In the thick of June, freakish weather—albeit manmade—and freakier behavior barfed social media ghastly much faster than one could say “hello, kitty”. As we suffered shrouding like an atmospheric Chinese wedding’s cold-dish introduction complete with Kitaro soundtrack, and ice balls dropped from the sky like grapes, unturally snaqueing from those golden arches resulted in headlining spats, reminding us once again that we are indeed uniquely Singapore.

**Student Life pin-ups**

With permialis haze reaching hazardous levels this time, SMU students and their activities migrated underground bringing life back to the SMU basement this holiday season. If you were among those who shrugged off haze advisories during the smokiest period to make their way to school you would have noticed that fine FFS facilitators performing the weirdest games weren’t the only inhabitants of the concourse area during the usual fall period—a new 3-metre photographic wall mural paying homage to our 2013 University Student Life Awards winners and the office area. Check out what some of these 60-odd pin-up boys and girls have to say there—you might just be inspired to follow suit.

**A symbolic record, no less**

Thick haze wasn’t the only news-churning event last month. In December 2012, members from SMU Carealert, together with children from low-income families loaded 3315 coloured paper balls in two hours.

Recently, this feat earns them a page in one thick book—the Singapore Book of Records. SMU Carealert was also further presented an Elite World Records certificate for the attempt. Said second-year business student and SKS Exco member Kristle Soon: “We wanted the children to learn that they too can make a difference despite circumstances, especially when they come together—and breaking the record is symbolic of that.”

**Food! Shit ohh kites!**

First-year business students Ahmad Ihs Taha and Hins Hern recently levelled-up the profile of SMU Penang Slat Club when they exchanged thick chops for Gold and Bronze medals respectively at the 27th Century Slat Championship and were invited to join the national team thereafter. Held in mid-June at the Bedok Sports Hall, they literally out-classed competitors from more than a dozen tertiary institutions. Hins, current president of SMU Penang Slat Club, described fighting in the arena as priceless: “You’re flooded with a mix bag of emotions, when suddenly the noise from the crowd vanishes as you fix your eyes on your opponent and, for a moment, time stands still.”

**Pacing for excellence**

But standing still and resting on one’s laurels is not something that anyone can afford in this day and age. Take the SISL Safety Centre, which because of its continuous promotion of safety awareness and in-house programmes for staff and students, recently had its accreditation as a Basic Cardiac Life Support Training Centre renewed by the National Resuscitation Council.

Meanwhile, more than 40 Symphony members are in Vienna, Austria, taking part in an international music festival where they hope to bring back some trophies. In a week’s time, 18 INDOMINITY dancers will head to Milan, Italy, to join an international dance competition aiming to do the same. And currently 11 SMU athletes are in the thick of action—as part of Team Singapore—competing with 10,400 of their international counterparts at the 27th World University Games in Kazan, Russia, till 17 July. At the 27 June send-off ceremony hosted by SMU, current chair of the Singapore University Sports Council (SUSSC), ISIL’s senior associate director for sports and adventure, Alan Koh—also SUSSC president and Team Singapore’s deputy head of delegation—summed it up best: “The opportunity for our students to compete with some of the world’s best and witness their performances will be a treat; but these meets will be glorious experiences just by themselves.”

We wish our students all the best as they push themselves to set personal goals, fulfill achievements, and more importantly, create experiences and memories for a lifetime.

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