

**Outstanding Alumni Award presented to H. Ward Trueblood '60**  
**October 23, 2010**

**This introduction given by Anne Trueblood Kreisel '59**

It's a special honor to be asked by my brother to introduce him for this award.

Ward and I and our younger sister, Janet Kem, who also went to Earlham, grew up in a small county seat college town in the middle of Iowa called Indianola. Our father, Clare Trueblood, who had been raised on a nearby farm, was a physician and our mother, a former dietician, was a homemaker. Both parents had Quaker roots and had attended Quaker colleges; Guilford, Earlham, and Penn College.

Like their mid-western pioneer ancestors, our parents believed that through setting goals, taking risks, working hard, and having the courage and imagination to deal with the unexpected, anyone could achieve his dreams. It is easy to trace the man Ward became from these beginnings.

Ward, nicknamed "Doc" by his school pals, knew that he wanted to be a doctor from an early age. While still in elementary school, he began accompanying our father on house calls, and by high school he was assisting with fractures, lab work, and simple injuries. He observed how his dad, with gentleness and quiet confidence, treated the whole person, not just the symptom.

Influenced in part by my enthusiastic letters home during my freshman year at Earlham, Ward decided to come here, too. He shared my enthusiasm and did well with his pre-med courses, though English was a struggle for him.

Eager to follow his dream of being a doctor, Ward left Earlham after 3 years to begin a 5-year program at Stanford that allowed him to begin his medical courses sooner. He received his MD at Stanford in 1964. The following year during his internship at the University of Pennsylvania, he met and fell in love with a young nurse named Nancy Young. After serving with a medical unit in Viet Nam for a year, a life-changing experience for him, he returned in 1966 to marry Nancy and complete his surgical residency at Stanford.

In 1971, Ward and Nancy and their two children, Hope and Nathan, moved to Yakima, Washington where Ward became Chief of Staff at the Valley Memorial Hospital. (Hope, as some of you may know graduated from Earlham in 1990 and Nathan taught physiology at Earlham from 2000 to 2004.) In 1989, Ward and his family returned to Palo Alto so that he could teach surgical residents. At Stanford, he served as clinical associate professor and as senior staff surgeon until 2004 when he received emeritus status. At present, he is semi-retired and is teaching bedside diagnostic skills to 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical students at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center where he is also staff surgeon.

Ward has written numerous articles for medical publications and presented papers to distinguished members of his profession, but one of the things that impresses me the most about him as a doctor is the personal interest he takes in each patient and how highly regarded he is by them. Ward is also loved and respected by his medical resident students. He received an award for excellence in clinical teaching in 2000 and was awarded Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 2001.

Ward has many interests that lie outside the field of medicine. He is an enthusiastic biker and hiker and nature lover, too. He was President for 10 years of the Cougar Lakes Wilderness Alliance, a group that was instrumental in establishing the William O. Douglas Wilderness Area adjacent to Mt. Rainier National Park. He was an organizer of Physicians for Social Responsibility both in Washington State and on the Stanford campus, and for years, he and Nancy devoted time and resources to the organization, Beyond War.

Ward and I, who live across the country from each other, do most of our correspondence by e-mail. I believe that Ward's brief letters say a great deal about what his priorities are now. They nearly always relate a story about one of his five grandchildren and they usually include at least one new poem. Ward may have known from his earliest years that he wanted to be a doctor, but I'm sure that he never guessed as a student struggling through Freshman English that he would publish his own book of poetry someday. Earlham always encouraged us to grow and expand our interests and Ward has certainly done that. I am proud to present him for this award.