

St Antony's College Oxford



WHAT IS ST ANTONY'S?

Clearly it is much more than a collection of distinguished scholars inhabiting an eclectic group of buildings on the Woodstock Road. Let Antonians themselves describe what this international academic community has meant – and still means – for them.

Paul Kennedy – (1966-70) J. Richardson Dilworth Professor of History, Yale University



I developed friendships with fellow students from the USA, Canada, Finland, Germany and Australia that have lasted to this day. We drove to the Public Records Office together, we shared our scholarship, we went excitedly to graduate seminars, we took cheap meals, and I introduced a few of them to the peculiar principles of English horse-race gambling. I fell in love with the College - for the camaraderie but chiefly because it soon became clear that this was THE place in the world to study international politics and history. Having had such a limited and un-cosmopolitan upbringing, it was as if my suppressed yearnings to know the world, and to catch up on what others experienced and took for granted, had suddenly been released. Everything that happened later came out of those years.

Victor Bulmer Thomas – (1971-5) Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs

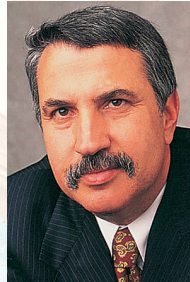


During my time at St Antony's, I learnt first-hand about the "international community". My fellow students were almost all from outside the United Kingdom and debates with them left a lasting impression on me. At a time when disciplinary boundaries in British universities were becoming more rigid, St Antony's encouraged us to break them down.

Suranjan Das – (1984-7) Pro-Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, University of Calcutta.

While my supervisor (Tapan Raychaudhuri) taught me how to explore the many avenues of historical enquiry, the Area Study Centres of the College widened my intellectual horizon and made me aware of the necessity of Comparative Studies. The cosmopolitan membership of the College exposed me for the first time in my life to cultural and social practices across national boundaries, and my association with the Labour Party and Oxford protest politics enriched my political understanding in practical terms. As JCR President and Chair of OUSU's Overseas Students' Committee, I gained my first insight to academic administration.

Thomas Friedman – (1976-8) Foreign Affairs Columnist of the New York Times



My years studying for an M.Phil. at St Antony's College Middle East Centre were, without question, two of the happiest of my life. When I attended St Antony's the College was even smaller than it is now, and all the Middle East studies students ate together all the time, and I learned as much around those dinner tables as I did in the classroom — and that was a lot. My time at St Antony's gave me a rigorous foundation in Middle East studies and in writing tutorial essays, both of which served me well in my career as a reporter and columnist for the *New York Times*. I would not trade my time there for anything. To this day, I remain in close contact with the College and the Middle East Centre — 25 years after I left!

Peter Katjavivi – (1980-6) Vice Chancellor, University of Namibia



My time at St Antony's was not only academically enriching, but also enabled me to gain wide-ranging international exposure by interacting with staff and students within the College and outside. Oxford provides such a unique environment ideally conducive to academic pursuits. I also benefited greatly from professors and other renowned experts in various fields, who were able to impart to us their knowledge during my days at St Antony's. All these have better prepared me to face up to the challenges of my career.

Hidekazu Kawai – (1962-6) Professor of Comparative Politics, Gakushuin University, Japan.

I first came to St Antony's to study the history and politics of Britain, but in the event took a degree in Anglo-Japanese relations. But I think I learnt quite a lot more than that. To put it simply, the College made me think internationally. Most of the inspiration behind the books I have written since could be traced back to the reading and thinking I did at 3 Church Walk. I returned home in 1966, to take up the first chair of comparative politics ever instituted in Japan.

Bridget Kendall – (1980-3) BBC Diplomatic Correspondent



My research field was Russian literature, but the Monday seminars - on Russian politics, economics and history - were just as fascinating. Little did I realise how useful they would prove when I found myself in Moscow as BBC correspondent, just as the Berlin Wall was about to fall and the Soviet Communist system dismantled. I never aimed to be a journalist. In fact, I always consider I became a foreign correspondent by accident. But had I planned it, I can think of no better place to prepare than St Antony's.

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Afsaneh Beschloss – (1976-9) Managing Director, Carlyle Asset Management

From my first class education to the invigorating common room discourse with fellow students from every corner of the globe, at St Antony's I was not only imbued with a broad sense of public responsibility but also acquired the confidence and intellectual means necessary to tackle challenges in the work place and the developing world. The stream of experts in every field and of every opinion constantly supplied us with new ideas to contemplate and debate. The stimulating subjects - for me, sociology, history, economics and politics - allowed me to become a much more well-rounded person; while studying economics at the College undoubtedly afforded me the technical and quantitative foundation needed to compete and succeed in the financial industry.

David Mulford – (1962-6) Chairman International, Credit Suisse First Boston



St Antony's College provided me with the unique learning experience that set the foundation for my entire professional life in International Affairs. My D.Phil. work in Central Africa, the international mix of the St Antony's community and the wide range of contacts there proved vital to the career path I have followed.

Nemat Shafik – (1987-9) Vice President, Private Sector Development and Infrastructure, The World Bank



I remember how much I looked forward to the debates over coffee in the common room with various multilingual newspapers strewn about and dozens of experts on every imaginable topic sprawled across the sofas talking with great animation and passion. The values that permeate the College — the belief in internationalism, rigorous analysis and tolerance — were important reasons that took me to the World Bank. And I have found that what I learned at St Antony's has served me well working on a range of topics from the economics of Middle East peace to the transition in Eastern Europe to the challenge of privatization and environmental issues in the developing world. St Antony's was the best possible preparation for a career in public policy in a global setting.