

Thomas R. Miller

Class of 1956



TOM MILLER was born in Chicago in 1938, grew up in Winnetka and Northfield and went to the Farm School, Skokie School and New Trier. He graduated from Yale in 1960, taught in Ghana for two years and graduated from Stanford Law School in 1965, where he founded the International Law Society.

In high school he searched for gold in Alaska and worked in logging camps in California and Oregon. During college he spent his summers working on the railway as a “Laborer Teacher” for Canada’s Frontier College. Frontier College was the inspiration for the Peace Corps, where Miller helped train the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers.

In the mid-‘60’s Miller read Martha Gellhorn’s articles in the *Manchester Guardian* about the war’s terrible toll on Vietnamese civilians. With Dr. Arthur Barsky, he established the Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, which treated thousands of war-injured children and continues to this day as a teaching hospital.

At the end of the Vietnam War thousands of Vietnamese children were rushed to the United States in the “Orphan Airlift.” After determining that many of the children had been put on the airlift by panicked parents, Miller worked for years on a class action lawsuit against the U.S. government and adoption agencies to return the children to their families.

More recently Miller founded the Vietnam Green Building Council, which established standards for green building in Vietnam and Parwaz, the first Afghan-run microfinance organization. His current efforts are directed toward Cuba, where he is facilitating a project to bring clean water to Palma Soriano and help Cuba address the realities of climate change.

He is co-founder and president of Green Cities Fund, Chair of the Board of Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability, legal counsel to Global Exchange, heads the law firm of Miller Washington & Kim, and is former deputy director of California Rural Legal Assistance.

He lives with his wife, writer and journalist T.T. Nhu, in Berkeley, California, where they have raised four children and many Airedales.

