

**SPEECH BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR JOHNNY TAN
AT THE NUSS PROFESSORSHIP LECTURE 2011
7 JULY 2011, THURSDAY
7.30PM AT KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, GUILD HALL**

Professor Andre Geim, 2011 NUSS Professor

Professor Andrew Wee, Dean, NUS Faculty of Science

Professor Castro-Neto, Director, NUS Graphene Research Centre

Fellow NUSS Members

Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good evening, and welcome to the NUSS Professorship Public Lecture 2011.

We are indeed honoured and delighted to have with us today, **Professor Andre Geim**, our NUSS Professor for 2011.

In 2004, Professor Geim co-discovered **graphene** at the University of Manchester in England and was later awarded the **2010 Nobel Prize in Physics** for his achievement.

Professor Geim, who is one of the greatest minds in Physics, will speak on his groundbreaking discovery in **graphene**, a one-atom thick, 2-dimensional crystalline material which has (I was told) a breaking strength 200 times greater than steel and is able to conduct heat 10 times faster than silver. **Graphene** is also known to be the thinnest and strongest material ever found.

Touted as 'the next big thing', **graphene** could well change everyday life for humanity and we are indeed very privileged to have this opportunity to listen directly to the man behind the discovery of such material.

About NUSS Professorship

This evening's lecture underscores NUSS' continued commitment to promote excellence in education.

The NUSS Professorship was established in 1996 **when NUSS made a pledge of \$1.5 million to the University Endowment Fund.**

The **main objective** of the NUSS Professorship is to enable our alma mater to invite eminent academics from leading universities around the world to share their expertise and knowledge with the university community and the general public.

Professor Geim is the sixth NUSS Professor we have hosted. Our previous NUSS Professorship Lecture series were delivered by a host of distinguished professors from Oxford University, MIT, London School of Economics, University of Washington and UCLA.

Giving Back to Alma Mater

The NUSS Professorship is one of the many initiatives aimed at promoting the interests and development of our University.

Other initiatives include:

- the **NUSS Medal for Outstanding Achievement** which aims to encourage undergraduates to go beyond academic excellence and pursue a well-rounded education;
- the **NUSS Master of Science (Environmental Management) Scholarship** to help increase awareness and further the studies of environmental challenges, and
- the recently established **NUSS Endowment Fund for UTown Student Advancement** to provide financial assistance to disadvantaged students enrolled for studies at the new NUS University Town.

About NUSS

Today, **NUSS has a membership base of more than 15,500 graduates** from NUS and recognised universities in Singapore and the world over.

For those unfamiliar with NUSS, I would just like to share that we have a total of **four Guild Houses, each of distinct character and complementary facility mix** to fulfil our members' and their families' lifestyle needs.

As the foremost graduate society, we concern ourselves with **national and regional issues** and are committed to our **mission** of contributing positively to Singapore's political and intellectual development.

We regularly organise dialogues with ministers, ambassadors, business leaders as well as our politicians. **NUSS is non-partisan** and is uniquely positioned to provide a neutral platform to discuss politics, science, technology and societal concerns.

So we are **not being just another ordinary social club**. We organise many other interesting events and activities for our members and I will not go into any further elaboration except to say that if you are a graduate and are not already an NUSS member, then I urge you to sign up ... and you will not regret.

Thank you

I would like to conclude my speech by thanking **Professor Andre Geim** for agreeing to share his knowledge and expertise with us.

I would also like to thank **Professor Castro-Neto** for moderating the Question and Answer session right after the lecture.

Without further ado, I shall now invite **Professor Andrew Wee**, Dean of NUS Science Facility, to deliver his introductory remarks.

Professor Wee please