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China Oxford Scholarship Fund

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Oxford University Chancellor on China and Beyond



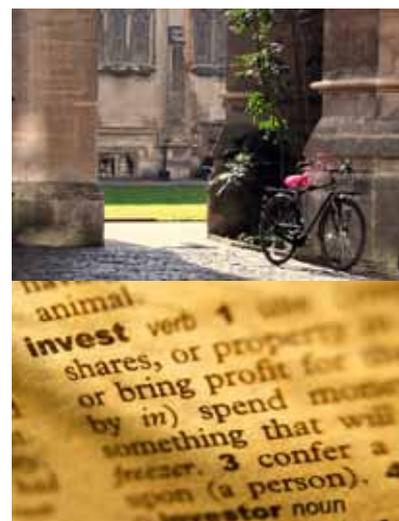
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(L-R) Oxford University's Chancellor Lord Patten with COSF scholars

Liu Suyu, Wu Yimin and Zhu Jiwen

Oxford University's Chancellor the Rt Hon the Lord Patten of Barnes, CH, PC, addressed nearly 300 Chinese students at **Magdalen College** on the 9th February. The evening programme took place on the last day of the Chinese New Year celebrations. COSF scholars were on hand to hear his views on the relationship between the University and China. Lord Patten also spoke about the importance of collaboration between Oxford and China and how the University must maintain its leading role in global research and teaching. He said this would be essential for Oxford to compete with Cambridge and top institutions in the US. He also touched on the strategic relationships between the United Kingdom, the European Union and China as the latter's importance on the world's economic and political stage grows steadily. But the evening was not all about politics and education as Lord Patten turned his address into an intimate affair by speaking about his humble upbringings and gave an unexpected tip to those thinking about entering politics. The event was organised by the **Oxford University Chinese Scholars and Students Association** or **OXCSSA**. For more on Lord Patten's talk, please refer to page 10.



Special Points of Interest

- *Partnerships with the Fund*
- *Parliamentary Images*
- *HK Talk at Exeter*

International Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends,

- The House of Commons Chinese New Year lunch was a happy and successful occasion with a large number of guests from business such as HSBC, Freshfields, Ashurst and The Financial Times. The Chinese Embassy and the Hong Kong Government were represented. Benefactors were there including Mr and Mrs Pierre Winkler, Sharen Tang and the Wolfson Foundation. Once again, COSF is grateful for the support of Parliament's All Party Parliamentary China Group and its Vice Chairman Tony Baldry MP who made this event possible.
- The Awards Panel, under the Chairmanship of Rupert McCowan, has started its annual cycle. I am pleased to report that Professor Derek Siveter has kindly agreed to participate in the selection process in Britain. He is one of the most noted Oxford academics conducting work in China. He will take over from Alistair Borthwick, Deputy Head of the Engineering Department, for whose tremendous efforts the Fund is most grateful. Applications have already started to come in. There will be interviews in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Oxford.
- In the past few months we have received repeat donations from supporters in the United States, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. These contributions make a big difference in helping to increase the award amounts for COSF awards. I hope the momentum will continue. If you would like to support COSF, donation and tax relief information are available on our website.
- I am pleased that the Fund continues to attract the attention of various China-oriented societies and organisations. At Oxford University, it is especially rewarding to know that COSF scholars are leading and organising some of the China-oriented activities.
- Networking opportunities abound for our scholars as the Fund has been approached to partner events in China and Hong Kong. For instance, the Said Business School's Asia Pacific TREK campaign in spring offers Oxford MBA students and COSF scholars to engage in interactive informal professional exchanges in Shanghai and Hong Kong. The Fund appreciates being presented with these collaborative opportunities and hopes they will continue.



Timothy Beardson
International Chairman

Awards Panel Update



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The Fund is pleased to announce that Oxford University's **Prof. Derek Siveter** has joined COSF's **Awards Panel** for 2009. Prof. Siveter will be working alongside UK panel member **Peter Sunderland** in reviewing awards applications and interviewing shortlisted UK-based candidates at **Oxford University**.

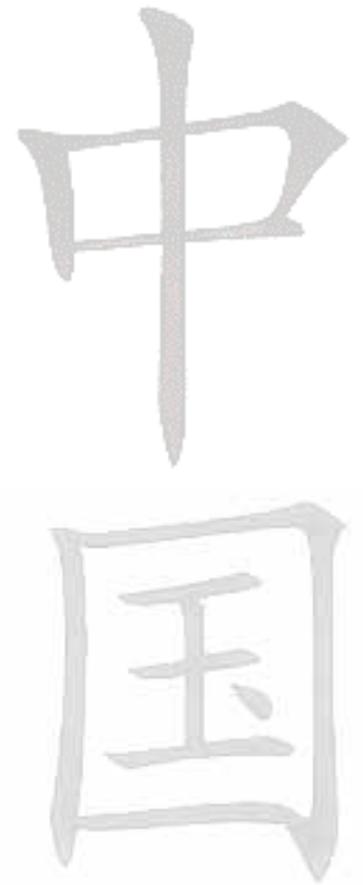
Derek Siveter is a Professor of Earth Sciences and Curator of the geological collections in the **University Museum of Natural History** and the **Department of Earth Sciences**. He gained his BSc and also his PhD, in which he investigated Ordovician to Devonian trilobite arthropods from Northwest Europe, from the University of Leicester. There followed positions at Trinity College Dublin and the University of Hull. For the last twenty years he has been at the University of Oxford. Prof. Siveter has a long-standing connection with China having first visited there in 1986. For more than a decade he has conducted research on the Cambrian fossils of the **Chengjiang** area in **Yunnan**. Some of these fossils are about 525 million years old and are generally regarded as representing the earliest and most complete animal community. He is a leading expert on the new fossil discoveries in Yunnan and has authored numerous publications.



The COSF Awards Panel is chaired by **Rupert McCowan**. The panel includes **Kenneth Fok, Annie Bentley, Sue Lau, William Louey, Wendy Yung, Grace Cheng, Sharon Chan** and **Prof. Paul Tam**.

简介

Shanghai Connections



Oxford University's **Said Business School's 3rd Annual Asia Pacific Business TREK** campaign has been launched this spring. Oxford MBA students who are interested in China are in **Hong Kong** and **Shanghai** until early April to network with Oxford alumni and examine China's business climate. The Fund is pleased to be asked to participate in this campaign which provides networking opportunities for the **Oxford MBA students** and COSF alumni and supporters.



This event is an annual one which aims to enable China-oriented students a platform to develop a strong understanding of business developments in Asia. The campaign also provides present students with professional and personal resources to explore the China and Asian region. Lastly, it is hoped the platform for students will allow them to act as ambassadors for Oxford University, the Said Business School and partner institutions in a highly interactive professional yet informal setting. Through formal presentations and networking sessions, the campaign strives to promote Asia as an attractive professional destination for talented Oxford MBA students.



London Parliamentary Event



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Scholars in Westminster Hall which was built in 1097- 1099 and is the only part of the ancient Palace of Westminster that survives in its original form.

Parliament's **All Party Parliamentary China Group** (APPCG) kindly hosted the 3rd Chinese New Year luncheon event for COSF on the 11th of February. Sixteen COSF scholars were able to attend the **House of Commons** event which began with a 90-minute private tour of the **Palace of Westminster** arranged by APPCG Vice-Chairman **Tony Baldry MP**. A drinks reception took place in the House of Commons terrace which provided stunning views of the Thames. The students had the chance to meet APPCG members, trustees, benefactors and supporters. **Ed Vaizey MP** hosted the luncheon while **Tian Xiaogang**, the Minister for Education from the Chinese Embassy, welcomed the guests and highlighted China's support of COSF's educational initiative. The students chatted with APPCG members **Mark Field MP**, **Paul Farrelly MP**, **Shailesh Vara MP**, **David Curry MP** and **the Rt Hon the Lord Cotter of Congresbury**. Some of the 50 guests included **Tim Jones**, Senior Partner of Freshfields, **Geoffrey Green**, Senior Partner of Ashurst, **John Ridding**, Chief Executive of the Financial Times, **George Robinson**, Chairman of Sloane Robinson Investment Mgmt, **Edmund Tang**, Sr Vice- President of Asia Pacific and Africa for HSBC Group Int'l, **Sarah Wu**, the Director-General of the Hong Kong Economic Trade Office in London, **Suzannah Kwok**, the Vice-President of the London Chinatown Chinese Association, **Diana Beattie**, the Director of Heritage of London Trust, **Elizabeth Kuhnke**, Director of Kuhnke Communications and supporters **Xiaodi Bell** and **Christina Lakin**. The Fund's International Chairman **Timothy Beardson** thanked benefactors **Pierre** and **Yvonne Winkler** of the new Winkler Oxford Award, **Sharen Tang** of the Tang Oxford Award and **Simon Fourmy** of The Wolfson Foundation's Wolfson China Scholarships for their support. COSF Trustees **Rupert Villers**, **Sir Stephen Sherbourne**, **Edward Garnier MP QC** and **Anne Lindsay** were on hand as were the Fund's Legal Advisor **Gina Fairfax**, treasurer **Iain Goddard**, Award Panel members **Peter Sunderland** and **Prof. Derek Siveter** and committee member **Patrick Horgan**. The luncheon was sponsored by **Eric Hotung** and another supporter.



Scholars at the Cromwell Green entrance to Westminster



Westminster Hall



The students at the start of their private tour arranged by APPCG Vice-Chairman Tony Baldry MP



(L-R) Jiang Yan, Hu Rong, Zhu Jiwen, Fung Hon Fai, Fan Wenjie, Ben Teng and ZhaoDongchen.



Xiaodi Bell and Diana Beattie



Peter Sunderland, Gina Fairfax and Prof. Derek Siveter



Elizabeth Kuhnke, Anne Lindsay and Patrick Horgan



Sarah Wu and Chang Quansheng



Timothy Beardson and Tim Jones



Edward Garnier, Edmund Tang and Tam Oi Yan



Diana Beattie, Gina Fairfax and Simon Fourmy



Hank Tong, Suzannah Kwok and Christina Lakin



Tian Xiaogang, Xiaodi Bell and Diana Beattie



Clair Beardson and Sir Stephen Sherbourne



Prof. Derek Siveter, Timothy Beardson and Sharen Tang



Elizabeth Kuhnke, Betty Van and Fan Wenjie



Chang Quansheng, Sarah Wu, Wu Boshen and Lee Siu Yau



Guests in Dining Room A



Ed Vaizey MP welcomes guests to the luncheon



Ben Teng and George Robinson



Tian Xiaogang speaks on behalf of the China's Ambassador to the UK, Her Excellency Madame Fu Ying



Tam Oi Yan and Peter Sunderland



Paul Farrelly MP and Fung Hon Fai



Mark Field MP



Timothy Beardson thanks the APPCG, guests and supporters



Tian Xiaogang and Hu Rong



Xiaodi Bell and Simon Fourmy



Fan Wenjie and Ed Vaizey MP



Zhu Jiwen and the Rt Hon the Lord Cotter



Yiu Chan Hong, Shailesh Vara MP and Peng Chun



Geoffrey Green, Wo Boshen and Suzannah Kwok



Pierre Winkler, Sarah Wu and Gina Fairfax

Evening with the Chancellor Lord Patten



Known for his eloquent and commanding style of address, it was no surprise Lord Patten's hour-long talk captivated the Chinese student audience at Magdalen College's auditorium. While he joked that he was once called the "last colonial oppressor in China" in reference to his time as Hong Kong's last British governor, Lord Patten expressed his long-time respect and appreciation for Chinese culture and civilisation. He added he also admired the nearly 750 Chinese students attending Oxford University as they made up the second largest group of international students at Oxford after the Americans. The Chancellor said it was this Chinese student population that certainly helps the University's international standing.

During his talk, students learned that in 1979, he made his first trip to China as a member of Parliament and travelled to Shenzhen and Shanghai where he delighted in listening to the Peace Hotel jazz band on the Bund. The Chancellor expressed his marvel of how far both cities have come in terms of its growth and China's remarkable transformation in becoming a world power. "Oxford University is a world-class university in a country that is no longer a world power" he said. However, Lord Patten stressed that "while Britain is a middle-ranking nation, it still has global reach in terms of culture and diplomacy but no longer shaped global destinies".

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It is China, he said, that will play an increasing role in helping the world tackle the modern day challenges in economics, the environment and politics. “China will be shaping influence in countries going forward due to its size, aggregate intelligence, culture and economic strength” he noted.

Lord Patten indicated the US and China must engage in a collaborative relationship to help the world meet its increasing global challenges ranging from the current economic turmoil, tackling terrorism, environmental problems and the dark side of globalisation such as human trafficking and the diseases such as SARS and HIV. “I can’t think of a single issue that can be solved without China’s involvement” Lord Patten said. On Oxford University’s involvement with China, the Chancellor proudly highlighted the University’s pre-eminence on the study of China with its more than 40 academics covering all aspects of the country. He added the network of these academics has become a hallmark especially with the University’s establishment last year of its virtual China Centre. “There are two University projects in China I am particularly interested in and that is the Kadoorie Project that researches and tracks the health of half a million people in China over a period of 10 to 15 years and the University’s work on siltation and water issues in the Yellow River carried out by Professor Alistair Borthwick” said the Chancellor. While collaboration with China in the area of science is strong, Lord Patten noted it was generally more challenging for institutions to cultivate an academic partnership in the social sciences arena since this sector can be open to interpretation and could have political undertones. However, the Chancellor said China has been increasingly successful and transparent in dealing and working with delicate issues such as the environment. “For China to be more involved, you have to give it more say and face” he said.

At the end of his talk, a lively question and answer session took place in which students were able to ask his views on China’s increasing involvement in Africa to Oxford University’s challenges in staying competitive in funding scholarships and attracting the top students internationally. “Since the 17th century, Oxford University has had a relationship with China and I hope you will be part of this important story” Lord Patten told the 300-strong student audience. “With more than 1600 Oxford alumni in China, I hope this number will grow steadily in the next ten years. Since I am elected for life and I will be around and probably be a lot larger than what you see now, I hope there will be thousands more alumni in the years to come in China and that you can all play a role in that along with helping China meet global challenges” he said. And when asked what kind of advice he would give to those wanting to enter politics, Lord Patten replied “Don’t do what I did. A lot has to be said for having another career first”.



HK Economics at Exeter



The **Director-General** of the **Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office** in London was the guest speaker at an evening address at **Exeter College** on the 2nd of March. **Sarah Wu** is a senior representative of the Hong Kong Government and is charged with leading the development of Hong Kong's economic and business partnership across Britain and eight other European nations. During her hour and half-long talk organised by the **Oxford University Asia Pacific Society**, she expanded on Hong Kong's latest developments and its relationship with Britain as well as with mainland China. She also outlined to the nearly two dozen students present about the challenges and opportunities Hong Kong is facing given the present global economic turmoil and the promotion of the city as China's New York City in the 21st century. After the talk, Ms. Wu and the audience were able to enjoy an interactive discussion.



Sarah Wu

"I am sure that all attendees have benefited a tremendous amount from Ms. Wu with regard to the current situation and future outlook of the Greater China Region. We expect to continue our cooperation with the Economic and Trade Office in London in order to bring more prominent speakers from Asia to Oxford." said **Vincent Chan Hong Yiu**, COSF scholar and Director of the Society's Speaker Event Committee.

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Patron

The Rt Hon the Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven LG OM FRS

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