The showers of blessing that ushered in the Year of the Water Snake were like an ominous prophecy of our government’s population forecast — that it’ll soon be raining men and women. Lots of them. So while the heavens deterred come from their annual Chinatown pilgrimages for a slice of over-crowded life come 2030, others congregated just around the corner to make a collective point that they do not want the situation to become akin to odour-filled, door-in-your-face peak-hour MRT rides.

Top Climbers
As heated social debates continue to flood home soil, two members from the SMU Climb Team slithered their way to the top at the 10th GudiPadwa Extreme 2013 Masters Bouldering Challenge held from 24 to 27 January in Mumbai, India. Third-year social science student Adriel Choo and alumnus Sin Sue May channelled their inner spider-selves, to reach higher and faster than the Romanians, French, Indonesians, Swiss and Americans, and claim first and third in the Men’s Masters and women’s categories respectively.

Smooth Sailors
More splashy good news prevailed at the 19th Singapore Straits Regatta, held from 29 January to 2 February, as SMU Sail Teams SMUve and SMUmad left the Indonesian and British compactors trailing in their wake, to take the top two spots in the Plate class. Sports enthusiasts from 50 countries witnessed this victory as the event was broadcast over various sports cable channels worldwide.

Skin Fleanters
Meanwhile, SMU’s signature sea sports event, Walkkik, saw hundreds of our students flood Sentosa’s Siloso Beach on 24 February for an opportunity to flaunt their SMU-gym-made physiques, faux fans and oh-not-so-conservative swimsuits in activities which involved avoiding, manhandling or bouncing around with various balls (Captain’s Ball, dodgeball, volleyball, handball, softball, soccer, touch rugby and Bossaball). This year, there was even a chance to bull around on a rodeo.

Artsy Farts
Lastly, February hosted a smorgasbord of arts events as SMU’s U+ARTS season came into full swing: INDANCITY and SMC/CO’s annual concerts, StageIt’s Oscar Wilde adaptations and SMUKI’s Gaya 2013: Kronologi took centrestage the weekend ending 3 February: Caderas Latinas dazzled with a trippy mambo-mob production the week after; Giulietissimo tributed the 80s Xinyao phenomenon on 15 February; while Sound Foundry, Symphonia and Ballare jazzy up the month’s final weekend; Symphonia’s gala concert was of particular significance as the band marked its 10th birthday bash with the first-ever VIP concert reception hosted by President Arnoud. The landmark event saw many ex–Symphonians, staff advisors, faculty, students and parents in attendance, and concluded a wonderfully colourful month of celebrated song and dance.