



China Oxford Scholarship Fund

Oxford Awards Panel Chairman Retires after 10 Years with COSF

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Oxford Awards Panel Chairman Prof. Derek Siveter with Panel members and Trustees Mrs Xiaodi Bell and Ms Dyan Sterling at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History

The China Oxford Scholarship Fund would like to thank Prof. Derek Siveter for seamlessly navigating its Oxford Awards Panel as its Chairman for the past five years. Prof. Siveter has been involved with the Fund since 2007 when he joined the Awards Panel's Oxford Committee as a member. "It has been a great pleasure over the last ten years to be involved with such a very talented array of young COSF scholars, and through generous benefactors and supporters, assist them with their Oxford ambitions." says Prof. Siveter.

The Professor of Earth Sciences at Oxford is a Senior Research Fellow at St Cross College. He has generously enabled the Fund the use of facilities at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History as the venue for the interviews of the shortlisted candidates. Prof. Siveter has sifted through more than 600 COSF applications from students based in the UK.

"Prof. Siveter's unsurpassed professionalism and expertise in leading the Oxford Panel have had a tremendous impact on the impressive students awarded scholarships. We send our very best wishes for a happy retirement." says Nicholas Dennys QC, the Chairman of the UK Board of Trustees.



*The teeming
autumn, big with
increase, Bearing
the wanton burden
of the prime,
Like widow'd wombs
after their lords'
decease.*

Sonnet 97
William Shakespeare

2018 –2019 COSF Scholars

Congratulations to the new scholars for the upcoming academic year. The Fund would like to thank all the benefactors, sponsors and donors for supporting its initiative by making these scholarships possible.



Tingxi Ma has been awarded a £9,000 **Johnny Hon China Scholarship** in Law, Politics or International Relations. She is pursuing her DPhil in Area Studies on South Asia and will be attending Somerville College. She is a graduate of the Beijing Foreign Studies University where she earned her BA degree in Economics. She is also a graduate of the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London where she earned her MA degree in South Asian Studies. Tingxi has studied at the Presidency University in India and is learning the Bengali language. She is from Lishui in Zhejiang Province.



Jonathan Chun San Lam has been awarded a £9,000 **Johnny Hon China Scholarship**. He is pursuing the Bachelor of Civil Law at Linacre College. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree with First-Class Honours from the University of Hong Kong. He has spent a year as a Visiting Student at the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford. Jonathan was awarded various prizes in mooted competitions and served as a Senior Editor of the Hong Kong Journal of Legal Studies. He aspires to become a barrister and is also interested in entering academia. Jonathan is from Hong Kong.



Kan Li is also a recipient of a **Johnny Hon China Scholarship** and was awarded £8,000. She is reading for a DPhil in Politics and International Relations at St Catherine's College. She completed her MA in International Relations and Political Science at the Graduate Institute of International and Developmental Studies in Geneva. She was ranked at the top of her class. Kan earned her Bachelor of Economics and Finance degree at the University of Hong Kong. Her DPhil research interests concern the application of game theory on nuclear proliferation, with a particular respect to China, the United States, North and South Korea, and Japan. Kan is from Xinyu in Jiangxi Province.



Lifu Chen is the recipient of the **Wei Oxford Award** for £6,600. He is a 3rd year DPhil student in Chemistry at St Cross College. He is a graduate of Nottingham University first studying at its Ningbo campus and then its UK campus. He achieved a First in Chemical Engineering. Lifu has a strong history of winning scholarships. In 2017, he was awarded £15,000 by his Oxford supervisor for his outstanding research in the first year of his DPhil. Lifu has already published 5 first-authored papers, two in a journal (*Chemical Science*) with an Impact Factor of 8.7. His particular type of nano-electrochemical research has potential for more affordable and efficient non-metal catalysts in the area of energy systems and fuel cells. Lifu is from Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province.



Jiachen Shen has been awarded the £5,000 **Oxford China Simon Li Scholarship in Education, Language or Social Sciences of the Internet**. She is reading for an MSc in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition. Jiachen will be attending St Anne's College. She is a graduate of the Huazhong University of Science and Technology with a major in Translation and Interpreting. She was awarded a First-Class Honours. Jiachen has been active in volunteer work as well as extra-curricular activities. She hopes to continue her studies by securing a DPhil place at Oxford. Jiachen is from Wuhan in Hubei Province.



Tianyao Zhou is the recipient of the £14,000 **Tang Oxford Award in Environmental Science**. He is reading for an MSc in Water Science, Policy and Management. Tianyao will be attending Worcester College. He is a graduate of Peking University earning a Master of Law in China Studies. He was ranked 2nd in his class of 125. Tianyao studied English Literature and Linguistics at the University of Science and Technology in Beijing. He ranked 2nd out of his class of 56. His interests in environmental studies grew out of the need for improving the pollution problem in China. He wishes to become a writer on the environment or a consultant for the Chinese Government in policy making for effective environmental changes. Tianyao is from Nanjing in Jiangsu Province



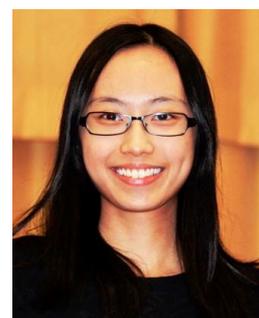
Yongchao Jing has been awarded the £3,000 **Hoare Family Award in Social Sciences**. She is pursuing a DPhil in Sociology at St. Cross College. She earned her BSc in Electronic Engineering from Fudan University in Shanghai. Yongchao later obtained a Master in Sociology also from Fudan University. She secured another MA in Sociology from Columbia University in New York where she was ranked 1st place out her class of 18. Her doctoral research at Oxford University will be on educational inequality and disadvantaged backgrounds. Upon completion of her studies at Oxford, she wishes to pursue a career in academia. Yongchao is from Inner Mongolia in Western China.



Nina Shigesu is the recipient of the £3,000 **Winkler Oxford Award in Medicine or Psychology**. She is a 2nd year DPhil student in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and is attending St Edmund Hall. Her research project concerns the association of endometriosis (the chronic inflammatory disease that affects 10% of women of reproductive age globally) and autoimmune diseases. Nina graduated from the Beijing University Health Science Centre followed by an MSc in Global Health Science at Oxford. Following her doctorate, she wishes to undertake postdoctoral research or to possibly get further training with a pharmaceutical company. Her aim is to become a research scientist in the health sector. On her return to China, she wishes to establish a women's health centre in Shenzhen. Nina is from Urumqi in Xinjiang Province in Western China.



Lingyu Liu is the recipient of a £5,000 **Thomas Wong Scholarship**. He is a 2nd year DPhil student in Chemistry and is attending St Cross College. His DPhil research concerns main group (chemical) elements, their activation in small molecules and the relevance of this for the optimization of industrial processes. His BSc studies were taken at the South University of Science and Technology of China in Shenzhen where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. Upon completion of his DPhil studies, he would like to undertake postdoctoral research possibly in the UK or Germany. He wishes to then return to China to head a research group in either the university or industrial sector. Lingyu is from Shenzhen in Guangdong Province.



Sui Ping Yeung has also been awarded a **Thomas Wong Scholarship** for the amount of £7,000. She is pursuing an MSc in Psychological Research at St Cross College. She earned her BA with First-Class Honours at the University of Hong Kong. She secured a Double Major in Psychology and Translation. Her studies will focus on the psychological research of memory decline and disabilities of the brain and how this will have an impact on the psychology of the elderly. She believes her research will benefit the aging population. She would like to pursue a DPhil at Oxford and hopes she can one day establish her own social enterprise and use the proceeds to set up a scholarship for the study of cognitive degenerative diseases. Sui Ping is from Hong Kong.



Jiawei Dai has been awarded a £6,000 **Pay It Forward Scholarship**. He is pursuing a DPhil in Condensed Matter Physics and will be attending St Anne's College. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Physics from Peking University. Jiawei's studies involve pure theoretical work and equations. He has an impressive and outstanding academic track record in physics and has won numerous local, provincial and international competitions. Jiawei chose to apply to Oxford as it is best suited for his specialty research on electrically-pumped organic semiconductor lasers. Upon completion of his studies, he wishes to pursue a career in academia to further commit to his research area and would like to pass on his passion to the younger generation.



Shan He is also a recipient of a **Pay It Forward Scholarship** for the amount of £5,000. He will read for an MSc in Statistical Science and will be attending Kellogg College. He graduated with a BSc in Actuarial Science from the University of Hong Kong. Shan attended the University on a scholarship awarded by the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation. His research at Oxford will focus on big data analysis and automation. He has observed that there is an existing gap between China's current insurance industry and the international standards. Bearing in mind China's large population and the difficulties of collecting certain data, Shan wishes to contribute to the insurance industry's development by his applied statistical knowledge. Shan's long-term goal is to play a part in alleviating poverty in China. Shan is from Beijing.



Jinlin Chen is the recipient of a £3,000 **Honorary China Oxford Award**. She will be pursuing a DPhil in Zoology at The Queen's College to research the effect of environmental changes on insects' food webs. She studied Biological Science at Peking University and her field work involved a biodiversity survey on the outskirts of Beijing and a two year project studying the effects of tourist roads on animal distribution outside the Chinese capital. After her studies at Oxford, she wishes to pursue a two-year post-doctorate and would like to have a career as an ecologist or in academia. She would also like to be involved with NGOs or village projects to help locals to have sustainable organisations to help conserve the natural environment and the mountainous areas of China. Jinlin is a China Scholarship Council Scholar and is from Guilin in Guangxi Province.



Yuhang Song has received a £3,000 **Honorary China Oxford Award**. He is reading for a DPhil in Computer Science at Somerville College. His research will focus on artificial intelligence and on a new interdisciplinary area among Computer Science and Neurosciences. Yuhang is a graduate of the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics with a BSc in Electronic Information. Yuhang has an enviable record in obtaining top grades, winning numerous prizes and coming with in the top 1% of his undergraduate class. He wishes to become a professor in artificial intelligence and contribute to China's development. Yuhang is also a China Scholarship Council Scholar. He is from Fengzhen in Inner Mongolia in Western China.



Guanming Zhang has received a £3,000 **Honorary China Oxford Award**. He will be reading for a DPhil in Theoretical Physics and will be attending Keble College. He explained the practical application for his studies would be to improve the current component simulation conditions in China in energy transport with cells. Guanming earned a BEng in Electronic Engineering with First-Class Honours from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and a BEng in Micro-electronics at the Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou under a joint programme between the universities. He also secured an MSc in Physics and was awarded with Distinction from University College London. Guanming is a China Scholarship Council -PAG Oxford Scholar. He is from Changchun in Jilin Province.

Time Out for Tea



Araceli Keelan and her friends hosting a tea party for the 2010 Scholars in Oxford

Since 2008, COSF supporter and benefactor of the Brian Keelan Award, Araceli Keelan has been kindly hosting gatherings for the new cohort of Scholars every Autumn. With the help of Araceli’s friends, these informal events come in the form of afternoon tea parties at various locations in Oxford that take place either before or at the start of the Michaelmas term.

Throughout the years, the Scholars have enjoyed traditional afternoon tea as well as visits to Oxford museums, the theatre, cozy pubs, Chinese restaurants and a day spent at a country home in Oxfordshire where scholars enjoyed home-made sandwiches and home-made blackberry sherry! That gathering was also topped off with a short spell of apple picking too. And this year it will be no different with the 2018-2019 cohort of Scholars who will be welcomed by Araceli and her friends at the end of the first week of term with a time-honoured tea party.

It’s been a great way for the Scholars to meet one another and for Araceli to field any questions the student might have about British culture and society while it’s also a chance for Araceli and her friends to learn about the Scholar’s’ way of life in China and their academic work at Oxford.

We’re pleased that the Scholars will be ending their first week of the Michaelmas term with some down time for an opportunity to meet fellow Scholars and make new friends over a good cuppa and cakes.

The Brian Keelan Award is one of three legacy scholarships that is offered by the China Oxford Scholarship Fund. Read on to find out how the Brian Keelan Award was started.



The Start - The Brian Keelan Award

The Brian Keelan Award has been up and running for over 10 years now. Araceli Keelan recalls how it all came about and how it has evolved throughout the years.

Unexpectedly and so very sadly my dear husband, Brian Keelan, died in 2005. Friends and family were of tremendous support and wanted to commemorate such a generous, brilliant man and in so doing also find a fulfilling involvement for myself, and in time for my sons Geordie and Thomas. The question was what and how?

It didn't take long to focus on Oxford University. Brian had studied PPE at University College, had been president of the JCR and had thoroughly immersed himself in all Oxford had to offer. Only two months before he died we had attended a small gathering of alumni at Univ to explore ways for the college to become more independent in its funding. Brian was fully behind this and was very keen to help. His more recent interest was of course the Far East. He was working for Jardine Matheson in Hong Kong and the conglomerate had strong historic and up-to-date ties with China. So the fact that Timothy Beardson, a Hong Kong friend, was set on a large project of charitable endowments to offer funding for needy postgraduate Chinese students with an offer from Oxford University seemed to make sense. It was called the China Oxford Scholarship Fund (COSF).

I met with Tim in 2006. We sat in his garden at his country home near Oxford and discussed how this might be a match. Critical to my thinking was that the award would be for a candidate studying in a particular area which at first was loosely referred to as 'the humanities' (my example of an ideal candidate, the kind that Brian would have enjoyed supporting, was a financially needy student from mainland China wanting to study English language poetry!). It was clear that the term 'humanities' was often used to cover areas that were, in my view, not appropriate for the Brian Keelan Award such as oriental studies. We agreed to refine this as time went on. The focus would be clearly on English literature and history and western philosophy. It was also the intention that the candidate, where possible, would select Univ as their college or be transferred to Univ. and the feedback of family would be taken into consideration.

Having agreed the commemorative nature and premise of the Award, contributions were sought for an endowment and nearly £300,000 were received from over 70 of Brian's friends! This was incredible and meant that a substantial part of a successful Brian Keelan Award candidate's costs could be covered. The intention was and is to issue an award each year. Ten Brian Keelan Awards have so far been granted to some wonderful recipients. On occasions, where the criteria were not met or candidates have withdrawn, the funds have been rolled over to the next year.

My involvement over the years has included arranging a first get together in October of the new cohort of COSF students for a tea in Oxford, trips to the Oxford Playhouse or a meal at 'Soho' and, importantly, providing my views to the COSF Oxford Awards Panel which also reviews each year's Brian Keelan Award candidates and makes recommendations. This role has the added benefit of keeping me abreast with changes at COSF. I have kept in touch with a number of the COSF scholars and look forward to many more years of involvement.



Araceli Keelan with 2014 Brian Keelan Scholar Amos Hong Ming Chan

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