It’s that time when we wave our flags up high, reaffirm our pledge in unison, and get all patriotic as a community. And what better way than to sing our song to fellow countrymen and shine brightly abroad, and show the world what it means to be truly worthy inhabitants of this tiny island in the sun.

Life lessons for the young

On 6 July, SMU Rotaract Club’s Project Nature was given the District Outstanding Community Service Project Award – among clubs from districts in East and Peninsula Malaysia, Singapore, as well as Brunei – by Rotaract International. The project involves the club’s members giving more than 100 tutorial classes: children from less-privileged families are taught how to make cakes, pizzas, mould clay models, or sculpt balloons. These hands-on courses empower the children with simple skills, but at the same time provided them opportunities for effective communication and interaction with their peers and our student leaders to build bonds of friendship.

Endorsing that SMU-fac tor globally

Our Chamber Choir, Symphonica, and INDOGENCY’s recent sensational reaps from Poland (24 May), Austria (9 July) and Italy (21 July) have upheld the general knowledge quotient of some citizens from those countries: they now know that Singapore (a) produces talented youth who can sing, make music, or move as good. If not better, than their faster counterparts; and (b) is a republic not part of China, Japan or Korea.

Other than making school newsletter headlines by winning first, second or third at these international competitions, our student groups continue to proudly radiate that unmistakable SMU spirit of collegiality – with a large dash of excellence (seasoned with lots of painstaking commitment) – and winning awe-stuck global fans in the process, while learning a little bit more about this world we live in.

Warm food + numbers game = warm hearts

Distributing lunch, picking numbers and yelling “bingo!” on a lazy Saturday would not constitute a normal outside-of-school – or work – activity for most. But for a group of students, and our university president, this was exactly what they did as part of a pre-SMU Challenge activity. On 13 July, President Arnaud led our SMU Challenge student organizers in an interaction session – which included games and a meal together – with some residents at a Lions Befalder Centre in Queenstown – this year’s SMU Challenge beneficiary. And though it was just an afternoon of mingling, playing and eating together, it was definitely one which warmed the hearts of both the centre’s elderly residents and our SMU members.

The SMU Challenge student committee is on a two-day (8–13 Aug) office-cleaning operation to raise funds for the elderly. Email Kim Sang Hwee at sanghwee.kim.2017@seasc@smu.edu.sg if you would like your space parallelled, or to find out more!

All set for the real world

As the cycle of student life comes about full circle, and we welcome yet another batch of fresh-faced, bright-eyed newcomers (who recently experienced their first taste of SMU life at the Freshmen Team-building Camp held at Stirlingburn Scout camp in July), we bid adieu to the seniors at Comencement 2013, on 25 July at Resorts World Sentosa – an apt venue considering they will now report to the real world (sorry… bad pun intended!).

We are confident that you young adults have learnt well, and that the tales, clays and tangs in the zoo out there will not prove too intimidating. Now, go forth, fight the good fight, and make yourselves, and the rest of us so damn proud!

Congratulations Class of 2013, you’re finally on your way!