

Megan Hart

Tease: Learn what the School of Communication, Journalism, and Media has accomplished in its first year on campus after the break.

Anchor: How does the merging of two schools at CMU affect students and faculty? Reporter Megan Hart learned more about the new School of Communication, Journalism, and Media and how the programs have changed in the last year.

Story:

As the 2023-24 school year comes to an end, the new School of Communication, Journalism, and Media completes its first year as a program. This new school intended to merge similar departments due to the changing relationship between them in the industry. In the last year, many students might not have known about these changes, and Media Arts instructor Mike Potter says this was the goal,

SOT: “We were told from the start by Dean Jefferson Campbell that nothing would be changing from the perspective of faculty or students, it would be a way to reduce costs and streamline the curriculum into something that is most beneficial to the students.”

When making this merge, there were no cuts to degrees, programs, or faculty which was important to the good nature of this plan. The impact of this merger can be seen in degrees that overlap with many departments. Integrative Public Relations major, Bianca Cabarios says how this change has affected her,

SOT: “The merge has made it easier for people in my major to go between the different elements that make up IPR, instead of taking classes from separate departments. They were always in the same building, but finding advisors, seeing my degree progress, and applying for scholarships is simpler because it is all in one program”

Not only does this shift make academics smoother, but also opens doors for co-curricular organizations in the School of Communication, Journalism, and Media to work together. Potter states how this has played out in the last year as the faculty advisor for News Central and Central View Live.

SOT: “It has created an environment where collaboration between RSOs can happen a little more organically. There are still some growing pains involved with that, but from what I’ve heard from other RSOs, there’s a lot of interest in finding ways to collaborate.”

Cabarios states how she has seen the beginnings of this collaboration as a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America at CMU.

“Though I am not heavily involved in other RSOs outside of my major, I have seen many people from PRSSA and my classes involved in other Media Arts organizations like the radio, news, and the record label. Hopefully, this inspires more students to be involved in what the school has to offer.”

Now, the only debate that students and faculty are left with in this merge is over how to say the acronym: SCJM. Cabarios has this to say about the disagreement,

SOT: “The letters S-C-J–M have to be articulated very well to be understood, but “Sock-Jam” is easier and is also more fun!”

It can be seen that the creation of the School of Communication, Journalism, and Media has benefited the College of Arts and Media by creating a connection between the different departments. As we look to next year, there is hope for more student involvement in these co-curricular organizations and new courses that benefit all students of the school.