



# China Oxford Scholarship Fund

## Farewell to COSF's First Patron Baroness Thatcher 1925—2013

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[www.chinaoxford.org](http://www.chinaoxford.org)



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The China Oxford Scholarship Fund (COSF) is saddened by the death of its first Patron, Baroness Margaret Thatcher, who passed away peacefully on April 8 in London. The former British Prime Minister inspired the Fund to develop and strengthen its ties with China's institutions of higher education while reminding it that it had great potential to bridge both educational and cultural understanding between the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China. "I believe that the Fund is an exciting new initiative and that with the greater exchange of ideas, the pace of progress in China will continue to grow," Baroness Thatcher said when she became the China Oxford Scholarship Fund's first Patron when the Fund was established in the United Kingdom in 2004. We will dearly miss her inspiring vision and faith in the Fund's work in China and Great Britain.

COSF is determined to keep her legacy alive by working with even more passion to grow our scholarship funds so that more postgraduate students from China will be able to receive our support with their studies at the University of Oxford.



# International Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends,

- The China Oxford Scholarship Fund is saddened by the death of Baroness Thatcher. It has been an honour to have her as our Patron. In keeping with her spirit of cultivating strong ties between Britain and China on all fronts, I hope that the Fund will fulfil her vision that our educational initiative will make a difference in the 21st century and beyond.
- It is exciting to have a new partner join the COSF scholarship programme. I look forward to welcoming Oxford University Press's first Oxford China Simon Li Scholar to the COSF community of Scholars in the next academic year.
- It is wonderful to know that the COSF Scholars and alumni are keeping us abreast with developments in their academic and professional work. I hope that more Scholars will get in touch with us so that we can share all the exciting news with our friends and supporters around the world.
- It is promising to know that Chinese and European exchanges are taking place in terms of working together to combat carbon emissions and to plan for eco-friendly construction and development in cities across China. I hope that future events such as the China-Europe 2020 Conference on Climate Change will gain momentum.
- I am pleased to know that COSF's stewardship of its scholarships remains on track with Scholars continuing to have the opportunity to meet their sponsors and to let them know how they are progressing with their academic work at Oxford. I hope there will be more opportunities for our COSF Scholars in the future.
- It is very satisfying to learn that existing COSF Scholars at Oxford are taking the lead in organising events to welcome their new fellow Scholars in Oxford. I hope that more Scholars will take this initiative.

Timothy Beardson  
International Chairman





# Oxford China Simon Li Scholarship



The China Oxford Scholarship Fund is pleased to inform its friends and supporters that a new scholarship will be available starting this upcoming 2013 – 2014 academic year. The Oxford China Simon Li Scholarship was created with Oxford University Press (OUP) in memory of its late Regional Director for China, Simon Li. Li was with OUP for 22 years and was known for his major contributions in the education and publishing sectors in Hong Kong and China. It was during his tenure as the China Director that Oxford University Press saw enormous growth in these areas in Greater China.

The Oxford China Simon Li Scholarship is for £5,000 for one academic year and preference will be given to graduate students who are studying in the areas of education, language, communications or the internet at the University of Oxford.

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford and is the world's largest university press. It was established in 1478 and has an impressive history of furthering the objectives of the University of Oxford's aim for excellence in research, scholarship and education by publishing high quality multi-disciplinary books at every educational level.

OUP's subsidiary China Department was established in Hong Kong in 1961.

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## Letters from Scholars



Hi everyone. My name is Haidong Shan. I am from Shanghai and I did my DPhil in Ophthalmology at Oxford University. I was at Merton College. I am thankful to the China Oxford Scholarship Fund, particularly to Mr and Dr Peter Winkler, for the Winkler Oxford Award which made my research at Oxford possible.



The scholarship was not only a great financial assistance to me but a most inspiring award that had made a huge difference in my Oxford life. I had been working with Professor Robert MacLaren at the Nuffield Laboratory of Ophthalmology since 2009. My project is to develop neuro-protective gene therapy for the age-related macular degeneration. This is the main cause of blindness worldwide. The academic training was wonderful at Oxford. This has been extremely helpful for my clinician scientist career and in it turn will benefit the local patients in China. Late last year, I was awarded the China National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scientists. This has allowed me to continue my research back in China at Fudan University in Shanghai.

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## Letters from Scholars



Hello to friends of COSF. My name is Yu Tao and I am reading for a DPhil in Politics. I am attending St Antony's College. Last year, I spent more than 8 months in China interviewing local cadres and leaders of religious groups. As a major part of my doctoral project, this fieldwork was done with the hope that I would be able to identify the characteristics which determine a religious group's behaviour in the face of social unrest. The county I was staying was frequently described as "China's Jerusalem". Its richness and variety of religious groups allow me to conduct comparative case studies. It took me a considerable amount of time and energy to get familiar with local knowledge and to build a trust relationship with my interviewees, and my initial hypotheses were seriously challenged by the facts in the field. Fortunately, my time and endeavour was eventually paid off when a new explanatory framework emerged from the case studies at the end of my fieldwork. Having stayed in the remote county for a long period, I really missed the friends and libraries in Oxford. But I really enjoyed what I was doing, and I knew that this whole field experience represented one step closer to earning my DPhil degree.



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# New HK Chinese Cultural Studies Centre



Oi Ling Chiang is an unassuming and soft-spoken person. But when you ask her about the importance of China's ancient and 20th century manuscripts covering history, art and archaeology, she can hardly contain her enthusiasm. "I am very passionate about promoting Chinese culture. I believe anyone who has a chance to be exposed to the ancient Chinese civilization and culture would be profoundly touched by its ren-yi ideology, its refinement and elegance. China has gone through great political turmoil and wars in the last few centuries. Many young Chinese have not been exposed to the greatness of their culture and civilization. Poverty, corruption, political agendas, greed and many other horrible events have caused many Chinese to have lost confidence in their own culture", said Chiang.

Just last March, Chiang launched the Chinese Cultural Studies Centre which is located on Lyndhurst Terrace in Central Hong Kong. The Centre is a library which is home to an enviable and vast collection of research materials and rare manuscripts. Amongst this collection are significant academic journals and works by renowned sinologists of the early 20th century. "Ancient books and manuscripts are sacred as they are the gateways connecting us to our ancestors and their thoughts and philosophies. Ancient Chinese books and manuscripts are more so as the physical form of the book itself embodies two important inventions - paper and printing. These are the physical manifestations of accumulated human wisdom and knowledge", said Chiang.

To complement the library, a collection of important rubbings from the Qing dynasty is on display as well as a number of antiquities to round-off this unique centre which Chiang hopes will provide vital research material for academics and scholars alike. She plans to work with local Hong Kong schools with the aim of exposing children to the ancient art, history and culture of China. For those interested in Sino-Japan relations during the Qing dynasty, the Chinese Cultural Studies Centre also features a rare collection of correspondence between important political figures in China and Japan. In addition, academic exchanges between Japanese and Chinese scholars are available. Chiang hopes that the Centre will inspire both interest and scholarship of the different aspects of China's heritage. Last autumn, Chiang was able to publish a book on some of the ancient Chinese manuscripts which were featured in a special exhibition at her Oi Ling Antiques Gallery.

For more information on the Chinese Cultural Studies Centre, go to [www.oilingantiques.com](http://www.oilingantiques.com)

# China - Europe 2020 Conference



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It's a European Union partnership that aims to engage various levels of society in China to help foster low carbon sustainable future. British businesses and academics are hoping to play a major role in this cooperation with their counterparts in China in exchanging opportunities on research, investments, trade and development. These were discussed at the China-Europe 2020 Conference on Climate Change which took place on April 17 at the NEC in Birmingham.

"Organisations like the UK Trade & Investment, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the China-Britain Business Council and the England-China Business Forum are all organisations that are assisting the China-Europe 2020 Initiative. The Climate Change Initiative provides a partnership platform to help, promote and implement the EU-China Partnership on Urbanisation that was established in Brussels in March 2012," said Tony McNally, the Managing Director of Climate Change Solutions.

The Minister Councillor for Science and Technology from the Chinese Embassy in the United Kingdom, Chen Futao, was on hand to brief delegates on China's programme on environmental and developmental sustainability. Chinese companies based in the United Kingdom were also on hand to talk about their products and strategies while the Chief Executive of Coventry City Council, Dr Martin Reeves, was able to show delegates the Council's leadership action plan that incorporated low carbon measures throughout Coventry. Chinese academics presented their research on the challenges facing urbanisation throughout China.

Dr Xi Liang of the China Low Carbon Energy Action Network Association spoke about the feasibility of carbon waste disposal technology in China while Prof. Colin Snape of the University of Nottingham expanded on efficient fossil energy technologies. "The major challenge for engagement is understanding the opportunity and benefit, as well as addressing some of the barriers of distance, language, culture, business practices. While there are no quick-win solutions, the rewards can be great with clearly defined projects. There's a long history of trade and other engagement between Britain and China which has dramatically increased in the past twenty years. There are hundreds of British business successfully working in China as well as two way academic, civic links and increasing tourism," said Tony McNally.

The Conference was organised by Climate Change Solutions. A China-Europe 2020 Expo on smart low carbon cities and technologies will take place in Birmingham in November. The Expo will showcase the EU and the United Kingdom's plans for collaboration with China in developing a sustainable future.



## United Kingdom News



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A great time was had by all at the April 2 lunch in London for the Wolfson China Scholars and The Wolfson Foundation representatives. Wolfson China Scholars Zhengyu He, Alex Xuan Wang and Yuge Ma had the opportunity to meet with the Foundation's Chief Executive, Paul Ramsbottom, and Director of Funding, Simon Fourmy. Since The Wolfson Foundation started its sponsorship of the £12,500 Wolfson China Scholarship in 2008, the Scholars have had the chance to meet with the Foundation over lunch to let them know about their academic work at Oxford as well as exchanging views on Chinese and British current affairs. The lunch was hosted by COSF UK Trustee Rupert Villers.



Scholars had a more informal gathering in Oxford on November 25th. They had a farewell dinner at the Paddyfield restaurant for COSF Scholar (2005) Dr Jerome Hui. Jerome is now back in Hong Kong as an assistant professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



## China News



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This past winter, COSF Scholar (2008) Anthony Boshen Wu was invited to be a guest speaker at the 100th anniversary celebrations of Peking University's Medical College. Anthony had the opportunity to talk about his Oxford experience as well as what it has been like being a COSF Scholar. In July 2012, Jesus College awarded Anthony a £180 awards prize for producing an exceptional thesis for his DPhil in Organic Chemistry. Anthony used his prize money to purchase books from Blackwell's and donated them to Peking University's Medical College when he attended the event.

COSF Scholar (2011) Sabrina Chu Xu was featured in the China edition of the international Cosmopolitan magazine. Sabrina was one of five young women selected to be featured in Cosmopolitan's October 2012 issue for its cover story on Chinese women attending top universities around the world. Sabrina spoke of her Oxford experience of reading for an MSc in Financial Economics and her time at St Edmund Hall. She also highlighted her experience as a COSF Scholar.



Lastly, COSF Scholar (2010 and 2011) Yuge Ma's views on China and India's energy policy and their global energy governance work received some great online coverage in a China Economic Forum publication in January this year. Her work has also been recently published as a book in China where she says she hopes the wider Chinese community will be interested in learning about China and India's energy programmes.

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**Donation By Cheque** A cheque can be made payable to the *China Oxford Scholarship Fund*. Please indicate the intention of your gift with a note accompanying your cheque.

In Hong Kong, cheques can be sent to:

China Oxford Scholarship Fund, G.P.O. Box 2755, Central, Hong Kong

In the United Kingdom, cheques can be sent to:

China Oxford Scholarship Fund, Administrative Office, Meadowside, Welcombe Hills, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 0NR

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**Sponsorship** The China Oxford Scholarship Fund has been able to organise activities for its China Oxford Scholars in China, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom through the generosity of sponsors. Sponsors are recognised in all of COSF's media as a valued partner. If you or your company would like to sponsor an event or donate your goods or services to COSF, please contact us.

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