



PHILANTHROPIST-VISTA VOLUNTEER- CHEMIST

MEET **RICHARD HAUGLAND**, Ph.D., CLASS OF 1961. FOSTER PARENT, BUSINESS OWNER, SCHOLAR, FOUNDER OF THE STARFISH SCHOOL IN THAILAND.

Richard Haugland, Ph.D.

(1943-2016)

For his 55th class reunion, Richard Haugland created a video for his class because he realized he would not be able to attend. It's best to tell about his experiences in his own words. (1)

After high school, I became a "Professional Dropout". Not being very adventuresome, I followed my sister to Hamline University where I started with a math major. Then I had an outstanding chemistry professor named Ole Runquist. He effectively said, "You have to be a chemist; there are no other options left." He turned out to be right. I got accepted for graduate school in chemistry at Stanford University.

I started at Stanford, but in early 1966, I dropped out again to become a volunteer in the Vista program. I was sent to the upper peninsula of Michigan where I lived with an American Indian family and worked with such projects as Head Start and food stamps.

Time to drop out again. I decided it would be prudent to get back into graduate school to get my student deferment and delay my first visit to Viet Nam by more than 20 years. I returned to Stanford and finished the work on my PhD, but I had not written my thesis.

I partially dropped out again to become a volunteer teacher at Pine Point Indian School. I eventually finished writing my thesis and got my Stanford University Ph.D. degree in 1970.

Subsequently, I decided it would be best to "drop in" as I was back to the top of the draft list. I moved to the University of California, San Francisco, as a post-doctoral fellow in biophysics. Soon after arriving, I met my first girlfriend, an

Italian biochemistry Ph.D., and five months later, she became Rosaria Haugland. Our family soon grew to include a daughter, Marina, and a son, Alexander.

In 1988, the Haugland family took a tour of five Southeast Asian countries; this had a profound effect on our futures. We sponsored foster children in Thailand and Cambodia for 40 years. During one of my annual trips, I visited an orphanage for HIV-positive children. I gave a teddy bear to a little girl. The next week, she died. I returned home and thought, "Why am I working so hard?"

Now what? It was time for a BIG change, but this time, instead of dropping out, it was time for a CAREER CHANGE. The chemical company I started was sold for \$325 million dollars. This gave us a LOT of options. We decided we wanted most of the money to go to "causes". We would become philanthropists and eventually give most of the money away.

Dick founded the Starfish Country Home School in northern Thailand, a free kindergarten and primary school and children's home for needy children. There are also funds reserved for health and education programs. He and his wife have contributed to numerous charities and programs in Eugene, Oregon, and supported scholarships for Hamline University.

1) Transcribed from video, 2016

