

**Speech by Prof Tan Eng Chye, NUS President
at the NUS-NUSS Mentorship Programme Campuswide Launch
16 Oct 2019, 7 pm,
Della and Seng Gee Guild Hall, NUSS**

Mr Eddie Lee, NUS Society President

Associate Professor Peter Pang, NUS Dean of Students

NUSS Mentors and NUS Mentees

Good evening. I am delighted to join you all at this welcome dinner to celebrate the launch of the campus-wide NUS-NUSS Mentorship Programme. This year's programme marks the 7th run of the highly successful NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme. It was initially incepted as the part of the University Scholars Programme, with 34 undergraduates participating as mentees. Over the past seven years, 750 NUS students have been privileged to participate in the programme.

I am pleased that this NUS-NUSS Mentorship Programme is now progressing to a campus-wide initiative. This progression attests to the immense value, positive experience and strong demand for the mentorship programme.

On this note, I must commend NUSS for actively engaging, forging relationships and investing in our NUS undergraduates. The NUS Office of Student Affairs too, has worked hard to maximize the learning, enrichment and benefits that our undergraduates receive. I am grateful to the OSA team.

Most importantly, I am deeply thankful to the NUSS mentors who have stepped forward, to nurture and mentor our undergraduates. You are partnering your alma mater in delivering a high quality, holistic and transformative education to our students. The exposure, experiences and care that you bring to the table, is unique and valuable; your life story is not something that NUS can replicate in our classrooms, laboratories or libraries.

If I may borrow a quote from British Statesman Sir Winston Churchill, he said, “We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.” To the mentors here, your mentorship shapes young lives in tangible and intangible ways. Thank you for your support, your fine example, and wise counsel.

To our undergraduates present here, I encourage you to be proactive with striking a deep and meaningful relationship with your mentors. They are here to help you succeed; you must also do your part. Be open, be teachable, be receptive.

At Rag Day 2019, I mentioned that when each of us reflects on where we are today, we cannot help but feel a sense of gratitude towards people who have supported us and institutions that have moulded us. Let this sense of gratitude guide you through your NUS journey, and I hope you will pay it forward, by supporting your fellow NUS students, and contributing back to society now and in future.

It always brings me great joy to see the NUS community connecting through the generations. It leaves me now to wish everyone here a wonderful and pleasant evening of networking and journeying towards lifelong friendships.

Thank you.