

discussion was lively. After the lecture, the audience provided positive feedback on the event, expressing that the session gave them a deeper understanding of the new opportunities and trends in the study of Taiwan's Chinese poetry metrics in today's digital age.



Distinguished guests pose with the lecturer

■ **The Center for Chinese Studies Holds Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies Lectures**

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) promotes academic exchanges in order to increase interaction between the local and overseas Chinese Studies communities. To this end, the CCS established the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, which every year assists 20 overseas scholars in coming to Taiwan to conduct research for periods of between 1 to 6 months. Besides hosting Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies from time to time at which these scholars can present the fruits of the research, the center also often invites renowned scholars from around the world to visit and deliver lectures. Between July and September, 2024, 4 scholars gave their presentations. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On July 18th, 2024, Associate Prof. Weiwei Zhang, Marketing at Hartwick College, USA gave the lecture on “Materiality and the Resilience of Physical Bookstores in the Digital Age.” At the same day, Prof. André Laliberté, Political Studies at the University of Ottawa, USA, gave the lecture on “Religious Milieus and Social Welfare: Early Findings about Long-Term Care in Taiwan.”

On August 14th, 2024, Ph.D. candidate Axelle Mariavale, Chinese Language and Literature at the Institute of Asian Research (IrAsia), Aix-Marseille University, France, gave the lecture on “Exploring Ecofeminism in Taiwan and its Application to Literary Criticism.” At the same day, Ph.D. candidate Catherine Alexandra Sutherland, Social Anthropology at SOAS, University, London, gave the lecture on “Queer/Feminist Community: Researching gender, sexuality, and feminism among Taipei's queer community.”

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ **National Central Library Plans to Establish An Impediment-free Reading System to Create A Mobile Library Exclusively for People with Disabilities**

In 2012, the National Central Library established an integrated inquiry system for accessible reading resources, providing readers with such functions as “Bibliographic Inquiry”, “Online Reading/Downloading”, “Choice Books”, and “Resource Classroom.” Of these, the “Bibliographic Inquiry” function primarily adopts the joint bibliographic and interlibrary loan service model to integrate the National Central Library and the data of 10 major domestic disability library resource collecting institutions to facilitate readers' use of digital and physical resources between various institutions via a single account.

In response to the high state of development of mobile device supplementary functions (narration, talkback) and changes in the way readers with disabilities obtain information, the National Central Library has developed the Accessible Reading app since 2014, providing a reading interface in accordance with different disabilities and creating a unique platform for people with disabilities.

For hearing-impaired readers, the National Central Library built the Taiwan Sign Language Electronic Picture Book Interactive System in 2023. Based on the picture books of Taiwanese writers, it integrates sign language electronic picture book videos, sign language word demonstrations and exercises, AR interaction and other reading

resources. In addition to providing readers with autonomous reading, it is a teaching material that can be put to good use in cross-disability reading promotion activities.

Tsui-Ying Tsao, director of the National Taiwan Library, said that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities represents internationally emphasized human rights values. In the national review report, it was mentioned that reading resources need universal, easy-to-read versions. Recently, standard paintings and National Taiwan Normal University have researched and discussed the development of easy-to-read versions and resources for the benefit of people with disabilities.

■ **National Dong Hwa University Received More than 24,000 E-books as A Gift and Its Post-earthquake-repair Library will Open at the End of the Year at the Earliest**

As a result of the Hualien 403 earthquake, in addition to the Science and Engineering Building of National Dong Hwa University being destroyed by fire, its library was severely damaged, with the ceiling collapsing and books scattered all over the floor. A specialist international higher education journal publishing house, together with collaborating vendors in Taiwan, has donated more than 24,000 online e-books to Dong Hwa University for free, in the hope that teachers and students can use the online e-books unimpeded during the library restoration period.

The Library and Information Office of Dong Hwa University stated that some books on high floors were held down by skewed bookshelves and were difficult to pick up. The library used the summer vacation to ask removal companies to organize and straighten the bookshelves, and also asked manufacturers to strengthen their connecting rods, making each bookshelf earthquake resistant in a “hand-in-hand” way. It also fixed the bookshelves to the ground to stabilize them and enhance the anti-slip function of the bookends so that the books would not fall easily.

Wei-Ming Chen, director of the Library and Information Office of Dong Hwa University, pointed

out that there are about 2.7 million books in the library. After the earthquake, dozens of books were soaked by rain because of cracks in the wall. Fortunately, the loss was not serious, and the library has sent out contractors to hire people to assist in repairing the bookshelves. Construction work on ceilings, exterior walls, etc. will start in September, and the entire library is expected to be fully open to teachers and students by the end of the year.

■ **Winners of Taiwan Architecture Award 25 Announced Chung Yuan Christian University’s Chang Ching Yu Memorial Library Recognized**

Chung Yuan Christian University won the Taiwan Architecture Award 25, issued by *Architect Magazine*, demonstrating its benchmark value as an archetype of Taiwan’s modern libraries. In the nearly 40 years since its opening in 1985, the museum has not only retained its original design aspirations, but become more elegant over time, becoming a historical landmark in academic and cultural fields. Chung Yuan Christian University has also been recognized for its respect for original design and emphasis on building preservation. Chung Yuan Christian University highlights the fact that the award for the Chang Ching Yu Memorial Library not only represents a high degree of recognition of the architect’s design concept, but also a concrete demonstration of Chung Yuan Christian University’s spirit of preservation and innovation of historical buildings. While maintaining this historic building, the school will continue to promote more environmentally friendly and green energy renovation projects so that it can in future continue to keep pace with the times.

Chung Yuan Christian University stated that, in order to encourage buildings to verify the appropriateness of design concepts after completion and ensure user maintenance, *Architect Magazine* has compiled a total of 30 Taiwan Architecture Award first-placed works that have been in use for more than 25 years and conducted a review of their current use. When the results of selection were announced, Chung Yuan Christian University’s Chang Ching-yu Memorial Library received the highest number of votes and won the first Taiwan Architecture 25 Award.