

*SUN Yuzhou*

*International Studies with French, 2013*

### **2017 UNNC Alumna of the Year**

With a keen intellect and passion for academic debate, Yuzhou Sun is an academic superstar in the making. Only in the early stages of her research career, she's already presenting research papers at prominent academic conferences and developing peer-reviewed articles alongside leading authorities in her field. But even as a student, it was clear Yuzhou Sun led from the front.

Actively engaged in academic life at Ningbo, Yuzhou co-founded the Nottingham Debating Union China Ningbo, promoting a lively culture of debate and discussion on campus. Taking part in international debates, including the 13<sup>th</sup> Asian Debate Institute in South Korea, and hosting the 2010 National English Debating Competition and the 2013 China Debate Camp on Ningbo Campus, Yuzhou represented UNNC on the international stage. A talented student leader, she was named Best Student of the School of International Studies and awarded the prestigious President's Scholarship. Graduating in 2013 with a degree in International Studies with French, Yuzhou's academic excellence was recognised by governmental awards as she was named Outstanding College Student of Ningbo and Outstanding College Graduate of Zhejiang Province.

Developing an interest in Africa while studying for her dissertation under Dr Gernot Klantschnig, an expert on drug crimes in Nigeria, Yuzhou secured a place at the University of Oxford to study for a Master's degree in African Studies, only the second female Chinese student to be admitted onto this programme. Continuing onto doctoral study at Oxford, Yuzhou's current research project seeks to overturn the myth of China as an emerging force in Africa, building awareness of relations between Chinese and Africans from the fifteenth century onwards and exploring China's engagements with Kenya and Zambia from political, ideological and social perspectives. As relations between China and Africa deepen in the modern era, Yuzhou's research provides an invaluable contribution to the scholarship on relations between China and Africa. The future is bright for this academic leader.

Ladies and gentlemen, a passionate intellectual and an inspirational role model for UNNC and beyond, I present the 2017 UNNC Alumna of the Year, Yuzhou Sun.