

Brian Rohrback

Four days after our graduation ceremony at HMC, I found an apartment in West LA and started my PhD program at UCLA. I was fortunate to join a group that was at the cutting edge of what was to be my field of organic geochemistry, which meant that everything I did was publishable. I was also fortunate to get to work with a visiting professor from Japan who asked me to help write the papers tied to his work. It meant I got a publication (in Nature) before I had finished my first year (which happened to win Best Paper of the Year) – it has been downhill ever since. I remember when I passed the 2.5-year mark, my dad told me he thought I was goofing off, as he completed his PhD in 2.5 years – oh well.

Lisa, my girlfriend at HMC, and I got married in 1978, I received my PhD in 1979, did a 6-month post-doc, then took a job in Tulsa, Oklahoma for Cities Service Oil Company (now Occidental) running a research group. That lasted 1.5 years and I was transferred to Houston to work in exploration. A year later, I was made the Manager of Planning and Budget for Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

The acquisition by Oxy shut my division down, so I moved to Seattle to experiment on the entrepreneurship side and get an MBA. That was in 1983, and I have been doing essentially the same job ever since: President of Infometrix, a scientific software company tied to the field of chemometrics. My team gets to solve problems in lots of different industries, which is fun (most of the time).

Four kids just happened; I note that there were no biology courses at Mudd. My son was followed by three daughters. Jeffrey is autistic, so we are tied into the disabilities community, but he works and enjoys bowling, eating out, and car events. Daughter Loraine ended up with a master's degree in engineering and became a cop, Suzanne got her PhD in BioMed from the San Diego version of Scripps and works in biotech, Mindy got her master's in occupational therapy at Washington University, is a therapist for children, and just started an MBA program while working full-time.

Lisa and I live in downtown Kirkland, Washington (think Costco-branding) and mostly focus on family, especially a granddaughter. I also have a small car collection with a 1975 Jensen Healey that I bought new and a 1939 Bentley 4-door convertible that I did not.

