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To the Four Corners
of the World

18

Alumni Profiles:
Yoon Hui Kim

26

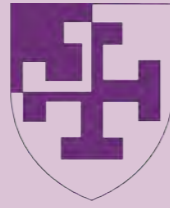
Memories of St Cross:
Dr Lanna Cheng

CROSSWORD

2024-2025



AD QUATTUOR CARDINES MUNDI



ST CROSS COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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ST CROSS FACTS & FIGURES

St Cross College
was founded in

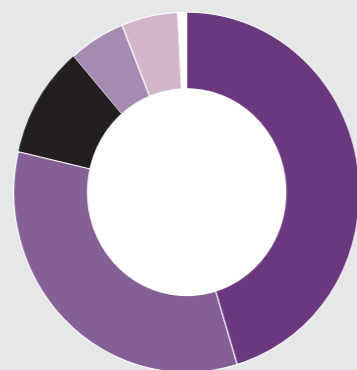
1965

8

Masters
since
1965



150 Current Fellows



- 68 Governing Body
- 50 Emeritus
- 15 Honorary
- 8 Research
- 8 non-Governing Body
- 1 Domus

181

different
degrees

644

current
students

71

different
countries

143

student
rooms



Library
opening
hours:
24/7



120

Hall seating
capacity



FOREWORD BY KATE MAVOR CBE MASTER OF ST CROSS COLLEGE

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our latest edition of Crossword, the magazine for the St Cross alumni and friends community. I stepped into the role of Master of St Cross in September 2023 and have very much enjoyed my first full year – a voyage of discovery of the delights of our enchanting college.

We are pleased to include in this issue profiles of some of the amazing people who make up the St Cross community. Current and former students Mantate, Maarten, Yoon Hui and Barbora tell us their stories and what the college means to them. It is especially good to hear from longstanding supporter Lanna Cheng whose memories date right back to the early days of St Cross when our graduate society was much smaller.

In this issue we feature two of our distinguished Fellows whose remarkable stories will serve as an

inspiration to those setting out on their careers. They both started out as very brave young women seeking adventure and developed a deep love for their current subject areas in Africa and China.

We've included as ever news, events and updates to keep you in touch with what is happening here in Oxford and in our wider network. Looking ahead, we hope you will be inspired to read of the impact made by those people who have donated to and supported the college. We are immensely grateful to all our friends and supporters without whom we could not have achieved so much.

We have great ambition for St Cross as we put together a new 3-year plan for the college, starting in 2025. There is lots to do in building back the community after the pandemic years now that we have permanent staff in place in key roles. Watch this space for more online activity and events in the UK and overseas. We are looking to refresh the college layout and décor and make more spaces available for use by our community, as well as identifying more accommodation to offer students arriving from all over the world.

We'll be investing more in reducing our carbon footprint and smartening up our technology to make it easier for you to access college facilities and events.

We are very proud to be one of only seven graduate-only colleges in the University of Oxford, which for the ninth year running in 2024 was announced as top of the league in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Our aim is to ensure that our students and Fellowship have the best possible experience during their time in Oxford and that they always consider themselves part of the St Cross community throughout their lives, wherever they are.

Our college motto – ad quattuor cardines mundi – underpins our commitment to you all as part of our family in the four corners of the world. We hope you will enjoy keeping in touch with the college when you read this magazine!



We have great ambition for St Cross as we put together a new 3-year plan for the college.



TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD

6261

St Crossers

122

countries

6

continents



BRIET BJARKADOTTIR

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

DPhil, Women's and Reproductive Health, 2021

Embryologist at Livio, Iceland. Researching the effects of chemotherapy on ovaries and ways to preserve fertility in girls and women.



JAN MINKE CONTRERAS

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

MSc, Latin American Studies, 2021

International relations consultant, currently working on a platform to feature Latin American foreign relations and geopolitical analysis.



KATERYNA TARASOVA

TOKYO, JAPAN

MSt, Japanese Studies, 2017

Strategic Partner Associate working with Microsoft's Xbox Japan team.



ZAC APPLETON

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, USA

MSc, Environmental Change & Management, 2000

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 since 2002. NEPA Reviewer for transportation projects. Also sustainability coordinator.



MIRRIAM MUENI

NAIROBI, KENYA

MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment 2022 & Master of Public Policy 2023, Rhodes Scholar.

ESG & Impact Manager, ZEP-RE (PTA Reinsurance Company).



KAVI ARYA

MUMBAI, INDIA

DPhil, Computer Science, 1988

Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Bombay), working in the area of Embedded Systems and Robotics, running a massive Online Educational Program called e-Yantra (e.yantra.org) that has trained over 250,000 students in complex engineering skills since 2012.



QUANG ANH TRAN

HANOI, VIETNAM

MSc, Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology, 2018

Public policy & government affairs consultant, supporting Vietnam's green and digital transformation.

MANTATE MLOTSHWA

MSc AFRICAN STUDIES



Mantate Queeneth Mlotshwa completed her MSc in African Studies in 2023-24. She talked us through some of the highlights of her journey so far, her ambitions for the future, and how it feels to be a newly fledged alumna of St Cross and Oxford.

Origins and previous work

I was raised by my maternal grandmother in Zimbabwe, and growing up I was always the smart kid who would never stop talking and was never afraid to put myself forward. My grandmother always said 'Oh, you'll go to Oxford with your smart brains!' – because for her, Oxford was the highest academic bar, the most excellent place in the world to study. I am glad that I was able to prove her right, even though she passed on three months after I started my Oxford degree!



St Cross truly gave me the space to fly, and as I look back over my year here, this is something I cherish.

Prior to doing my Masters, I completed a BSc in Psychology at the University of Zimbabwe, and also worked in the field of democracy, rights and governance. My work has always been primarily within that sector, focusing on how young people, women and other marginalised groups can be a part of national governance and leadership in their country.

My most recent role was with the Magamba Network in Harare, running a USAID-funded creative programme called Arts4Change that focuses on leveraging film, music, and satire to mobilise Zimbabwean youth around accountability and social justice issues. The programme was across all 10 provinces of the country and

supports talented young people who have a passion to create and contribute to their country's cultural and economic future but who lack the funds, resources and opportunities to do so.

It was just astounding to experience the high quality of work that was produced by participants, and to see the creative ways in which they portrayed both the joys and the serious challenges of current day life in Zimbabwe, shining a light on what needs to change. Over two years in that role, I oversaw the incubation of over 50 young creatives, resulting in the production of three music albums and at least 20 short films highlighting accountability issues, some of which have had global recognition.



I intend to be part of the change that Africa – and especially African women – need to see.

Coming to Oxford

When I came to Oxford to do my Master's degree, I was very conscious that I was coming to a place that has young, smart people, from an array of backgrounds, who have done exceptionally well in their respective countries, and who are focused on personal growth. This was exciting to me, and I decided to show up with the mindset of a leader; I told myself that I was worthy, it was fine and correct for me to take up space, get involved, and make a difference.

It helped enormously to have been awarded the St Cross Thembisa Hope Scholarship, which was founded by Tonia Cope Bowley and Stephen Bowley, alongside my Africa Oxford Mastercard Foundation scholarship.



It took the financial stress out of the programme, and made it all possible. It's great that St Cross has a range of scholarships, and I hope that there will be more as time goes on – they are transformational, unlocking amazing opportunities for people from less likely backgrounds, and this enriches everyone.

College Life

St Cross truly gave me the space to fly, and as I look back over my year here, this is something I really cherish. Joining a university as prestigious as this one has the potential to be intimidating, but at St Cross it felt normal for me and my peers to be whoever and whatever we wanted to be, right from Day One.

There were plenty of freshers' events across the first two weeks of Michaelmas, which allowed me to get to know lots of people and to start to understand how it all fits together. I really appreciated how approachable and supportive the Master and the college staff were – they encouraged me to get involved and actively contribute to college life. I felt honoured when I realised that they were mentioning me positively in rooms and conversations I wasn't in, vouching for me and

supporting my growth. I took on the role of Vice President of the Student Representative Committee, as I realised that this would be a great way to understand how the college functions from the inside, and at a high level.

In addition to involvement in college life, I was an active member of the Oxford Africa Society. I served on the committee for the Oxford Africa Conference in May 2024, and I organised the Gala Dinner and Fashion Show that rounded off the event.

This occasion held significant meaning for me, reflecting my profound interest in fashion that narrates tales and symbolizes the core of the continent. The evening encompassed a culinary, musical, and lively ambiance inspired by Africa, constituting a remarkable commemoration of Africa Day.

What's next?

Entrepreneurship has always interested me, so during my time at Oxford I explored the many enterprise-focused initiatives at the University, and I took part in the Student Entrepreneurs Programme (StEP) from Oxford University





Innovation (OUI). It's a summer programme that brings together teams of entrepreneurial students to develop innovative business ideas.

My team's idea focused on empowering fashion artisans in the African continent who don't have a digital presence and finding ways to connect them to the UK fashion retail industry. We're using fashion in ways that advocate for fair trade, women, sustainability and the fashion industry. I will be developing this new business in the year ahead through the OUI incubator programme, which comes with both financial support and mentoring.

And while at the Oxford Africa Conference, I connected with people who subsequently invited me to lead the design of a brand-new programme for African students who are graduating from top-tier universities around the world. We are piloting it in Oxford, and soft launching it at the 2025 Oxford Africa Conference.

Impact and future aspirations

I do have big dreams and goals, of course! A major goal of mine is to serve my country in higher and strategic governance roles. This may sound audacious, but my motivation is clear: I am committed to helping increase the number of women in African politics, and that includes betting on myself too. Right now, a lot of leadership opportunities are closed to young people, because of age restrictions and politics. For example, in Zimbabwe, one can only be President from age 40. Looking at the numbers, there are 55 countries in Africa, and currently only one

female president. Historically there have only ever been three women presidents on the continent. So I intend to be part of how we change the political landscape in Africa – and especially for African women. Academic research that focuses on women's political experiences in today's digital world is part of how I am doing that.

Outside of that, something I'm really passionate about is designing programmes that equip people with skills and knowledge to grow meaningfully. I do this through collaborating with various stakeholders to pilot innovative interventions to some of the pressing challenges of today. Beyond designing and implementing my own programmes, I thrive in building powerful communication campaigns that tell stories of agency and impact. When our work empowers people to have their own impact, we create a world of endless possibilities.

This September, as an outgoing Scholar, I had the honour of welcoming the 2024 cohort of Africa Oxford Scholars as they embark on their own transformative journeys. Just a year ago, I was in their shoes, excited to begin my MSc in African Studies. Now, as an Oxford alumna, I'm thrilled to share insights about what to expect from this incredible experience and how to maximise it.

For my part, I know that I will always be working hard wherever I am to create an environment for young people and women to thrive, grow and actively participate in their collective future.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS – NEWS & EVENTS

For more key developments in 2024 please visit: www.stx.ox.ac.uk/news



Generous donation endows further scholarships in Practical Ethics at St Cross

We were delighted to accept a very generous donation from the Uehiro Foundation in Tokyo, with which the College has a longstanding and fruitful relationship. The gift is made as a token of deep appreciation for the distinguished leadership in the field of Practical Ethics of Professor Julian Savulescu, Fellow of St Cross and the founding Chair of the Uehiro Centre in the Faculty of Philosophy.

The donors also expressed their gratitude to Professor Tony Hope, Emeritus Fellow of St Cross, who has played a key role in supporting the Foundation's work. The donation will endow in perpetuity scholarships for students from a number of disciplines on masters and doctoral programmes in Practical Ethics, alongside supporting activities to promote the study of this subject.



Ashmolean exhibition curated by St Cross Fellow and Dean of Degrees

An Van Camp, a Fellow of St Cross and a current Dean of Degrees, curated a major exhibition, *Bruegel to Rubens* at the Ashmolean Museum, receiving rave reviews from The Times, The Guardian and The Telegraph amongst others. It included

drawings from many of the Flemish masters, rarely seen in public. An also gave an illustrated talk in college about this major exhibition, offering insights into how the artists honed their drawing skills.



Oxford Chinese New Year Gala 2024 directed by St Cross Student

The director of the 2024 Oxford Chinese New Year Gala was Jinsen Lu, a fourth-year medical DPhil student at St Cross, who is an orthopaedic surgeon, and President of the Oxford Chinese Students & Scholars Association (CSSA). Kate Mavor CBE, Master of St Cross, was

graciously invited to give the event's opening address. The CSSA, a non-profit organisation at the University of Oxford, boasts around 3,700 members, and is one of the largest Chinese community organisations in Oxford.



Author of St Cross Grace celebrates 100th Birthday

St Cross is delighted to announce that Emeritus Fellow Peter Glare celebrated his 100th birthday on 27 October 2024. Born in 1924, Peter has had a life and career marked by extraordinary dedication to classical scholarship. He pursued postgraduate studies at Christ Church, Oxford, and soon joined the Oxford Latin Dictionary (OLD) team at Oxford University Press (OUP). By 1954, Peter was appointed editor of this monumental project, dedicating nearly three decades to its completion in 1982.

Peter became a Fellow of St Cross in 1976, and has remained an active and beloved member of the community. He provided a lasting

legacy to the College, including proposing its Latin motto, "Ad quattuor cardines mundi," which translates to "To the four corners of the world." Peter also penned our very own Latin grace, which remains part of the College's formal dining tradition, symbolising his ongoing presence at the heart of St Cross' cultural life.

Peter celebrated his 100th birthday with a private lunch at St Cross, attended by close friends and family. The Master, Kate Mavor, shared a few words on behalf of the College, presenting Peter with a bottle of champagne and awarding him a special St Cross Commemorative Medal to mark the occasion.



Varsity 2024 features two St Cross Students

This year St Cross had not one, but two students selected for Oxford University Rugby Football Club (OURFC) Varsity Teams. Jaid Debrah (pictured), a St Cross DPhil in Medical Sciences, only joined the OURFC at the end of January and was selected

for the 3rd team Varsity Squad, known as the Pumas. Jaid also captains the St Cross Women's Rugby Club.

Representing St Cross in the men's team, Jack Hamilton, an MSc in Neuroscience, was selected for the OURFC's Men's 1st Varsity team.



Welcome to Gemma Donaldson, our New Bursar

St Cross was delighted to announce the appointment of Gemma Donaldson as the new Bursar, who joined us in April from Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where she was Domus

Bursar. She was previously Faculty Operating Officer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where she was also a trustee and elected member of Council.

SUPPORT IN TIMES OF SORROW



Barbora Tallová completed her MPhil in International Relations at Oxford in June 2024. Whilst at St Cross, she served as the Student Representative Committee's (SRC) External Relations Rep. She also established a bursary for St Cross students in memory of her father, the Miroslav Tallo Bursary, to support those facing bereavement and other difficult family circumstances.

In the summer before my final year as an undergraduate at King's College London, my father passed away suddenly. It was a very painful time for me as I was struck by an unfamiliar and deep grief while facing administrative and financial burdens in addition to heightened academic pressures. Whilst the administration at King's was very helpful in terms of financial and mental health support, I didn't find anything that was dedicated to the specific life event of losing a close family member while

studying abroad. Unfortunately, this is something that many students have experienced, and it can lead to strong feelings of isolation and despair.

This experience made me reflect on what else could be done, and on coming to Oxford to do my MPhil, I had the opportunity to discuss this with Kate Mavor, the College Master, who was very encouraging. Together, we worked through the details of establishing a bereavement bursary specifically for students who are experiencing similar hardship.

The St Cross Miroslav Tallo Bursary, named in memory of my father, was established in 2024. The intention with the bursary isn't only to provide money and give the material support that people might need to get home to their loved ones and pay their respects; I also wanted to create a separate category of disadvantage for them, so that they could feel understood, safe, and supported at this very specific and difficult time in their life.

Longer term, my hope is that student beneficiaries will be able to make contact and have a conversation with others who have been through the same thing, if they wish to do so. In

this way, we could open up the space for further connection and support and create a community that gives back and self-supports, turning grief into something that sustains and brings hope.

My time at St Cross has been incredibly rewarding. The St Cross community is one of the most diverse communities I've ever experienced, making my role as the SRC's external relations representative enjoyable—but also challenging. However, more often than not, I found that the college is committed to creating a forum for discussion and fostering a culture of harmony and understanding. It is my hope that the Miroslav Tallo Bursary adds to this culture at St Cross.

“ I wanted to create a separate category... so that people could feel understood, safe and supported at this very specific and difficult time in their life.



THE IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS AT ST CROSS



Luisa Fernandez Chirino
DPHIL IN CLINICAL MEDICINE
POPULATION HEALTH
SCHOLARSHIP PACKAGE

My DPhil project is focused on the genetic architecture of chronic kidney disease in the Mexican population. I'm from Mexico City, so it's working with data about 'my' people, the people back home, which for me makes the project even more interesting and impactful.

I hadn't lived overseas before, so coming to Oxford was a big step, but I have absolutely loved my first year

here. I lived in college in year one, and I straight away made some wonderful friends. I'm finding that St Cross is an incredibly welcoming community.

This scholarship means I can take my love for science and answering questions and make it tangible through a DPhil. It has enabled me to pursue my dream without going into debt, and without it, coming to Oxford would simply not have been possible.



Piero Rios Carillo
MAGISTER JURIS (MJUR)
ST CROSS / FACULTY OF LAW
SCHOLARSHIP

purpose of legal studies: the pursuit of justice and truth. After almost eight years of studying and working in Law, I came to Oxford to read for my MJur.

I chose Oxford because I believe it's the best university in the world in terms of legal philosophy. Many of the most important and inspiring legal thinkers of the twentieth century either studied or taught at Oxford, and I'm now motivated to become part of Oxford's rich history by making an intellectual contribution that may, I hope, be useful.

The St Cross / Faculty of Law scholarship was of crucial importance in meeting my offer's financial conditions. It would have been impossible for me to join Oxford without the College's generous support, and I am deeply grateful for this extraordinary opportunity to be part of St Cross' vibrant community. I feel that the college truly appreciates and celebrates its scholars, and recognises that their research and their future plans are important. You feel personally welcomed and supported, wherever you're from.



Lee Sims
DPHIL IN CLINICAL MEDICINE
CLARENDON FUND PARTNERSHIP
AWARD

I've worked in global health and international development, and immediately prior to coming to Oxford to do my DPhil, I was based in Washington, DC, doing science policy work at the National Institutes of Health.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, I was supporting the rollout of the vaccines, and I realised how much I missed doing the research and being involved in creating these therapies and

vaccines. So that was my pivot back into wanting to be more lab-based.

My DPhil here at Oxford is exploring the immune response to different vaccine platforms. I knew I wanted to do my doctoral work in the UK, but it always felt financially out of reach for me. I am incredibly grateful to have received the Clarendon Fund Partnership Award, which has removed the financial stress so that I can focus entirely on my research.

ALUMNI PROFILES

MAARTEN KRABBENDAM

DPHIL EARTH SCIENCES



Dr Maarten Krabbendam is the Chief Geologist of Scotland, working with the British Geological Survey (BGS) in Edinburgh. He did his BSc and MSc at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, then worked as a Research Assistant on a joint project with the University of Aberdeen and Queen's University Belfast before coming to Oxford and St Cross to do his DPhil from 1994 to 1997.

I was advised by a friend that St Cross would be a great option when I was applying to do my DPhil at Oxford. He explained that it has an amazing location, right in the heart of things, and as it is a graduate college it would be more tranquil with less likelihood of disturbance from noisy young undergrads who were away from home for the first time and keen to party! It turns out that he was absolutely right.

The years I spent in Oxford were some of the happiest times I can remember. I loved the lunches

at St Cross and talking to people who were pursuing very different types of research. There were so many different groups and clubs to be a part of. I joined the Oxford Cave Club, focused on caving and potholing, and that became my main social circle, with regular outings and weekly pub nights and speaker meetings all around the city. Many of

the people I met there have become wonderful life-long friends, based throughout the UK and around the world.

On the academic side, while at Oxford I completed my DPhil and published two research papers from it, focusing on the Western Gneiss region of Norway, the deepest

“ Many of the people I met [at Oxford] have become wonderful life-long friends, based throughout the UK and around the world.”



exposed structural level of an old mountain chain, and the last major mountain-building episode in NW Europe. Tragically, my brilliant lead co-author Dr Alice Wain was killed in a road traffic accident not long after this, and for a while there was nobody to follow up or expand on the work we had done together, but then several groups from the US and elsewhere got onto it, and it has been wonderful to see the continuation of our research.

Early in my career, I was personally quite hesitant to work in the oil and gas industry, where most of my fellow Dutch geologists seemed to end up. I think it was a combination of less interesting geology, my having



vaguely principled ideas about the impact of the oil and gas industry, but also not wanting to be stuck working on an oil rig or living in a compound abroad. And although that would have been a way to earn a lot more money, I felt I wanted more freedom and to be working out in the field more.

After finishing my DPhil, my partner and I moved to Australia where I took up a Postdoc role at Monash University, working on a large scale academic project together with a mining company. Working in the outback was great, but after a few years we were keen to return to Europe to be closer to family, and I also wanted to pursue work that had a more practical, applied aspect to it. From speaking to people who were working in geological surveys, I intuited that this might offer the right balance of theoretical and applied scientific work for me, so I decided to

explore that further.

In 2000 I joined the British Geological Survey based in Edinburgh, whose function can be described as like the Met Office, only for anything underground. The work I do with them covers just about everything relating to the subsurface in Scotland. There is a whole range of stakeholders, from farmers who want a borehole for their water supply to council planners who need to think about geothermal energy and operations. We work on new concepts and infrastructure projects such as pump storage hydro schemes, and we manage a diverse array of projects.

As Chief Geologist, I'm across everything, and work with scientists, industry consultants and with the Scottish Government and their agencies and scientific advisers. I've also worked on some fascinating international projects – for example I've worked on a groundwater



It's very exciting to be helping to shape frameworks for a greener and more sustainable future.

sustainability initiative in India, on geological disposal of nuclear waste in Sweden, and a project in Tajikistan. The latter was funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) through their Partnerships for Development (P4D) programme, and involved training staff at the Tajik Geological Survey and helping to make extractive and geohazard data more available, both internally and externally.

The most interesting change I've seen in my field in the last five to ten years or so is probably the shift in focus towards climate-related action and sustainability. This has to be a coordinated, well-informed process: just ditching fossil fuels and moving entirely to green solutions overnight is not feasible. The energy industry and policy makers in government

increasingly recognise that they need expertise from geologists to de-risk investments to make the green transition smartly and successfully.

We're working with geothermal energy in various forms, and on pumped storage hydro power, all crucial for the green energy transition and making renewable electricity generation practical and reliable.

As geologists, we have the skills, knowledge and experience to solve the problems and challenges coming to the surface as we make the collective shift. So much of the work I'm doing presently is focused on this transition, and it's very exciting to be part of this movement and to help shape these frameworks for a greener and more sustainable future.



ST CROSS COLLEGE 1965 TO TODAY



1965

St Cross is officially founded as a new College of the University of Oxford. Originally located on a site on St Cross Road, and occupying a modest wooden building known as 'the Hut', the College held its first Founder's Feast in December 1965, presided over by the first Master, Dr Kits van Heyningen. The first five graduate students joined the College in Michaelmas 1966.

1979

The creation of a 999-year lease for St Cross is unanimously approved, allowing the College to develop land to the rear of Pusey House on St Giles, as well as occupy parts of its existing buildings.

1965



1975

1980

The student intake rises to seventeen in residence, including nine women.

1981

The College officially relocates to the new site on St Giles, and the new buildings are opened. The student body rises to twenty seven in residence, seven of them living on site.

1991

Work begins on the new South Wing, and alterations are made to the older buildings to create a new Common Room, a quiet study room and the College library.

1985



1995

1993

The new Hall is opened, along with extended facilities and residential quarters.

1996

Opening of the new student accommodation at the St Cross Annexe, on the site of the original 'Hut'. The College now comprises 70 fellows and 165 students.

The College Coat of Arms is officially established, created by John Tiffany.



2002

The inaugural 'Fred's Lunch' is held: the annual St Cross alumni lunch event, named after its instigator Fred Hodcroft, one of the Founding Fellows of the College.

2005

2003

The first St Cross College Gaudy takes place.

2006

The College now has 80 fellows and 320 students.

2011

A Building Committee is formed to start a design competition for the West Wing Building, which will complete the second quad. Funds are raised from the University and significant philanthropic support from alumni and friends as part of a 50th anniversary campaign.

2014

The College now has around 100 fellows and over 500 students, half of whom are women.

2015



2025



2017

The new West Wing Building is opened, providing more accommodation and high quality facilities for all.

2025
St Cross
turns 60



MASTERS OF ST CROSS

1965-1979
Kits van Heyningen



1979-1987
Godfrey Stafford



1987-2003
Richard (Dick) Repp



2003-2011
Andrew Goudie



2011-2016
Mark Jones



2016-2022
Carole Souter



2022-2023
Rana Mitter
(Interim Master)



2023-present
Kate Mavor



YOON HUI KIM

DPHIL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Yoon Hui Kim is a Principal in Climate Risk Modeling Services at PwC in San Francisco, California. She did both her MPhil and DPhil in International Development at St Cross, completing her studies in 2008.

While I was an undergraduate at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown, Washington, DC, I completed a year abroad in Cairo, and this was the first time that I was exposed to socioeconomic circumstances at extreme ends of the scale. I saw both luxury and poverty in extremely close proximity, families without access to clean water or basic healthcare existing alongside soaring high rises and opulent homes, and this had a deep effect on me. I wanted to address these stark inequalities.

I looked at a number of postgraduate study programs in International Development, but the University of Oxford's stood out for a number of reasons: not just the nature and scope of the course itself, but also the access to the great minds that I knew I'd meet there — the professors, and also the other students who would be my peers. I ended up doing both my MPhil and then my DPhil at Oxford. The people I met inspired me, and several became close friends. I have great memories of that time. The schedule was always packed full of college events and social meetups, in between intense periods of reading and study, and St Cross felt

like a proper community, not simply a space to co-exist in.

Climate and Government

After Oxford I gravitated toward climate-related work. For a few years I worked for a contractor based in Washington, DC, where we were assisting the US Agency for International Development (USAID) on integrating climate-related considerations across their sectoral and regional investments. It was a really interesting time to be doing the work, as USAID sought to implement more structured frameworks for assessing and addressing climate risks in their investments during this time.



You have to identify new and different opportunities for making your voice heard - it's just a different way of thinking about how you address a given challenge or process.

Then in 2013 I moved to California and began working with a small nonprofit established by the State of California to bring independent scientific insights to coastal and ocean policy making. In that role, I helped a number of state coastal and ocean agencies develop their implementation plan for the state's adaptation strategy. I learnt a lot during this time, and developed a



sense of how these state agencies were structured, how they were thinking about climate adaptation, what initiatives they had in place, the progress they were making, and also what challenges they were encountering.

Managing corporate risk in the face of the climate crisis

I then took on a role leading client engagement at a small startup called Four Twenty Seven, who were a pioneer in the physical risk data space for private sector entities. The term 'physical risk data' means data related to changing climate conditions, including extreme events such as hurricanes and floods as well as longer-term changes such

as rising temperatures and sea level rise. We were examining the potential implications of these changes for clients with real estate, infrastructure, corporate, and sovereign equity and debt portfolios. The company was acquired by Moody's as one of two foundational building blocks for their internal ESG and climate practice, and I took on a similar but expanded role there. I led a global team of around 30 people that covered the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and also the Americas.



St Cross felt like a proper community, not simply a space to co-exist in.



Now, as Principal at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), I co-lead a climate risk modeling team of around 50 individuals. We do a broad range of climate- and nature-related risk and opportunity modeling for clients across sectors such as financial services, tech, and energy. We help them better understand what types of risks will manifest depending on the nature of changing climate conditions, and also what opportunities will come their way as a result.

It was an adjustment to go from working in a small organisation like Four Twenty Seven to a big multinational like Moody's and then PwC. At larger organisations, your potential for impact from a client

“ I intend to do all that I can to help the organisations that I work with build their ability to meet the risks and challenges of this significant transition we're living through.



perspective grows exponentially — you have more resources, more visibility and more collective momentum. But in a large corporate setting, you have to identify new and different opportunities for making your voice heard — it's just a different way of thinking about how you address a given challenge or process.

Impact for the future

When I think about the biggest development challenge that we face today, it's obviously climate related. The climate crisis touches everything, from food security to water availability to biodiversity — everything that underpins our health and wellbeing on this planet. It's happening right now, with devastating effects on so many communities around the globe.

I intend to do all that I can to help the organisations that I work with build their ability to meet the risks and challenges of this significant transition we're living through. What does it mean to be a transformational company in a time of climate crisis? How do we achieve that?

2024 HIGHLIGHTS – NEWS & EVENTS

For more key developments in 2024 please visit: www.stx.ox.ac.uk/news



New Year Honours List includes St Cross CR Member

The New Year Honours List 2024 included St Cross Common Room member Professor Matthew Snape, MBBS FRCPCH MD, who has been appointed an MBE for significant contributions to Public Health during the pandemic at the Oxford Vaccine Group (OVG). Formerly a Professor at OVG, he joined Moderna in

August 2022, focusing on vaccines for various diseases. Prof Snape is Moderna's Vice President for Clinical Development, Paediatric and Maternal Vaccines. His extensive research covers vaccines for meningococcal and pneumococcal diseases and influenza, along with maternal immunisation.



Royal Society elects Sir Andrew Pollard as new Fellow

The Royal Society has elected over 90 outstanding researchers from around the world to its fellowship this year including St Cross College Fellow, Sir Andrew Pollard, who was named alongside eight other Oxford scientists. The Royal Society is the United Kingdom's prestigious national academy of sciences and plays a pivotal role in promoting scientific excellence and innovation

globally. Among its various honours, the Royal Society Fellowship is one of the most prestigious, recognising the most eminent scientists, engineers, and technologists from the UK and the Commonwealth. Induction into the fellowship is considered one of the highest accolades in the scientific community, underscoring a lifetime of significant contributions to the field.



St Cross Fellow becomes world's first Professor of Digital Diplomacy

St Cross Fellow Corneliu Bjola has been awarded a Recognition of Distinction by the University of Oxford. In receiving this award Professor Bjola has become the world's first Professor of Digital Diplomacy and Head of the Oxford

Digital Diplomacy Research Group. His research focuses on the impact of digital technology on the conduct of diplomacy, with a special interest in public diplomacy, international negotiations, and methods for countering digital propaganda.

PROFESSOR ANNA LORA-WAINWRIGHT

PROFESSOR OF THE HUMAN GEOGRAPHY OF CHINA



Professor Anna Lora-Wainwright has been a Fellow of St Cross College since 2009 when she joined the Oxford School of Geography and the Environment and the School of Global and Area Studies. Her current work focuses on environmentalism in China and in Italy and on care and solidarity among Chinese communities in Italy.

My love story with China began when I was an undergraduate at SOAS in London. We had to choose an area to specialise in, and I chose China because I found the language and culture fascinating. I was lucky enough to be able to spend some time there during my studies, and I started learning the language and studying China's recent history and learning about its society, culture and politics.

Through the reading I did, I became more and more interested in rural areas in China, and issues around

development and inequality. I started to think about a PhD project that might combine this with Health – an area where I also had a strong interest. Things took off from there: it sucked me in, and I've been working in this field ever since.

St Cross provided a great environment for connection and development. I remember very fondly the first year I was there as a new Fellow, there was a seminar series where senior members spoke alongside a junior student member from a similar discipline. This was a



St Cross provided a great environment for connection and development.



They see that I'm not so detached from their experiences, and they feel able to speak more freely with me.

really valuable way of staying aware of what was going on beyond my area of focus, and it enabled me to broaden my circle and meet more people from other disciplines who were working in fields adjacent to mine.

My work over the past two decades has concerned forms of care and agency to address environmental and health challenges and inequalities. Under this broad remit, I've looked at perceptions of development and consumerism; home care for illness and attitudes to formal healthcare provision; experiences of urbanisation and land loss; resistance to waste incineration; the rise of citizen science and environmental health activism in rural China. China is such a diverse and important place to understand,

and it is evolving at great speed so it demands close attention.

I have completed a large amount of fieldwork in rural China. During my PhD, I spent about a year and a half in one village in Sichuan province, living with a family in a rice farming community. I shared their living space, cooked with them and joined them working in the fields. This and the other shorter periods of my time spent in such settings have helped me to build a bank of lived experience that is still valuable in my work today.

For example, some of my more recent research has focused on the experiences of Chinese people living in Europe, and given the political sensitivities in China it can be hard to get people to speak openly to those outside of their community.

But once they learn that I have spent time embedded in rural Chinese communities, spent winter in a place with no heating, having to rely on preserved vegetables for months, and so on – they see that I'm not so detached from their experiences, and they feel able to speak more freely with me.

I'm currently on sabbatical, and have scaled back the field work in China as I now have a young family, but my work schedule still seems to be pretty packed! I have a few publications in the pipeline, including a project on zero waste living where I'm collaborating with colleagues at Sheffield and Oxford, and an article on environmentalism in South Italy with a former student. I've also been commissioned to author a textbook on China with a major academic publisher.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS – NEWS & EVENTS

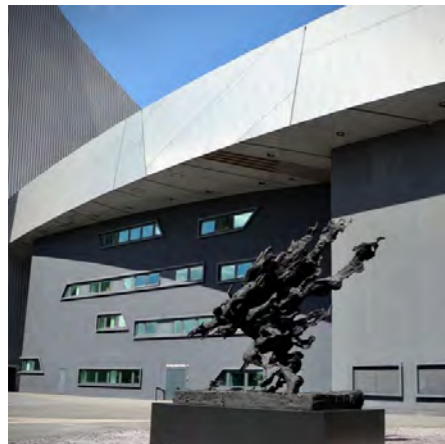
For more key developments in 2024 please visit: www.stx.ox.ac.uk/news



Royal Academy of Engineering elects St Cross Fellow

St Cross Fellow Professor Paul Shearing has been elected as Fellow to The Royal Academy of Engineering. The Academy noted that each of the new Fellows elected in September 2024 “has made exceptional contributions to their own sector, pioneering new innovations, leading progress in business or academia, providing high level advice to government, or promoting wider understanding of engineering and technology.” Speaking of his election

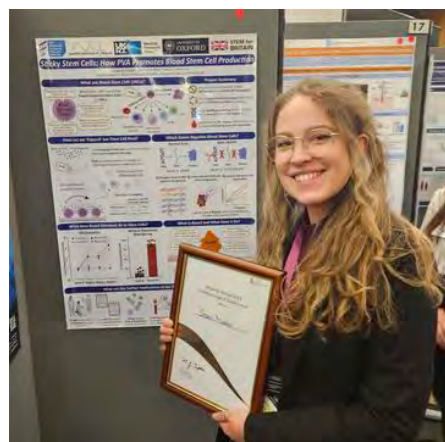
Professor Shearing said, “I have been involved with The Royal Academy of Engineering since school, and my decision to take an undergraduate engineering degree was a result of the Academy’s ‘Headstart’ programme. It is now a huge privilege to have been elected a Fellow which recognises the importance of our research supporting the zero-carbon Energy Transition and the huge contributions of the diverse, talented team I have had the opportunity to work with.”



Honorary MCR wins award for Man on Fire Sculpture

Honorary member of Common Room, contemporary visual artist and sculptor Tim Shaw RA has won the 2024 Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture for his art piece Man on Fire. The sculpture was recognised among an outstanding shortlist of

works, including pieces by Yinka Shonibare, David Blandy and Larry Achiampong, Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva, and Nick Hornby. It was completed in 2023 and is now situated outside the Imperial War Museum North in Greater Manchester.



STEM for BRITAIN 2024 award won by DPhil

St Cross DPhil in Medical Sciences Grace Meaker was a finalist and prize winner at this year’s STEM for BRITAIN event, held at the Houses of Parliament. Three finalists from Oxford won awards in their categories, with Grace winning the prize sponsored by the Physiology Society. STEM for BRITAIN is a

major scientific poster competition and exhibition which has been held in Parliament since 1997. Its aim is to give members of both Houses of Parliament an insight into the outstanding research work being undertaken in UK universities by early-career researchers.

FELLOWS’ INTERVIEWS

PROFESSOR SLOAN MAHONE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE



Professor Sloan Mahone is Associate Professor of the History of Medicine at Oxford, specialising in the history of psychiatry and the psychological sciences in Africa. She became a Fellow of St Cross in 2005, and in an academic career spanning 20+ years, she has worked in East, Southern and Central Africa. Her current projects deal extensively with photography and visual sources, particularly related to neurology and psychiatry in Africa as well as collaborative and multidisciplinary work on epilepsy and lived experience.

I started out as a historian of medicine, particularly focusing on the history of psychiatry in colonial Africa. However, I’ve always had a particular fascination with the study and treatment of epilepsy. There’s much that has been written about the condition, but very little of it covers its history in African or non-Western countries. This is a condition that has always been with us: it has been known in populations and communities for millennia. I study both its history and its impact on people’s lives today.

My field work in this area started in Zimbabwe. I knew a group of Zimbabwean nuns who invited me to visit various hospitals as well as an activist from the Epilepsy Support Foundation in Harare. I decided to investigate who else worked on epilepsy in Oxford and connected with neurologist Arjune Sen, who is now Professor of Global Epilepsy at Oxford. We have become close collaborators and friends and we’ve managed to develop a much bigger network and projects. Zimbabwe is still key and close to our hearts.

Our collaborative work now includes a strong foundation from oral history and life histories – quite different from anything that had previously existed. We intentionally shaped the project so that it was less about surveys and data, and more focused on embedded oral history. From humble beginnings and small amounts of funding, our network has managed to procure significant funding from the National Institutes of Health Research and the Oxford Martin School. The work is truly collaborative with our international partners across Africa, India and Brazil.

The big news is that we are about to launch the first ever Centre for Global Epilepsy based here in Oxford, which has the potential to transform the lives of millions affected by this very common, but highly stigmatised condition, especially those who live in less well-resourced settings. The Centre’s mission is to enable global epilepsy learning, offer immersive research opportunities in Oxford, and serve as a multidisciplinary global epilepsy hub. It aims to empower researchers and advocates, especially

in Africa, and inspire clinical trainees and clinicians to transform epilepsy care across the world.

Meanwhile, I’m still doing a full teaching load, and I have become even more involved with St Cross over the past year or so. There’s a new and exciting energy about the place that makes me want to be more knit in. I think this has a lot to do with the new Master and her vision for the college. We have a terrific international student body, and a really eclectic and welcoming community of fellows and students. There’s a lot going on, and a lot to be proud of.

“There’s a new and exciting energy about [St Cross] that makes me want to be more knit in.”

DR LANNA CHENG

Eminent marine entomologist and longstanding St Cross supporter Dr Lanna Cheng recalls her first connections to the St Cross community, and explains what has kept her coming back — and giving back — to the College for close to 50 years.

I came to Oxford on a Commonwealth Scholarship from Singapore to pursue a DPhil at St Hilda's College in 1965. I didn't have much association with St Cross then but knew Mick (Henry Neville) Southern, a Founding Fellow of the College and Roger Kitching, one of the five first graduate students. It was then a very new college located at St Cross Road, not at St Giles, where it is today.

I married Ralph A. Lewin, a marine micro-biologist in 1969 and moved to La Jolla, California. I started work at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego, in 1970 and remained as a Research Scientist Emeritus after retirement in 2011.



Ralph, who was British, planned to spend a sabbatical year in the UK, in 1976. Although he was a Downing College, Cambridge alumnus, we decided to explore possibilities at Oxford where we had a lot more academic connections and friends. Drs. David Warrell and John Tiffany (both St Cross Fellows) proposed St Cross as our 'home' college. The college was quick to respond and welcomed us with open arms. So, our connection with St Cross was a very warm and positive one right from the start. From this initial year of living at Meadow Larkins, a converted 200-year old stone cow barn in Old Headington, we fell in love with the place — and especially with the people and community of St Cross.

Ralph became an International Fellow of College, and we returned to visit pretty much every summer during his lifetime. We often attended the annual Encaenia Garden Party, for which we had a standing invitation from Sir Richard Southwood, then Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University (1989-1993) and a fellow

Entomologist. This provided a great opportunity to meet up with old friends at Oxford and make new connections at St Cross. After Ralph passed away in 2008, Sir Mark Jones invited me to be a member of the St Cross Development committee. I felt much honoured and was delighted to accept but stepped down after the recent pandemic.

Most of the colleagues I knew in Zoology and Entomology at Oxford have now retired. My connection with Oxford nowadays is primarily with St Cross. I try to visit once a year and stay in college for a few nights if I can. I'm always made to feel very welcome.

In 2015, St Cross celebrated its 50th anniversary. I was very happy to be invited to attend the celebratory dinner as a guest. To my great surprise I was given a special award for my long "service and friendship to the College." That was a very special moment for me, to be so honoured by the place that has always been my home in Oxford.

Dr Lanna Cheng is a pioneer in the study of marine insects, having become immersed in the field after studying Insect Ecology at the University of Oxford in the mid-1960s. She is a long-term friend of St Cross and was responsible for establishing a scholarship and an endowed prize named after her late husband, Ralph A. Lewin, a marine microbiologist and Esperantist who was known as the 'father of green algae genetics.' Dr Cheng continues to be a leading mind in the marine insect field and has now contributed to more than 100 publications.



Right from the start our connection with St Cross was a warm and positive one.

Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Pier at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

1965 Club Dinner

Friday 21st February 2025

St Cross College

St Cross Lecture Series

Helen Frowe, Professor of Practical Philosophy, Stockholm University

Wednesday 26th February 2025

St Cross College

St Cross College Fred's Lunch

Saturday 15th March 2025

St Cross College

StX in the City Pub Meet-up

May 2025 (date tbc)

London (location tbc)

Encaenia Prizegiving & Dinner

Wednesday 25th June 2025

St Cross College

Further dates to be announced - please keep an eye on our website at stx.ox.ac.uk/whats-on



MEET THE ST CROSS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

From the Development Director...

I am delighted to have joined St Cross as the new Development Director at the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year. I feel privileged to be part of this remarkable college, founded almost 60 years ago with the express purpose of expanding educational opportunity. Together with the Development and Communications teams, I look forward to meeting as many St Crossers as possible, cultivating their lifelong membership of the college, and raising funds to make this community the best it can be.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Master, Senior Members, staff and Fellows for a warm welcome and for inducting me into the ways of the college. And I would like to pay tribute to my colleagues – James, Savi and Judith – for their support and for successfully reinvigorating our events and communications programme in the post-pandemic period.

Looking ahead, we are keen to continue developing our events programme (including visiting St Crossers overseas), finding more ways to strengthen your connection to the college, and fundraising for various important causes – scholarships, hardship bursaries, buildings and more. As the Master writes in her introduction, 'we could not have achieved so much' without our friends and supporters, to whom we are enormously grateful.



Milos Martinov, Development Director

Milos leads St Cross' fundraising activities and oversees relations between the College, alumni and friends. Do get in touch with him to find out more about supporting St Cross and ways you can get involved. milos.martinov@stx.ox.ac.uk



James Brazier, Development & Alumni Relations Officer

James manages the St Cross alumni and supporters' events programme, organising events both in the UK and overseas. Please contact James to find out more about what is coming up in our events schedule. alumni.events@stx.ox.ac.uk



Savi Joglekar, Alumni & Development Coordinator

Savi is the first point of contact in our office for all College members and coordinates communications with our alumni and friends, including particularly the termly St Cross e-newsletter. Do contact Savi if you have any news or updates to share. development@stx.ox.ac.uk



Judith Palmer, Communications Officer

Judith develops and coordinates the College's communications, including the website, social media presence and publications such as The Record and Crossword. Please get in touch with Judith if you have anything to share for our publications or wider channels. communications@stx.ox.ac.uk

Once a St Crosser,
always a St Crosser

We love to hear from you, so please do keep in touch with us and reach out to the team with your news! You can update your contact details online via the QR code below to ensure you're receiving the most relevant information and invitations to events happening near you.



Please do consider a gift to St Cross. All donations irrespective of size are very gratefully received and enable us to continue to develop and grow as a College, attracting the most talented students irrespective of background. To find out more about making a gift to St Cross and our fundraising priorities, please visit <https://www.stx.ox.ac.uk/make-a-gift-0>, or scan the QR code.





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