

**SPEECH BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR JOHNNY TAN
AT THE ENTERPRISE CONNECTION DINNER
19 APRIL 2011, TUESDAY
7PM AT KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, GUILD HALL**

NUS President, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan

Keynote Speaker, Mr Eduardo Saverin

Distinguished Guests

Ladies & Gentlemen

Good evening and a very warm welcome to our NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House.

NUSS is very honoured and privileged to have worked hand-in-hand with NUS Enterprise to establish the Innovation and Enterprise Awards. I would like to thank NUS Enterprise for the partnership and for giving us this opportunity to be part of a very meaningful event.

Collaboration with NUS

As a graduate society that is committed to contributing positively to Singapore's intellectual environment as well as nurturing a more creative, innovative and enterprising generation, we envision this collaboration with NUS Enterprise to further boost the novelty of technology, commercial feasibility of innovation and technological benefits to society.

Closer to home, the Innovation and Enterprise Awards underscore NUSS' continued commitment to promote the interest and development of NUS by way of financial endowments for educational purpose and synergistic partnership to strengthen bonds between our graduate community and NUS.

Our collaborations with NUS include our donation to the University Endowment Fund to set up a student's loan fund to support undergraduates who are in need of financial assistance, the establishment of the NUSS Medal for Outstanding Achievement aimed at encouraging students to go beyond academic excellence to pursue their passion and a well-rounded education; and the establishment of the NUSS Scholarship for Master of Science in Environmental Management. This is part of our corporate society responsibilities to increase the awareness and further the studies of environmental challenges.

Last but not least, the NUSS Professorship. 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 knowledge and expertise with the University community.

And tonight, in the spirit of innovation, I am both happy and proud to announce that Professor Andre Geim, winner of 2010 Nobel Prize in Physics, is our 2011 NUSS Professor who will deliver the next NUSS Professorship Lecture on 7 July.

Professor Geim was recognised for his groundbreaking experiment with graphene, a one-atom thick, 2-dimensional crystalline material which has a breaking strength 200 times greater than steel and is able to conduct heat 10 times faster than silver. It is the thinnest and strongest material ever found. Such discovery could revolutionise the field of electronics and I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to this public lecture on 7 July to listen to one of the greatest minds in physics.

Congratulations to the winners

With that, I shall conclude my speech by extending my heartiest congratulations to all the award recipients this evening. Thank you, and enjoy the rest of the evening.