

**Kathleen Leavy Honored in Gainesville
October 28, 2023, Declared Kathleen Leavy Day**



On October 28, 2023, the Gainesville Alumni of Asian Medicine and the city of Gainesville, FL hosted the first annual alumni and awards ceremony. The Gainesville Alumni of Asian medicine is a group started by Dr. K.A. Shakoor, DAOM¹ and Matthew Gammon². It focuses on unifying practitioners of Asian medicine practicing in Gainesville, FL. The Gainesville Alumni of Asian Medicine is a local organization that is non-affiliated with either Dragon Rises College of Oriental Medicine (DRCOM) or Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (AFEA). It is both a social and professional group made up of practitioners of Asian medicine and includes acupuncture physicians, Ayurvedic Medical practitioners, students, and more. This year's honoree for Gainesville Alumni of Asian Medicine's alumni dinner and awards ceremony was Gainesville's own, Kathleen Leavy, RN, AP, one of the co-founders of DRCOM and one of Florida's leading practitioners of acupuncture and Asian medicine, Western medicine, and holistic medicine.

Kathleen Leavy is considered by many to be a pillar of the community and "a living treasure" to the fields of Asian and Western medicine. Kathleen served as a professor at DRCOM for over 20 years and has touched countless lives of patients and former students. Kathleen Leavy, R.N., A.P., has been a practicing Acupuncturist for over 30 years and a Registered Nurse for almost 40 years. She was a former professor and is a co-founder of Dragon Rises College of Oriental Medicine alongside her teacher and nationally renowned pulse diagnosis master Dr. Leon Hammer. She received her Master of Oriental Medicine from DRCOM in 2004 and is a Nationally board-certified Acupuncturist and Herbalist and a Florida Board Licensed Acupuncturist. Kathleen has studied extensively with world-renowned teachers Dr. Lin Xue-Jian (scalp for stroke rehabilitation and brain injury 1992), Dr. David Bole, PhD, A.P., Dr. Viet Tran (Classical Acupuncture), and Will Morris from Emperor's College in LA (Chinese Herbs). Having practiced as an RN in Intensive Care and Dialysis for 12 years and working with herbs since 1971, Kathleen has an incredibly well-rounded focus for each of her patients and a keen interest in infectious disease, and newly emerging infectious diseases. Kathleen grew up in South Florida and spent much of her time in the ocean. She has been married for 35 years and has two daughters. One of Kathleen's daughters, Julia Leavy, joined her practice as an Acupuncture Physician in Spring 2016.



The event was held at Mr. Han's Restaurant and was attended by over 40 attendees who included alumni, current and former teachers, and current and former administrators from AFEA and DRCOM. While not in attendance for this event, Mayor Harvey Ward, Jr. officially proclaimed Kathleen Leavy Day for October 28, 2023. Kathleen received a plaque from the Gainesville Alumni of Asian Medicine and the City of Gainesville, FL which was presented to her by Dr. K.A. Shakoor, DAOM, Dr. David Bole, PhD, A.P. (Lama Losang)³, and Edwin Uribe, A.P.⁴.

¹ Dr. Shakoor is the director of the Gainesville Karma Kagyu Thegsum Choling Tibetan Meditation Center (where Lama Losang is the resident teacher and founder). He is currently in his second year at the Sowa Rigpa Institute of Traditional Tibetan Medicine, focusing on psychology. He is president of the Mental Health Coalition of North Central Florida and teaches at Florida Acupuncture and Counseling, Inc. in Gainesville, FL.

²Matthew Gammon, LMT is a former president of the DRCOM student body, cofounder of the Gainesville Alumni of Asian Medicine, and future graduate of DRCOM. Matthew is also a 3rd degree black belt instructor of Oom Yung Doe martial arts and is a practitioner of Tai Chi and Qigong.

³ David N. Bole (Lama Losang), Ph.D., A.P. is director of the Traditional Acupuncture Center, a holistic health care facility offering a multi-dimensional approach to health and healing. He has been providing the finest health care services to the residents of North Central Florida for over 25 years.

⁴ Edwin Uribe, A.P. is a licensed acupuncture physician at Florida Acupuncture and Counseling, Inc. and Pilates Yoga Loft. Edwin is a former clinical supervisor, teaching assistant, and tutor at DRCOM. He is currently a Pilates and Qi Gong instructor at Pilate Yoga Loft.