FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio State students to participate in BuckeyeThon

Dance marathon is a fundraiser for Children's Hospital

More than 100 students and countless volunteers at The Ohio State University are taking part in a “party with a purpose” at this year’s BuckeyeThon, a student-run fundraiser for Children’s Hospital Behavioral Health Department. The event is to begin at 7 p.m. on Friday (2/1) and continue through 9 p.m. on Saturday (2/2) in the Ohio Union, 1739 N. High St.

It is thought to be by Ohio State historians the first dance marathon on campus.

Student participants will raise funds for Children’s Hospital and then take part in a 26-hour non-alcoholic party. At the party, students will have additional opportunities to get involved in community service activities, including making mittens for the Homeless Families Foundation, a quilt for Children’s Hospital and a card for children at the hospital.

For more information, see www.buckeyethon.org.

WHAT: Ohio State hosts BuckeyeThon, a 26-hour “party with a purpose.”

WHEN: 7 p.m. on Friday (2/1) through 9 p.m. on Saturday (2/2).

WHERE: Ohio Union, 1739 N. High St.

WHY: To raise money for the Children’s Hospital Behavioral Health Department and to take part in other community-service activities.
OHIO STATE 04-02-06 Ohio State students take part in 14-hour BuckeyeThon

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Ohio State students take part in 14-hour BuckeyeThon
Proceeds of dance marathon benefit Children's Hospital

Approximately 150 student dancers and 250 volunteers are taking part in the third annual BuckeyeThon, a 14-hour dance marathon that benefits Children's Hospital in Columbus.

BuckeyeThon, called a "Party with a Purpose," begins at 11 a.m. Saturday (2/7) in the Ohio Union Ballrooms, 1739 N. High St. The marathon is expected to end at 1 a.m. Sunday (2/8). The band Better Than Ezra will begin performing at 9 p.m.

For more information, see http://ohiounion.osu.edu/buckeyethon/

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For additional releases go to: http://www.osu.edu/news_db/index.php
OSU Faculty Experts guide is online at http://www.osu.edu/news_db/experts_index.php
OSU Dance Marathon benefits local hospital

By Heidi L. Williams
Lantern staff writer

Hundreds of Ohio State students will be putting on their dancing shoes and steppin' out to the university's first annual Dance Marathon this weekend.

From 8 p.m., April 17 through 8 a.m., April 19 at the French Field House on W. Woodruff Avenue next to St. John Arena, students will have 36 hours of games, socializing, entertainment and of course, dancing.

"I am so happy to hear that Dance Marathon is at OSU!" said Lori Landrum, an honors student and marathon participant.

Landrum heard about the success of Dance Marathon from a friend at Penn State University.

"OSU has great potential. This is the most important year because it is the building year," said Cynthia Duff, Telethon Coordinator from Columbus Children's Hospital.

All proceeds from this event will be donated to the cancer unit at Children's Hospital.

Alex Waibel, Dance Marathon President said, "Participants ranging from Greeks and College Republicans to ROTC will be taking pledges from friends and family."

Pledges will be taken based on either an hourly rate, or a flat rate for the entire event, said Waibel.

Making its debut at Penn State in 1973, Dance Marathon, the nation's largest student-run philanthropy has raised over $6 million for the Four Diamonds Fund at Hershey Medical Center in Pennsylvania.

Children's Miracle Network and Penn State have combined efforts to duplicate Dance Marathon at other universities around the nation.

Attracting over 1,300 members in 1991, Indiana University also adopted the marathon. Indiana students and Riley Hospital for Children reached their goal of establishing the Ryan White Infectious Disease Center through funds from Dance Marathon.

"Together, Penn State and IU have raised $1.5 million through the marathon," Waibel said. "We hope to have great results like this in the future."

Money given to Children's Hospital has a specific purpose.

"Children's will award a fellowship from the money accumulated to one of Ohio State's students in pediatrics," Duff said. "This will help to tie-in the funds students raised for the children."

Weekend highlights begin with music entertainment from bands such as the Ark Band, Identity, Chaos Theory, Situation Grey, Shukin Bubba, Ekoostichookah, 50 Watt Alarm Clock and Soul Finger. Other features include billiards, volleyball, big screen television sets, a Sega display, dance lessons, and poster and card making for cancer patients at Children's Hospital.

Waibel anticipates success with Ohio State's Dance Marathon to be comparable to those of both Penn State and Indiana. With all of the activity this weekend, the Children's Miracle Network guarantees magic will be found surrounding the Dance Marathon if it is remembered to "Keep the Kids First."
Student keeps dancing

By Saba Alam
Lantern staff writer

For many students, daily life is full of hassles, worries and stress. One OSU student, however, is grateful for being able to live her daily life and wants to give back to those who helped her live it.

Kelly Studebaker, a sophomore in communications, and she owes her life to Children's Hospital. At age 11, the cerebral hemorrhage she was born with caused a blood vessel to burst in her brain. As a result, she had to re-learn how to do everything.

"I used to be right-handed, and since the left side of my brain was affected, I had to learn how to write with my left hand. I had to learn how to walk, how to talk, how to tie my shoes with one hand," Studebaker said.

"As a little girl, Studebaker enjoyed all forms of dance.

"Dancing was a big part of my life. I was good at aerobics and gymnastics. I also did jazz and ballet," she said. "But in the fifth grade, when I had the hemorrhage, I couldn't dance anymore. I had to start from scratch."

She had a hard time re-adjusting to life after the hemorrhage.

"I had a disability when I started junior high, and even though kids were understanding, they ignored me. That really hurt," she said.

Studebaker said she stopped caring about what others thought of her and started doing what she wanted to do for herself.

"I wasn't the norm, and people in high school finally expected me for that," she said.

Doctors told her family she would not be able to do any of the things she did before. They were mistaken, however.

"The brain surgeon told my family I would be in a wheelchair and wouldn't be able to dance or go to school or anything. But I've proved them all wrong," Studebaker said.

Studebaker heard about Buckeyethon and said she knew she wanted to participate immediately. The 24-hour dance marathon to raise money for Children's Hospital's Behavioral Health Department caught her attention.

"I can't say enough about Children's Hospital. If they hadn't been there, I'd be dead," she said. "This was the best way for me to give back to Children's Hospital than by dancing. Dancing is my spiritual outlet, and I have the motivation to dance for 24 hours."

"When OSU chose the Children's Hospital Behavioral Health Department to be the recipients of the money raised at Buckeyethon, we were just thrilled," said Heidi Green, assistant director of development at Children's Hospital.

Green said the money raised at Buckeyethon will be used to purchase items for the clinic's occupational therapy toys, books, and journals on proper parenting skills; computerized instruments used for diagnostic testing of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and blank journals for teens to write private thoughts and feelings they do not feel comfortable verbalizing.

Don Stenta, the faculty adviser for Buckeyethon, said OSU chose the Behavioral Health Department to set up an endowment because it is the least-funded area in the hospital.

In addition to the proximity to the Children's Hospital, its strong connection with the university and its commitment to helping kids make it a hands-down choice because of the incredible potential which exists in establishing a strong relationship with them, Stenta...