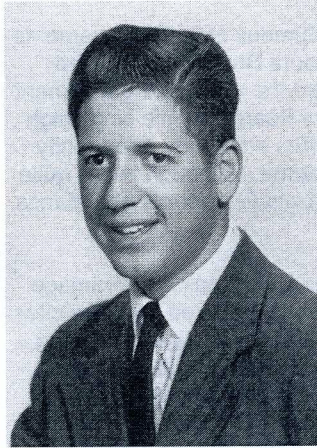


## Founder's Alumnus of the Year 2014 Earl F. Burkholder '64



Education and experiential learning opportunities have been pivotal in shaping the life and career of Earl F. Burkholder. He and his classmates were the first class to graduate from the "new" building at 801 Parkwood Drive, and together they felt the excitement of a new era in education and in the life of our school. Being part of the faculty and student "book brigade" transfer of library books to our new location and being on Senior Trip in Washington, D.C. when President John F. Kennedy, Jr. was shot were two of the strongest memories of community in his Senior year.

Like many other young men during the Vietnam War, Earl was drafted in 1965 and elected to serve as a conscientious objector (I-W) in Flint, Michigan for two years. There he had a chance to learn first-hand and appreciate working with people from many different backgrounds and life experiences. In 1968 he became employed as a draftsman for a civil engineering company and enrolled in evening classes at Flint Junior College. He attended EMC for 1 year in 1969-70, then transferred to the University of Michigan where he received a degree in civil engineering in 1973. Following five years of employment with a large international engineering firm he attended Purdue University where he earned a MS in civil engineering in 1980. He taught surveying at the Oregon Institute of Technology for 13 years. After being self-employed for 5 years, he returned to teaching at New Mexico State University in 1998 and retired from teaching in July 2010. Earl attributes "an enormous amount of any success" he's enjoyed to his wife of 43 years Donna Albrecht of Pigeon, Michigan. They have three adult children who also have a love of education and learning, and have blessed them with three grandchildren.

Earl's interest in surveying and engineering can be traced back to his geometry and "new" math classes at EMHS. The foundation in religious and cultural values that he gained at EMHS has also served him well in his professional career as he worked with and was sensitive to the diverse learners he has taught. Although now retired from teaching, he is still involved in professional organizations and doing what he can to "make a difference." One purpose of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is "to enhance the safety, welfare, and quality of life for all of society." Earl has modeled this purpose in his career and enjoys the study and discussion of responsible development in parallel with the never-ending challenges of sustainability concerns and stewardship of resources.

The use of three-dimensional (3-D) geometry and applications of GPS to surveying and engineering have been Earl's "hobby" for more than 30 years. In 2008 CRC Press published Earl's book, "The 3-D Global Spatial Data Model: Foundation of the Spatial Data Infrastructure." Preparing a manuscript for a Second Edition is currently keeping him quite busy. To learn more about Earl's current work, log on to: [www.globalcogo.com](http://www.globalcogo.com).