

**Remarks by Christine Fukui '70 upon receiving the Outstanding Alumni Award
October 23, 2010**

Good morning. Thank you to the Recognition Committee of the Alumni council and the Alumni Council for selecting me for this award. Thank you to all of the alumni (particularly class of 1970), friends, faculty and staff who are here today. Unfortunately my family could not be here but are here in spirit.

I am deeply honored to be recognized by Earlham College as a Distinguished Alumnus. My journey to Earlham really started 57 years ago when I was 5 years old. My mother heard about Earlham from a lawyer friend on Kauai where I grew up. As a chemistry teacher she followed news about Earlham, the development of a new program for teaching chemistry, Chemical Bond which was developed here; and of all the small Midwestern liberal arts colleges I considered Earlham was my first choice. I also majored in chemistry.

Earlham has greatly influenced my life and career choices. I credit much of what I have achieved, whatever success, to the four, formative years I spent here 1966-1970. Arriving at a college I had never seen, far away from the tropical, Asian/Polynesian culture I left was profoundly, culturally different. It was a wonderful, mind expanding experience. My freshman year roommate, Karen Keller, was Quaker and had spent the previous year in England. I was exposed to afternoon tea and marmite, Quaker thought, pacifism, questioning, just thinking more about the ongoing war in Vietnam which was not even on my radar prior to arriving in Richmond. Learning, intellectual curiosity, honesty, integrity, contributing to society not just oneself, acceptance and tolerance of differences in people, ideas and politics all became part of who I became.

In high school I thought I would be an engineer. I really didn't know anything about engineering! I did know I liked science; then realized people and relationships were more important to me than the research lab and decided to become a physician. Earlham prepared me extraordinarily well. I was accepted to an excellent medical school and spent 10 years there in training. UCSF also deserves much credit in preparing me for a successful career.

But after a fellowship in pulmonary medicine at UCSF designed to produce medical researchers, I was the only one in my "class" to choose clinical practice. It was not private, fee for service practice that I sought, but a not for profit, HMO, that would pay me a salary, Kaiser Permanente. I believe this is a model for healthcare in this country but that could be the topic of a whole separate talk.

I have had a rich, rewarding career at Kaiser, raising 2 sons while being able to keep active in community, local and national medical societies and continuing to learn and grow through educational programs in management. I retired in November of 2009 and work half time at a military hospital in sleep medicine. That may seem strange to some, starting at a Quaker college and ending up in the "military", but I don't think so. I am not fighting a war; I am helping those who have been there, and now suffer from PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury return to a normal, peaceful society.

I am so grateful for all that I have received over the years and believe that it is important to give back...give back to my community, my profession, my nation, and to Earlham and all the educational institutions that made this possible.

Lastly a special thank you to my family, my mother Iris, husband Al Burer and my sons Eric and Mark for supporting me and putting up with my long hours at work, frequent business travel some of which still continues. Enjoy this reunion weekend with friends and I hope to see you at the next reunion!