

University of Delaware **Thomas L. Friedman** **Doctor of Humane Letters**

Honorary Degrees

The honorary degree is the highest honor the University of Delaware bestows and is presented to individuals whose contributions to the public good warrant exceptional recognition.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and Middle East specialist, you have said that who you are today was shaped largely by two experiences you had as a high school sophomore: a trip to Israel with your parents and your enrollment in your first – and only – journalism course. After earning a bachelor’s degree in Mediterranean studies from Brandeis University and a master’s degree in modern Middle East studies from Oxford University, you began your career with United Press International and later joined the staff of *The New York Times*. Over the years you have served as financial reporter, Beirut bureau chief, Israel bureau chief, and chief diplomatic, chief White House and international economics correspondents. Your international reporting earned you a Polk Award and two Pulitzer Prizes. Since 1995 you have written a foreign affairs column that appears twice weekly in the *New York Times* and is syndicated in newspapers worldwide. Always the earnest reporter, you research your columns as thoroughly as you did your news stories, logging thousands of miles around the globe. Your motto, you have said, is “If you don’t go, you don’t know.” Your thorough and thoughtful commentary earned you a third Pulitzer in 2002.

World-renowned author and accomplished documentarian, you had an auspicious beginning in the publishing world, receiving a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship to write your first book, *From Beirut to Jerusalem*, which won both the National Book Award and the Overseas Press Club Award in 1989, was on the *New York Times* bestseller list for nearly a year, and has been used as a college textbook on the Middle East. Nor did the books that followed disappoint. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, *The World Is Flat*, *Longitudes and Attitudes*, and your most recent book, *Hot, Flat and Crowded* have won readers, attention, and numerous awards. Since 2003 you also have hosted several documentaries for the Discovery Channel on topics and locations around the world. Whatever the medium and whether your subject is economics, technology, globalization, terrorism, war, foreign relations, energy, or the environment, you seek knowledge and understanding to pass along to your audience.

Influential thinker, because of your writing you are known the world over, praised by some, criticized by others, but respected by all. In 2005 *U.S. News and World Report* named you among “America’s Best Leaders.” The *Wall Street Journal* named you the second most influential business thinker in 2008. The Overseas Press Club has honored you with a lifetime achievement award, and Queen Elizabeth has bestowed on you the honorary title Order of the British Empire.

Newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer described the responsibility of the journalist and the newspaper in this way: “Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light.” We need only read your work to know that you abide by those aspirations.