

## **Being an Alumna – Three Stories**

**Three alumna of St John's from different generations tell us what being a member of the St John's Community means to them**

**You can share your thoughts with us by going to <https://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/being-alumna-your-thoughts/> or emailing [alumni@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@sjc.ox.ac.uk)**

### **Dr Christine Narramore (1990, DPhil Theoretical and Physical Chemistry)**

**What was it like being a woman while you attended St John's?**

*I was a graduate student and felt fortunate for that as the MCR was 50% women and we had all proved ourselves elsewhere. For the undergraduates, St John's could still be intimidating for women were slightly in the minority and dealing with over confident privately educated Male students. Although I did find the all women self-defence classes a real place for bonding.*

**What do you think St John's will look in 40 years' time?**

*A place where all students can really achieve. Hopefully from a really diverse range of backgrounds, disabilities and races. And still having some traditions along with the totally new ways of working and having fun*

**If you could give one piece of advice to current female students of St John's, what would it be?**

*Don't set a time limit on when you should have achieved. Life is a tapestry full of lots of different kinds of achievements not all of them financial or given their full value by society yet. But you can achieve, and it's probably not too late. Oh and we all feel like imposters sometimes.*

## **Kate Buzicky (2002, MPhil Economic and Social History)**

Kate Buzicky is an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, where she works on criminal appeals. From 2013 to 2018, Kate was the District's Child Exploitation Crimes Coordinator.

From 2007-2012, Kate was an active-duty officer in the United States Army, where she served as an Army attorney (JAG Officer). She was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in 2009-2010, and Basra, Iraq in 2011. From 2007-2010

she advised senior military leadership on the law of armed conflict, intelligence, and detainee affairs; she served as an Army prosecutor from 2010-2012.

Before attending St John's, Kate earned a Bachelor of Arts (magna cum laude) from Princeton University, where she was awarded the Rhodes scholarship. She also holds a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School.

What was it like being a woman while you attended St John's?

*I loved my time at St John's. I had a wonderful community and a very serious academic environment in which I thrived. I also loved the sense of tradition in the college.*

What do you think St John's will look in 40 years' time?

*I hope it will be full of diverse kinds of people doing serious academic work. I am proud of St John's for making efforts to improve access.*

If you could give one piece of advice to current female students of St John's, what would it be?

*Be brave and take risks!*



### **Sarah Goodenough (2014, BA History)**

Since graduating in 2017, Sarah has worked on climate change policy for a range of NGOs and as an Associate at [Global Optimism](#), a social enterprise co-founded by ex-UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres. Sarah recently completed the MSc in Environmental Technology at Imperial College London, for which she was awarded the Aether prize for most outstanding performance in Global Environmental Change and Policy and the AECOM prize for most outstanding overall course performance in the MSc. During her masters, she spent eight weeks with the world-leading [International Centre for Climate Change and Development](#) in Bangladesh researching the role of women in community-based climate change adaptation. She currently works as the Strategic Communications Manager for the [Climate Crisis Foundation](#), and is training for the [White Collar Fight Club](#) to raise money and awareness around the stigma against mental health.



What was it like being a woman while you attended St John's?

*An absolutely fantastic community, surrounded by strong and inspiring women willing to make a difference and change the world. Whilst the University as a whole felt very male-dominated, St John's felt like home.*

What do you think St John's will look in 40 years' time?

*I hope it will look a lot more like the real world. In my year, we did not have brilliant representation of the rest of the UK or indeed the world, and I would love for St John's to provide the same support and excitement to everyone as I was able to receive when I was there.*

If you could give one piece of advice to current female students of St John's, what would it be?

*To not hold yourselves back. Whilst I recognise that things can be intimidating and subtle sexism and discrimination can be really disheartening, find your voice and stand tall - push back, report, develop and rely on a close network of friends, and realise that you can change the game.*