

**Richard “Buddy” William Burniske, Ph.D.**  
**February 27, 1960 – April 20, 2006**  
**Honolulu, HI**

Buddy grew up in W. Hatfield, MA, attending Hatfield schools from grades 1-8, graduating from Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, MA, in 1978.

He accepted a John Motley Morehead Scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In addition to full tuition, the scholarship provided summer enrichment programs. As a result, Buddy spent the summer of 1978 hiking in Colorado, 1979 with the Los Angeles Police Department, 1980 in New York City as an intern with E.P. Dutton and the Paris Review, and 1981 in Monrovia, Liberia. He graduated earning a BA in English with Honors in Creative Writing in 1982. While at UNC-Chapel Hill, Buddy met Jackie Wines. They were married on June 19, 1982, honeymooning for two months on the beaches of Greece, the historic villages of Israel and finally in Cairo, Egypt, where they both worked at Cairo American College.

They departed Cairo in June 1983 and returned to Massachusetts. Buddy taught English and was the Director of Student Activities at Deerfield Academy from 1983-1987. During the summers he pursued his Master’s degree from the Bread Loaf School of English in VT. Their first son, Justin was born in 1984.

Wanting their son to grow with the knowledge and love of other cultures and countries they left Deerfield for Quito, Ecuador, in August of 1987, to teach at Academia Cotopaxi. Buddy started as an English teacher, became Dean of Students, and then Assistant Principal. Summers he studied and was awarded his MA in English Literature from Lincoln College in Oxford, England, 1989. Their second son, Christopher was born in Ecuador in 1990.

In August of 1992, the Burniske family departed Ecuador for Malaysia where Jackie and Buddy taught at the International School of Kuala Lumpur for the next four years. His interest in the Internet and conducting technology projects with his students began in Malaysia.

They moved to Austin, TX, in 1996 where he began work on his doctoral degree at the University of Texas. While he was pursuing his doctorate he became involved with a program initiated by the World Bank Institute, designed to help teachers in developing countries learn how to use computer technology for teaching and learning purposes. He soon became the Director of Professional Development, writing a curriculum and field testing it in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Americas. He received his PhD in Computers and English Studies, May of 2002, from the University of Texas and accepted a position as a professor at the University of Hawaii where he was awarded tenure in 2005. He also published numerous books, articles and websites including *Breaking Down the Digital Walls: Learning to Teach in a Post-Modem World*, Albany: State University of New York Press (2001), and *Literacy in the CyberAge: Composing Ourselves Online*, Arlington Heights: Skylight (2000).

In addition to his wife and sons, he is survived by his parents Richard (Nick) and Penelope (Penny) Burniske of Honolulu, HI, brother, Vincent of Miami, FL, sisters, Susan Diggs of Virginia Beach, VA, and Brenda Thibault of Southampton, MA, and grandmother Josephine Defeo of Deerfield Beach, FL.

More information on Buddy can be found on his website:  
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~burniske/index.html>