

In her speech at the awards, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng vowed that the library will continue to actively promote the idea of collecting and sharing theses and dissertations, and remains committed to maintaining this complete collection in electronic form in perpetuity, while enhancing this aspect of cooperation with universities. At the same time, the library will forge ahead with developing the functionality of its theses and dissertations databases, which should help to increase Taiwan's visibility and influence in global academia.



*Director-General Tseng (5th right) presents the awards to the recipients.*

### ■ NCL Holds the Spring Lectures on Reading: Friendship in Poems

Poems on friendship are an important subgenre. From the earliest extant anthology of poems, the Book of Odes, till now there have been many poems written on the pursuit of genuine friendship. Such poems were written in each age, becoming a massive corpus in the history of Chinese literature. Because of this, National Central Library (NCL) Spring Lecture on Reading for 2019 was on “Peaches, Plums and a Cup of Wine in the Spring Breeze: Friendship in Poems.” The event was held on Saturdays from February 23 to April 27, with seven lectures in all. Scholars were invited to analyze the motivation and mind of poets as they

used their poems to express feelings on friendship. Each session is as follows:

02/23 “An Intimate Friend, a Dream I’ve Pursued My Entire Life: Friendship in the Book of Odes.” Kun-yang Yen, Professor of Department of Chinese Literature, Fu Jen Catholic University.

03/02 “To Love and to Kill Each Other? Friendship and Passion in the Six Dynasties.” Li-feng Chi, Associate Professor of Department of Chinese Literature, National Chung Hsing University.

03/09 “We Both Forget the World Is Sad: Friendship in Tang Poetry.” Li-chuan Ou, Professor of Department of Chinese Literature, National Taiwan University.

03/23 “From Peaches, Plums and a Cup of Wine in the Spring Breeze to My Home South of the Yangtze with Fertile Clouds: Friendship in Huang Tingjian’s Poems.” I-chung Chou, Professor of Department of Chinese, National Changhua University of Education.

03/30 “Friendship Ethics and Friendly Feelings: Friendship in the Four Schools of Ming Poetry and Calligraphy.” Wen-huei Cheng, Professor of Department of Chinese Literature, National Chengchi University.



*The Spring Lectures on Reading have attracted enthusiastic participation of the audience.*

04/13 “Remembering the Great Ones as Life Passes like a Dream: The Taiwan Mind and Friendship of the Lishe Poets.” Chen-fu Liao, Professor of Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature and Transnational Cultural Studies, National Chung Hsing University.

04/27 “You Are the Wind that Is Blowing: Poetic Responses and Friendships of Modern Sinophone Poets.” Wen-wei Shiu, Professor of Department of Sinophone Literatures, National Dong Hwa University.

### ■ Australian Author Markus Zusak’s New Book, *Bridge of Clay*: Discussion Forum



*The captivating discussion between Mr. Markus Zusak and Ms. Hui-ching Chang.*

On the evening of February 15, 2019, the National Central Library (NCL) and Ecusbooks co-hosted a forum discussing a new book, *Bridge of Clay*. The book’s Australian author, Mr. Markus Zusak, known for his previous book *The Book Thief*, and Taiwanese author Hui-ching Chang were invited to the NCL to participate in a Q&A and discussion.

In her opening remarks, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng thanked Ecusbooks for once again inviting Markus Zusak to bring his new book to meet readers attending the 2019 Taipei International Book Exhibition. The NCL’s role is as the bridge between books and readers, increasing the ways in which Taiwanese readers can encounter internationally famous authors.

Mr. Markus Zusak’s *Bridge of Clay* is another moving book about love and affection. The author shared his emotional and psychological journey writing the book, how he utilized his imagination and created the story. The discussant, Ms. Hui-ching Chang, said she believed that *Bridge of Clay*’s many plots led the reader to a deeper appreciation of the characters in the story.

After the talk, the enthusiastic audience took the opportunity to ask the author questions, each of which he responded to with kindness. There was a book signing, where Zusak added a scribbled autograph to each book, an unexpected surprise for his avid readers, and which gave the public the chance to get up close to this warm and kind author.



*Mr. Zusak signs the book for Director-General Tseng.*