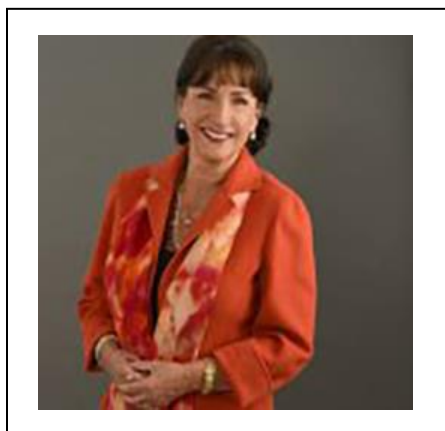


New Year 2024 Edition - Hello from the President of ACVA

By Professor Charlotte Benson, ACVA President



Dear Friends of ACVA,

Hope the holidays were wonderful for you and your families! Even while there is so much trouble and destruction at play in the world now, we still have much to be grateful for. My personal hope is that we will all pray for peace, in our own individual vernacular – and intentionally act with generosity and compassion.

ACVA has been busy in the past quarter. Some of ACVA's faculty and several ACVA alumni spoke at the Maharishi Parasara Conference last November. That was a wonderful online conference following the tradition of ACVA and SVAC conferences in the past thirty years. Another great endorsement for ACVA is that we will be the exclusive Associate Partner representing Jyotisha for the **2026 UAC Conference!** Much more on this in the future, but just wanted you to know that this long-awaited conference is again being organized, that Jyotish will be included, and that we have something epic to look forward to.

ACVA's annual Graduation and Awards ceremony took place online on December 17. We were honored by the presence of the **President of NAMA, Vaidya Jayarajan Kodikannath** at the celebration. Our happy graduates are now prepared to go forth and serve the world, with an excellent education in Jyotish. **Ernst Wilhelm** was the recipient of the **2023 Jyotisha Navaratna award** for his excellent services to the Jyotir Vidya.

Dr. Dennis Harness received ACVA's prestigious honor, the **Jyotish Vibushana award**, for his lifetime of service to Jyotisha through the American College of Vedic Astrology. Thanks to all for your words of wisdom during the commencement, and thanks to all who contributed to the success of these brilliant graduates. Congratulations to everyone!

Speaking of graduates, we are in the process of compiling a list of ACVA graduates for inclusion on our website. **If you qualify and would like to be published in this directory**, please send me your contact information. I can be reached at charlotte.benson@acvaonline.org.

ACVA also offers a **"Test Out" option** for students from other schools who would like to sit for the ACVA examination in order to qualify for a diploma as either Jyotisha Ratna, or Jyotisha Prabhakara. This means that you do not have to study with ACVA to sit for the exam. Please contact Dean of Students, Lynn Bootes at Registrar@acvaonline.org for more information about qualifying to sit for these exams.

Sending you every best wish for peace, prosperity, and contentment in 2024,

As ever, your friend,

Charlotte Benson (*Jyoti Devi*)