As you grudgingly welcome 2012’s final quarter with an avalanche of projects, presentations and preparations for your exams, look on the bright side – the sweet whiff of the holiday season is already in the air, with Thoughts of Holly and mistletoe being strung across Orchard Road. So fret not and think positive – these stressful days will be but faint memories, come tomorrow...

Painting the Town
I was a field month for International Students this October, with integration excursions galore. SMU KOIC’s Korean club Weori Sami held their version of the popular Korean game show Running Man in the form of a two-day camp from 6 to 7 Oct, where students ran amok on campus attempting a series of tasks trying to outrun each other. Others tied their hands at Take-Me-Macing, in aid to the Japanese Association of Singapore on 11 Oct, and quite successfully put up a simple performance after their two-hour lesson, worthy of cheers.

Yet another group took part in a Macrophotography Workshop conducted by SIMUSAC on 12 Oct, which saw them put what they learned into practice when they were tasked to capture the (man-made) foliage at Gardens by the Bay. Finally, 100 students and their buddies neatly need in their pants/shorts/skirts during a special Buddy Gathering to Universal Studios’ Halloween Horror Night on 20 Oct. But it was all worth the scare, we heard.

Next Stop, Hollywood!
October also witnessed a plethora of UAHTS events covering everything from song, dance, music to poetry, as well the selection of the freshest faces to front SMU events, courtesy of SMU Broadcast & Entertainment’s annual Voice Personality Hunt on 5 Oct. In the end, the fast-talking, wit-sprouting duo of Ivan Yeo and Melanie Lee, fresher from the School of Economics and School of Business respectively, were crowned Mr and Miss VPH2012. But wait, there’s more! UAHTS events to make your semester complete – Starry Night XI – on school’s last day, 16 Nov, with a Hollywood theme that will make you want to party like Paris or Lindsay - the wholesome versions, we insist!

Twilight: New Blood
A fresh, hungry brood of student leaders were elected this month with CCAs, Obds and the SAC forming their newest committees that will guide SMU’s student life in 2013. Halving the 9th SAC as its President will be second-year Business student Charlie Neo, who will bring her expertise from being in this year’s F8B organising committee as well as her talents, focus and determination as a squash player into office. We look forward to an exciting year ahead under these renewed leadership roles.

Great Scott! UFOs! Not!
On the sports front, Singapore residents thought they spotted UFOs when SMU Ultimate’s Grab Hock Score took place at the Sangkang Cheng Lim Fields on 13 Oct. But alas, these flying saucers only meant that nearly 600 frisbee throwers from 50 teams were having their moment, sitting their grabbing, tackling and scoring skills for the championship titles and to be named the ultimate of Ultimates. In the SMU category, the team from School of Business proved that they were indeed the best of the pack.