Space Jams concert creates a stronger campus community

Uriel Gonzalez, Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, November 13, 2017 4:36 pm

Commuter schools, such as Cal Poly Pomona, are often plagued by a lack of extracurricular activities and events to foster a lively student community.

That being said, late-night entertainment is often scarce on campus. But the Music Department, and the Music Industries seminar classes are looking to change that tune.

“Our goal is to show that students can put on great events,” Music Industries Seminar Professor David F. Kopplin said.

Space Jams is an event created from the ground up by students for students; the space-themed concert will feature local and student musicians jamming out and serving good eats at 7 p.m., Thursday Nov. 16 at the La Naranjita Center.

Often times seemingly organic products of artistic culture sprout from unlikely sources of sponsorship and endorsement.

Despite the event being put on and conceptualized by students, the push and financial backing for the concert stemmed from the music department’s Music Industries Seminar course.

“The shift in emphasis in the course came from my own research in music industry education,” Kopplin said. “I found these practical kind of projects are actually much more valuable to students than talking about stuff.”

Space Jams serves as an event to create a stronger campus community, and as a major project for CPP’s music students. According to Kopplin, the class’s focus has changed throughout its history; the course used to follow a more traditional format, placing a bigger emphasis on class discussions, current events and presentations.
The process of creating something in a large group from conceptualization, to planning and finally execution is filled with many hardships and learning experiences.

This hands on approach to creating an event from scratch has given students involved in the class valuable skills that can transcend into all creative endeavors.

“Taking this course and working on this event has helped me become a better communicator,” second-year music student and Space Jams booking agent Charlie Hald said. “We all have to work to together and plan according to what everybody wants; I’ve learned to compromise.”

Each person in the class is assigned to a committee that deals with a task. There are committees that deal with sound and music, decorating, catering food and booking the event.

Not only is this something tangible to put on a resume, but it also gives students real world experience that exemplifies CPP’s motto ‘learn by doing.’

This event is here to kick-start a possible trend where there will be more late-night events on campus for students. So, if you have ever found yourself complaining about CPP’s lack of soul and social presence, this is your call to action.

If you are interested in enjoying some late-night music on campus, while helping create a much stronger campus community, head over to the La Naranjita Center housed in Building 71. Entry is free, and there will be live performances by Chemtrails, Sychokallas and 200 West, with some fairly priced food options.

For more information and a chance to win some prizes visit the Space Jams Facebook page.