

Note from the President: February 2026

By Professor Charlotte Benson, ACVA President



Dear Friends of ACVA –

As we step forward into a new season of growth and service, I’m delighted to share several meaningful updates from the College.

DharmaVedas Accreditation Finalized — Turkey Rollout

I’m pleased to announce that ACVA has finalized the accreditation of DharmaVedas for the delivery of an ACVA-aligned Jyotisha education track in Turkey, led by our alumna and ACVA faculty member Gizem Heukelom and her team. This accredited initiative is designed to expand access to authentic Jyotisha learning in the Turkish language while remaining fully aligned with ACVA’s educational standards, assessment integrity, and ethical foundations. The program will roll out with a clear pathway toward ACVA’s Jyotisha Prabhakara (Level 2) certification for eligible students who choose to pursue ACVA examinations. We look forward to welcoming new students from Turkey into the extended ACVA learning community.

ACVA Membership — A Wonderful Time to Join

ACVA membership is growing, and we invite you to become part of our mission to make Vedic astrology accessible to learners worldwide. We currently offer three membership categories: Public, Professional, and Recent Graduates — and I’m happy to emphasize that membership is free for currently enrolled ACVA students.

For a limited time, we are also extending a special benefit: members who join during this promotional period will receive lifetime free access to ACVA's monthly webinars. Our webinars represent a substantial educational value—approximately \$216 per year—and are an important part of our continuing education offerings. We warmly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and participate regularly. Please visit: <https://acvaonline.org/membership>

Appreciating Our Provost — Professor Juliana Swanson

I would also like to congratulate and sincerely appreciate our Provost and Dean of Academics, Professor Juliana Swanson, who recently celebrated her birthday. Juliana's dedication to the College—her steady leadership, academic discernment, and tireless service—continues to uplift ACVA. We are grateful for her commitment and the spirit she brings to our work.

A Note on the Eclipses — Recent Solar Eclipse and the Coming Lunar Eclipse

We have just passed through an eclipse season, including an annular solar eclipse on February 17, 2026, sometimes called a “ring of fire” eclipse. And we now look ahead to a total lunar eclipse on March 2–3, 2026, visible across much of North America and other regions. Eclipses are powerful reminders of rhythm, alignment, and reflection—times when many of us naturally pause, re-center, and renew our intentions. May this season support clarity, steadiness, and wise discernment in our personal lives and in our shared service through ACVA.

With every best wish for peace, learning, and spiritual illumination,

Charlotte

Professor Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi)