



# Spark The Gap

A talk series by staff & students of NUS Physics Department

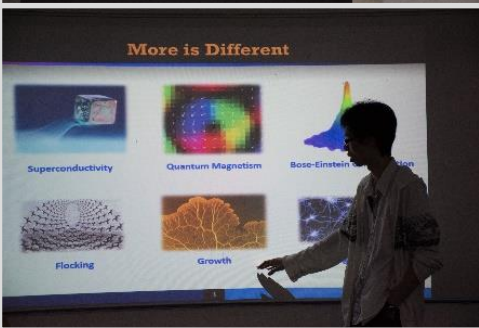
**By: Fong Cheng Hung & Jonathan Lau**

On the 25th of August, 2016, NUS Physics Society (Physoc) brought back an event that has laid dormant for over 2 years: Spark The Gap (STG). The event is intended as a series of talks by NUS Physics majors, staff and even guest speakers outside of department, faculty or campus to share on Physics-related matters ranging from UROPS projects, FYPs, Student Exchange experiences or simply perspectives of a student/staff in a Physics Department.

The motive of STG is to create a platform for information exchange, staff-student interaction and even entertainment to enhance the

experiences of Physics education in NUS. Physoc also hopes that STG could serve to promote a passion for Physics among NUS students.

For our first STG session of AY2016/2017, we had the privilege of having Mr. Kho Zhe Wei, a postgraduate student at NUS, to share on the Unreasonable Effectiveness of Physics. While the tone was light-hearted, the talk was highly engaging as Zhe Wei spoke on the current advances in other disciplines being due to the application of physical theories to new fields of study.



On our second session of STG (15 Sep 2016), NUS Physics Society was privileged to have Professor Valerio Scarani, a Principal Investigator at the Centre for Quantum Technologies, to share on Randomness in Nature. With a greater than expected turnout, the audience was enraptured by Professor Scarani's explanations on the intrinsic randomness found in nature on the quantum scale. Also, Professor Scarani's ability to incorporate humor in what is normally thought to be such a dry topic certainly helped us to gain fresh insights into the current research of quantum mechanics.

To thank our speakers for their wonderful talks and their support for STG, we present to them an exclusive STG mug as a small token of appreciation.

The STG mug print, shown below, is created by our 30<sup>th</sup> Design Director, Ms. Dawn Khoo Shi Hui. It is also meant as an iconic image of STG, where the microphone symbolizes Science Communication. The head of the mic is drawn as a speech bubble to imply a more interactive exchange of ideas between speaker and audience. The bright blue bolt of electrical discharge suggests the deliverance of information and inspiration. And, the puzzle pieces in the man's thought-bubble represents the unknown but exciting frontiers of Science.

