

'InterMingle' will help start the year for students

The new event will introduce students to campus with food, games and entertainment

TRAVIS WILLSE
MANAGING EDITOR

The inaugural celebration of "InterMingle" — 15 hours of festivities featuring free food, live music and games — will kick off Friday at noon in what event officials say they hope will become an annual welcome event for new and returning University students.

The one-day, \$22,000 event could attract 3,000 to 4,000 students, volunteer organizer Megan Hughes said.

Greg Lobisser, director of student activities and planner for the event, said InterMingle is meant to signal the start of the regular academic year.

"A number of University administrators got together and began to think that what we really needed in addition to the very good program that orientation [has] is some sort of signature event to mark the beginning of the school year for both new and returning students," Lobisser said. "There hasn't been an event early [in the year] that says, 'Now come on to campus, and let's do something.'"

Lobisser said programmers were "cognizant that freshmen are here" for the first time, but that they selected activities for an audience that includes newcomers and returning

students alike.

Fifty-five student organizations — including student unions, clubs and about 20 greek houses — will have tables at the event, allowing visiting students to learn more about the groups.

"I hope that InterMingle will become an event that students look forward to participating in as a kick off to the school year and also a way to find out more information about campus groups, clubs and student unions," Hughes said. "It has something everyone will be interested in."

The event, which Lobisser said was "designed like a giant mixer," is planned so that students can enjoy different activities at their leisure.

"They ought to be able to move around in kind of like a buffet of events, taking part in whatever they want, whenever they want, and then moving on," Lobisser said.

Hughes, an ASUO veteran and recent graduate who has worked to foster student-group involvement in InterMingle, said the event is designed to "show students that the University is a fun environment."

All events are free and are scheduled in or near the EMU.

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