



# China Oxford Scholarship Fund

Summer 2011

## COSF Scholars' Summer Event



Scholars with Prof. Alice and Dr Frank Proschaska and Prof. Richard Tur at Hailey House

The China Oxford Scholarship Fund's International Chairman Timothy Beardson and his wife Clair hosted another Scholars' Summer Luncheon at their home in Hailey near Oxford. The June 19th event was attended by present and past COSF Scholars who had the chance to meet the many friends and supporters of the Fund. The President of Wolfson College, Prof. Hermione Lee, made an address wishing the Scholars well and highlighting the number of Chinese students who have attended Wolfson College.

Meanwhile, COSF Scholar Yu Tao delighted guests with his insight on his first year at Oxford. The Principal of Somerville College, Dr Alice Proschaska, and Senior Fellow of Law at Oriel College, Prof. Richard Tur, were in attendance as well as more than 60 other guests who enjoyed the Sunday afternoon event at Hailey House. Yu Tao's speech is featured in full on pages 9 to 10. A pictorial of the Scholars' Summer Luncheon is featured on pages 6 to 8.

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# *International Chairman's Letter*

Dear Friends,

- It was good to see so many Scholars, senior staff and academics from Oxford University and friends of the China Oxford Scholarship Fund attend the Scholars' Summer luncheon in June. Clair and I were delighted to host this event at Hailey House.
- This year the Awards Panel received more than 100 applications. This is rewarding to know since such a high number of applications mean that more students are becoming aware of our scholarship programme. The rigorous work of the Awards Panel members in China, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom is very much appreciated by myself and the Trustees of the Fund.
- I am pleased that Simon Minshall has joined the COSF team in Hong Kong as its Honorary Treasurer. I, along with the Trustees and Committee members of COSF, look forward to working with Simon.
- It is exciting to learn that COSF's network of Scholars continues to grow with the help of events in China, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. It is extremely encouraging that Scholars are keen to stay in touch with COSF and contributing to the Fund by joining our various Committees to assist with our publicity and fundraising campaign.
- I hope more Scholars like Wai Kit Chu will keep us updated with their important work once they have completed their postgraduate studies at Oxford. It is gratifying for the donors and supporters of COSF and the Trustees to know how our Scholars are getting on after they have left Oxford.

Timothy Beardson  
International Chairman



## 2011 Awards Process



L-R Hong Kong Awards Panel members Sue Lau, Andrew Lo, Prof. Paul Tam, Annie Bentley, Rupert McCowan, Kenneth Fok and William Louey

It was another very competitive year for students hoping to secure an award with the China Oxford Scholarship Fund. The Awards Panel reviewed 116 applications in May. The Panel conducted interviews with short-listed candidates in Oxford, Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong from May to July. The Awards Panel's Chairman Rupert McCowan noted that the applicants were of the most excellent standard. Nearly £99,000 in total funds will be disbursed to successful candidates for the 2011 –2012 academic year. The 21 scholarship winners will be announced in the COSF Autumn Newsletter to be published in October.

奖学金



L-R Shanghai Awards Panel members Alastair Louey, William Louey, Kenneth Fok, Annie Bentley, Zhu Yan and Ashton Lee

## Welcome Simon Minshall



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The Trustees of the China Oxford Scholarship Fund are pleased to announce the appointment of Simon Minshall as its Honorary Treasurer to succeed Dennis Ho in Hong Kong. Simon is an experienced financial manager having worked as a chief financial officer for several years. Having built a solid foundation as an auditor, Simon has been engaged in financial management consulting for nearly two decades. As well as leading finance functions, he has experience in financial management reporting, financial planning and budgeting, financial management process and system design and implementation, financial evaluations, costing and financial claims assessment. "I am extremely pleased that Simon has kindly accepted the Fund's invitation to become its Honorary Treasurer. With his breadth of international experience, COSF will certainly benefit from his invaluable expertise on matters of accounting", said COSF's International Chairman Timothy Beardson.



Simon has worked in or have been responsible for finance functions in the Asian region. He has worked in Hong Kong, mainland China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom. In addition, he has developed his wide-ranging experience working in a number of industries. His position as a chief financial officer was gained in residential property with Advance Pacific Investments Limited and in professional services with Deloitte China and Deloitte Consulting. As a financial management consultant, he has worked with clients in manufacturing, telecommunications, utilities, retail, trading and distribution, property and leisure.

## Beijing Events



L-R Zhe Zhang, Sue Lau, Jingjing Chen, Janet Wenyi Li, Kerui Min, Minglei Zhang, Kenneth Fok, Betty Yubing Zhang, Rupert McCowan, Ze Dai and Yuqing Cui

In June, COSF's Beijing Committee was kept busy with its members assisting the Beijing Awards Panel with the short-listed interviews for this year as well as organising an intimate gathering with COSF Scholars. A dinner was held at the Grand Hotel where HK Trustees Sue Lau and Kenneth Fok were on hand in Beijing to both participate in the awards interviews and meet with past and present Scholars. Those who attended the June 11th dinner were Committee members Zhe Zhang (COSF 2006) and Minglei Zhang and COSF's Awards Panel Chairman Rupert McCowan. The Scholars who were present were Jingjing Chen (COSF 2006), Janet Wenyi Li (COSF 2009), Kerui Min (COSF 2010), Betty Yubing Zhang (COSF 2009), Ze Dai (COSF 2008) and Yuqing Cui (COSF 2008). A good time was had by all and the Beijing Committee is already looking forward to next year's gathering with more COSF Scholars participating in 2012.



Meanwhile, on May 3rd, COSF's International Chairman Timothy Beardson had the chance to meet with Li Ruogu, the Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of China.

COSF's educational initiative and its speakers' programme were discussed during their chat.

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# Scholars' Summer Luncheon Pictorial

## Hailey House June 19th 2011



Guests enjoy refreshments on the grounds of Hailey House



Timothy Beardson welcomes Dr Daud Chau and Rashid Ahmad Arshad of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat (AMJ)



First Secretary for Education from the Chinese Embassy  
Li Hong and his wife Meng Lu



Clair Beardson and the Executive Director of  
Oxford Analytica Jens Tholstrup



COSF UK Treasurer Iain Goddard and his wife Pam



COSF UK Trustee Sir Stephen Sherbourne with the  
Principal of Somerville College Dr Alice Proschaska  
and her husband Dr Frank Proschaska



Benefactor Araceli Keelan with COSF Scholars Sophie Feifei Deng, Haidong Shan, Weina Guo and Yimin Wu



Beijing Cmte Chairman Grace Cheng, Meng Lu, Gill and Peter Sunderland and Li Hong



Felicity Tholstrup and Verne Grinstead



Lord Moyne, Li Hong, Grace Cheng, Meng Lu and Tom Caplan



Gorden Yixiao Zhang, Prof. Richard Tur and Shuo Xu



Prof. Derek Siveter with his wife Anita



Charles Spalding and Jens Tholstrup



Bolton Ka Hung Chau and Helen Qian Zhou



Wolfson College President Prof. Hermione Lee addressing the luncheon guests



The guests enjoying the various speeches made during the luncheon



Rashid Ahmad Arshad, Dr Daud Chou and Dyan Sterling



Yuge Ma and Prof. Richard Tur



Grace Cheng, Yu Tao, Fangzhe Qiu and Araceli Keelan



Yu Tao and Dr Frank Proschaska



Eunice Sum Yau Ng and Cathy Zhou



Dr Diana Briggs, Revd Canon Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff and Prof. Andrew Briggs

## Scholar Yu Tao's Luncheon Address

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to address you here. First of all, on behalf of myself and all the other China Oxford Scholarship winners, I would like to sincerely thank our hosts today – Mr. and Mrs. Beardson – for organizing such a wonderful event and for all their very energetic support for the COSF community since the Fund was founded in 1992. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank people who have directly engaged with the current China Oxford Scholarship winners in the last few months, including Mrs. Araceli Keelan, Ms Susan Yu and many others. My deepest gratitude also goes to all the donors, trustees, staff and supporters of the COSF community – without your generous gifts of your precious time, money and energy, many of us would never be able to study in the oldest university in the English-speaking world; and without your kind, selfless and constant help and support, the COSF community would never be flourishing as we are now.



I am currently reading for a DPhil in Politics, and my research aims to explain how the local government structure in rural China influences the development of civil society. However, the question I have been asked most frequently since I first came to Britain almost three years ago is neither about local government structure nor civil society, but the reason why, as a Chinese citizen, I decided to study contemporary China in Oxford, a university thousands of miles away from the villages I am studying. In the way in which most local governments and civil society groups usually do on their websites, I have created a series of answers to this FAQ and prepared special versions of the answer for different people. If I were asked by my supervisor and her colleagues in the politics department, I would say that with its strong and prestigious academic traditions in the field of China Studies, Oxford can provide me with an unparalleled comprehensive training that is everything a young Chinese social scientist needs, no matter whether you consider methodology, theory or the academic discipline of conducting good research. If I were asked by my friends in Merton College, I would say that Oxford provides me with an extraordinary atmosphere to practise and improve my English, which is not only a universal academic language but also a bridge that enables me to make friends with people from all over the world. If I were asked by my parents and relatives, I would say that studying in Oxford allows me a better start in my career and gives me many more opportunities to choose a life that meets both my interests and the social responsibilities that I hope to shoulder in future.

These, ladies and gentlemen, were the reasons that brought me to Oxford and they have all been proven very true in the past few months. Today, however, I am going to share with you the two most important lessons that I have learnt from my experience in Oxford. On the one hand, studying

in Oxford makes me understand that different people may have different answers to the same question; and despite such differences, all answers can be equally appropriate and magnificent. For many years I was educated in a culture that puts a lot of emphasis on 'standard answers'; therefore, for a very long period I believed that there was only one best solution to every problem in the world. But my observations and experiences in Oxford have made me realize how wrong I was. If all Oxford colleges function equally well despite their Head of House being called Master, President, Principal or Warden, and if many Oxford students are excellent despite their highly heterogeneous racial, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, one cannot deny the fact that dissimilar people can cooperate and should cooperate with one another. On the other hand, studying in Oxford has also made me realize that different people may have the same or very similar answers to certain questions, despite their highly diverse backgrounds. Logic is applicable to different countries and the same values can be appreciated by different cultures. If you work hard, you are more likely to be successful; if you are kind to other people, you are more likely to be kindly treated; and I dare say, ladies and gentlemen, if you enjoy the British breakfast and desserts as much as I do, it is very likely that your weight will never suffer a recession. Similarly, if a government is open, transparent and effective, it is more likely to be appreciated; if a society is fair, tolerant and pluralistic, it is more likely to be stable; and if both the state and the society are cooperative, creative and progressive, the state-society relation is more likely to be harmonious. And if we invest our energy, time and resources in promoting these commonly-acknowledged values, it is very likely that more people will enjoy better lives.

Ladies and gentlemen, although today I am mainly talking about my own understanding and thoughts of my Oxford experience in the past few months, I hope and believe that many of my friends who are from China and now studying in Britain agree with me. And on behalf of myself and my friends, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all those people who make our study in Oxford possible. Thanks to your generous support, as Bill Clinton said, "Most of us who came here as scholars have been enriched, enlarged and changed"; and without your constant support, we could hardly "live the life of our dreams".

Last but certainly not least, I hope more people and organisations will join the China Oxford Scholarship scheme to keep on supporting excellent Chinese graduates to continue their study and research in Oxford. I pledge that the appreciation of your very kind help will forever drive all of us who have benefitted to make more contributions in and beyond the field of academia; and from now on, as long as we can, we shall always give a hand to those people who need help - just as you have done for us.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

*Yu Tao is at Merton College. He is a 2010-2011 £5,000 China Oxford Award recipient. Yu earned his MPhil in Sociology at the University of Cambridge. He is a graduate of Peking University where he was awarded First Honours for both his Bachelor of Law degree in Sociology and Bachelor of Management degree in Politics and Public Administration.*

## COSF Scholar's Letter from Denmark



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The China Oxford Scholarship Fund is delighted to feature its latest Scholars' update with a letter from COSF Scholar Wai Kit Chu. He is in Denmark where he is currently furthering his work in cancer research at the University of Copenhagen. His colleagues in his research group from Oxford are shown in the above photo. They are (left to right) Professor Ying Liu, Sara Bursomanno, Dr Jacqueline Enzlin, Professor Ian Hickson FRS and Dr Susanne Germann. Wai Kit's letter is featured on the following page. If you are a COSF Scholar, we would like to hear from you. Do contact us at [uk@chinaoxford.org](mailto:uk@chinaoxford.org).



Dear COSF friends and supporters,

I was a China Oxford Scholar in 2007. After finishing my DPhil study in Medical Oncology last year, I took the chance to move with my group to the University of Copenhagen. You can imagine the hassles we had for tidying up more than 20 years of research materials. But actually it has been an invaluable experience for me to learn the logistics and setting up new routines for daily lab running. You will be amazed how much work was involved in packing a giant  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  freezer and bringing it to Denmark!

Now I am doing a post-doctorate in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine under the supervision of Professor Ian Hickson, FRS. I focus on genome stability and DNA repair which led to a publication last year that reported the roles of a DNA helicase called BLM in repairing DNA breaks. We know that there are two complementary strands in DNA. To get access to the genetic material as well as using the genetic material for repairing, these two DNA strands have to be separated. Helicase is an enzyme to unwind the DNA strands. As our genome is a complex genetic database which is susceptible to various damage, obviously one single helicase is not enough to protect the whole database. Therefore I have shifted my focus to another helicase called FBH1. Apart from unwinding the DNA strands, FBH1 can also modify other proteins by adding a small amino acid chain called Ubiquitin. The attachment of Ubiquitin could affect the functions of target proteins which may implicate in the DNA repair. I am collaborating with different experts in Copenhagen to understand the roles of FBH1 in genome stability.

Hopefully I can get some fruitful results in the near future. After that, I aim to move back to Hong Kong to continue my research. There will be lots of changes in higher education in Hong Kong next year. I hope my knowledge will contribute to Hong Kong's ability to face these challenges. Maybe I can take advantage of my experience in setting up new labs in a new country again. Lastly, apart from the lab life, I am also learning Danish. I have just passed my Danish level 1 exam!

Kærlig hilsen (Sincerely),

Wai-kit Chu

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# Support COSF

China produces more than six million university graduates every year yet only a small number are able to pursue postgraduate studies abroad.

We believe that with your help, COSF can make a difference for the growing number of Chinese students hoping to pursue their graduate studies at the University of Oxford.

COSF enables China's brightest students to explore - as China Oxford Scholars - new frontiers by developing a deeper understanding of the world and its challenges in the 21st century and beyond.

To make a donation or for further information, please contact us.

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