

**SPEECH BY MR CHANDRA MOHAN K NAIR, NUSS PRESIDENT
AT THE KRGH POOL CLOSING CEREMONY
16 JUNE 2006, FRIDAY, 8.00 PM**

A very good evening to all my Fellow members, staff members of NUSS and guests.

1. Thank you all for joining us for “*The Final Splash* – the Kent Ridge Guild House Pool Closing Ceremony”. I am very happy to see so many of you here tonight.

2. It is always sad to see something familiar being sidelined or demolished. In the early 1970s we had Evans Road Guild House. In the 1980s, 22 years ago, we established Kent Ridge Guild House as our flagship. To have secured this site for our Guild House was a milestone for the Society as it has always been our aspiration to maintain close ties with NUS, and to promote and develop its interests. NUS gave this site to us in order to develop better ties.

22 years later, it gives me great personal joy to say that we are taking a monumental step in further strengthening the bond between alumni and alma mater.

3. The Alumni Complex, for which our three swimming pools and tennis courts are making way for, is a single integrated entity comprising the new Alumni House and a refurbished Kent Ridge Guild House. It will stand as a lasting testament to the close bond and symbiotic relationship between our Society and the University.

4. For many of us, the pool holds many fond memories – When it was newly constructed, I did in the late 1980s bring my two children to learn to swim at this pool. Then we grew up and formed friendships (some of you must have tried harder than others, especially with the opposite sex) at the poolside! I understand that quite a few of our members met and romanced their partners at this very pool! Today, many of our members own children are still taking swimming lessons here.

For about 20 years, around 2000 children have been trained by our resident swimming coach, Mr Desmond Yee.

5. Albert Einstein once said, “A hundred times a day I remind myself that my life depends on the labours of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give, in the measure as I have received, and am still receiving.” Similarly, our Management Committee and full time staff must and do try their level best to labour on and create new facilities for our current and future generation of members to enjoy, to admire and be inspired to greater heights.
6. So while it saddens me to have to bid adieu to the facilities that I know many of our members have enjoyed over the years, I take comfort in knowing that this is only temporary. In less than two years, we will have brand new rooftop tennis courts, a 50-metre swimming pool and a plethora of other new and enhanced social and recreational facilities.
7. Our membership has grown from the hundreds in 1970s to 12,000 in 2006. And we need to provide the infrastructure and physical facilities. And that is what your Management Committee is doing – to cater for the present generation and future needs of our ever-growing membership.

8. We are striding towards a better, brighter future with the new KRGH and Alumni House. The Alumni House will be built by next year. And the whole Alumni Complex will be an exciting and vibrant place for all graduates to intermingle.

9. “A conservative is a man who just sits and thinks, mostly sits.” – Woodrow Wilson. We must think and be active in making the change that counts. And so our general membership has given us the mandate to make that change.

10. Dear members, once again on behalf of our Management Committee thank you for coming this evening to mark yet another milestone in our journey towards comradeship and excellence. Thank you.

Chandra Mohan K Nair
President, NUSS
16 June 2006