



China Oxford Scholarship Fund

Happy Year of the Monkey

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The Year of the Monkey was celebrated by some of the COSF Scholars in London over a delicious lunch which was complemented by an exciting lion dance at the New Fortune Cookie Restaurant in Bayswater. The gathering on the 14th February included UK Trustees Xiaodi Bell and Anne Lindsay, and Oxford Panel Chairman Prof. Siveter and his wife Anita. Scholars who attended the London lunch were COSF Scholars Huan Qi, Hanyang Ye, Chao Jiang, Xuejie Ding, Qiong Lu, Guowei Tao, Min Yao and Chenkai Wang.

The lunch was organised and hosted by Xiaodi. "The Chinese New Year is the most important festival in China. I am glad that some of the COSF scholars could come to London to have lunch with us to mark the Year of the Monkey. It was so nice to meet the scholars and to talk about their life and their studies in Oxford. I really enjoyed it myself very much," said Xiaodi. A pictorial of the lunch is featured on the next page.



"Gibbons at Play"

1427 painting by Zhu Zhanji
Xuande Emperor



Scholar Chao Jiang, Trustee Xiaodi Bell and Prof. Derek Siveter



Lion dance entertaining guests



Prof. Derek Siveter & Scholar Qiong Lu



Scholars Chenkai Wang and Guowei Tao



Scholar Xuejie Ding



Trustee Anne Lindsay and Scholar Chao Jiang



A big toast to the Year of the Monkey!

For more than two thousand years, monkeys, particularly macaques and gibbons, have played significant roles in Chinese culture. Some examples familiar to English speakers include the zodiac year of the Monkey, the Monkey King “Sun Wukong” in the Chinese classical novel *Journey to the West* and the monkey pose and techniques in Kung Fu martial arts. The Monkey (猴) is the ninth of the 12-year cycle of animals which appear in the Chinese zodiac related to the Chinese calendar. The Year of the Monkey is associated with the Earthly Branch symbol 申.

The Years of the Monkey include 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016 and 2028. According to Chinese culture and history, the monkey is known to be a clever animal. It is usually compared to a smart person. During China’s Spring and Autumn Period (770 - 476 BC), the dignified Chinese official title of a marquis was pronounced ‘Hou’, the same as the pronunciation of ‘monkey’ in Chinese. The animal was thereby bestowed with an auspicious meaning.

Ancient Chinese
seal script for *nao*

𪚩

"a monkey"

St John's College Formal Dinner



The Chinese Lunar New Year is celebrated over a two-week period and it was at St John's College where scholars gathered to highlight the start of the Year of the Monkey. With the assistance of fellow Scholar Guowei Tao, Yingqi Liu hosted the formal dinner at his college at St John's on the 18th February. Those who attended the splendid formal dinner were 2015 Scholars Calvin Ka Seng Ng, Huan Qi, Chengzhi Zhang, Hanyang Ye, Siqi Liu, Darren Yutang Jin, Fei Guo, Chun Man Kwong and 2014 Scholar Yudong Liu. Thank you to the COSF supporter who kindly sponsored this formal dinner for our scholars on such a festive occasion.



新年

COSF News



Dr Eric Thun (third from right) spoke at the China Club in Central in Hong Kong

Can innovation from family-run firms save China from its myriad economic challenges? This was the pressing question asked at a recent COSF lunch talk by Dr Eric Thun of the University of Oxford's Said Business School. The Peter Moores Associate Professor of Chinese Business Studies spoke on the 18th January at the China Club where he delved into China's rapid changes which no one could have foreseen such as the slowdown of cheap manufacturing and demand for jobs by migrants. With a world depending on China as a reliable engine of growth, it has suddenly realised that the engine needs a serious overhaul. At the lunch event, Dr. Thun expanded on these challenges and discussed if family-driven innovation can remedy the problems. He explained why Chinese firms have been able to create globally competitive technologies in some sectors but not others. He also touched on the implications for Chinese family firms. His key messages were that innovation will be vital as China transitions from low labour costs to compete and that innovation could be the saviour to family business succession in China as the 2nd generation often has different aims and business vision from the 1st generation. The thought-provoking talk was attended by friends, supporters, committee members and Trustees of COSF.



Schwarzman Scholars in China



Prof. Rob Garris talks about the Schwarzman Scholarship initiative in China to Oxford University students

With \$500 million in endowment funding, it's no wonder that the newly-created Schwarzman Scholars programme will have 111 fully-funded students who will make up its 2017 inaugural class. The Scholars are from 32 countries and were chosen from a pool of more than three thousand applicants. They will be studying for a one-year Master's programme in Global Affairs at the prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing. The ambitious programme was established by Stephen Schwarzman and is designed to educate the next generation of political, business and civil society leaders about China's emerging role in the world.

The programme's Global Director of Admissions, Prof. Robert Garris, has been on a tour of the United Kingdom's universities to promote the Schwarzman Scholars programme to mainly undergraduates who are interested in studying in China. On the 18th February, Prof. Garris visited the University of Oxford where he had the opportunity to hold an information session for those interested in the initiative. More than 30 students attended the event held at the Oxford Careers Office. Also present was one of the three Oxford University students and alumni who has been selected to be a Schwarzman Scholar to study at the Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University starting in August 2016. Prof. Garris also had the opportunity to meet with various senior academics at Oxford and with COSF's Oxford Panel Chairman Prof. Derek Siveter.

The Schwarzman Scholars initiative was announced in 2013 with the support of US President Barack Obama and President Xi Jinping of China. 20 per cent of the Schwarzman Scholarships are allocated to nationals of China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. Applications for the 2017-2018 cohort will open in April of this year and will close on the 15th September. For more information, you can go to www.schwarzmanscholars.org.

A Gift Goes a Long Ways for the China Oxford Scholars



Donations to the China Oxford Scholarship Fund Support Scholarships and ...

- Enable Scholars opportunities to showcase their academic work to the wider community at the University of Oxford.
- Allow Scholars to make meaningful connections with the international community of people who have shared interests in China involving areas such as education, culture and business.
- Enable Scholars to discover and experience cultural opportunities which have included visiting Parliament, meeting British lawmakers and industry leaders and exploring Britain's cultural heritage such as William Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon.
- Allow COSF to provide pastoral care to the community of Scholars.
- Enable our international educational initiative to scale.

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Happy Chinese New Year

*Best Wishes for the
Year of the Monkey*



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