LOOKING BACK AT THE LAST 25 YEARS:
A Time of Reflection and Gratitude

When the founding fathers of the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture (NCCA) (as it was called at that time before its name was changed to National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) in 1997), gathered in the early 1980s to brainstorm and create a certification organization for the fledgling profession of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AOM), it was difficult to fathom that a quarter of a century later, this newly born organization would have certified over 22,000 practitioners throughout the world and that its certification programs or exams would be required for licensure in 41 states (Statutes or rules establishing standards for acupuncture have been

(continued on page 6)
A Time of Organizational Transformation

“The quality of our expectations determines the quality of our actions” (André Godin).

Beginning in early 2006 and into 2007 the organization underwent a major transformation culminating in an actual organizational rebirth, both literally and figuratively that has coincided with our 25th anniversary. During the last year, the staff, in a strong partnership with the Board of Commissioners has set a higher standard for the delivery of our services along with an increased dedication to excellence. This has played out not only in the revamping of our item banks and test delivery processes, but with a new level of customer service within the organization, a continued commitment to raise public awareness about our Diplomates and the distinguishing quality of their credentials, as well as solidification of all governance and management policies and procedures. As the Board and staff looked back and reflected over the activities of the past year it was clear that the organization had actually evolved and set its intentions to embrace a higher standard. While the mission of the NCCAOM remains - to establish, assess, and promote recognized standards of competence and safety in acupuncture and Oriental medicine for the protection and benefit of the public, our intentions are now recognized and officially adopted by the Board of Commissioners in the form of the following new NCCAOM Core Values.

1.) Testing Excellence
Our organizational mission drives us to produce valid and reliable measurements of competence in AOM practitioners who seek certification from us.

NCCAOM continues to maintain nationally accredited certification programs. The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accreditation means that all NCCAOM certification program applications and renewals are reviewed by each NCCAOM Commissioner and a collective accreditation decision is made before the programs are accredited. Currently, the NCCAOM is preparing to submit its application to be accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The ANSI accreditation demonstrates conformity to the international standard for agencies certifying personnel, ISO/IEC 17024. This international standard is recognized in 85 countries around the globe. In this issue of the newsletter you will find several articles related to our commitment to testing excellence.

2.) Service
Our service commitment is demonstrated through three different domains.

a.) Public Protection
We are committed to safeguarding the public from practitioners who have not demonstrated their competence.

By upholding high standards for eligibility of applicants and testing standards, NCCAOM serves to assure that all Diplomates have met entry-level
CHAIR’S REPORT

On behalf of the NCCAOM Board of Directors, I offer my congratulations to those whose sustained efforts have brought our profession to this 25-year milestone, from which we can look back at our journey and ahead to what is yet to be accomplished. I also want to convey this spirit of accomplishment and promise to all of you who entered the profession of Oriental Medicine with hope for its establishment in this country. You are its backbone and its emissaries in society. We all deserve to enjoy this moment and be grateful for the blessings that our medicine has brought to so many people!

One of the most enjoyable tasks of leading the NCCAOM has been the opportunity to view the profession at its “growing edge,” and to contemplate the emerging horizons that will likely consume us for the next 25 years. What will our profession bring forward by 2032? What have we learned that can be applied to the future? Here is what I see:

• Our medicine will come of age when it is serving the poorest among us—in their neighborhoods. Expansion of our medical services across the current boundaries of race, class, and geography will enable acupuncture and Oriental medicine to demonstrate its value to raise the health status of countless social groups who are marginalized in the current health care system. Innovative models, such as Working Class Acupuncture’s demonstration of caring for groups in low-fee clinics, demonstrates the value of thinking creatively about how to get services where they are most needed.

• The increasingly-fruitful partnership of our five national organizations: the NCCAOEM, the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM), the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), and the professional membership organizations: the American Association for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM) and the American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia (AOBTA®). Experience has shown that what we hold in common is more powerful and worth achieving than what we hold as “different”. The spirit of diversity in how we practice can be maintained, even as we develop in scope and substance.

• The development of “niche areas” for AOM to show its effectiveness are beginning to emerge, bringing an expansion of career opportunities for the scores of new (and “old”) graduates in the profession. These include hospital-based practices, areas of medical specialization (pediatrics, end of life care, Asian bodywork therapy, public health, emergency medicine). The field of humanitarian response to disaster and trauma is being expanded by Acupuncturists Without Borders; and international opportunities for both volunteer and contract work are increasing. Our message is increasingly expressed through authorship on the Web, in print and visual media, in improved textbooks and continuing education courses.

• Rapid growth has brought about the vital need to know ourselves with increasing accuracy, and to make that information available to organs of public policy and government. The Department of Health and Human Services currently fails to track data on our profession, and this oversight compromises our ability to be considered in society’s debate on health care and to know how we are doing collectively. We’re just beginning to collect the data which needs to be gathered to assess our income levels, working conditions, educational standards and the like, enabling us to track our progress at the macro level, and to guide our choices as a profession.

As one who agreed to simply serve on a working committee seven years ago and later found myself serving the profession as a Board member and eventual Chair, I want all of you to know that the door is open to your involvement. Consider volunteering for a committee in an area you care about—or serve at the state or national level by giving some of your time and attention to your professional organizations. Write articles, educate the public about what you do, and keep asking how we can bring this care to more of those who need it. A key survey published in the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine in 2002 showed that only 4% of respondents reported even a single use of acupuncture in their lifetime. In other words your task is to bring AOM care to the 96% who have yet to see its marvels. Let us dream together what comes next!

Sincerely,

Bryn Clark, L.Ac. Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)
Chair, Board of Commissioners
NCCAOM

CEO Report: A Time of Organizational Transformation

competencies upon entrance into the profession. Partnering with our test administration vendor, Pearson VUE and our psychometric services vendor, Schroeder Measurement Technologies (SMT) affords NCCAOM the highest standards for testing services and test security. NCCAOM’s recertification program exists for the purpose of enhancing continued competence and assures the public that our active Diplomates have demonstrated a commitment to ongoing certification maintenance. All Diplomates must also adhere to the NCCAOM Code of Ethics. Our Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee (PEDC) continues to provide guidelines on proper conduct for Diplomates, hears cases on potential ethics violations and imposes sanctions on those applicants, candidates or Diplomates who have not abided by the NCCAOM Code of Ethics. In this issue, we have published the list of individuals who have violated the NCCAOM Code of Ethics and are currently listed on the NCCAOM’s website for Disciplinary Action. In 2007, NCCAOM completed registration of its trademarks with the Principal Registrar of the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO). All NCCAOM trademarks are now registered and it is important that Diplomates properly list their certification designations. In this issue of the Diplomate, please review the information on proper use of your credentials.

b.) Public Benefit

We are committed to making available to the public reliable information that will help them to enjoy the benefits of health services from competent AOM practitioners.

During the last year our marketing of the NCCAOM credentials has resulted in an 87% increase in media hits. This was made possible by the commitment of financial resources toward this effort and the added support of our public relations firm, Echo Media.

c.) NCCAOM Diplomates

We are committed to improving the reputation for excellence of AOM practitioners who have demonstrated competence through our certification processes.

In 2005 we learned, through the Diplomate Satisfaction Survey, that the number one area cited by Diplomates where NCCAOM could provide better service was in the area of improving the reputation of NCCAOM Diplomates in the eyes of the public and with other health care professionals. NCCAOM though its Find A Practitioner section of the website has seen a tremendous increase in the number of “hits” by the public. Through the efforts of our State and Regulatory Affairs Department, NCCAOM continues to provide testimony in states and abroad which has influenced legislation that has lead to adoption of the NCCAOM national standard of certification. In the last year two states have created a practice act, Michigan and Kentucky; NCCAOM certification in Acupuncture is a requirement for licensure in those states. Please see the related story on state requirements and use of NCCAOM certification or examinations for licensure.

3.) Integrity

We are committed to upholding truthfulness and honesty in all our organizational words and deeds.

Our organization has embraced a new level of transparency. In this issue you will hear from the NCCAOM Treasurer who provides a report on the organization’s balance sheet. In 2004, the U.S. Senate Finance Committee issued a draft paper calling for stronger nonprofit governance to which we will adhere. In addition, the Internal Revenue Service, through changes in Form 990, requires a clear conflict of interest policy for nonprofit volunteers in an interest in strengthening nonprofit governance. Commissioners have adopted a Commissioner Code of Conduct that is signed by all Commissioners annually. Each Commissioner is held responsible to be a fiduciary meaning that he or she holds in trust the assets of the organization. Each Commissioner must avoid any conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest, and must be a steward for the organization by upholding the organizational values and supporting the mission. The new NCCAOM Governance Policy Manual was adopted in June 2007. Please go to www.nccaom.org to view a copy of the NCCAOM Commissioner Code of Conduct.

4.) Trust

We are committed to promoting an organizational environment that allows those who work for NCCAOM to rely on one another to accomplish the tasks required by our mission. We maintain the same commitment in our joint activities with other organizations with whom we collaborate for the betterment of the AOM community.

During the past year, the organization has deepened the partnership between the Board and staff, and expanded our reliance on a broader community of NCCAOM volunteers who serve on our committees and taskforces. Since 2005 the number of volunteers serving the organization has grown by 23 percent. Similarly, the NCCAOM is now partnering with a number of the AOM stakeholder organizations to provide input on our organizational plans. The NCCAOM Exam Administration Taskforce deliberates on all exam administration policy recommendations before they are presented to the Board of Commissioners. This taskforce currently has two representatives from the Council of Colleges for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM) serving as representatives. The NCCAOM is also in the process of forming several other taskforces in which representatives from the Federation of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Regulatory Agencies (FAOMRA), AAAOM, AOBTA® and CCAOM will provide representatives. Several articles in this 2007 Summer issue of the Diplomate showcase our new partnership efforts. By trusting in each other there are few limits to what can be accomplished for the AOM community.

5.) Leadership

We are committed to acting responsibly to advance the interests of the AOM community through our certification process. We understand our leadership to be inseparable from our mission of service to the public and to the AOM community.

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners engages in robust dialogue and discussions before decision making. We have adopted the best practices in association management of knowledge-based decision making. Commissioners and senior staff are committed to framing issues in ways that allow for openness; facilitate discussion
and tease out differences of opinion. Our commitment to these principles is further evidenced by the creation of a Board Development Committee that is responsible for Board member recruitment, orientation and ongoing leadership development. By embracing this paradigm, it is our intention to be a role model for the AOM community. According to Kouze and Posner in the Leadership Challenge (3rd Edition, 2002), “success in leading will be wholly dependent upon the capacity to build and sustain those human relationships that enable people to get extraordinary things done”.

6.) Community

Our outreach to the AOM Community is recognized in two areas, volunteerism and support.

a.) Volunteerism

We are committed to engaging AOM practitioners in the activities necessary to keep our certification exams and processes relevant to the state of the art of AOM.

NCCAOM is committed to engage wide practitioner support for our procurement of content for our NCCAOM exams. So far in 2007, NCCAOM has hosted 11 Item Writing Events. Please refer to the article in this issue entitled Item Writing Events Were a Success for Examination Development - Many Thanks to Our Volunteers. Our Diplomate volunteers continue to serve as Subject Matter Experts and are the backbone for the development and maintenance of the NCCAOM item banks, examination content and standard setting decisions.

b.) Support

We are committed to being a responsible corporate member of the larger community in which we live.

NCCAOM has reached out to Acupuncturists without Borders in their time of need. This year, NCCAOM is supporting the activities of the Society for Acupuncture Research by providing a donation of $600 to help support their 10th Anniversary activities along with providing our first NCCAOM Young Investigator Award in the form of a $1,000 scholarship. NCCAOM continues to host the AOM Day website and coordinates the AOM Day activities with the other AOM Day partner organizations. (www.aomday.org)

This last year has been an extraordinary one for the NCCAOM. We are proud of our accomplishments. As you read the NCCAOM Year in Review, please note that the NCCAOM staff continues to be vigilant in its commitment to outstanding customer service. Our goal is to foster improved communications with our applicants, candidates, and Diplomates. To further that effort, please look for our 2007 Diplomate Satisfaction Survey. You will receive the survey electronically in August. It is our sincere hope that you will take the time to give us your feedback by completing this online survey. The results of the 2005 Diplomate Satisfaction Survey (results published in the Summer 2006 issue of the Diplomate) served as the basis for our strategic planning in 2005 and resulted in our successful efforts to protect and promote your certifications.

Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., MT(ACSP), CAE
Chief Executive Officer

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The NCCAOM Board Welcomes New Commissioners for 2007

Please join us in welcoming our three new Commissioners, Susan Chapman, Ph.D., R.N., David Canzone, DOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM) and Barbra Esher, Dipl. Ac., Dipl. ABT (NCCAOM) who joined the Commission at the January 2007 Board meeting. Canzone who was appointed to fill a vacancy at the end of 2006 and Esher, who was elected in 2006, currently serves as practitioner members and Dr. Chapman serves as a public member. The Board of Commissioners is currently comprised of seven professional members and three public members. These dedicated Commissioners are committed to continuing our mission to establish, assess and promote recognized standards of competence and safety in the Oriental Medicine community. The NCCAOM Board and Staff would also like to express our gratitude to Ruth Dalphin, Dipl. Ac., Dipl. A.B.T. (NCCAOM) who dedicated five years of hard work serving on the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners including serving as Secretary of the Board during her tenure.

The NCCAOM Board Welcomes Newly Appointed Officers

The NCCAOM congratulates the following Commissioners on their appointments as Officers of the Board:

- **Bryn Clark, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM), Chair**
- **Therese Hahn, DOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM), Vice Chair**
- **Michael Garland, D. Sc. Rel, Treasurer**
- **Mike McKeown, M.A., Th.M., Secretary**

For a brief bio and photo of each of our Commissioners and CEO, Dr. Kory Ward-Cook, please visit the NCCAOM home page at www.nccaom.org/commissioners.htm

Keep Your Contact Information Current

The NCCAOM would like to remind you how important it is to keep your contact information current. This is important for many reasons:

- to receive information about changes in NCCAOM policy that may affect your certification status;
- to ensure that you continue to receive your copy of the Diplomate newsletter and Diplomate E-News You Can Use;
- to facilitate a potential new patient’s ability to find you on the Find-A-Practitioner section of our website www.nccaom.org.

To update your information, electronically, go to www.nccaom.org/adchange.htm, or FAX your changes to 904-598-5001. Be sure to include your full name and birth date, and the information to be updated.

Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., MT(ACSP), CAE
Chief Executive Officer
Looking Back at the Last 25 Years: A Time of Reflection and Gratitude

enacted since 1973). It would have been difficult to imagine that NCCAOM would play such an integral role in conjunction with the other national organizations in promoting the AOM profession as well as partnering with the states to strengthen the practice of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AOM). Fast forward 25 years later: numerous milestones and achievements have been accomplished by the volunteers and staff who devoted thousands of hours into building this organization into one of the most significant organizations in the field of AOM.

As a tribute to the tireless volunteers and staff that preceded us, the NCCAOM is dedicating this year as a time to reflect on the many accomplishments made by the pioneers of this organization in the 1980s who began the acupuncture certification program and through hard work, established the organization in the United States. This hardy group was followed by the producers in the 1990s that expanded and strengthened our examinations and certification programs and built upon NCCAOM’s relationship with the states to make our certification programs nationally known. Now in the 21st century, modernization, outreach and the further growth of the organization has lead to a full, professional staff who work closely with a dedicated and experienced Board to fulfill the organization’s mission of public safety while continuing to develop new methods to increase the security and reliability of its examination and certification process, as well as inform the public about the value of finding a NCCAOM certified practitioner.

The Early Years: Setting the Foundation

The idea of creating a certification program for acupuncture in the United States did not come suddenly, nor was it due to one person’s efforts—instead it was the brainchild of visionary practitioners who formed a professional organization called the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM) to serve as a unifying body for AOM practitioners to advance the profession. Once formed, the AAAOM became the launching pad for the formation of three different organizations; each with its own set of parameters. Each organization would further enhance the credibility of the profession: the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), the Council of Colleges for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM) and the NCCAOM. The early 1980s was a ground-breaking period for the profession as these three organizations drafted the blueprint of what would become the first established national accreditation organization and the first national certification organization to represent the acupuncture profession in the United States.

These events were predicated a decade earlier in the 1970s, a time of enlightenment as acupuncture was officially introduced through the mass media in the United States by a journalist who in 1971, was given acupuncture during recovery from an emergency appendectomy in China, where he was visiting in preparation for President Nixon’s visit. He described the experience in the New York Times. Subsequently teams of US physicians made fact-finding tours of China to assess acupuncture practice, particularly its use for surgical analgesia. This initial public awareness created a wave of interest by Americans who wanted to try this 3,000 year-old medicine for ailments that were not responding to Western medicine. Although acupuncture was later rejected by Western clinicians as an analgesic for surgery in the West, the seed had been planted and its popularity began to rise as the public witnessed its effectiveness for a whole host of ailments including pain management.

As public interest grew and clinical effectiveness of acupuncture became more evident, the task of establishing standards and creating a credentialing program for the accredited schools and the certification of practitioners was needed. This task fell to the NCCAOM, ACAOM, and CCAOM. There were already a handful of schools teaching Oriental medicine by the mid-1970s and it became evident by the 1980s that standards to measure the qualifications of these graduates to practice acupuncture should be established. Unlike the apprenticeship style of learning that was the customary tradition amongst practitioners in China and the far East, the newly established organizations created a model based on a combination of clinical and didactic hours with the inclusion of apprenticeship hours for those who were trained in a very traditional format or who were trained abroad. This formula proved to be a good choice, as necessary developments took place that paved the way for setting national standards and thus, ensuring wide acceptance by the public.

One of these achievements was the introduction of the first national examination in acupuncture in March 1985 via the acupuncture comprehensive written examination. It was developed during a three-year period with the help of leading acupuncturists throughout the nation. Throughout this development period, the NCCAOM followed national guidelines for certification and testing in order to ensure a fair, valid, and reliable examination. The administration of the exam was a milestone event in the growth of the profession in the United States.

The successful completion of this first examination by NCCAOM, along with finalization of a three-year Master’s program from an accredited school by ACAOM, allowed the first wave of practitioners to become certified, showing to the public that they had met national entry-level standards. By creating and implementing genuine national standards, state regulators had available the necessary instruments to determine the competency and qualifications of applicants for licensure. The existence of these standards allowed state regulatory agencies to establish licensure requirements based on national standards (at that time,
there were several states that already had a practice act or state statute that allowed the practice of acupuncture, but none required an entry-level examination or a formal education from an accredited school. The establishment of these national standards permitted acupuncturists to more easily move from state to state and also reassured the public that certified practitioners met entry-level national standards.

The concept of national standards became the core of the mission of the NCCAOM, which is to establish, assess, and promote recognized standards of competence and safety in acupuncture and Oriental medicine for the protection and benefit of the public.

The 1990s: Solidifying the Certification Process

By the early 1990s, the NCCAOM’s volunteer base had grown to include Commissioners, subject-matter experts, committee members as well as an Executive Director with a small staff. The Commissioners of the 1990s were truly champions who further developed the examination process and strengthened the reliability of the exams. It was during this period that the Practical Examination of Point Location Skills (PEPLS) was added as a component of NCCAOM’s acupuncture examination in September 1989. The Clean Needle Technique (CNT) portion was added to the acupuncture written exam two years later in 1991. This separately scored CNT exam was merged into the Comprehensive Written Examination in Acupuncture in 1998.

In 1989, the profession asked the NCCAOM to develop a certification program measuring entry-level competency in the practice of Chinese herbology because there was increased interest for certification in Chinese herbology from acupuncturists since so many acupuncturists were incorporating herbs into their practice. After three years of research, the organization opened the Credentials Documentation Review (CDR) period for Certification in Chinese Herbology. The first national Comprehensive Written Examination in Chinese Herbology was given in April 1995. Although initially, most states did not require this examination; today more and more states are adding Chinese herbology into their scope of practice and requiring NCCAOM Chinese herbology certification (Arkansas, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas all require the NCCAOM Chinese Herbology examination).

The NCCAOM then developed a third certification program in response to requests from the profession and the American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia (AOBTA®). NCCAOM Certification in Asian Bodywork Therapy (ABT) was offered in 1996 through Credentials Documentation Review. CDR for certification in Asian Bodywork Therapy (ABT) closed in December 1997 and the first Comprehensive Written Examination in ABT was given in October 2000 and is currently administered during the Fall of each year. The AOBTA® assisted the NCCAOM throughout the examination development process of the 500-hour certification program. Currently, seven states and the District of Columbia accept the ABT examination as a route of licensure to practice ABT or massage.

The addition of the two examinations and certification programs in the 1990s further reinforced national standards as set forth by the NCCAOM and added additional credibility to the profession; however, the most significant contribution of the 1990s era was obtaining accreditation for the NCCAOM certification programs from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). ACAOM had already achieved the highest standards of recognition for accrediting bodies by receiving recognition by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education. NCCAOM reached its next equally impressive milestone when it was awarded NCCA accreditation. NCCA is the accreditation body of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) and a national accreditation body for certification organizations in all disciplines. Established in 1977, NOCA/NCCA is the largest national organization setting quality standards for credentialing organizations. Accreditation proved to state regulators, schools, and the public that NCCAOM’s procedures are rigorous and defensible, thus increasing the value of NCCAOM’s certifications. The NCCAOM also became a member of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) when the Acupuncture Certification Program was accredited in 1991 and Chinese Herbology in 1996 by the NCCA. Subsequently, the Asian Bodywork Therapy Certification Program was granted accreditation by NCCA in 2002.

The 1990s were also a time of growth and acceptance of the acupuncture and Oriental medicine (AOM) profession. During this period acupuncture was supported by clinical research through the National Institute of Health (NIH) National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). The Consensus Statement on Acupuncture, which was released by the NIH in 1997, stated the efficacy of acupuncture for a variety of conditions, which helped this medicine to become more mainstream and allowed federal dollars to be spent on acupuncture research. The information in this report assisted in the creation of The White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM), in which the NCCAOM provided testimony to members of Congress regarding its certification process.

The Millennium and Beyond: The Modernization of NCCAOM

With the turn of the century, the NCCAOM entered a new phase, as the organization evolved with a highly professional staff and leadership that looked towards the future for ways to expand beyond what was offered up to that point in time. In 2002, the first Job Task Analysis (JTA) for the AOM profession was completed by NCCAOM staff and volunteers. The JTA represented all facets of the profession and provided a consensus for the NCCAOM to receive feedback from the AOM profession. The
2002 Job Task Analysis was awarded the 2003 Associations Advance America Honor Roll, by the American Society for Association Executives (ASAE) in May 2003.

In December 2003, as a result of the data collected in the 2002 JTA, the NCCAOM began to offer a certification program in Oriental medicine, an umbrella program offering an applicant the opportunity to demonstrate competence in the full range of the Oriental medicine branches to include acupuncture, Chinese herbology, Oriental medicine theory, point location and biomedicine. Certificants of this distinct program earn the designation of Diplomate in Oriental Medicine, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM). Many distinguished members of the profession were part of the Oriental Medicine Blue Ribbon Panel that helped form the Oriental Medicine Certification. Since that time, over 75% of Diplomates who were certified in Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology have converted to the OM Certification program.

The examination process and administration also went through a complete overhaul and modernization in the middle of the 21st decade. In June 2004, NCCAOM successfully introduced a modular examination format. Two years later, NCCAOM moved from a paper and pencil examination to computer-based testing; this included all of its modules and was a significant advancement from the old paper and pencil format. In early 2007, the organization moved to year-round testing by introducing computer adaptive testing (CAT). This change allowed applicants to schedule their examinations anytime after they were approved to test, thus eliminating application and registration deadlines forever!

One of the most significant results of the conversion to computer based testing was the vast improvement in examination security. After the move to CAT administration, the number of cheating incidents was reduced by 98% with only one reported case of cheating in June 2006 and zero cases to date in 2007. The NCCAOM continues to assess and receive feedback on its examination process on a daily basis. In the last few years, customer service has also been a high priority for the organization. Staff has made customer service it’s number one priority at all times. Our Diplomates are the reason that we exist today and striving for the best in customer service is our number one goal.

Time was not standing still for state regulators in the early 2000s. As of July 2007, forty-one states regulate the practice of acupuncture. Forty-one states require the successful passage of the NCCAOM examinations; of those, 20 states actually require NCCAOM certification. Additional recent changes include a requirement by MA, RI and NJ that all applicants, whether NCCAOM certified or not, must complete the biomedicine examination, if they have not previously taken it, in order to obtain a license to practice. Three of the nine unregulated states, MS, LA and OK, have legislative initiatives in the works. We predict by 2010, the remaining nine states will implement regulations and join the other states in adopting national standards for education and examination.

During this time of reflection and gratitude to the individuals and organizations that contributed to the growth and success of the NCCAOM over the past 25 years, we look to the future with a new vision. Integrative medicine and greater interest in AOM by other professions brings exciting challenges and opportunities for the NCCAOM as we move toward the thirty-year mark. As the “founding fathers” did 25 years ago when establishing the acupuncture profession, the leadership of the AAAOM, ACAOM, CCAOM and NCCAOM has come full circle this year as they reunite to not only pay homage to their founders and to celebrate their Silver Anniversary, but to continue collaboration to promote and advance the AOM profession as they did in 1982.

We hope to see you at our joint 25th Anniversary Gala at the AAAOM conference in Portland, Oregon on October 20, 2007. For more information about this event, please contact the AAAOM via their website at www.aaamoto.org.
ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Diplomates may vote for TWO of the four candidates to fill the two practitioner member seats for 2008. If you do not have access to online voting, you can contact Mina Larson mina.larson@nccaom.org to receive a paper ballot, which will be mailed to you. Only official ballots will be accepted. Illegible, incomplete, or incorrectly marked ballots will be discarded. All paper and e-ballots must be received on or before October 15, 2007.

David Canzone,
DOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE
David Canzone has practiced Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine full time since 1989 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He graduated from Southwest Acupuncture College in 1988. In 1996 he was appointed by the Governor of New Mexico to serve on the New Mexico Board of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. He has been directly involved in successful legislative efforts in New Mexico to help create one of the broadest scopes of practice for DOMs in the U.S.A.

Canzone’s passion is Integrative Medicine and he continually works to advance the integration of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine into his community. In 1996 he created a framework for Santa Fe’s St. Vincent’s Regional Hospital to allow for the credentialing of acupuncturists to practice Oriental medicine within a hospital setting by acquiring hospital privileges. Canzone and his wife Sandra Canzone, DOM, are the Integrative Medicine Providers for St. Vincent’s Cancer Center. Canzone was a founding member of the Federation of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Regulatory Agencies (FAOMRA). He currently serves on the NCCAOM’s Professional Ethics and Discipline Committee and the NCCAOM’s Recertification Committee. He has served as a Commissioner since January 2007, appointed to complete the unexpired term of Daisy Barquist.

PERSONAL STATEMENT
My interest in participating as a commissioner for the NCCAOM is an extension of my deep commitment to serving our profession because of my faith in the medicine and those who practice it. My initial involvement in state and national issues was in part born from a frustration in watching other health professions attempt to capitalize on our hard work and success by taking abbreviated course-work in our field. While I respect the attempts of all professions to use tools that benefit their patients, I hold firm in the belief that the benefits and success of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine come from a comprehensive body of knowledge and therefore the education and training that we receive should not be trivialized. I believe that the NCCAOM, through national certification, upholds the standards that our profession has worked so hard to achieve. I have worked with numerous agencies related to the Acupuncture and Oriental medicine profession for the last twenty years and because of this I strongly believe that my background will serve the NCCAOM’s current and future challenges. I have participated on professional boards and understand the importance of allowing a diverse group of opinions to be heard, respected and acted upon. Since January 2007, I have served as a NCCAOM commissioner and have actively participated in all meetings and committees and therefore have already made important steps in understanding the complexities of the organization. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve my colleagues by remaining a commissioner. Thank you for considering me as a viable candidate.

Jason Hao,
Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE
Jason Jishun Hao graduated from Heilongjiang University of Traditional Chinese Medicine with Bachelor and Master Degrees in 1982 and 1987, respectively. In addition, Hao received a Masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix in 2004.

Hao has served as an NCCAOM volunteer since 1999, and has been a member of the NCCAOM Acupuncture Exam Development Committee since 1996. He is currently the Chair of this committee. Hao has been a practitioner, a teacher, and a researcher in Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine for over 25 years. He has been a featured speaker at numerous TCM workshops, and is the author of several TCM books and magazine articles. Currently, Hao practices Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology in his private clinic in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In addition, he is the Vice President of the Board of Directors at Southwest Acupuncture College, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

PERSONAL STATEMENT
Currently, I am the Chair of the Acupuncture Committee. I have been teaching, practicing and researching acupuncture and Chinese herbs for 25 years and as a result, I have extensive knowledge of the subject and can make a valuable contribution in areas where this knowledge is of value. In addition, I am a well-known professor and a published author on the subject of Acupuncture and Chinese Herboogy. I will bring this knowledge to NCCAOM and continue to contribute to examination and policy development. I pledge to carry on the mission of the NCCAOM and will dedicate my years of leadership and management skills to improve NCCAOM in serving the public.

www.nccaom.org
David Myrick, Dipl. Ac. and Dipl. C.H. (NCCAOM)

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE
David Myrick, L.Ac, Dipl. Ac, Dipl. CH, (NCCAOM) earned a BA degree from California State Polytechnic Institute in 1984. After a 14 year career in the consumer lending industry, Myrick enrolled at the International Institute of Chinese Medicine in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he earned a Master’s Degree in Oriental Medicine.

In 2002, Myrick relocated to Phoenix, Arizona and joined the faculty of the Phoenix Therapeutic Massage College and the Southwest Institute of Healing Arts as an Oriental Theory instructor. In addition, he served as Secretary of the Arizona Society of Oriental Medicine for two years.

Myrick is currently serving on the NCCAOM Acupuncture Exam Development Committee, is a faculty member at the Phoenix Institute of Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture (PHIMA), and works as an acupuncturist for Banner Health System at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center and Banner Desert Medical Center.

PERSONAL STATEMENT
I would like to serve the acupuncture and Oriental medicine profession as an NCCAOM board member because I strongly believe in the importance of establishing, assessing and promoting recognized standards of competence and safety in acupuncture and Oriental medicine. I believe that doing so in a manner that is inclusive of the various styles of acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is essential to building the confidence of the public, as well as the reputation and growth of our profession. I feel that my pragmatism, experience as an educator in acupuncture and Oriental medicine, and exposure to practitioners of various styles will enable me to effectively serve the organization for the benefit of the public and our profession.

Jan Ste Germaine, Dipl. Ac., C.H., A.B.T. (NCCAOM)

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE
As an NCCAOM "triple Diplomate", Ste Germain has been in Oriental Medicine private practice for twenty-two years. In that time, she has been a Director on a national board; created, administrated, and taught OM programs in the Kansas City metroplex in massage schools and community colleges; participated in Missouri and Kansas legislative initiatives to secure the profession; and presented lectures and seminars in local businesses building bridges with the community. Privileged to study with Shiatsu Master Shizuko Yamamoto, she transitioned from a 14-year career teaching in the public schools to Shiatsu practitioner. Further studies in Boston included instruction from Cindy Banker, Dipl. A.B.T.(NCCAOM) and Barbara Blanchard, Dipl. Ac., C.H.(NCCAOM) at the New England Shiatsu Center and a two-year course in Chinese Herbal Medicine with Ted J. Kaptchuk, OMD, Dipl. Ac., C.H.(NCCAOM) in 1994-1995. She graduated in 1999 with an MS in Oriental Medicine from the Midwest College in Chicago, Illinois. Member of AAAOM, AOBTA®, and the AAM (Acupuncture Association of Missouri), she serves as Chair of AAM’s Fundraising Committee and is a member of NCCAOM’s Eligibility Committee. Ste Germain has been honored with the AOBTA President’s Award, an Outstanding Service award in 1998, and Continued Service award in 2005.

PERSONAL STATEMENT
Gathering with many of you at state meetings, national conventions, as well as at forums like the monthly newsheet, Acupuncture Today, I am connected with the opportunities and challenges we face as a profession approaching critical mass to mainstream in national health care.

Choosing leaders who will speak for you at a national level at this time is especially important. I ask for your vote today to be one of those leaders as an NCCAOM commissioner.

I am not asking you to vote for me without a history of participation. For the last twenty years, I have worked at the grassroots level organizing and attending local meetings; participating in municipal and state hearings representing the profession; serving as chair and committee member at the state and national levels. This service helped me develop a unique set of skills that I can utilize to speak for you.
Item Writing Events Were a Success for Examination Development - Many Thanks to Our Volunteers

This has been another fantastic year for Item Writing Events! As of July 1, 2007 we have had 11 events across the country and we cannot thank each participant enough for their efforts and dedication to making the NCCAOM examinations even stronger. The AOM college representatives have also been wonderful as they have hosted each event on their campuses. There are too many names to list, but "Thank you" to all of the participants who attended at the following locations from January to July 2007:

- American College of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), Houston, Texas
- Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin, Austin, Texas
- Pacific College, New York Campus, New York, NY
- American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, San Francisco, CA
- Oregon College of Oriental Medicine, Portland, OR
- Southwest Acupuncture College, Albuquerque, NM
- New England School of Acupuncture, Newton, MA
- Dragon Rises College of Oriental Medicine, Gainesville, FL
- Atlantic School of Oriental Medicine, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Pacific College, San Diego Campus, San Diego, CA
- Acupuncture and Massage College, Miami, FL

Revamping the NCCAOM Testing Program: A Look Back to a Milestone Year of Testing

The year 2006 was challenging for NCCAOM no matter which way you slice it; yet difficult times have a way of bringing out the true colors of an individual or organization. In the midst of the challenge to recreate our examination item database we held tight to two priorities: (1) make sure the exam remains legally defensible according to best practices in “Certifying Agency Land”, and (2) create the best examinations we could in the fastest possible time, so that candidates could get on with their professional lives. We succeeded at both, thanks to the help of a lot of good people in the AOM Community.

As we launched into the rebuilding of our exam question bank, we recognized that the old databank was the product of many years of item writing contributions which had been groomed by scores of reviews by subject matter experts. Its loss was a catastrophe and to replace it realistically requires a major effort through a coordinated process over time. In a few short months, we were able to recreate what was necessary to administer a legally credible exam, and since that time we have continued to administer valid examinations. This was accomplished by conducting numerous item-writing (examination question-writing) events to gather the AOM profession’s input, followed by lengthy hours of review and assembly according to the published content outlines which was done by the examination development committees. These committees are still working at regular intervals to perform all item reviews that improve the exams even further. Indeed, the whole process of reviewing items and compiling exams has undergone intense scrutiny to assure that NCCAOM complies with the best practices according to our accreditor, the National Commission for Certification Agencies (NCCA). Remember, we want to keep the superior reputation we have earned as an accredited certifying agency.

One of our newest innovations has proved to be quite successful. Rather than each exam development committee (EDC) working in isolation from each other across time, we now arrange to meet simultaneously at a single venue. There is more group interaction in before and after break-out sessions where the individual EDC for each module works. This allows for consistency in the process. It also allows for the sharing of ideas about improvements and ways to guarantee similarity in the levels of items and format between modules. Working as a team fosters productivity. The Chairs of each EDC now work together as the newly formed “Council of Exam Committee Chairs” (CECC) to guide and coordinate the whole exam development process. The staff of our Testing Department, some of the most hard-working women you’d ever meet, then enters each item in the databank in its final form. Detailed records are kept and there is a post-exam, pre-scoring review of each and every item to assure that it was a fair determinant of a candidate’s ability. The system is working very well and the exam is becoming more polished with every administration.

At NCCAOM, we are deeply appreciative of all of the professionals who serve the AOM community through their contributions at item writing events and on exam development committees. These are the folks who are “paying it forward” to countless patients and future practitioners whom they may never see. Thank you, all.

Tess Hahn, OMD, L.Ac., Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)
Chair, Council of Exam Development Chairs
Vice-Chair, Board of Commissioners
NCCAO to Begin National Job Task Analysis

Quite often, candidates ask how the NCCAO Content Outlines for each examination are created: to answer that question, a job task analysis is performed every five years. In short, the Job Task Analysis results are obtained from a survey of practitioners across the country. The survey is designed to collect information about the various tasks performed by the practitioners. A more complete explanation follows.

The Job Task Analysis is a monumental undertaking. It takes more than a year to complete. The first step is the compilation of previous surveys and their results, publications by the profession related to the tasks that are performed, and the surveys and results of similar surveys performed by other groups (e.g. State of California, AAAOM, other governmental agencies). By the time the documents are compiled, there are more than 500 pages of text and tables to be reviewed.

While these documents are being compiled, a Job Task Analysis Taskforce is created. This year, a Taskforce for each examination will be created: Acupuncture and Point Location, Asian Bodywork Therapy, Biomedicine, Chinese Herbology, and Foundations of Oriental Medicine. Each Taskforce has representatives from the current Exam Development Committees, CCAOM, AAAOM, AOBTA® and FAOMRA as well as other Diplomates or consultants. The Taskforce will be rounded out with two practitioners-at-large. In all, each examination subgroup will have 6 - 8 participants representing various areas of the country and types of practice.

Applicants for certification in Asian bodywork therapy (ABT) are required to complete at least 500 hours of entry-level Asian bodywork therapy education. The 500 hours must include a minimum of 350 didactic hours, 160 of which specifically relate to ABT techniques. Didactic hours must also include allopathic anatomy, physiology, Oriental medical theory as well as courses in First Aid, CPR, and ethics. Applicants for the Fall examination can schedule the exam from September 24 to October 6, 2007. Please refer to the ABT Certification Frequent Questions and Answers on our website at www.nccaom.org, in the “For Applicants” section.

Attention ABT Diplomates: Please join us at the AOBTA® Annual Convention in Boston as we will have our NCCAOM Exhibit Booth available for our Diplomates and candidates with information about the ABT examination, application process, and services for our ABT Diplomates. Please stop by with your questions and comments and also pick up your 25th Anniversary gift. To register for the AOBTA® Annual convention, please go to www.aobta.org.

Spotlight on the ABT Examination:

Asian Bodywork Therapy Examination Administration Changes Announced

Beginning in 2007, the ABT certification examination will be changed to a 100 item examination. After an analysis of the examination administration it was determined that a shorter examination, with the same test content, would be equally valid and reliable. The Board of Commissioners agreed to shorten the examination to 100 questions giving each candidate 2.5 hours to complete the examination. The examination content and percentage breakdown will remain the same. If there are any questions about the ABT examination changes, please feel free to contact the Testing Department at testing@nccaom.org.

NCCAO Commissioner Barbara Esher giving ABT treatment at the NCCAO Open House on June 25, 2007
Certification News
You Can Use:

Applying for Certification in Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology through the Apprenticeship Route

NOTE: Effective January 1, 2010, the Apprenticeship Route for Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology Certification Programs will be discontinued. The Apprenticeship Route will remain open for ABT.

Apprenticeship is defined as training completed under a tutor or preceptor who assumes responsibility for the theoretical and practical education of the apprentice.

With that definition in mind, certification through the apprenticeship route is less complicated than you might think.

Once you understand the requirements for applying through this route, you should have no problem fulfilling them and you will soon be on your way to becoming an NCCAOM Diplomate of Acupuncture or Chinese Herbology. Let us take a moment to examine these requirements along with where you might find additional information to answer your questions.

How do I know if my preceptor is qualified?
1.) Your preceptor may have a maximum of two apprentices studying under his or her tutelage at any one time.
2.) A preceptor is considered qualified if he or she is approved by the state as an instructor or preceptor or if he/she practices at a minimum level of 500 patients with no fewer than 100 different patients for five consecutive years immediately prior to becoming your preceptor.
3.) Patient visits are to be in general health care practice rather than a specialized practice like smoking cessation or sports medicine. Specialized practice may be a part of your preceptor’s practice but such practice will not count as one of the 500 general health patient visits per year.
4.) More information on the apprenticeship program is located at www.nccaom.org where you can download the NCCAOM Candidate Handbook, or you can contact NCCAOM’s Eligibility Department at 904-598-1005.

What about the content of my apprenticeship?
1.) Your preceptor assumes responsibility for instructing in both your theoretical and practical (clinical) education.
2.) You must complete an apprenticeship program with a minimum of 4,000 contact hours in no less than three years and no more than six years.
3.) “Contact hours” are defined as the clock hours that the apprentice spends under the direct supervision of the preceptor. Off-site supervision is not included.

Dates Announced for the Fall Examinations to Include ABT, Foreign Education and Linear Examinations

The exam dates for the ABT examination and foreign language examinations have been announced. The time period for these examinations is September 24, 2007 to October 6, 2007. This is also the last time that a computer-based linear examination will be available for Acupuncture, Biomedicine, Chinese Herbology, Foundations of Oriental Medicine, and Point Location. After this exam window closes, these exams will only be available in the adaptive administrations which are offered year-round.

If you have any questions about the examination administration process or registration, please email the candidate support line at candidatesupport@nccaom.org or call our office at (904) 598-1005.

Helpful Hint

If you want to have more specific information on obtaining eligibility through the Apprenticeship route, please refer to the NCCAOM Candidate Handbook at www.nccaom.org.

More Helpful Hints

Please keep in mind that to eliminate delay in the application process, it is imperative that you read and answer all applicable questions and that clear documentation is submitted for review. For example, your sample notes should be typed, not handwritten, since handwritten notes are difficult to read.

NCCAOM’s #1 goal is good customer service.

Help us help you! If you have a question on the apprenticeship routes, please contact the NCCAOM Eligibility Department at 904-598-1005. “We are here for you.”
**Take It to the Limit: New Policy on Number of Examination Attempts Allowed**

**Effective September 1, 2007,** NCCAOM candidates will have five (5) lifetime attempts to pass each examination in a certification program. Applicants who reach the five-time limit after August 31, 2007 will be unable to test again.

Please note that this five attempts rule is a lifetime rule. Candidates can only take an individual exam **five times total** in his or her lifetime. In the event that the candidate is not able to pass the exam within the five attempts, certification will be unattainable.

Please remember that after the third attempt, the candidate will be required to complete the applicable PDA points before being approved to take the exam for the fourth attempt.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please email the Testing Department at testing@nccaom.org.

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**Multiple Certificates Available: Meeting Our Diplomates Needs**

Good news for NCCAOM Oriental Medicine Diplomates! NCCAOM Diplomates in Oriental Medicine are now able to obtain additional certification certificates and have their designations listed on the “Find A Practitioner” section of the NCCAOM website. All active Oriental Medicine Diplomates may now obtain a certificate in Acupuncture and/or Chinese Herbology simply by completing an additional Certification Order Form located on our website at [www.nccaom.org/orderpub.htm](http://www.nccaom.org/orderpub.htm). Go to the bottom of the page and click on “Additional Certificate Order Form”. OM Diplomates who previously held an Asian Bodywork Therapy Certification may also order a certificate in Asian Bodywork Therapy. Please remember - this is an optional program for those Oriental Medicine Diplomates who wish to acquire additional certifications and certificates.

Once you have completed the order form, submit it to NCCAOM along with $100 per certification certificate. Payment may be made by check, money order or Visa/MasterCard. Credit card orders may be faxed to (904) 598-5001.

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**Diplomates Converting to Oriental Medicine**

**Effective October 1, 2007,** the NCCAOM will eliminate all application discounts for Diplomates. After this date, all applicants who wish to apply for the OM program, including current Diplomates, will have to pay the full application fee of $550. Candidates and Diplomates who submit an application that is received by the NCCAOM postmarked after this date will be required to pay the full application fee. Additionally, Diplomates who apply to become certified in another certification program will no longer be given a deferred recertification date. For example, if a Diplomate who is currently certified in Acupuncture wants to become certified in Oriental Medicine, and his/her recertification renewal is due, he/she must recertify by his/her expiration date or he/she will be placed in “lapsed” status.

When the Oriental Medicine (OM) Certification Program was introduced in late 2003, Diplomates who were certified in one or more programs were given a generous application discount in order to encourage them to convert to the new program. Almost four years after the initiation of the OM program, many Diplomates were able to take advantage of this discount and convert to this umbrella certification program.

If you have any questions about the elimination of the OM application discount, or the new policy to require ongoing recertification, please contact our Recertification Department at (904) 598-1005.

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This exciting change in policy enables OM Diplomates to display multiple certifications and designations on the NCCAOM website and in their offices denoting the accomplishment of achieving more than one certification by the NCCAOM. Thanks to the suggestion of some of our OM Diplomates, we were able to create and approve this policy for the benefit of our Diplomates. “I was so elated to hear that the NCCAOM took my suggestion to offer multiple certificates for OM Diplomates as it will definitely help enhance the certification of Oriental medicine. It is wonderful to have a suggestion become reality as this is the best form of service”, said Dr. Dao Si Miao Yu Huang Quan Ming Liu Xian Huang Di Yu Wen Meisamy, Hoda, Ph.D., L.Ac., Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM); FOUNDER: Huang Lao Quan Zhen - Lao Jun Pai Medical Alchemical Tradition. We always encourage our Diplomates to share ideas, concerns, or compliments with the NCCAOM staff by contacting us at info@nccaom.org or (904) 598-1005.
Guide to Using Your NCCAOM Credentials: Display Them Proudly and Correctly!

One of the benefits of becoming certified by the NCCAOM is the distinction of using your Diplomate credentials. It is a considerable professional achievement to earn the designation “Diplomate (NCCAOM).” NCCAOM certification indicates to employers, patients, and peers that one has met national standards for the safe and competent practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine as defined by the profession. The NCCAOM national board certification in Acupuncture, Chinese Herbology, Asian Bodywork Therapy and Oriental Medicine has been the mark of excellence in acupuncture and Oriental medicine since the inception of each certification program. It is for this reason that we encourage all Diplomates to correctly and uniformly use their credentials after their name along with the initials of NCCAOM in parentheses. The proper use of your NCCAOM credentials ensures that no other organization or entity will challenge the use of our credentials, which distinguishes us from those who are not nationally certified.

What about Licensure and Certification, What is the Difference?

With regard to your credentials, it is important to recognize the difference between state licensure and NCCAOM certification. Certification is a form of self-regulation. It is a voluntary program set up by a private, nonprofit organization to evaluate those practicing in a particular profession or business. The goal of a certification organization is to serve the public by distinguishing among individual practitioners using objective evaluation criteria including but not limited to, educational achievements and performance, experience, and scores on standardized tests.

Licensure, however, is the process by which a governmental unit (federal, state, or local) grants an individual permission to pursue an occupation or to carry out a business subject to regulations under the government authority. Governments (federal, state, local), have the authority to adopt laws and regulations to prevent the commission of fraud, crime and maintain the safety, comfort and health of their citizens.

Obtaining a license is mandatory in order to practice a profession or conduct a business. Usually, a state regulatory or licensing board is established to oversee the licensing process. In most states, passing NCCAOM’s certification examination(s) and/or obtaining certification is just one of the requirements that must be met by a practitioner before he/she can obtain a license.

In listing your credentials, your licensing credential (e.g., L. Ac., DOM, C.A., Acupuncturist), is listed before your NCCAOM certification(s).

In addition to certification and licensing designations, academic degrees should be listed correctly and in the proper order. Always remember, educational credentials first, licensure second, followed by certifications. See the table below for specific examples of how to display multiple credentials accurately.

NCCAOM has just registered all its trademarks in the U.S., the EU, Canada, China, and Korea. We hope that all of our Diplomates will use this chart as a guide for the proper use of credentials. In order to protect our trademarks, Diplomates should always use their certification designations as displayed below.

Proper Use of Certification and Academic Credentials:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACUPUNCTURE</th>
<th>CHINESE HERBOLOGY</th>
<th>ASIAN BODYWORK THERAPY</th>
<th>ORIENTAL MEDICINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

www.nccaom.org
**Legislative and State Relations**

NCCAOM's State Relations Department continues to monitor state activity, to encourage Diplomate involvement, and to work directly with state agencies and regulatory boards to promote recognized standards of competence and safety for the benefit of the public. We continue to present courses to assist Diplomates in becoming more involved in the legislative process. Betsy Smith, Associate Deputy Director, taught a course at the Southwest Symposium in Austin, Texas on lobbying techniques along with Mina Larson, Director of Communications and Marketing, to their largest audience yet with over 125 attendees. The goal of the presentation was to instruct Diplomates on recognized techniques used by successful lobbyists to pass legislative initiatives and/or changes to regulatory board rules and regulations. In addition to courses on lobbying, Smith will be teaching a new course entitled, *Professional Ethics & Liability*, along with Michael Taromina, Chair of NCCAOM’s Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee, at the AAAOM meeting in Portland, Oregon on October 18, 2007. For more information about this course, visit AAAOM’s website, [www.aaomonline.org](http://www.aaomonline.org).

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### ★★State Survey 2007★★

The State Relations Department conducted a survey of state regulators *for the first time by phone*. The goal was to speak personally with each regulator and address issues specific to each state. The following table illustrates some of the information that resulted from our survey. It is interesting to note that 78% of the states that regulate acupuncture require CEUs for licensure renewal. Of that group 47% require NCCAOM certification for license renewal. By adding that requirement, the State Regulatory Board is assured that their applicants have completed 60 PDAs every four years relating to their practice and that NCCAOM has conducted a thorough review of these credits prior to recertification.

Another new requirement that surfaced during the State Survey was the requirement by several State Boards that **ALL** licensure applicants pass the Biomedicine examination; even if the applicant is certified by NCCAOM. Each applicant must sit for the Biomedicine examination if he/she has not already done so.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>States with No Practice Act</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State in using their own Examination</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States that require NCCAOM Certification</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States that require NCCAOM Examinations (Including Washington, DC)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States that regulate Chinese herbology (AR, NV, NM, TX)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States that require Biomedicine exam for all applicants who have not taken it (NJ, RI, MA, NM)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States with Biennial Renewal Period</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States with Annual Renewal Period</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States with Triennial Renewal Period</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States that require CEUs for Licensure Renewal</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States that do not require CEUs for Licensure Renewal</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States that require NCCAOM Current Certification for Licensure Renewal</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**PDA Corner**

Courses • Workshops • Conferences
Distance Learning • Symposiums

JOIN THE WORLD OF NCCAOM PROFESSIONAL PROVIDERS

Did you know that Your Course can be NCCAOM-Approved?

Visit [www.nccaom.org\recertification](http://www.nccaom.org\recertification) and learn how to become a PDA Provider Today!

Fee schedule change and new applications coming soon.
New Regulatory Affairs Taskforce Announced

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners recently approved the creation of a Regulatory Affairs Taskforce. The purpose of the new Taskforce will be to monitor Federal and State Legislation in conjunction with other organizations which will expand the influence and effectiveness of state and federal initiatives. This new Taskforce will be chaired by David Canzoned, NCCAOM Commissioner.

Federal Legislation/ Initiatives

NCCAOM was contacted by David Sale, Executive Director of the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine with regard to a proposal by the FDA to regulate the manufacturing of dietary supplements. Sale suggested that NCCAOM comment on these proposed regulations. NCCAOM submitted a letter to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, with regard to the FDA proposal. If adopted as proposed, these regulations could seriously impact licensed and certified practitioners of acupuncture and Oriental medicine. The letter supported an exemption from the proposed FDA regulations for licensed acupuncturists, who have met the stringent standards to be certified by the NCCAOM in Chinese Herbology or Oriental Medicine.

THE STATE OF THE STATES

NEW YORK

Betsy Smith, Associate Deputy Director, spoke at a Town Hall Meeting conducted by the New York State Coalition for Acupuncture Legislative Initiative at Touro College in New York. This meeting concerned a legislative initiative to include the use of herbal medicine in scope of practice for present and future acupuncturists in New York. Smith spoke on the importance of national standards for education and examination in the legislative process.

"With the active participation of Betsy Smith from NCCAOM, we have successfully united an unprecedented statewide and national coalition of AOM organizations, institutions, practitioners and patients in support of new legislation in New York. The inclusion of NCCAOM’s national standards for herbal medicine is a key component of the proposed new law. Fund raising and lobbying efforts are underway for the bill’s formal presentation to the legislature this fall. To donate and learn more about the bill, visit www.nysacupuncture.org." - Michael Taromina, Esq., Legal Counsel to Acupuncture Coalition and Chair, NCCAOM Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee.

OREGON

On March 23rd Marilyn Walkey, MD, Gene Bruno, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM), and Betsy Smith presented testimony to the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners, Acupuncture Advisory Committee, recommending a change in Oregon State law to require that all practitioners of acupuncture be held to the same standard for education and examination that licensed acupuncturists meet. This testimony was to inform the Advisory Committee of a proposed legislative initiative with regard to this issue. Malvin Finklestein, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM), Chair of the Advisory Committee and Chair of NCCAOM’s Eligibility Committee, said of Smith’s testimony, “a very knowledgeable and professional presentation”.

(International)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Dr. Kory Ward-Cook, CEO, and Betsy Smith, Associate Deputy Director, had the honor of speaking before the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia, the organization that registers acupuncture practitioners. They were hosted by Mary Waterson, Registrar, Michael Chung, Vice Chair, and David Chu, Chair, Acupuncture Examination Committee, Ministry of Alberta Health and Wellness, of Alberta; Member of Alberta Acupuncture College Council. Dr. Ward-Cook and Smith were invited to speak on the Point Location Examination as an alternative to a “live model” practical examination. NCCAOM converted from the “live model” practical examination in 1999 to a paper and pencil examination. In June 2006, the Point Location examination was given successfully as a computer-based examination for the first time.

Canada has the second greatest number of NCCAOM Diplomates outside of the US. We were pleased to have the opportunity to speak before faculty members from their very fine schools along with practitioners and members of the testing team. For those of you interested in learning more about their regulatory system, visit their website, www.ctcma.bc.ca.

The State Relations Department can be reached at 904-674-2467 or by email to Betsy Smith at bsmith@nccaom.org.
Professional Ethics & Discipline

NCCAOM continues to seek input from all states regarding disciplinary matters. To maintain NCCAOM certification, an individual must agree to abide by the NCCAOM Code of Ethics and to remain free from disciplinary action. It is recommended that Diplomates periodically review NCCAOM’s disciplinary documents which can be found on the website, www.nccaom.org.

The NCCAOM Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee investigates complaints and decides whether disciplinary action is warranted. NCCAOM depends on state regulators to report disciplinary actions and is most grateful for the regular reports we are now receiving from a number of states. The most recent NCCAOM Disciplinary Action Report is published in this issue of the Diplomate and on NCCAOM’s website, www.nccaom.org.

Categories of PEDC Cases: 2003-2007

This pie chart provides an aggregate percentage of the types of disciplinary cases that the PEDC has handled from 2003-2007 (July). A more detailed description of what these categories encompass can be found in the Grounds for Professional Discipline on the website, www.nccaom.org. By maintaining highest possible standard of conduct, we remain confident that the work of the Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee (PEDC) helps us hold true to our mission of public protection.

Fraud Cases 2003-2006

We have noticed an increase in cases of fraud and will be tracking this area in future reports. Be sure to see the Grounds for Professional Discipline for more information on what defines fraud.

New for 2007

By Fall 2007, NCCAOM will make it fast and easy for individuals to file complaints on our website. While we will still accept complaints by mail, it will be most efficient to use our new automated process.

** Data reflects the cases decided through July 2007

NCCAOM Going to a Location Near You

AOM Day 2007 will be a special and unique event this year as we have two reasons to celebrate this annual event - AOM Day and the 25th Anniversary of the NCCAOM, AAAOM, ACAOM and CCAOM, who will all be celebrating their 25th Anniversaries as well. This event will be held the evening of October 20, 2007 at the AAAOM International Exposition and Conference. During this event, the organizations will unite to look back at the last 25 years and pay tribute to the leaders that contributed to the success of their organizations. A joint logo (see left) for the event has been designed to symbolize the joining of the four organizations for this memorable event. The dinner and gala will be held at the Hilton Portland at the Executive Tower, in the heart of Portland’s city center. The event will include a scrumptious four-course dinner and lively entertainment to include music and dancing. Please go to the AAAOM website at www.aaamosonline.org to sign up for the event and dinner. While you are there, you can also register for the three-day conference, which promises to be a fantastic one. The NCCAOM will be fully participating at this event and the staff and members of the Commission will be available firsthand to answer your questions and to support Diplomates at various activities at the AAAOM 2007 International Conference and Exposition in Portland, Oregon which will be held on October 19-21, 2007. We hope to see you there.

NCCAOM will be participating in a number of sponsored activities including:

- NCCAOM Exhibit Booth: We look forward to seeing you and other NCCAOM Diplomates. Please stop by and pick up commemorative 25th Anniversary gifts as well as the most up to date information on news that will be helpful to you. Stop by the

(continued on next page)
Disciplinary Actions

NCCAOM reserves the right to take disciplinary action against certified practitioners, including but not limited to (i) ineligibility for certification or recertification; (ii) probation pending completion of specified conditions such as monitoring, counseling, or remedial education; (iii) written reprimand (formal expression of disapproval retained in the Diplomate’s file but not publicly announced); (iv) censure (formal expression of disapproval that is publicly announced); (v) suspension of certification for a designated period; or (vi) termination/revocation of certification. In accordance with NCCAOM’s disciplinary procedures, the following actions have been taken:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAST NAME</th>
<th>FIRST/ MIDDLE</th>
<th>NCCAOM CERTIFICATION #</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buck</td>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>000495</td>
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<td>Caporuscio</td>
<td>Elizabeth L.</td>
<td>012733</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chen</td>
<td>Decheng</td>
<td>017956</td>
<td>Revoked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chao</td>
<td>Liu</td>
<td>018663</td>
<td>Revoked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeman</td>
<td>Dale Owens</td>
<td>001317</td>
<td>Suspended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frey</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>019176</td>
<td>Suspended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grossberg</td>
<td>Daniel A.</td>
<td>007483</td>
<td>Probation until August 30, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gu</td>
<td>Ding</td>
<td>005441</td>
<td>Suspended until 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guan</td>
<td>Bihong</td>
<td>005972</td>
<td>Voluntary Surrender/Revocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kao</td>
<td>Victor C.</td>
<td>011489</td>
<td>Revoked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim</td>
<td>Cheol</td>
<td>002044</td>
<td>Revoked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim</td>
<td>Suh Kyung</td>
<td>017328</td>
<td>Probation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klatt</td>
<td>Frank</td>
<td>012135</td>
<td>Probation concurrent with Probation in CA</td>
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<td>Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mazurek</td>
<td>Bridgette</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morefield</td>
<td>Ronald L.</td>
<td>017625</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oh</td>
<td>Dae</td>
<td>017577</td>
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<td>Oh</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>017713</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Park</td>
<td>Beck Sun</td>
<td>023374</td>
<td>Revoked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhee</td>
<td>Cheong Man</td>
<td>023613</td>
<td>Revoked</td>
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<td>Phillip</td>
<td>005718</td>
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<td>Ripplinger</td>
<td>Joseph John</td>
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<td>Son</td>
<td>Ka Myung</td>
<td>004915</td>
<td>Revoked</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stone</td>
<td>Kokoro Sensei Craig</td>
<td>005536</td>
<td>Revoked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhang</td>
<td>Bin</td>
<td>004652</td>
<td>Probation until June 10, 2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

booth and sign up for a drawing for exciting NCCAOM prizes to be awarded to our Diplomates in honor of our 25th Anniversary Celebration. The exhibit booth will be open throughout the conference with knowledgeable and helpful staff.

- **NCCAOM Workshop - Empower Yourself! Use NCCAOM as a Resource for Promotion and Lobbying:** Join the NCCAOM staff as we explain the ins and outs of maximizing your NCCAOM Diplomate status. Discussion topics will include how to promote your certification including techniques to promote your practice and how to handle the media along with tips on legislative lobbying, and maintaining and promoting high standards within the profession. Participants are eligible to receive three PDA points for attending this workshop.

More information will be sent to you via the *Diplomate E-News You Can Use* - look for it in your inbox every month.

Mina Larson answers questions at the NCCAOM Exhibit Booth in San Diego.
FSOMA to Celebrate NCCAOM's 25th Anniversary at their Annual Meeting:

In honor of our 25th Anniversary, the Florida State Oriental Medicine Association (FSOMA) will be hosting many exciting events featuring the NCCAOM at their annual conference in Orlando to be held September 7 - 9, 2007. In addition to the NCCAOM Exhibit Booth and staff available throughout the entire conference, NCCAOM’s CEO, Dr. Kory Ward-Cook will be highlight of the conference as the Keynote Speaker. Her presentation, entitled, “Realizing the Vision” will be during the morning General Session on Friday, September 7, 2007.

NCCAOM staff members Betsy Smith and Mina Larson will also be presenting their marketing and lobbying workshop, “Empower Yourself: Effectively Using Your NCCAOM Certification”, which is scheduled for Friday afternoon. The celebration will climax that evening at the 25th Anniversary Cocktail Reception as FSOMA and NCCAOM will reflect on the last 25 years and party in style. Amy Sear, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM), FSOMA President and Conference Chair has planned a terrific conference and program and we hope that all of our Florida and surrounding area Diplomates join us as we partner with FSOMA for this very unique event. For more information about this conference and to sign up, please go to www.fsoma.com/2007conf.html.

Spotlight on New Orleans, LA: AAAOM Annual Conference and Expo at the Hampton Inn and Suites in New Orleans

With the reunification of the AAOM and the AOM Alliance, the annual AOM Alliance Conference traditionally held in the Spring going forward will be combined with the annual conference of the AAOM beginning in October 2007. Now named the AAAOM, the conference will become one annual conference rather than the previous two. It was fitting that the theme for this conference was reunification and rebuilding. This ground breaking and important meeting was held appropriately in New Orleans, a city itself in the process of renewal and change, at the Hampton Inn and Suites on May 10-13, 2007. The AAAOM held a special luncheon for their reunification announcement. Spirits were recharged at this conference as the acupuncture and Oriental medicine community came together to highlight the efforts of practitioners who had devoted so much of their time and resources to helping those in need who were affected by the hurricanes of 2005. The NCCAOM, in conjunction with the NCAOM, Acupuncturists Without Borders, and the AOBTA® held a media event on May 11 offering free acupuncture and ABT treatment to survivors of Hurricane Katrina and the media. It was a very well-received event as survivors and emergency New Orleans personnel attested to the difference that AOM has made in their lives since receiving treatment. Local reporters and a nationally syndicated radio show covered the event.

In addition to the media event, Dr. Kory Ward-Cook, NCCAOM Chief Executive Officer, and Betsy Smith, NCCAOM Associate Deputy Director, hosted the NCCAOM School Liaison Workshop to a packed room of school personnel, updating them on new policies along with current exam administration information. Smith also attended the Federation of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Regulatory Agencies (the Federation) meeting and Dr. Ward-Cook addressed both The Federation on Friday morning, and the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM) later in the day. As usual, the NCCAOM Exhibit Booth was available for our Diplomates with updates and news as well as candidate and school information.

Hurricane Katrina survivor receives auricular acupuncture treatment at a NCCAOM-sponsored media event at the AAAOM conference in New Orleans (May 2007 - Photo courtesy of AP).
NCCAOM Public Relation Activities

Conferences/Events

Spring was an exciting period for NCCAOM as we continued to reach out to our Diplomates and the AOM community and even more importantly, as we reached out to educate the public about the importance of certification. Our outreach during this period was focused on the Southern and Southwest regions of the country. We have traveled to Austin, San Diego and New Orleans for three very important conferences and one local conference in our own backyard in Jacksonville:

Southwest Symposium

After our highly successful PR and Lobbying Workshop last year, we decided to take this workshop southward and present it at the popular Southwest Symposium, which was held March 23-25, 2007. This well-attended conference was the right venue for us to network with our Southern and Texas-area Diplomates. The three-day conference offered lots of opportunity to interface with our Diplomates as well as students and faculty from the Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin (AOMA), who were the sponsors of the conference. Our Exhibit Booth was extremely popular, giving us the opportunity to provide information, speak with those interested in our volunteer programs, and enjoy talking to the many Diplomates in attendance. For us and we hope for those in attendance, the highlight of the conference was our keynote luncheon workshop taught by staff members Betsy Smith and Mina Larson, entitled, “How To Promote Your Practice and Lobby Your Legislature by Using Your NCCAOM Certification”. This two-hour workshop, which gave attendees helpful ideas on promoting their certification, and tips on how to lobby effectively, was attended by over 100 people, and was so well received that there was a standing ovation at the end of the workshop. This conference was a great success and we look forward to returning next year to visit again with the many wonderful practitioners from Texas and the surrounding states.

Jacksonville Expo '07

Getting the word out to the Jacksonville business community and media about our newly opened Jacksonville headquarters was the primary purpose of attending Jacksonville Expo '07 sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce as well as introducing our certification programs to the community. On April 5, NCCAOM was featured on WJXT-TV’s (FOX) morning news program in an exclusive interview with Dr. Kory Ward-Cook, NCCAOM CEO, and local St. Augustine, FL practitioner and Diplomate, Kevin Alen, Dipl. Ac. and Dipl. C.H. (NCCAOM). This seven-minute interview kicked off a day of public exposure for NCCAOM as we participated via our Exhibit Booth at the downtown Jacksonville Expo. Many business and community leaders learned about our organization and how to find a certified practitioner on our website. Staff members Mina Larson and Ritika Grover answered questions and also directed attendees to the complimentary acupuncture treatment site offered by Jacksonville Diplomate and practitioner, Susan Stewart, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM) (photo, right).

5th Annual Integrative Medicine for Health Care Organizations

On April 12-15, 2007, NCCAOM Board Chair, Bryn Clark, Dipl. O.M.(NCCAOM) and Mina Larson, Director of Communications and Marketing, participated in the 5th Annual Integrative Medicine for Health Care Organizations sponsored by the American Hospital Association’s Health Forum meeting held in San Diego (see photo above). Physicians, nurses, hospital administrators and complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) practitioners throughout the country attended this informative and innovative conference which focused on creating an optimal healing environment through the development and implementation of CAM programs. We were pleased to represent our Diplomates and the AOM profession through our Exhibit Booth which included information on our certification programs and also by participating in the program itself. The program was rich with research, in-depth studies and poster presentations along with top-notch educational sessions which stressed the importance of creating an integrative medicine environment for the improvement of overall healthcare. Of note, we have submitted our formal request to participate in a CAM survey sponsored by the American Hospital Association. We hope to be one of the first acupuncture and Oriental medicine organizations to participate in this groundbreaking survey.
YEAR IN REVIEW

2006 Highlights

1. January: The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners made the decision to change admission of foreign language exams to one offering per year each Fall, commencing January 2006.

2. January: A new recertification policy was implemented in January 2006. Beginning in January 2006, Diplomates must still earn the required 60 PDA points, however, there are now specific areas and limits in which these points must be attained. These are:
   • A maximum of 20 points from teaching
   • 10 points for Tai Chi and Qi Gong
   • 30 points for articles/book
   • 20 points for research
   • 10 points for clinical supervision/supervised clinical experience
   • 10 points for the study of a foreign language relevant to a practitioner’s practice.

   In addition, 30 of the total 60 points must be earned by continuing education, and out of these 30 points, 15 must be directly related to the five branches of Oriental Medicine, and 4 of these points must be in either ethics or safety.

3. January: The NCCAOM announced that Diplomates who are certified in Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology who apply for certification in Oriental Medicine are no longer required to submit a new CNT certificate. The CNT on file from the original certification in Acupuncture is considered valid.

4. January: Foreign-educated applicants were informed about a new policy which requires that all applicants who have graduated from a school outside the United States must submit an application for credentials review of their education to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) before their application for certification will be evaluated.

5. January and February: Betsy Smith, Associate Deputy Director, testified before the Kentucky state legislature in support of the creation of a practice act to regulate acupuncture which would require NCCAOM certification. This testimony, along with the hard work of Kentucky practitioners, made Kentucky the 40th state to regulate the practice of acupuncture. Kentucky regulation includes a requirement for NCCAOM certification.

6. February: The February examination administration was cancelled due to a compromise of the exams. All candidates and schools were notified and a completely new series of examinations were administered at Pearson Vue Professional Test Center in June 2006.

7. February: Through the hard work and perseverance of AAAOM Board Member Deborah Lincoln, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM) and other dedicated Diplomates in Michigan, along with Betsy Smith, Associate Deputy Director, the state of Michigan became the 41st state in the U.S. to establish regulation for the practice of acupuncture. Michigan will require NCCAOM certification.

8. February to April: NCCAOM sponsored Item Writing Workshops in 14 cities that elicited hundreds of items for each examination module from coast to coast. All item writers received PDA points for participating.

9. June: The NCCAOM examinations were offered via computer at more than 200 test site centers across the US, Canada, South Korea, China, and Europe. Pearson Vue, one of the top exam administration companies worldwide, was retained by the NCCAOM to administer the examinations. Schroeder Measurement Technologies provided the psychometric analysis and scoring of the exams for each candidate.

10. July: The NCCAOM Candidate Handbook was revised and updated. The latest handbook is now available for downloading, free of charge, at www.nccaom.org. Diplomates may also request that the handbook be mailed for a fee of $25.

11. September: Barbra Esher, Dipl. Ac., Dipl. A.B.T. (NCCAOM) was elected to the Board of Commissioners in the first on-line voting election offered by the NCCAOM. Diplomates were able to vote online via an email sent to them by the NCCAOM or by the paper ballot method on request. Esher began her term in January 2007.

12. October: NCCAOM examinations were offered for a second time by computer administration. This time all foreign language examinations and the Asian Bodywork Therapy examination were included.

13. November: NCCAOM announced that future examinations would be offered year-round beginning February 2007 in the Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) format. The conversion to CAT enables candidates to test year round. Deadline dates for registration of examinations have been eliminated. Candidates began calling to schedule the new CAT-administered exams for 2007 in December of 2006.

15. January to December: The NCCAOM provided information and testimony to the following states: New York, New Jersey, Oregon, Massachusetts, Vermont, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Arizona, Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Utah, Oklahoma, Maine and Pennsylvania. The issues discussed were expanding scope of practice to include Chinese herbology, the necessity for parity in licensure for all practitioners employing acupuncture in their practices, the process of credentials review for applicants with an education outside the US, initial regulation for the practice of acupuncture, legislation for Asian bodywork therapy, benefits of current NCCAOM certification for license renewal, and the elimination of the apprenticeship route for acupuncture and Chinese herbology, to name but a few.

16. February through November: NCCAOM attended the following nine events in 2006 to raise awareness of the value of certification and to promote its Diplomates:

- Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Expo East, New York City
- AOMAlliance Conference, Keystone, Colorado
- National Association for Advisors for the Health Professionals (NAAHP) Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon
- American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia® Convention, Olympia Resort, Wisconsin
- Building Bridges of Integration for TCM, East Rutherford, New Jersey
- American Association of Oriental Medicine Conference, Phoenix, Arizona
- Pacific Symposium, San Diego, California

### 2006 Officers
- Bryn Clark, Chair
- Weiyi Ding, Vice Chair
- Michael Garland, Treasurer
- Mike McKeown, Secretary
- Kory Ward-Cook, CEO

### 2006 Standing Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Co-Chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board Development Committee</td>
<td>Mike McKeown</td>
<td>Jonathan Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications and Public Relations Committee</td>
<td>Tess Hahn, Chair</td>
<td>Ruth Dalphin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility Committee</td>
<td>Malvin Finkelstein, Chair</td>
<td>Jan Ste. Germaine, Guest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>Michael Garland, Treasurer and Chair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance Committee</td>
<td>Mike McKeown, Chair</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee</td>
<td>Daisy Barquist, Chair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recertification Committee</td>
<td>Mike McKeown, Chair</td>
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### 2006 Examination Development Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acupuncture Exam Committee</td>
<td>Jason Hsu, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian Bodywork Therapy Exam Development Committee</td>
<td>Ruth Dalphin, Chair</td>
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<td>Biomedicine Committee</td>
<td>Cathy Goldstein, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Herbs Exam Development Committee</td>
<td>Helen Zhang, Chair</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module</td>
<td>Gene London, Chair</td>
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### 2006 Taskforces and Ad-Hoc Committees

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taskforce</th>
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<th>Co-Chair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam Administration Taskforce</td>
<td>Bryn Clark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th Anniversary Taskforce</td>
<td>Mike McKeown</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

### 2006 Examina...
Financial Activities

It is a pleasure to provide this overview of NCCAOM’s financial condition as of December 31, 2006. The organization continues to maintain a healthy balance sheet; however, increases in operating costs during 2006 were not offset by comparable increases in revenue, resulting in a net operating loss for the year. The need to cancel exams in February had major financial consequences. We incurred significant costs replacing the compromised examination item bank. We incurred special costs when we changed examination administration vendors, hired a separate psychometric service vendor and contracted with a test security vendor in 2006. A number of cost-saving processes were put in place as the year progressed and these measures have carried over into our budgeting for 2007. We have purchased condominium office space in Jacksonville, Florida and will realize continuing savings from the previous lease expenditures we experienced for our headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. We anticipate that these reduced costs will allow us to keep our fees as low as possible without suffering a loss in 2007. The effects of these measures will carry on into future years. Thus I am confident that NCCAOM will have the financial stability needed to successfully fulfill our mission of protecting the public through valid measurement of practitioner knowledge in the fields of Acupuncture, Oriental Medicine, and Asian Bodywork Therapy.

Michael J. Garland
Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year Ended December 31, 2006

| REVENUES | 2,594,600 |
| EXPENDITURES | 3,931,844 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE OTHER INCOME | (1,337,244) |
| OTHER INCOME (LOSS) |  |
| Investment and Miscellaneous income | 591,788 |
| Loss on impairment of exam development costs | (315,193) |
| TOTAL OTHER INCOME | 276,595 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | (1,060,649) |
| NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR | 6,070,700 |
| NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR | $ 5,010,051 |

RECERTIFICATION ACTIVITY FOR 2006

The following graph illustrates the percentage of Diplomates who recertified in each certification program in 2006.

Michael J. Garland
Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee
The following table lists the examination statistics for each module for the year 2006.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAM AND ADMINISTRATION</th>
<th>CANDIDATES TESTED</th>
<th>% OF CANDIDATES PASSING</th>
<th>AVERAGE SCORE</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS</th>
<th>STANDARD DEVIATION</th>
<th>SEM*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acupuncture English</td>
<td>1,669</td>
<td>72.50</td>
<td>63.66</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>9.57</td>
<td>3.39</td>
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<td>Acupuncture Chinese</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>64.29</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>3.35</td>
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<td>Acupuncture Korean</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>6.09</td>
<td>3.41</td>
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<td>Biomedicine English</td>
<td>1,536</td>
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<td>31.39</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>6.26</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Herbology English</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>72.16</td>
<td>81.98</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>13.60</td>
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<td>Chinese Herbology Chinese</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>76.92</td>
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<td>120</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>7.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations of Oriental Medicine English</td>
<td>1,620</td>
<td>85.81</td>
<td>84.16</td>
<td>125</td>
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<td>125</td>
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<td>4.1</td>
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<td>Foundations of Oriental Medicine Korean</td>
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<td>Point Location English</td>
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<td>Point Location Chinese</td>
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<td>11.62</td>
<td>4.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* SEM = Standard Error of the Mean
SPECIAL Thanks!

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the following Sponsors of NCCAOM’s 25th Anniversary:

PLATINUM

GOLD

SILVER