Professor Huang Young (center)

Professor Huang explained the definition and means of how people should choose to lead a good life as seen from the perspective of liberalism and state perfectionism. The biggest difference between liberalism and state perfectionism is whether or not the state involves itself in the choice process.

Liberalism emphasizes autonomy; people have the power to freely choose their lifestyle. However, mild state perfectionism holds that lifestyles should be differentiated, choosing the good and discarding the bad. Confucianism is closely aligned with perfectionism, and in fact Confucian ideas such as moral and ritual education can be a potential substitute for current liberalism, filling the gaps where perfectionism does not adequately address relativism. Herein lies the uniqueness and importance of Confucianism.

CCS News and Activities

◼ *Visiting Scholars Celebrating the 2013 Lunar New Year*

On January 28, the Center for Chinese Studies

held a Lunar New Year's Eve banquet for visiting scholars, both those receiving research grants from the Center and those receiving the Taiwan Fellowship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Apart from research, the Center wanted to provide an opportunity for these scholars to experience traditional folk culture. In all, 29 scholars coming from 17 countries attended with family members.

A group photo of all the participants

Before the banquet, De-han Chen from National Central Library wrote New Year couplets and encouraged the visiting scholars to try their hand at writing their own. It was a great way to experience part of Chinese culture and feel the festive atmosphere of Lunar New Year. Employees at the Center put on a taichi fan performance to start off the banquet, which was a buffet-style feast with dumplings, New Year's cake, and other seasonal delicacies for the scholars to try. Many more performances were given throughout the night, including Professor Ironildes Bueno Da Silva from Brazil singing traditional Brazilian songs as he played his guitar.