

**Outstanding Alumni Award presented to Christine Fukui '70
October 23, 2010**

This introduction given by Gerald Bakker, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry

I was delighted when I received the invitation to present Chris Fukui to you as she receives the Outstanding Alumni Award today. Chris certainly deserves this, and to be part of this ceremony is a distinct pleasure.

Chris came to Earlham in 1966 from Hawaii. Her mother, a high school chemistry teacher, had heard about the Chemical Bond Approach project at Earlham with Larry Strong and Ted Benfey, and Chris came to Earlham on that recommendation. She enrolled in 1966 without having even visited the campus. CBA also drew me to Earlham College. I came in 1959 and as Larry and Ted were working on CBA, Earlham needed faculty to teach their courses. I was here on a temporary position and this temporary position lasted until 1995. It only took the standard 4 years for Chris who graduated in 1970. She came thinking she was going to be an engineer but decided that chemistry and possibly medicine was something that she wanted to do. But in her own careful, thoughtful way when she is making decisions, she took time in the summer after her sophomore year as an intern in an ER, an emergency room, to see if medicine would be something that she could do as her life's work. She discovered that she enjoyed it and she has served faithfully and beautifully since.

She went to the University of California in San Francisco for her M.D. degree. She was a resident for 3 years and then she was Chief Resident in the San Francisco General Hospital followed by 2 years in the Pulmonary Disease Division at the Cardio-Vascular Disease Research Institute. But Chris wanted to get back to Hawaii, her home. So in 1980, she went back to Honolulu and her entire career has been with The Kaiser Permanente Group at the Moanalua Medical Center. When Chris arrived there she was the only person working in pulmonary medicine, but it grew to a substantial department and she became Chief of Pulmonary Medicine.

From 1981 to the present time, in addition to working at the major hospital in Honolulu, she also took on responsibilities at the Kapiolani Community College School of Respiratory Care and she has continued that work. She also works with the Hawaiian Society for Respiratory Care and has always combined her major responsibilities with volunteering elsewhere. In 1984, she joined the Kaiser Permanente Medical Group Board of Directors and was Chief of Medical Sub-specialties and also Associate Medical Director of Quality. In 2004 she became the Vice President of Hospital Quality and Patient Safety for Kaiser Permanente in Hawaii.

Her chief concern has always been with patients. Her excellent work with patients was recognized in 2006 when the 17,000 members of the American Thoracic Society voted her the outstanding Clinician of the Year. Since then she has served in several positions with the American Thoracic Society and has been President of the Council of Chapter Representatives. Her special attention for patients was proclaimed in a poster given to her by one of her patients. The poster said in great big letters "World's Greatest Doctor," "M.D. Phenom," "Incredible," "Awesome." She was highly regarded.

Chris is now working part time having retired from her major responsibilities in 2009. She is part time at the Tripler Army Medical Center working about every other week in the sleep center. She had earlier developed a sleep center at the Kaiser Permanente hospital. Her care for patients as well as her administrative abilities and her teaching at the University of Hawaii, have earned her the respect of all who have worked with her or have been served by her. In her work and her life, Chris has been a good representative of Earlham College. I'm happy to present to you Chris Fukui.