

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR JOHNNY TAN, NUSS PRESIDENT
AT THE NUSS PROFESSORSHIP LECTURE 2010
20 JANUARY 2011, 7.30 PM AT KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

Professor Donald Treiman and Mrs Treiman

Professor Brenda Yeoh, Dean of the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Professor Jean Yeung, Professor in the Department of Sociology, NUS Asia Research Institute and Global Asia Institute

Fellow NUSS Members

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good evening to all of you, and welcome to the NUSS Professorship Lecture 2010. Yes it is still 2010 according to the NUS financial year which ends in March, so we are still in time.

Professor Treiman is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Emeritus, UCLA, whose research interests are in social demography and in cross-national and cross-temporal comparisons of systems of social inequality.

His talk this evening will focus on the complexities of internal migration in China and how China tackles over and under population within the country, obviously a topic that has generated much interest based on the turnout this evening.

We are delighted to have **Professor Treiman** with us this evening and let's put our hands together to welcome Prof. Treiman (and Mrs. Treiman) to NUSS.

About the NUSS Professorship

The NUSS Professorship was established in 1996 **when NUSS made a pledge of \$1.5 million to the Universities 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 NUS community and the general public.

Professor Donald Treiman is the fifth NUSS Professor we have hosted.

The first NUSS Professorship lecture was delivered by **Professor Artur Ekert** of Oxford University in 2001 on “Quantum Computation”.

At our 50th anniversary in 2004, we had **Emeritus Professor John Habrakan** of MIT speak on “Architecture without Buildings”.

In 2008, **Professor Chandran Kukathas** of the London School of Economics spoke on “The Deeper Impact of Globalisation on Local Cultures”.

And the fourth was **Professor Sidney Nelson** of the University of Washington who enlightened us on the effects of medication on the human body in 2009.

Giving Back to Alma Mater

The **NUSS Professorship** underscores NUSS’ continued commitment to promote the interests and development of our University.

In addition to the NUSS Professorship, NUSS donated **\$1.6 million** to the Universities Endowment Fund in 1989 to set up a **Student’s Loan Fund** to assist undergraduates in need of financial support.

We made a further pledge of **\$20 million in 2004** towards the development of the **Alumni Complex** comprising the Shaw Foundation Alumni House and NUSS Kent Ridge Guild.

Last year, NUSS collaborated with the **NUS School of Design & Environment** to establish the **NUSS Scholarship for Master of Science in Environmental Management**. The scholarship will be made available to two deserving NUS students enrolled in the course each year.

And at the NUS Commencement in 2010, the **NUSS Medal for Outstanding Achievement** was launched to recognise outstanding all-round undergraduates from the graduating class of each of the fourteen schools and faculties. It is our hope that our contribution to set up an endowment fund for the award would encourage and inspire undergraduates to go beyond academic excellence to make meaningful contributions to the student life on campus and the wider community during their course of study in NUS.

We will continue to do more; and on this note I would like to share with you that as part of our celebration to commemorate the 25th anniversary of our **NUSS Golf Section**, a charity golf event will be organized in July this year to raise funds to promote education and support needy students enrolled in the new NUS University Town. I look forward to your support.

About NUSS

NUSS is committed to ...

- **Promoting excellence** in education and
- **Supporting NUS' vision** of becoming a leading global university centred in Asia.

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 fulfill our members' and their families' lifestyle needs.

We have excellent F&B and recreational facilities. Our sports and recreation complex provides members with a 50-metre swimming pool, 7,000 sq ft Fitness Centre, tennis courts, squash courts and multi-purpose hall. Together with our excellent F&B outlets serving from Western fare to Chinese and Asian cuisine, and a slew of interesting events and classes that await our members each week, we have something for everyone in our NUSS family.

At the same time, as the foremost graduate body, we concern ourselves with **national and regional issues.** Through our regular dialogue sessions on politics, science, technology and societal concerns, we are nurturing thinking members who actively engage themselves with issues of national and international interest;

We promote **Community Care** and will continue to explore more avenues where NUSS can leverage on its strength to assume a greater role in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility;

And last but not least, we build links to fellow alumni bodies; and support and promote the interests of our alma mater

So we are not being just another ordinary social club. 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 pick up an application form on your way out, or better still, sign up as member before you leave.

Thank the Speakers

This evening, we are indeed privileged and honoured to have **Professor Donald Treiman** with us to discuss a topic that is very relevant to us in Singapore as well as the region. On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to express our gratitude to Professor Treiman for agreeing to share his knowledge with us.

I would also like to thank **Professor Jean Yeung** for moderating the Question and Answer session after the lecture, as well as members of our **Intellectual Pursuit** Sub Committee and our **Secretariat Team** for their efforts in organising this Lecture.

Without further ado, let me now **invite Professor Jean Yeung**, to deliver her introductory remarks.

Ladies and gentlemen, Professor Yeung please