



China Oxford Scholarship Fund

COSF Awards for 2013

Autumn 2013
www.chinaoxford.org



(L-R) Hong Kong Awards Panel members Jennifer Ma, Daniel Sakellariou, Sue Lau, Annie Bentley, Prof. Paul Tam, William Louey and Betty Shan Huang

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The China Oxford Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that fifteen scholarships have been awarded for the 2013-2014 academic year with total funding amounting to £98,000. The Fund saw an eighteen per cent increase in the number of applications received this year compared with the previous two years. 133 applications were received for 2013 with an unprecedented forty-two per cent of these applications lodged by students who were already studying in the United Kingdom or abroad.

Hong Kong Trustees Sue Lau and Annie Bentley chaired the Awards Panel which held interviews in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Oxford. Seventeen Awards Panel members and invited observers were involved in interviewing nearly 40 shortlisted students in the four locations. For more on the awards and the scholarship recipients, go to pages 3–5.



International Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends,

- It is always a great pleasure at this time of the year to learn which students have won scholarships. As the numbers suggest, the application process is becoming more competitive which makes the work for the Awards Panel even more challenging. On this note, I would like to thank Sue and Annie for leading the 2013 process and all the Panel members who were involved in this year's awards.
- This year we have seen the introduction of four new awards. The Fund is grateful to the B&J Lloyd Family Trust, Mr Oscar Chow, the Garfield Weston Foundation and Oxford University Press for supporting our educational initiative by making these additional scholarships possible for the 2013-2014 academic year.
- It is gratifying to see the new intake of Scholars being welcomed informally by friends and supporters of the Fund with a traditional afternoon tea gathering. It certainly is a good way to start off the Michaelmas term.
- It is interesting to learn about the work of Oxford academics such as Prof. Joshua Silver and their involvement in China. I look forward to reading more about other meaningful collaboration involving Oxford and China.
- Lastly, on behalf of the Trustees in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong, I am delighted to welcome back Sir Edward Garnier QC MP to the China Oxford Scholarship Fund.

Timothy Beardson
International Chairman



2013 COSF Scholars



Siqing Li is the first recipient of the £19,000 **Weston Scholarship** in Politics, Law, Economics or Finance. Siqing is pursuing an MJur in Law and is attending St Hugh's College. She is a graduate of the Chinese University of Political Science and Law in Beijing where she earned top honours. Siqing has valuable work experience with major international law firms in Beijing and was an intern with China's Supreme Court.



Xinkun Ren is the recipient of the £15,000 **Tang Oxford Award**. He is a second year DPhil student who is reading Inorganic Chemistry. His research involves the identification of different reactions of materials to enzymes to improve the efficiency of drugs. Xinkun is attending St Peter's College. He received his BSc degree from Nanjing University.



Qiong Lu is the recipient of the £12,500 **Wolfson China Scholarship**. She is a second year DPhil student reading Geography and the Environment. Qiong is attending Wolfson College. Her research work involves water quality and management. She is passionate about playing a role in reversing China's environmental problems. Qiong earned her Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from Shanghai University. She attended the University of Bristol where she earned her MSc in Environment.



Haiming Li is the recipient of the £12,500 **Wolfson China Scholarship**. He is a second year DPhil student at Oxford's Organic Chemistry Department and is also attending Wolfson College. His research area includes carbene chemistry and polymers and their impact on medical hygiene and bacterial infections. Haiming earned his Bachelor's Degree in Polymer Science and Engineering at the Beijing University of Chemical Technology. He was also one of 12 students who secured a place on the year-long Loughborough University - China Material Programme.



Kang Ai is the recipient of the £5,000 **Oxford China Simon Li Scholarship** in Education, Languages or Social Science of the Internet. Kang is reading for an MSc in Social Science of the Internet and is attending Keble College. He is a graduate of Tsinghua University in Beijing where he earned his BA degree in Media Studies. He has participated in several student exchange programmes in media, journalism and architecture at the University of Sydney, the Salzburg Academy on Media and Global Change and the Free University of Berlin. He has worked as a journalist and editor for China National Radio and the Qinhuangdao Daily.



Yishu Miao is the recipient of the £5,000 **Magdalen Award**. Yishu is reading for a DPhil in Computer Science and is attending St Hugh's College. He graduated from the Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications with a BSc in Software Engineering. Yishu earned his Master's degree in Software Engineering at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He was awarded a number of scholarships as an undergraduate and is a long-time volunteer for non-government organisations in China such as the Compassion for Migrant Children. In 2012, he was named as one of the top 12 volunteers at Tsinghua University.



Ellen Hei Man Pang is the recipient of the £4,000 **Wei Oxford Award**. She is pursuing a BCL degree and is attending Worcester College. Ellen graduated from Peking University with an LLB degree. Her undergraduate studies were fully funded by the China Resources Company Scholarship. Ellen spent two years working for a mainland Chinese law firm before starting her studies at the University of Hong Kong where she earned her JD degree.



Xianzhao Yuan is the recipient of the £3,000 **Hoare Family Award**. He is pursuing an MSc degree in Applied Statistics and is attending Keble College. Xianzhao is a graduate of the Xi'an Jiaotong - Liverpool University (XJTLU) which is an independent university based in Suzhou, China. The University is a partnership between the University of Liverpool and Xi'an Jiaotong University. Mr Yuan spent the last two years of his undergraduate studies at the University of Liverpool where he earned his BSc in Mathematics and Finance with first class honours.



Kun Liu is the recipient of the £3,000 **Winkler Oxford Award** in Medicine or Psychology. He is reading for a DPhil in Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics. Kun is attending Merton College. He earned his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at the Tongji Medical College of the Huazhong University of Science and Technology. He pursued an MPhil Degree in Pharmacology at the University of Cambridge. Kun spent a year conducting research as a student in cardiovascular medicine at King's College in London before starting his studies at Oxford.



Shijian Li is the recipient of a £5,000 **China Oxford Award**. He is reading for an MSc degree in Computer Science and is attending Green Templeton College. Shijian graduated from the Shanghai Jiao Tong University with a BSc in Computer Science and Technology. He has been awarded a number of scholarships during his undergraduate studies and has dedicated much of his time to volunteer work for numerous community organisations and international events.



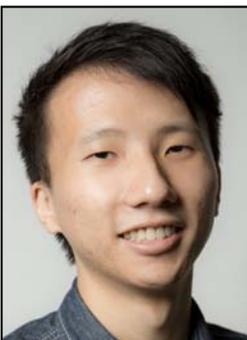
Zhongwen Zhang received a £5,000 **China Oxford Award**. He is reading for an MSc degree in Modern Chinese Studies and is attending St Cross College. Zhongwen earned his BA degree in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Study at the Tianjin Foreign Studies University. He went on to attend Edinburgh University where he pursued an MSc degree in African Studies. Zhongwen conducted fieldwork in Zambia where he observed China's presence and influence in the nation. His interests include studying the youth development sector in China and Africa.



Cheng Li received a £5,000 **China Oxford Award**. She is reading for an MSc in Financial Economics at the Saïd Business School. Cheng is attending Linacre College. She graduated from the University of Hong Kong where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance. She also attended a special "foundation year" programme at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University where she studied economics. Cheng would like to work as a portfolio manager for an Asian hedge fund and gain international investment experience before ultimately working for a Chinese international investment group.



Xiang Liu is the recipient of a special £2,000 **China Oxford Award** in Engineering or Computer Science. The Award is sponsored by the B&J Lloyd Family Trust. Xiang is a second year DPhil student reading in Engineering Science. He is attending Jesus College. Xiang graduated with first class honours from the University of Birmingham where he earned his Bachelor of Engineering degree. As part of the parallel programme between the University of Birmingham and the Harbin Institute of Technology, Xiang also earned a Bachelor's degree in Opto-electronic Information Engineering from the Harbin Institute of Technology.



James Kin-Sing Chan is the recipient of a £1,000 **Honorary China Oxford Award**. James is reading for a Master in Public Policy (MPP) at the Blavatnik School of Government. He is attending St Peter's College. James graduated from the University of Hong Kong where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Journalism. As part of an exchange programme, he also attended the Danish School of Media and Journalism in Denmark. James help found We Care, a non-government organisation in Hong Kong which provides assistance to various ethnic groups in the territory. He was also the group's communication officer.



Xiaohang Pan is the recipient of a £1,000 **Honorary China Oxford Award**. Xiaohang is reading for an MSc in Financial Economics at the Saïd Business School. She is attending Green Templeton College. She attended the University of Toronto where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Commerce. Xiaohang was awarded for three consecutive years the Distinguished Academic Performance Scholarship during her undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto.

Autumn Welcome



Before ploughing ahead with their studies, the new group of China Oxford Scholars had the opportunity to enjoy afternoon tea in Oxford. The informal autumn gathering took place on October 4th and was organised by Mrs Araceli Keelan. The students got together at the home of Mrs Felicity Tholstrup who kindly hosted the event. China Oxford Scholar Feifei Deng, who was a Tang Oxford Award recipient for two consecutive years in 2010 and 2011, was also on hand to welcome the new Scholars. Thank you to Araceli and Felicity for organising this welcome party for the new intake of Scholars.

欢迎



The Fund is delighted to welcome back Sir Edward Garnier QC MP to the Board of Trustees in the United Kingdom. Sir Edward re-joined the Board this past July. He served as a COSF Trustee from 2006 to 2010. He was formerly the Solicitor General for the British Government from 2010 to 2012. He first joined the House of Commons as a Member of Parliament in 1992. Sir Edward is a Conservative MP representing the Harborough Constituency. He attended Jesus College at Oxford.

China Vision in Focus



Did you know that about 6 million children in China have poor vision because they don't have access to spectacles to correct their eyesight? It's a major health problem in which myopia is the most common form of refractive error. According to the British Medical Journal, myopia or short-sightedness has a prevalence of about 10 to 30 percent in most Western countries while in Asia the figure can be as high as 80 percent. And in rural China, school children were found to have a very small chance to have their refractive error corrected compared with those in urban areas due to the lack of available and affordable eye care. But a University of Oxford professor hopes to change that with his revolutionary invention. Prof. Joshua Silver is an atomic physicist who invented Adspecs, the world's first self-adjustable spectacles. The lenses are filled with fluid that can be adjusted with syringes so that the wearer can manipulate the lens power required to see clearly. Prof. Silver and his colleagues in China carried out a clinical trial of 648 school children from the ages of 12 to 18 in rural areas of Shantou and Guangdong. It was revealed that 96



percent of the children had poor vision in at least one eye and that they could achieve excellent vision with the adjustable Adspecs. Now, Prof. Silver has produced a version specifically for children which will be clinically tested in China, India and Indonesia.

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The China Oxford Scholarship Fund talks to Prof. Silver about his self-adjustable lenses which he started to develop in 1985. He tells us about the impact his work is having on China and other developing countries. He established the Centre for Vision in the Developing World which aims to provide adaptive corrective spectacles to those who need them the most for just a £1. At the Healthcare Innovation Expo in 2011, his invention was described as the “Idea most likely to make the biggest impact on healthcare by 2020”.

How did you come up with the idea of having self-adjustable lenses? Way back I remember when I was a little boy, I made a variable focus mirror. I took a frame and stuck some aluminium foil on this frame and had the means to pump the frame out. I was fascinated to see that you could make a mirror change the magnification so that was in my background going back to when I was about ten years old. Anyhow that was in the background. I wrote a paper on atomic physics where there was a phrase that said that in the absence of a variable power for a variable focus lens, we must use a combination. A friend asked me later if it was possible to make a variable focus lens. My initial response was “no” but then later I thought about it and said “yes,”.

What was it like developing the prototype? Basically you had thin plastic sheets and you clamped the whole thing together and the action of clamping seals and stretching the membrane. This was an important step in the evolution of the variable focus lens because when you filled it with water and looked through it, and change the amount of water in there, you will find that you could change the power and it was a crucial step forward. When I looked into the distance and changed the power, I could very accurately correct my short sight or myopia.

What happened next? It got me thinking. I could make a lens for pennies and I could then correct my vision without the need for any professional. As I am an experimental scientist, I had some research ideas. Number one, if I can correct my vision, can other people do it and how well can they do it. Another question was just how many people in the world needed vision correction.

So how many people need them? I contacted the World Health Organisation (WHO) back in 1994 and I discovered that back then, the world population was about 5 billion, and according to a 1985 to 1987 study, the WHO were aware that there were about a billion people who needed glasses to see clearly and that included also about 10 per cent of all schoolchildren.

When did you have your first trial to see if the adjustable glasses actually worked? In early 1996, we produced four fluid-filled-powered lenses that you could connect with syringes and you could pump the fluid in and out to change the power. They were taken to Africa and we ran a small trial paid for by the British Government to see if this approach would work. The results were encouraging and later written up for publication.

What do you remember the most from that first small field trial? There was a gentleman named Henry Adjei-Mensah who was the first man to wear these glasses in Ghana. Henry was trying them on for the first time. He was a very charming young man who was 35-years-old and became presbyopic which means he couldn't focus close-up. He was the tailor in his village and so he couldn't really work anymore. He put them on and then he beamed and started working.

How many of these spectacles were distributed? In Ghana about 11,000 were handed out and then I got a call from a US marine who said he was involved with a humanitarian programme handing out spectacles. He learned about my glasses and got in touch and asked if we could supply the glasses to the US Government for its various humanitarian assistance programmes so about 40,000 were distributed in that way over the years in 20 countries to effectively provide instant on-the-spot vision correction. Those glasses had an American flag on it saying it was "From the American People".

What is the situation like today? It's actually over two billion people in this world who need vision correction and don't have it. Now you need to make glasses for about \$1 US dollar that work well and you need to make at least a billion of them so that's a real challenge but just how do you do that?

How did the idea of vision correction for children come about? There was a meeting on child vision in Oxford in 2007. That meeting decided to see whether myopic short-sighted teenagers could use this approach to make their own eye glasses. Research suggests there are over 100 million teenagers who are sufficiently myopic around the world that they can't see a blackboard in the class so this becomes a bar to their education. We decided carry out research in rural China and in an inner-city area in Boston in America.

Why was the Centre for Vision in the Developing World created? The idea there is to effectively continue this work and to do what we can to bring vision correction to billions of people who need it by 2020. That's the big goal.

You can learn more about Prof. Silver's work and the Centre for Vision in the Developing World by going to www.cvdw.org



China produces more than seven 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.

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