

CHINA OXFORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

中国牛津奖学金基金

Spring 2022



Celebrating the Year of the Tiger

We are pleased to inform our supporters that the China Oxford Scholarship Fund was able to welcome the Chinese New Year with the 2021 and 2020 Scholars. UK Trustee Xiaodi Bell and her husband, Nicholas, hosted a lunch on the 20th February at a Pearl Liang Chinese restaurant in central London for the students.

"The Pandemic has stopped us from gathering in the last 2 years. I am so glad that we can celebrate the Chinese New Year face to face with the COSF scholars of 2020 and 2021 in the Year of the Tiger!" said Xiaodi.

On hand to help Xiaodi and Nicholas welcome the group of scholars were UK Trustee Dyan Sterling and Oxford Awards Panel Chairman Prof. Michael Wooldridge and his wife, Janine. Scholars who attended the festive gathering were 2020 Scholars Huimin Hu, Haiyun Zhao and Henry Tsz Yeung Wong. The 2021 Scholars present were Claire Yu Hao, Guanqi Zhan, Rainy Yuzhen Dong, Bryan Kit Yue Ng, Kin Long Wong, Calvin Yixiang Cheng, Jinsen Lu, Xiao Su and Ruixuan Zhu.

Our sincerest thanks to Xiaodi and Nicholas for generously hosting another wonderful lunch gathering in London where the guests and scholars were able to celebrate the Chinese New Year in fabulous style while tucking into a traditional meal for the Year of the Tiger. Wishing all a great and safe year ahead!



L-R Henry Tsz Yeung Wong, Xiao Su and Claire Yu Hao



L-R Xiaodi Bell, Guanqi Zhan, Huimin Hu, Bryan Kit Yue Ng and UK Trustee Dyan Sterling



Janine Wooldridge and Kin Long Wong



The lunch was an opportunity for scholars to catch up



L-R Ruixuan Zhu, Xiaodi Bell, Henry Tsz Yeung Wong, Xiao Su, Claire Yu Hao and Prof. Michael Wooldridge



Guests enjoying a traditional Chinese new year meal



Rainy Yuzhen Dong and Calvin Yixiang Cheng



Q&A with Keelan Scholar Tiancheng Wang

Tiancheng was awarded the Brian Keelan Award in 2021. He is a first-year DPhil student in Ancient History and is attending University College. He earned his MPhil in Classics at the University of St Andrews and his BA in Translation at Beihang University in Beijing.

Tiancheng is the 14th graduate student to benefit from the Keelan Award. It was established in 2007 in memory of Brian Keelan who studied PPE at University College. We hope you will enjoy our brief Q&A with Tiancheng.

What are you studying at Oxford?

I am reading for a DPhil in Ancient History. I specialise in the political and social history of the Roman Republic. My current research is on the symbolic importance of names in Roman politics.

What prompted your interest in studying Ancient Classics when you were at school in China?

I developed an interest in the ancient world since I was a child, but due to various reasons I did not get to study history or ancient philosophy in college (and there was no such course in my university either). When I was in the second year of college I was selected into a liberal arts “experimental” class and took a few modules in both “Chinese” and “Western” Classics. I soon rekindled my old interest in the ancient world and decided to seriously study Classics after my undergraduate studies.

Why did you choose to pursue your graduate studies at Oxford?

I always dreamed of coming to study at Oxford because of some of my favourite literary depictions (especially in Evelyn Waugh’s *Brideshead Revisited*) and the city’s magnificent impression on me during my previous visits. In terms of my graduate studies, Oxford has the largest faculty of Classics in the world and could provide me with the best teachers and resources in this subject.

How has student life been for you since the pandemic started in 2020?

Life has been...different. I have got used to online meetings and seminars, but the pandemic still affects other aspects of life, especially socialising and travelling. I have been very homesick but I simply cannot afford the extra time (21 days of quarantine) and expense (almost ten times more expensive than before) of travelling home.

What are your current challenges?

I have been trying to keep the balance between developing essential skills (including learning Ancient Greek and other modern languages) and doing my own research. As I did not study Classics before my master’s, too many things are yet to be learnt.

What are your plans after completing your DPhil at Oxford?

I have been planning to pursue an academic career, probably back in China as a teacher in Classics or Roman History, but I am also exploring other possibilities.