



# China Oxford Scholarship Fund

## Oxford Alumni Weekend in Asia

Spring 2014

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

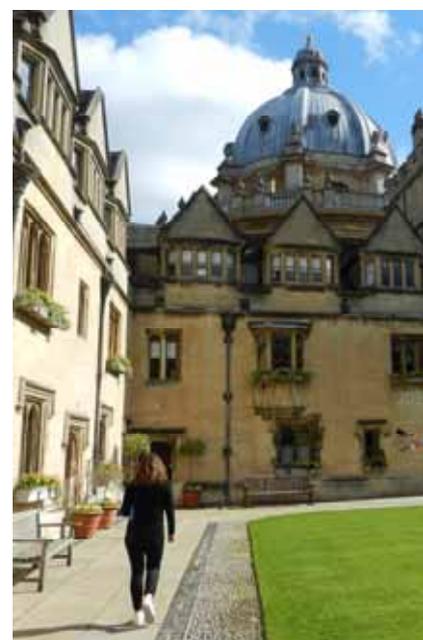
### Inside this Issue:



Photo courtesy of the University of Oxford China Office

Oxford University launched its *Alumni Weekend in Asia* with its first *Meeting Minds* event taking place in Hong Kong. The 3-day programme took place from the 21st to 23rd of March. The event allowed the alumni community the chance to participate in wide-ranging and dynamic academic and social activities. The University of Oxford's Chancellor and the last Governor of Hong Kong, Lord Patten of Barnes, was on hand to help unveil a special exhibition at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum in Central. The "Mapping Ming China's Maritime World—The Selden Map and Treasures from Oxford" exhibition was made possible by the Ashmolean Museum and Bodleian Library. College and department dinners were also part of the exciting programme which kept alumni and their guests entertained. Programme speakers included Dr Linda Yueh, Prof. Rana Mitter, psychologist Dr Peta McAuley who led a session on *Mindfulness* and Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Nick Rawlins moderating an in-depth discussion on *Healthcare 2030: Oxford and the Future of Human Health*. Lord Patten also moderated a lively debate on whether the 21st century will belong to Asia. The next Alumni Weekend events will be in New York in April, in Oxford in September and in Vienna in April 2015.

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## *International Chairman's Letter*

Dear Friends,

- It's exciting to know that the Year of the Horse has started off with so many China and Oxford related events in Oxford and in Hong Kong. I hope more activities such as these will continue throughout the year.
- Congratulations to the University of Oxford and its China Office for organising such an exciting and diverse programme for alumni during its Alumni Weekend in Asia event in Hong Kong.
- Organising the Distinguished Speakers' Programme requires a great deal of work. I appreciate the contribution Fund Committee members have invested into these luncheon events to ensure this intimate yet important fundraising exercise continues. Thank you Andrew Lo and Rupert McCowan for all your hard work.
- It's satisfying to learn that there are many lively opinions about China and its relations with the West as well as its role in the 21st century. I look forward to hearing more about future thought-provoking talks on China.
- Hearing about the China Oxford Scholars and their academic and professional developments is always a highlight for me. I hope the Scholars will continue to stay in touch with us so that we can share their news with the COSF community.
- Lastly, it is rewarding to know that a number of China Oxford Scholars hold key positions at the Oxford University Chinese Students and Scholars Association. I'd like to thank 2013 Scholar and Secretary for the OXCSSA Xiang Liu for welcoming the Fund Trustees and Committee members to the OXCSSA's Year of the Horse celebrations.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'T. Beardson', located at the bottom right of the page.

Timothy Beardson  
International Chairman



**Urbanisation to Exploration** It's a staggering forecast. By the middle of this century, it is expected that three quarters of the world's population will be living in cities. Given China's plans to boost urbanisation, it's no wonder that China will be spearheading this trend. It was Oxford's Prof. Steve Rayner (pictured above), a James Martin Professor of Science and Civilisation, who was able to expand on this unstoppable movement to guests during a lunch talk on the 28th February at the China Club in Central. In the meantime, friends of the Fund also had the unique opportunity to hear one of the greatest explorers of modern times speak about his 50 years of exploration. On the 25th of February, the Fund welcomed Dr. Robin Hanbury-Tenison to Hong Kong where twenty guests converged on the Hong Kong Club to meet the explorer and heard first-hand how he led some 30 international expeditions which covered every continent as well as how he played a major role in saving more than 500 ethnic minority tribal groups around the world with his charity *Survival International*. Prof. Hanbury-Tenison recounted his adventures and touched on his tribal conservation projects. Both of the luncheon events were part of the Fund's on-going Distinguished Speakers' Programme. Thank you to Committee Members Andrew Lo and Rupert McCowan for organising these two February events.

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## Merton Conversation - China and the West

To mark its landmark 750th anniversary, Merton College has launched an exciting programme featuring the College's acclaimed alumni, Fellows and supporters to discuss challenging global topics. The 2nd of a series of six global *Merton Conversations* took place on the 28th February with the Chancellor, Lord Patten of Barnes and Prof. Dame Jessica Rawson carrying out an enlightening discussion on China and the West with a focus on China's culture and society. The talk was moderated by Prof. Rana Mitter, the Director of Oxford's China Centre, and covered China's turbulent past, its current global status as an economic powerhouse and the trend of materialism amongst China's growing middle class. Prof. Mitter recounted how he met a Chinese youngster in Shanghai who informed him she'd rather be crying in the back of a BMW than be happy on the back of a bicycle! However, the former Warden of Merton took a more historical perspective about China's hunger for luxury brand consumerism and how this impacts on Chinese culture and society. With regard to China's stand on rights and political policies, she said it was important for China to interrogate itself before it interrogated others. Both Lord Patten and Dame Jessica agreed that it is the United States rather than Europe that plays a major role in the China - West equation. The next two *Merton Conversations* will be in New York on the 12th April and in London on the 15th May. For more info, go to [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/conversations](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/conversations).

*Photos courtesy of Merton College. Photography by John Cairns*

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Full house in the T.S. Eliot Theatre



Sir Martin Taylor welcoming guests



Lord Patten, Prof. Rana Mitter and Dame Jessica Rawson



Prof. Rana Mitter moderated the hour-long talk



Dame Jessica with Merton alumni



Students secure snapshots of the Chancellor



Zhongwen Zhang, Prof. Rana Mitter & Youxin Kong



Merton College alumni with Sir Martin Taylor

## China's 21st Century Domination Takes Centre Stage at the Oxford Literary Festival

There's no shortage of books about China and its role in the 21st century and beyond. But will the country really surge ahead of the world's superpowers in the decades to come? Author and veteran China-watcher Jonathan Fenby presented his sobering argument as to why it isn't a sure bet that China will be the key global player in his just published book *Will China Dominate the 21st Century?* As part of the Oxford Literary Festival, the former editor of the Observer and South China Morning Post spoke at Christ Church and explained in detail how China has far too many domestic hurdles to overcome before it can realistically consider playing a dominate role on the international stage. These inner challenges in China include political, social, economic and regional stability. The issues of corruption, the quality of life and the maintenance of the Communist Party power apparatus are constant themes that could be a catalyst for change for better or for worse for China's estimated 1.3 billion citizens. Jonathan added that at present, there is a huge excess capacity with ghost cities and under-utilised infrastructure. He said the biggest possible danger is when the middle classes, especially those of the 2nd generation living in the cities, become bored with consumerism after spending all their money and actually have time to think and desire something more than material goods such as better quality of life, clean air, better water quality, safe foods and freedoms. Given that China is resource dependent, has an inconsistent foreign policy and few allies and lags behind the United States with regard to defence spending, it will be some time before China can be on par with the likes of the United States according to the author.

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## Year of the Horse Off to Kicking Start

The Chinese Lunar New Year was ushered in with fabulous style at the Oxford Town Hall on the 1st February at an evening event organised by the Oxford University Chinese Student and Scholars Association or OXCSSA. The Year of the Horse gala opened with speeches given by Oxford's Pro-Vice Chancellor Nicholas Rawlins, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University Prof. John Raftery, the President of The Promotion of China Re-unification Society in the United Kingdom Dr Chan Cheng and the First Secretary of Education of the Chinese Embassy Li Guoqiang. China Oxford Scholarship Fund Trustees Prof. Zhanfeng Cui, Dyan Sterling and the Fund's Chairman of the UK Awards Panel Prof. Derek Siveter also joined in on the evening festivities. More than 500 revellers were on hand to enjoy four hours of non-stop entertainment which included nearly a dozen performances by martial artists, singers, magicians, musicians, swordsmen, comedians and traditional Chinese dancers. Congratulations to the OXCSSA Committee members for organising such a wonderful event. A good time was certainly had by all. Happy year of the Horse! For more info on the OXCSSA, go to [www.oxcssa.org.uk](http://www.oxcssa.org.uk).

*Photos courtesy of OXCSSA*

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Chinese traditional dancing by Yilin Shi



The Zeitgeist Dancers



Flutist Gong Xinyu performing *The Butterfly Lovers*



Out of the Blue All Male A Cappella Group



Dance medley by the Zeitgeist Dancers



The Chinese Cross-Talk Act



Prof. Nicholas Rawlins & Li Guoqiang with OXCSSA members.



OXCSSA members at the welcome reception desk

## Scholars' Updates



The China Oxford Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that 2012 China Oxford Scholar and recipient of the Hoare Family Award Meg Jing Zeng has been offered a PhD position at the Queensland University of Technology or QUT in Australia. Meg (pictured above) was highly recommended for this coveted opportunity by her Oxford Internet Institute Supervisor Prof. Ralph Schroeder. What is more exciting is that Meg has also been offered a full scholarship to cover her studies and maintenance during her time in Brisbane where she will continue her study of the internet at a doctoral level. Meg will be joining the QUT's Creative Industry Faculty in April as a member of the Use of Social Media in Times of Crisis project team. She will be conducting a comparative study between the utilisation of social media in the Sichuan earthquake and that during the Queensland floods. Meg earned her MSc in Social Science of the Internet and was at St Hugh's College.

2010 China Oxford Scholar Margaret Jiajun Xu is reading for a DPhil in International Relations and is at St Antony's College. She had a gap year last year working at the United Nations on one of its high level panels on its post-2015 development agenda. Margaret plans to complete her thesis by the end of this academic year.



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## Scholars' Updates



2010 China Oxford Scholar Jane Qian Liu earned her DPhil in Oriental Studies and was at The Queen's College. Her research work was on comparative literature and translation studies. Jane's doctoral thesis was focussed on China's translation of Western literature in the early twentieth century and its impact on modern Chinese fiction. She is back in China where she has recently been offered a post-doctorate position at the School of Chinese Language and Literature at

Beijing Normal University where she aims to secure a tenure position there.

2012 China Oxford Scholar Ray Ruiliang Liu has just earned his MSt in Archaeological Science. Ray has been accepted into a DPhil programme in Archaeology under the supervision of Prof. Dame Jessica Rawson and Prof. Mark Pollard. There's more fantastic news to share as Ray has also secured a coveted Clarendon Scholarship which will fund his doctorate studies.



2009 China Oxford Scholars Xiaou Yi earned her DPhil in Materials this year. She was at Wolfson College. Xiaou has just taken up a three-year post at St Edmund Hall as a Culham Research Fellow for nuclear materials.

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## Scholars' Updates



2012 Wolfson China Scholar Alex Xuan Wang is reading for an MPhil in Economics and is at Wolfson College. The Bank of England or BoE will be sponsoring his second year of studies. That means Alex will be taking some time out from his academic work to secure hands-on experience at Britain's central bank as a junior economist. As his research area is macroeconomics and financial regulation, he is looking forward to gaining practical work on the policy side of things. Alex hopes to continue his academic research and plans to pursue a doctorate degree.

Thank you to all the Scholars who have been keeping us informed by sharing your updates with the Fund and its network of friends and supporters. If you are a China Oxford Scholar and would like to share the latest news about yourself, please do get in touch with us at [alumni@chinaoxford.org](mailto:alumni@chinaoxford.org). We'd like to hear from you. In the meantime, friends and supporters can find the China Oxford Scholarship Fund via Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, Renren, Weibo and Youku.



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In Hong Kong, cheques can be sent to:

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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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