS) degree in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. He is also trained in Western Medicine with a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree from the Philippines. Initially trained in China, Dr. Wong has been practicing traditional Chinese medicine since 1975.

Aside from clinical practice, Dr. Wong has also been involved in western pharmaceutical, Chinese herbal and AIDS research. He was the former Consultant and Clinical Research Coordinator for the Research Center of South Baylo University. He has been teaching Oriental Medicine courses at Wongu since the Fall 2023 quarter.



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Graduates pose with donations from sponsor, KPC.



Graduates pose with bouquets from faculty member, Dr. Choo.

She called on her fellow graduates to continue to support each other, just as she felt supported by her peers during the program. As Dr. Brandt walked off the stage, she was surrounded by her fellow graduates in a group embrace as a show of support and comfort.

The commencement address was given by Dr. Anne Weisman, PhD, who is the Director of Well-Being and Integrative Medicine at UNLV. She stressed the importance of alternative healthcare and how it can be integrated with the allopathic healthcare that is prevalent in the US today. It was an encouraging and inspirational speech that left the graduates excited for the future. Wongu looks forward to continuing and furthering its relationship with Dr. Weisman and UNLV. And last but not least, the oath of Oriental medicine was led by Wongu faculty member, Dr. Adrianus Wong, MD, DAOM.

The Wongu staff, faculty and community are so proud of the 2023 graduates and congratulate them on their hard work. We look forward to the big things they will accomplish as licensed Oriental Medicine Doctors. Including this new batch of graduates, Wongu now boasts a total of 47 alumni.

WSA

## GRADUATION PARTY!



Group photo of graduates and WSA officers.



Wongu staff and students join the fun!

The Wongu Student Association (WSA) held a party to celebrate the 2023 graduating class on June 10, 2023, a week before the commencement ceremony. It was hosted by then WSA officers, Stacey M., Crystal H., and Amanda S., at the Italian American Club Restaurant. Graduates, fellow classmates, Wongu staff and faculty and friends gathered under the party lights to eat, dance, and enjoy each other's company before the graduates were officially done with their Wongu journey. It was a bittersweet night full of laughter and amazing food but also the realization that this is the last few opportunities the graduates can enjoy as students. A big thank you to those who made the event possible and also to those who came out to send the graduates off to their new chapter.

# Herbal Highlight



## 感冒灵 Gan Mao Ling Patent Formula



Gan Mao Ling is the perfect formula for this time of the year as the weather gets colder and flu season is in full swing! Gan Mao Ling is a patent formula, meaning it's a relatively modern formula often created and packaged by a herbal company (usually based on traditional formula). A traditional formula, on the other hand, is a formula that has been passed down for generations via ancient texts. Patents are also often used alone for acute symptoms, as opposed to traditional formulas that are meant to address a patient's constitution.

Most recognizably distributed by Solstice Medicine Company in the west, Gan Mao Ling is an excellent cold remedy that treats symptoms such as chills, high fever, swollen lymph glands, sore throat, and stiffness of upper back and neck.

Although the exact recipe may vary depending on the company, Gan Mao Ling generally contains the following 7 herbs: Gang Mei Gen (rough-leaved holly root), San Cha Ku (Evodia root), Wu Zhi Gan (chaste tree twig), Ban Lan Gen (Isatis root), Ju Hua (chrysanthemum flower), Jin Yin Hua

(honeysuckle flower), and Bo He (mint). The 2 main herbs Bang Mei Gen and San Cha Ku are indigenous to Taiwan and are not typically found in traditional Chinese materia medicas, but they both strongly destroy respiratory viruses. Ban Lan Gen and Jin Yin Hua, both found in the Clear Heat, Relieve Toxicity category, reinforce the antiviral effect of the 2 main herbs. Ju Hua and Wu Zhi Gan guide the formula to the face, especially to the sinuses. Ju Hua and Bo He are both herbs that can dispel wind-heat. Wind-heat is the common cause of colds that are accompanied by sore throat and fever.

Since it is effective to treat both wind-cold and wind-heat invasions, it is generally applicable to any kind of cold you may be catching. It is recommended to start taking the tablets as soon as you experience symptoms but advised to stop if the symptoms continue to progress. It also supports the immune system in general so it can be used as a preventative measure especially when you know you will be putting your body through stress, such as traveling or staying up late to study.







## Announcements

### Wongu Program Approved by CA

After months of planning, adjusting and applying, Wongu University's Master of Science in Oriental Medicine (MSOM) program has finally been approved by the California Acupuncture Board to be listed as a board-approved training program. This means that future Wongu students are now qualified to sit for the California Acupuncture Licensing Exam (CALE). Unlike most other states, the California Acupuncture Board only allows students who graduated from an approved program to sit for the CALE.

A program can be approved if it meets certain requirements, such as being accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM) and offering at least 3,000 hours of education and training. With this new approval, Wongu students have the option to become licensed in California if they choose to do so. You can find the list of approved programs here:

[www.acupuncture.ca.gov/students/schools.shtml](http://www.acupuncture.ca.gov/students/schools.shtml)

California is a fantastic place to practice acupuncture as there is high demand. As of 2021, California has the largest number of licensed acupuncturists (LAc.) by far with 3282 certified diplomates according to the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM). It is apparent that acupuncture is very common and accepted, resulting in a big market for future acupuncturists to tap into.

Huge shoutout to Dr. Wong, Dr. Lee, Dr. Wellman, and Dr. Brandt for all their hard work and effort to make this possible! Thanks to them, this opens up a whole new world of possibilities for Wongu students.







## HEALTH & WELLNESS EVENT

Wongu has proudly hosted its second quarterly Health and Wellness event on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Spearheaded by Admissions and Marketing Director, Yanny, Wongu invited various vendors and wellness related guest speakers to our campus to provide goods and workshops free to the public.

The event was a success with a total of 21 vendors, 8 different workshops, and 50 attendees. Vendors ranged from organic vegetable delivery service to beauty products to various health services, just to name a few. Workshops included but were not limited to taichi, yoga, ayurvedic services, etc. Wongu also offered free acupuncture treatments.

The first ever Health and Wellness event was held in the Summer 2023 quarter. There was a total of 20 vendors and about 30 attendees. Most of the vendors were returning from the previous event but we hope that it can continue to grow and can invite more vendors in the future. The next Health and Wellness will be held in the Winter 2024 quarter. We hope you can join us!

### ADMISSIONS

A few new students joined Wongu University for the **Spring** and **Summer 2023 quarters**.

The Wongu community is excited to have you here. Hope you have been enjoying your time in the program thus far.

Welcome!

#### Spring 2023

- Milen A.

#### Summer 2023

- Jenelle T.
- Carmen W.

### PARTNERSHIPS

You may have noticed a few new, young faces around Wongu campus. This is because Wongu partnered with Jobs for Nevada's Graduates (J4NG) to employ and introduce fresh high school graduates to the working world.

J4NG workers are contracted for a short period of time and can do tasks such as working front desk, attend outreach events, create marketing materials, etc. They have been working hard, so the next time you see a J4NG worker, make sure to say hi!



### PARTNERS WITH



JOBS FOR NEVADA'S GRADUATES