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A reception hosted by Confucius Institute on Jan. 23 played a celebration overture for a series of Chinese New Year events around the triangle area.

In a room decorated with red lanterns, firecrackers, and Chinese knots, 50 or so guests from NC State, Center for International Understanding, NC Department of Commerce, Department of Public Instruction, and the community gathered to witness achievements of Confucius Institute and celebrate the Year of Ox ahead.

Dr. Bailian Li, director of the institute and Vice Provost for International Affairs, introduced some Chinese New Year customs to the audience, followed by a presentation highlighting the accomplishment of Confucius Institute. In the past year, the institute has offered Chinese language and culture courses to adult learners as well as NC State students. It also helped North Carolinians experience Chinese culture through a range of cultural events such as Nanjing Normal University Art Performance, Chinese Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition, China Dream Concert, Chinese New Year Gala, and so on. Faculty from the institute made an effort to enhance intercultural understanding by giving culture workshops and orientations to a broad community. In the new semester, Confucius Institute will continue to teach Chinese I, II, Advanced Chinese, Chinese Culture series and Tai Chi.

Attendees had an opportunity to taste festive Chinese food such as dumpling and spring rolls. Some were lucky to win the raffle and receive calendars, show tickets and paper cutting piece. In a family-reunion kind of atmosphere, Confucius Institute showcased the most important festival by Chinese tradition to all attendees.

Ox symbolizes prosperity and rise in Chinese culture, so 2009 is a good year that all look forward to.

[Chinese New Year Celebration photos](#)